

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Thursday, November 14, 2013 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 (Absent)
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Code Enforcement Off.	-	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 October 24, 2013 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 Axel, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Absent: Councilman Woodall

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

All those who signed up for citizens' comments wished to speak during an agenda item.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax and 2013 CDBG Aerator Grant Project.

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

6. Public Hearing Regarding Use of the City's Property Located at Walnut and Travis Streets (Mayes Property).

Mayor Dungen opened the Public Hearing at 6:35 p.m. Mayor Dungen said that the City had acquired the old Mayes Hotel property and that now the question was what to do with it. He introduced Kristie Dungen who was asked by the City to put together some ideas for the use of the property. Kristie Dungen presented drawings of a proposed plan and outlined some key elements for the property development. The key elements outlined included a structure with public restrooms to serve as a Visitors Center, an open pavilion structure that can be used for events, parking areas, and table/picnic areas.

Laura Ann Rau, Scot Brooks, Roger Wade, and William Durbin expressed support for the project. Various suggestions for design changes were made.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:00 p.m.

7. Consideration and Action Regarding the Use of the City's Property Located at Walnut and Travis Streets (Mayes Property).

Mayor Dungen stated that the next step would be to have Kristie put together more specifications and a budget for the project. No action was necessary.

8. Public Hearing Regarding the Downtown Sidewalk Project.

Mayor Dungen opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m.

Donald Warschak introduced Bradley Loehr with BEFCO Engineering. Bradley gave a presentation which included pictures of sidewalk projects in other cities. He also addressed concerns raised by property owners at other meetings. He discussed the use of score and saw cut patterns as a means to visually break up large expanses of sidewalk and the use of acid etching to age the sidewalks. In response to concerns from business owners he discussed what could be done to minimize business interruption. He said that construction would take from two to three months.

Laura Ann Rau said that she did not want to replace the sidewalk in front of her building on the corner of Milam and Walnut. She said that she thought that new sidewalks would destroy the personality of the downtown area. Scot Brooks and Roger Wade agreed with Mrs. Rau. Julian Moore expressed concerns about the basement at 1126 Milam but said that the historic buildings have to be used and that the sidewalks need to be replaced.

Mayor Dungen asked who among the crowd does not want to replace the sidewalks. The majority of the audience was in favor of the sidewalk project. Council Axel suggested that if any owner wished to opt out of participation in the sidewalk project that they should sign a waiver stating that they are responsible for any accidents caused by the sidewalks.

Mayor Dungen closed the Public Hearing at 7:56 p.m.

9. Consideration and Action Regarding the Downtown Sidewalk Project.

Mayor Dungen asked if Council was ready to move forward with the project and go out for bids. Councilman Rankin expressed concerns that if the scope of the project is changed, the City will not get grant funds. He also pointed out that the maintenance of sidewalks is the responsibility of property owners.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to move forward to finalize more of the options and resolve issues including determining if some part of the historic sidewalk could be excluded from the project while still maintaining the grant. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Absent: Councilman Woodall

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve a Manufactured Home Permit at 1218 Austin Street Requested by Ruben Perez, Sr.

Code Enforcement Officer Ford Stein explained that the request was for 1218 Austin Street and was to place a manufactured home at that site. He also said that the home met all of the requirements per the City's manufactured home ordinance.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve the manufactured home permit for 1218 Austin Street. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Absent: Councilman Woodall

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action to Authorize the Advertising for Bids to Demolish Midtown Elevated Water Storage Tank.

Mayor Dungen said that the demolition of the Midtown Water Tower has been in the budget for several years but that now the City is ready to advertise for bids to do it. Donald Warschak said that the budgeted amount is \$60,000 but that it should require less than that to do the job.

Councilman Ranking made a motion to authorize for the advertising for bids to demolish the Midtown Elevated Water Storage Tank. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Absent: Councilman Woodall

The motion passed.

12. Consideration and Action to Authorize Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) from Myrah Jane Drive to Spring Street and Spring Street in front of the Opera House on January 25, 2014 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. for a March for Life.

Mayor Dungen explained that, like last year, this would be a rolling closure along Milam Street and then a closure of Spring Street for a rally in front of the Opera House.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to authorize the closure of Milam Street from Myrah Jane Drive to Spring Street and Spring Street in front of the Stafford Opera House on January 25, 2014 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. for a March for Life as requested. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Absent: Councilman Woodall

The motion passed.

13. Consideration and Action to Approve Engagement Letter from Pattillo, Brown and Hill for the September 30, 2013 Audit.

Linda Lakich explained that this would be the fourth year for Pattillo, Brown and Hill to do the audit and that the City has been pleased with their work in the past.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the engagement letter from Pattillo, Brown and Hill for the September 30, 2013 audit. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Absent: Councilman Woodall

The motion passed.

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the September 2013 Police Report.

Police Chief, Bill Lattimore, presented his September 2013 Police Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the October 2013 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement Officer, Ford Stein, presented his October 2013 Code Enforcement Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

16. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Axel – announced that he would be resigning his council position in the near future for health reasons.

Councilman Schonenberg – commented that there is still a good prospect interested in the Industrial Park.

Councilman Hernandez – thanked Councilman Axel for his service.

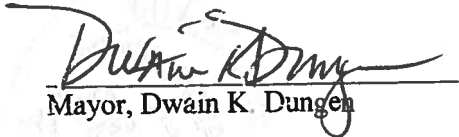
Councilman Rankin – said that the Planning and Zoning Review Committee had met again.

17. Announcements.

Mayor Dungen reminded Council that the next meeting was rescheduled for 6:30 p.m. on November 25th because of the Thanksgiving holiday.


18. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:25 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.