

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, November 29, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring St., Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

Mayor	-	Dwain Dungen
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Councilman	-	Steve Woodall
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
Asst. City Secretary	-	Kayla Duncan

Other City Staff present included:

Fire Chief	-	Walter Glaeser
Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Utilities Supervisor	-	Jody Ripper
City Attorney	-	Pat Gillespie

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Dwain Dungen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Mayor Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda.

- a. Approval of Invoices.
- b. Approval of Minutes of November 8, 2012 Regular Meeting.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

4. Consideration and Action to Approve Invoices from B&D Graphics.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the invoices from B&D Graphics. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin
Abstain: Councilman Tesch

The motion passed.

5. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Those signed up for citizens' comments wished to speak in reference to other items on the agenda at a later time.

6. City Manager's Report including 2012 Water System Improvements and Christmas Lights.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

7. Consideration and Action Regarding Downtown Sidewalk Grant.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, explained that this is the grant for redoing the sidewalks on the west side in the 1000 and 1100 blocks of Milam. He said that the City got the grant, has received the contracts and is currently waiting for them to be signed by the Mayor. He reminded Council that the program is for \$195,000 with \$150,000 in grant proceeds and local matching of \$45,000.

Roger Wade told Council that at the CCIDC meeting he had spoken against the project, but that after speaking with Donald Warschak, he was at the Council meeting to speak for it. He said that Laura Ann Rau has some concerns that her building at the corner of Milam and Walnut could be damaged and that since that corner had recently been fixed that he would hope that it would not be redone. He stated that he was concerned about possible damage to the historic buildings downtown. The Mayor asked what kind of insurance the contractor would have and Donald said that they would have the normal city requirement for repairs of any damages. He said insurance would be something that would be addressed when the bid packet was put together. He said that the first step after signing the contract for the grant would be to have the project designed, and that the property owners along the area would be involved.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to accept the Downtown Sidewalk Grant and to authorize the Mayor to execute the contract for it. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the Library Advisory Board Report.

Pat Simmons explained that she was there representing the Library Foundation and that they wanted to inform Council that they had purchase the house next door to the library across the street from the elementary school. She said that their intention is to donate the property to the City for expansion of the library when they finish paying for it. She said that in about three years she would be back to donate the land to be used for library expansion and off-street parking.

No action was necessary.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 115-12 Setting the Dates, Times and Places for Public Hearings on the Proposed Annexation of Certain Property by the City of Columbus, Texas and Authorizing and Directing the Mayor to Publish Notices of such Public Hearings.

Donald Warschak explained that the property is located south of Los Cabos and that the highway itself is annexed to the bridge.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution 115-12 setting the dates, times and places for Public Hearings on the Proposed Annexation as presented. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Fund Grants for 2012-2013.

Mayor Dungen explained that they normally listened to presentations and ask questions at this meeting and then make decisions on funding at the next meeting.

Kim Dyer spoke representing the Colorado County Fair. She said that the Fair is a large tourism draw and that in addition they have been able to rent the fairgrounds out during the year drawing in more tourists. She pointed out that since the application was filed, they have changed the dates of the fair to

the fourth week in September with the hope of increasing attendance. Councilman Tesch asked if the \$15,000 for the rodeo meets the requirements for HOT grants. City Attorney, Pat Gillespie, said that it would fit under #6. Kim explained that this is the first year that they have applied for funding for the Rodeo and that it is a big draw for the Fair.

Kim Dyer also spoke representing the Chamber of Commerce. She thanked Council for their past support and reviewed some of the activities that the Chamber has promoted in the past year. Councilman Rankin asked what the increase in the request would cover. Kim stated that they would like to increase advertising including a billboard on I-10 and that she also included an increase in wages so that they could have a part-time person helping on weekends and at busy times. Councilman Rankin explained that he had talked with Chamber representatives concerning the need for consistency and coordination in their advertising so that they are not just advertising each event individually. He said that he would like to see all of the groups present work together especially on advertising and that he would like to see a plan for them to do so. He also said that he would like to see paid docents available.

Greg Miller spoke representing the FFA Alumni who requested funding for their annual Cook-Off. He said that about three hundred people are involved in the cook-off with 43 teams last year. He said that they would like to do more advertising this year. Councilman Rankin said that he would like to have more feedback on hotel bookings from various events.

Thomas Truchard with the Live Oak Art Center spoke saying that there were five board members present who were asking for \$15,000. He said that in the coming year the National Clay Association will be having their conference in Houston and will be bringing buses to Columbus for two days for the Texas Clay association. He also said that the juried show has expanded and is attracting better known jurors. He added that last year that they included a music festival with the juried show. He also said that they would like to increase advertising and create their own magazine, and that they would also like to increase staff. He added that they also have increased their rentals for weddings and other events.

Vance Elliott with the Lions Club spoke regarding the application for their annual bike ride. He said that last year they had 600 riders most of whom come from outside the community. He also told Council that the funds raised by the Lions Club are used in the community.

Millycent Cordes who represented the Shropshire-Upton UDC told Council that they are requesting funds to keep the water tower museum open as a tourist attraction and for its historical preservation.

Jean Redus from the Columbus Historic Preservation Trust told Council about their HOT fund request. She said that they would like to have funds for A/C and heating maintenance, advertising, printing and part-time help. She told Council that they are also requesting \$103,000 to complete the cleaning and painting of the outside of the Stafford Opera House.

Joel Usher with Community Empowerment Center thanked Council for their support for last year's Focus Conference. He said that since last year's conference was their first it was a learning experience for them. He said that they are asking for \$20,000 this year for advertising and that they want to promote it on the website more.

Vance Elliott with the Chamber of Commerce also spoke representing the Folk Fest. He said that, because of the timing of the festival, approximately \$5,000 of the amount for the 2012 Folk Fest was not turned in before the deadline. They are currently asking for \$18,730 to cover that \$5,000 from the 2012 festival and the remainder for 2013 Folk Fest expenses.

Mayor Dungen explained that the HOT Fund Grants would be on the agenda for the next council meeting on December 13th.

No action was taken.

11. Discussion and Action to Approve Ordinance 142-12 Grease and Grit Traps.

Donald Warschak explained that this was the same ordinance that Council looked at during the last meeting. Councilman Schonenberg asked whether this ordinance addressed apartment complexes. Donald said that it did not and that from his research that they normally did not. He also explained that this ordinance addresses the size of grease traps and their maintenance.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve Ordinance 142-12 Grease and Grit Traps. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the October 2012 Police Report.

Police Chief, Bill Lattimore, presented his October 2012 Police Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He also updated Council on other Police Department activities. He also introduced Frank Schmidt who will start with the Columbus Police Department as a patrol officer on December 3rd.

No action was necessary.

13. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – gave an update on CCIDC activities.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

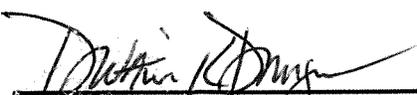
Mayor Dungen – announced that the Fire Department Christmas party would be the following Friday.

14. Announcements.²

It was announced that Lady's Night Out would be December 6th.

15. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:



Linda Lakich, City Secretary

¹During this agenda item, citizens may comment for the record on items, which are not on the agenda. However, the Council may not participate in discussion or deliberation on any item that is not on the agenda. Citizens may request that a topic be added to a future agenda.

Citizens who wish to comment on a posted agenda item may do so when that item is addressed by the Mayor. Citizen's comments are limited to five minutes.

²Limited to statements. Issues raised by councilmembers under this item cannot be deliberated by Council. The Open Meetings Act does not allow Council to deliberate items that don't appear on the agenda.