

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Thursday, January 23, 2014 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 (absent)
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
Retired Fire Chief	-	Walter Glaeser
Fire Chief	-	Doyle "Dusty" Dittmar
Utilities Supervisor	-	Jody Ripper

**1. Call to Order.**

Mayor Dwain Dungen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He explained that Councilman Axel was absent due to illness.

**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 January 9, 2014 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of November 2013 Financial Statements.
- d. Approval of Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2013.

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.<sup>1</sup>**

There were no citizens' presentations or comments.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Sewer Averaging, and Midtown Park Water Tower.**

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

**6. Consideration and Action to Authorize Closure of Milam Street from Jackson Street to Walnut Street and the Closure of Walnut Street from Milam Street to Legion Drive from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 1, 2014 for the Annual FFA Parade.**

Mayor Dungen explained that this was the same closure that is approved each year.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to authorize the Closure of Milam Street from Jackson Street to Walnut Street and the Closure of Walnut Street from Milam Street to Legion Drive from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 1, 2014 for the Annual FFA Parade as requested. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**7. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department Annual Report to Council.**

Retired Fire Chief, Walter Glaeser presented the 2013 Annual Report for the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Mayor Dungen expressed the City's thanks to the Fire Department.

No action was necessary.

**8. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding Presentation by Aqua Metric/Sensus Concerning Water and Gas Meter Replacement.**

Jonathan Blackwell with Aqua Metric/Sensus gave a brief presentation to Council which included the results of meter testing. The meters sampled had a 95% accuracy rate. Jonathan presented a financial benefit analysis based upon those accuracy results. Linda Lakich presented additional financial benefit analysis reflecting various financing terms and Utilities Department savings. A discussion followed concerning the logistics of the meter replacement project. Mayor Dungen suggested that Council decide whether to move forward with the project now.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to move forward with the water and gas meter replacement project at this time and to look at financing at a later meeting. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**9. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 132-14 Authorizing Designated Signators for the City's Depository and Other Financial Institutions.**

The Mayor explained that with the hiring of the new Assistant City Secretary that the signators would go back to include the City Manager, City Secretary, and Assistant City Secretary.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution 132-14 authorizing designated signators as presented. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**10. Consideration and Action to Submit a Proposed Replat of a 0.8502 acre tract situated in Colorado County, Texas and being a part or portion of Lots 1-6 in Block 86 of the City of Columbus, Eleven Hundred Block of Jackson Street, into four (4) lots (0.1417, 0.1417, 0.2135, and 0.3533 acres) as requested by Justin L. Eschenburg to the Planning and Zoning Commission.**

The City Manager explained that this was a request to make two of the current five lots larger and that the lots all were in compliance with City requirements.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to submit the proposed replat of the property in Block 86 to the Planning and Zoning Commission for consideration as requested. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**11. Public Hearing on the Property Located at 1030 Dewees, Block 103, Lot S-10, PT S-9 that has been Determined to be in Violation of Article 3.07 Unsafe or Substandard Building, Structures and Premises.**

Mayor Dungen opened the public hearing at 7:11 p.m.

The Mayor asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none. Code Enforcement Officer Ford Stein distributed pictures of the property taken in July and then January 23<sup>rd</sup>. He explained that there are two buildings on the property and that they are both in bad condition. He said that he has not heard back from the owners since his initial contact.

Mayor Dungen closed the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

**12. Consideration and Action on the Property Located at 1030 Dewees, Block 103, Lot S-10, PT S-9 that has been Determined to be in Violation of Article 3.07 Unsafe or Substandard Building, Structures and Premises.**

Ford Stein explained that the next step was to proceed with the 30 day notice as indicated in the City's Ordinance.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to proceed as authorized by City Ordinance to declare the structures at 1030 Dewees in violation of the Unsafe or Substandard Building Ordinance and to give the owner 30 days to correct the violations. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**13. Public Hearing on the Property Located at 1319 Dewees, Block 127, Lot S-3, PT S-2 that has been Determined to be in Violation of Article 3.07 Unsafe or Substandard Building, Structures and Premises.**

Mayor Dungen opened the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

The Mayor asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none.

Ford Stein presented pictures of the property. He said that he had been unable to contact the owner of the property and that the Central Appraisal District had also been unsuccessful in contacting the owner.

Mayor Dungen closed the public hearing at 7:17 p.m.

**14. Consideration and Action on the Property Located at 1319 Dewees, Block 127, Lot S-3, PT S-2 that has been Determined to be in Violation of Article 3.07 Unsafe or Substandard Building, Structures and Premises.**

Again, Ford Stein explained that the next step was for Council to proceed with the 30 day notice.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to proceed as authorized by City Ordinance to declare the structures at 1319 Dewees in violation of the Unsafe or substandard Building Ordinance and to give the owner 30 days to correct the violations. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**15. Consideration and Action to Approve an Updated Tower Lease Agreement with Internet America, Inc. to Install and Maintain Wireless Telecommunications Infrastructure Equipment on the Cardinal Hill Tower.**

Donald Warschak explained that Internet America requested an updated contract showing the locations of the internet connections it is providing to the City in exchange for locating its equipment on the Cardinal Hill water tower. He explained that the City is pleased with the internet service that it is receiving.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the updated tower lease agreement with Internet America as presented. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**16. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the December 2013 Police Report.**

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

No action was necessary.

**17. Items from Councilmembers.<sup>2</sup>**

Councilman Woodall – no comment

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment

Councilman Hernandez – no comment

Councilman Rankin – no comment

**18. Announcements.**

There were no announcements.

**19. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

  
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Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Lakich, City Secretary

<sup>1</sup>During 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.

<sup>2</sup>Limited 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.

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