

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Thursday, April 24, 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
City Attorney	-	Pat Gillespie

**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 April 10, 2014 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of February 2014 Financial Statements.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Hernandez 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 Downtown Sidewalk Project, Austin Street Storm Sewer Outfall, Water Distribution System Flushing.**

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

**6. Public Hearing regarding Panhandling.**

Mayor Dungen opened the public hearing at 6:36 p.m.

City Attorney, Pat Gillespie, explained that she had spoken with Texas Municipal League legal department. She said that the City cannot outlaw all panhandling, but they can place narrow restrictions on it in order to meet the city's interests and protect its citizens. She also said that on private property, such as parking lots, the owners need to post signs and then call the police if needed. After a discussion

with Council concerning their wishes, she said that she would put together a proposed ordinance for council consideration.

No one else wished to speak on the issue.

The Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:49 p.m.

**7. Consideration and Action Regarding Panhandling.**

Mayor Dungen said that Council would revisit the issue after Pat brought them a proposed ordinance.

No action was taken.

**8. Consideration and Action to Approve the City of Columbus Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2013.**

The 2013 City of Columbus Comprehensive Annual Financial Report was presented to Council for their review at the April 10, 2014, meeting.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the City of Columbus Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2013 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.

**9. Consideration and Action to Review and Approve City of Columbus Financial Management Goals and Objectives.**

Council was told that this was the annual review of the Financial Management Goals and that no changes had been made.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the City of Columbus Financial Management Goals and Objectives as presented. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

The Mayor moved to Item 11 on the Agenda.

**11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the March 2014 Police Report.**

Police Chief, William Lattimore, presented his March 2014 Police Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

The Mayor moved to Item 10 on the Agenda.

**10. Consideration and Action to Award the Construction Bid for the Downtown Sidewalk Project.**

Donald Warschak told Council that while four contractors picked up bid packets, only one bid was received. That bid was from Butler Industries and the base bid was for \$193,533. He said that in addition to the base bid there were alternate items also bid, including two levels of aging. He said that it was his

recommendation to award the base bid and then to decide on the alternates after looking at examples that the contractor will provide later. Donald also said that they would need to make the award contingent upon the environmental clearance because it had not been received yet. Councilman Rankin asked how the contractor would handle the old buildings downtown. Donald said that they would take precautions, such as using hand tools, protecting surfaces with plywood, and proceeding with the project in small sections. Councilman Woodall was told that the interruption to businesses would be kept to a minimum using walkways and that the bank might not go with the pea gravel finish. Mr. Woodall also asked where the funding for the City's match on the grant would come from. The City Manager said that he would be requesting 4B funds from the Columbus Community & Industrial Development Corporation (CCIDC) for the match. Councilman Schonenberg said that he thought this would be a good candidate for CCIDC funds. The Mayor said that this would be a good opportunity for CCIDC to give something to enhance commercial development downtown. Councilman Rankin stated that he would like to see CCIDC respond to Council with a strategic plan that addresses their focus on commercial vs. industrial development. Bradley Loehr with BEFCO Engineering arrived at 7:05 p.m. and distributed copies of the bid tabulation and pictures of proposed finishes. In addition to the base bid of \$193,553 for plain concrete, the bids for the alternate finishes were as follows: \$202,328 for the base plus worn concrete at the old red brick building and aged concrete everywhere else, \$201,343 for the base plus aged concrete at all of the entities, \$224,989 for base plus worn concrete at all of the entities, and \$196,034 for the base plus pea gravel in front of the bank. Bradley said that his recommendation was for the base plus aged finish everywhere but at the red brick building which would have the worn finish. He also said that they would be better able to make a decision on the finishes after the contractor provides them with 4x8 foot samples. He also said that he had contacted other contractors to see why they did not bid on the project and was told that they were either too busy or too far away. Councilman Woodall expressed concern about awarding the contract before CCIDC approved funding the match. Mayor Dungen suggested that they table the item until the next Council meeting to allow time for CCIDC to meet and decide whether they would fund the grant match.

The item was tabled until the next Council Meeting.

The Mayor moved to Item 12 on the agenda.

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

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Hernandez – no comment.

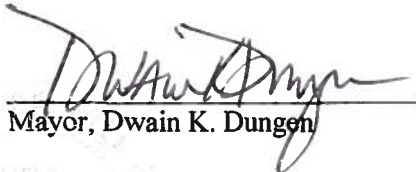
Councilman Rankin – no comment.

**13. Announcements.**

There were no announcements.

**14. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:41 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.

