

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, December 13, 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
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Code Enforcement Of.	-	Ford Stein

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 29, 2012 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of October 2012 Financial Statements.

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Roger Wade gave a presentation on the east river bridge. He said that TxDOT has plans to replace it in three years. He also said that there would be a Community Awareness Forum at the Opera House on January 22, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss options for the bridge.

Alan Goetsch with Comfort Inn spoke regarding the Hotel Occupancy Tax. He said that he would like to see the hotels have more input on how the HOT funds are spent, and that he would like to see more spent on sports.

Joel Usher told Council that he had now given them the proposal from Community Empowerment for their Focus Conference and that he was available to answer questions. There were no questions.

5. City Manager's Report including Sales Tax, Texas Transportation Enhancement Project, and Sewer Averaging.

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

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

Mayor Dwain Dungen said that his proposal would be to pursue a more coordinated plan especially for advertising as Council had discussed at their last meeting. He said that he would suggest that for now Council approve the following funding: \$39,600 for the Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Center, \$103,000 for the Columbus Historic Preservation Trust for the Opera House painting, \$15,000 for the Live Oak Art Center for support of the arts, \$5,000 for the Shropshire Upton UDC for the running of the museum at the Water Tower, and \$5,000 for the Chamber of Commerce for the 2012 Folk Fest. He said that he would recommend that Council look at the requests for advertising separately and come up with a plan to coordinate them.

Councilman Woodall suggested that a committee look at HOT fund requests and that they get the hotel industry involved. Councilman Schonenberg said that he had spoken with the hotel managers and that they would like to take a more active part in the process. Councilmen Tesch and Rankin both said that they would like to see more accountability on how many overnight tourists are attracted by each event, and Councilman Rankin said that there was a need for setting strategies and goals.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the following Hotel Occupancy Tax Grants: \$39,600 to the Columbus Chamber of Commerce for the Visitors Center, \$103,000 to the Columbus Historic Preservation Trust for the Opera House exterior painting and maintenance, \$15,000 to the Live Oak Art Center for the promotion of the arts, \$5,000 to the Shropshire Upton UDC for insurance, docent's salary and utilities at the Confederate Memorial Museum, and \$5,000 to the Columbus Chamber of Commerce for expenses for the 2012 Folk Fest. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. Public Hearing Regarding City Curfew Hours for Minors.

Mayor Dungen opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. He explained that the Council is required to review the City's Curfew Ordinance every three years and asked for any public comment or questions. There was no public comment.

Mayor Dungen closed the public hearing at 7:06 p.m.

8. Consideration and Action Regarding City Curfew Hours for Minors.

Police Chief Bill Lattimore told Council that he had reviewed the current ordinance and talked with his officers about it. He said that there were no issues with it and that it is a fine ordinance. Mayor Dungen told Council that their options were to abolish, continue or modify the current ordinance.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to continue the current City Curfew Hours for Minors Ordinance. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action to Accept Donation of Funds for Police Gear.

Chief Lattimore told Council that several months ago Lieutenant Ramirez applied for a gift from Wal-Mart to help with the purchase of police body armor. Last week the City received a check from Wal-Mart for \$3,700 with no strings attached concerning the use of the money.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to accept the donation of \$3,700 from Wal-Mart. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. Discussion and Action to Approve Resolution 116-12 Texas Department of Transportation Sidewalk Grant Funding.

Mayor Dungen explained that the Resolution was in support for the sidewalk project which will connect the City Parks and the Junior High and High Schools. He said that TxDOT had asked for a formal resolution.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve Resolution 116-12 Texas Department of Transportation Sidewalk Grant Funding as presented. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action to Submit a Proposed Replat of a 0.551 Acre Tract, a Part of Original Lots 3 and 4, Located in Block No. 93 of the City of Columbus, 720 Martin Luther King Dr.; such Application Requesting Said Tract be Subdivided into Five (5) Lots as Requested by Colorado County Habitat for Humanity.

Councilman Rankin inquired if this was the property that had the old railroad right of way going through it. City Manager Donald Warschak said that it was but that the right of way had been cleared. He also said that there is an old cemetery plot on the property, and that Habitat for Humanity is working around that. Councilman Rankin asked to be notified when the Planning and Zoning Commission meets on this property.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to submit the proposed replat as requested by Habitat for Humanity to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Councilman Tesch 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 November 2012 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement Officer, Ford Stein, presented his November 2012 Code Enforcement Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

13. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Axel – wished all a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Schonenberg – asked that the food stands be added to a future agenda.

Councilman Tesch – wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

Mayor Dungen – announced that the City’s Christmas party would be the following evening. He also said that there would be a gathering that evening in Schobel’s parking lot to welcome Stephen Appelt, who is in the Marine Corps, back from Afghanistan.

14. Announcements.²

The holiday hours for the City Recycling Center were announced.

15. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:19 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.