

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Thursday, February 26, 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 (arrived at 6:35 p.m.)
Councilman	-	Steve Woodall
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert (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
Public Works Supervisor	-	Michael Poncik
Utilities Supervisor	-	Jody Ripper

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 February 12, 2015 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of December 2014 Financial Statements.

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Eric and David LaCourse with the Columbus Boy Scouts introduced themselves and said that they were there to observe the Council meeting.

5. City Manager's Report Including HOME Grant Project, Warrant Round Up, Annual TML Gas Audit, Mayes Project, and AutoRead Meter Project.

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 Management to Negotiate a New Electrical Rate Contract.

Donald Warschak reported that the City's current electric rate contract extends thru April of 2016, but since rates are very low at present, he would like to negotiate a rate contract for the 24 to 36 months following. He stated that he would need to have the authorization to act, because when rates are bid there is only a short time to take action.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to authorize City Management to negotiate a new electrical rate contract. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

Councilman Schonenberg arrived at 6:35 p.m.

7. Consideration and Action to Award Contract for Solid Waste Collection.

Donald Warschak stated that the current contract expires in April 2015 and that, as in the past, the City is looking at a five year contract. Bidders were asked to include a bid for weekly and twice a month curbside recycling, and for bulk garbage pickup. Bids were submitted by Texas Disposal Services (the City's current provider) and by Progressive Waste. Both vendors had representatives present who wished to address Council.

Mike Wilson with Progressive Waste and Jay Howard with Texas Disposal Systems made presentations to Council outlining their respective bid proposals. There was a discussion of curbside recycling. The Mayor asked if the recycling could be dropped at a later time if it did not work out. Both companies said that would be possible. The Mayor stated that he would like to see curbside recycling and that he thought that biweekly recycling would be adequate. Councilman Rankin stated that he did not think that it will work. Councilman Schonenberg said that he would like to try it. He requested the newspaper to ask in their weekly poll if citizens want recycling and are willing to pay for it. Council said that they would like to have time to look at the proposals and to get feedback from citizens.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to table action until the next council meeting. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action on Funding Support to the Columbus Garden Club for the Spring Trash Off Event.

Councilman Schonenberg recused himself from participation in discussion and action on this item.

Marian Schonenberg, with the Columbus Garden Club, asked Council to allow the City to participate by providing funding and manpower for the 9th Annual Columbus Trash Off. The event will take place April 13-17, 2015. As in past years, the Garden Club is asking for assistance with collection of large items, disposal of items collected, limb chipping, and publicity for the event.

Councilman Woodall made a motion to continue support of the Columbus Garden Club Trash Off, as requested. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve a Manufactured Home Permit in the 1200 Block of Rampart, Block No. 114, as Requested by Victor Galvan.

Victor Galvan was present to answer questions from Council. He stated that access to the property would be from Rampart Street. Ford Stein stated that the request meets all City requirements.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the manufactured home permit for the 1200 Block of Rampart, Block No. 114, as requested by Victor Galvan. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action to Declare a Police Vehicle – 2007 Crown Victoria, VIN 2FAP71W37X113296 – as Surplus Property.

Donald Warschak stated that the Police Department has taken this vehicle out of service and replaced it with a new Tahoe.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to declare the 2007 Crown Victoria as surplus property. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the January 2015 Police Report.

Police Chief, Bill Lattimore, presented his January 2015 Police Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

12. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Hernandez – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

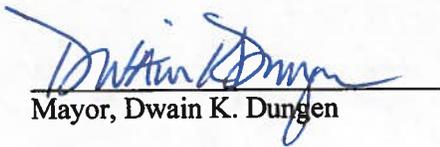
Mayor Dungen – no comment.

13. Announcements.

David LaCourse announced that the Boy Scouts would be hosting a celebration of their 70th Anniversary at the Diamond Center on March 7th from 3 to 6 p.m.

14. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:30 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.