

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Thursday, January 8, 2015 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
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert
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 December 11, 2014 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of Minutes of December 22, 2014 Regular Meeting.

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

There were no citizens' comments or presentations.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Ice Pigging, and Sewer Averaging.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Councilman Rankin said that if the ice pigging is determined to be of value, that he would like to see a program developed to do certain areas on a consistent basis similar to the manner that seal coating is planned for each year. Donald also reported that the Midtown Park tower for the autored system would be erected the week of January 12th.

6. Second Reading of Resolution 141-14, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations, with less than 20,000 Residents for the Funding of a Grant to the Live Oak Art Center to Assist in Rehabilitation of Bathroom Facilities.

Mayor Dungen read Resolution 141-14.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 141-14, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations, with less than 20,000 Residents for the Funding of a Grant to the Live Oak Art Center to Assist in Rehabilitation of Bathroom Facilities.

Councilman Rankin asked if there is a plan and Councilman Woodall asked for details about the planned usage for the building. Councilwoman Gobert stated that the bathroom would be located in the 1891 Whiskey Warehouse, which the Art Center plans to renovate and make into a ceramics center. The bathroom would be also available for use when the Art Center hosts functions and would be ADA compliant. Council agreed that there was a need for additional bathrooms at the Art Center. Councilman Rankin stated that he approves the addition of bathrooms at the Art Center, but that he hoped that CCIDC had determined that the addition of this bathroom would be sufficient to solve the current shortage and that they review the plans.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution 141-14 as presented. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action Approve the Appointment of Amber Hollywood to the Library Advisory Board for a Term Ending April 1, 2018.

Mayor Dungen stated that he has known Amber for a long time and that he is very glad to see her getting involved with the Library.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the appointment of Amber Hollywood to the Library Advisory Board for a Term Ending April 1, 2018. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action to Review and Modify, if Necessary, Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria.

Councilman Schonenberg stated City representatives had met with County Judge Ty Prause to discuss concerns about the newly adopted County Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria. There were still concerns regarding the wording of Section 2(k) and whether any property would qualify for treatment outside of Tier 1 or Tier 2. Mayor Dungen stated that the County's new guidelines puts subjectivity back into the abatement process. He also stated that while the City has always had the same Tax Abatement policy in the past, that it does not have to be the same. Council asked that the references to the Tiers be taken out of Section 2(k). It was agreed to change the language in Section 2(k) and to bring the revised ordinance back to Council at the next meeting.

No action was taken.

10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the December 2014 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement Official, Ford Stein, presented his December 2014 Code Enforcement Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. In addition, Ford presented Council with a prioritized list of nine buildings that he has identified as potentially substandard. He said that he plans to address the top three on the list in the current budget year.

No action was necessary.

11. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilwoman Gobert – asked for an update on the Mayes property project. She also requested an update on the progress made on the development of a long term plan for infrastructure repairs and maintenance.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Hernandez – asked what the status was for naming the Mayes property park.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

12. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

13. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:11 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.

