

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Thursday, January 22, 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
Library Director	-	Susan Chandler

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 January 8, 2015 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of November 2014 Financial Statements.
- d. Approval of Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2014.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Rankin 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 Ice Picking, HOME Grant 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 a Municipal Maintenance Agreement between the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the City of Columbus.

Donald Warschak explained that the proposed agreement is essentially the same as the agreement with TxDOT signed in 1997, except for two boiler plate items.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the Municipal Maintenance Agreement between the Texas Department of Transportation and the City of Columbus. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. **Consideration and Action to Approve 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, February 28, 2015 for the Annual FFA Parade.**

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the closure of Milam and Walnut Streets as requested for the Annual FFA Parade. 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 to Authorize Rolling Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) from Myrah Jane Drive to Spring Street on January 24, 2015 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. for a March for Life.**

The Mayor stated that this would be the third year that they have had the march and that the Police Department would provide traffic control.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the closure of Milam Street as requested for a March for Life. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

The Mayor explained that the Fire Department Report was not available at that time.

10. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the Nesbitt Memorial Library Quarterly Report.**

Library Director Susan Chandler presented her report on the Nesbitt Memorial Library, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. She explained that they define an active patron as someone who has used the library in the last three years and that they have recently updated the status of patrons which explains the decrease shown in the report. She also said that, as suggested by Council, she is using as many volunteers as possible. She also explained the process for signing up to use e-books.

No action was necessary.

11. **Consideration and Action to Authorize the Advertising for Construction Bids for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Visitors Center Project.**

Donald Warschak said that the preliminary engineering work is being wrapped up, and that they would like to have the bid date set for March 5, 2015. After a discussion of some of the design aspects of the project, Donald stated that he would send a copy of the interior plans to Council. He said that with a budget of \$500,000 that the project might need to be completed in stages.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to authorize the advertising for construction bids for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Visitors Center Project. Councilwoman Gobert seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

12. Consideration and Action to Authorize the Advertising for Bids for the City's Garbage Contract.

Donald Warschak explained that the City's current contract with Texas Disposal Systems will expire in April 2015, so it is time to rebid the contract for solid waste collection. He said that the City will be exploring curbside recycling and bulk garbage pickup. The bid date is set for February 20th, with Council approval on February 22, 2015.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to authorize the advertising for bids for the City's Garbage Contract. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

13. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 170-15 Establishing Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria.

Curtis stated that the proposed ordinance contained the changes to item k as discussed at the January 8, 2015 meeting. He said that item j was also changed to state that applicants would remain in business for at least three years or reimburse the City for 50% of the abated taxes.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve Ordinance 170-15 as presented with the changes in items j and k as proposed by Councilman Schonenberg. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

14. Consideration and Action to Approve an Engagement Letter from Pattillo, Brown and Hill for the September 2014 Financial Audit.

The City Secretary stated that this will be the fifth year for Pattillo, Brown and Hill to do the City's audit and that she would recommend approval.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the engagement letter from Pattillo, Brown and Hill for the September 2014 Financial Audit. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the December 2014 Police Report.

Police Chief William Lattimore presented his December 2014 Police Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He also presented Council with the Department's Law Enforcement Contact Data Report for 2014.

No action was necessary.

16. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilwoman Gobert – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Hernandez – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

17. Announcements.

The City Secretary presented an Election Calendar for the May 9, 2015 Election for Mayor and Council Places 1 and 2.

18. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:09 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.