

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, April 28, 2016 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	-	Woody Moore (Absent)
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert (Absent)
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
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1. Call to Order.

Mayor Dwain Dungen called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of Invoices

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Rankin, Hernandez and Schonenberg
Absent: Councilman Moore and Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Julie Smith of PHI Air Medical Services gave a presentation on the PHI Cares Membership Program. She indicated after insurance, members who needed to use their air ambulance services had no cost. A copy of the informational brochure is attached to these minutes.

Columbus business owners, Debbie Damon and Dale Alexander, told Council about a meeting they attended with State Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst concerning AEP delivery charges on business electric bills. A copy of the meeting notes are attached to these minutes.

5. City Manager's Report Including Gas Line Project Update, Water System Evaluation Study, and Water Distribution System Flushing.

City manager, Donald Warschak, gave the City Manager's report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Warschak stated the steel pipe for the remaining portion of the gas line was delivered on Monday. It is strung along Hwy 90, and the contractor will start welding next week. After the welding is completed, the two bores can be done.

The water system evaluation study report has been released, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. A map of the existing water distribution system piping is also attached. Warschak stated an engineer from O'Malley will be at the next Council meeting to present their report and to answer questions.

Regarding water system flushing, Warschak stated the work crews did no flushing last week due to the flooding. This week will have all flushing east of Fannin Street completed, and next week they will begin flushing west of Fannin.

Warschak followed up on bulk trash pick-up. He stated it appears that this type of service has gone down 50 or 60% from when the City did the collection. However, looking at the calls, it appears that TDS and the City classify bulk items differently. TDS is working on a flyer explaining the program and to reeducate the customers about the items that can be picked up. Councilman Rankin asked when this might be ready. Warschak responded he would have to check back with Jay from TDS.

The City Manager stated that the City was looking at some changes to the utility billing schedule. He asked the City Secretary, Bana Schneider, to speak about those changes. Schneider stated the billing cycle, due dates and termination notice requirements are dictated by the current ordinance. She continued with some of the changes being proposed, including changing the due date from the 10th of the month to the 15th; no longer sending termination notices; using larger post cards to include verbiage about terminations and appeals; and mailing bills earlier in order to accommodate the slower handling of postal mail. Rankin stated he had an issue in which he had been driving Donald, Dwain and Bana crazy with. He stated he did not want changes made if the current system was working, but if improvements to the process were needed, they should be considered. Discussion ensued regarding keeping the due date of the 10th, but sending bills earlier than they are currently mailed. Mayor Dungen stated consumers would be getting their bills a few days earlier, with the same due date, but they would no longer receive a separate termination notice. Schneider stated before any changes could be made, the ordinance would have to be modified, and the City would send an informational letter to consumers outlining the changes.

The Mayor asked the City Manager about flood related issues experienced by the City. Warschak stated the hardest hit area was on the south side of town at the Columbus RV Park. With the rise of the Colorado River and an upstream creek in the area, the water rose rather quickly in that area. The Fire Department, along with LCRA, helped some residents get their trailers out. The owners of the RV Park asked if there was any assistance the City could provide with regard to the situation. Warschak stated the RV Park is located in the City, but the creek which caused most of the problems is in the County. The City could look at cleaning out the channel that goes from the highway bridge to the river to help with drainage.

The City also lost approximately 6-10 feet of additional riverbank and a couple of sections of our discharge pipe at the wastewater treatment plant. Right now the river's edge is about 25 feet from the fence of the sewer plant and about another 15 feet to the unit itself. The last couple of months, he stated, he had been in contact with LCRA to try and come up with a solution to provide some riverbank stability in the area. There are some erosion concerns at our Spring Water Well, and on some private property at the end of Barton Street where the power line crosses the river. There were some flooding issues in the Krupka Addition. With the amount of rainfall, there was standing water. Montezuma Street had to be closed near the Golf Course, and the City's maintenance building experienced water up against the foundation and coming under the garage doors.

6. **Consideration and Action to Submit a Proposed Replat of a 0.536 Acre Tract Situated in Block 29 of the City of Columbus, into two (2) lots (0.503 and 0.033 Acres) as Requested by Charlotte Tilotta.**

Tilotta stated she has a buyer for this particular lot which extends into the driveway she uses everyday to get to her house. She would like to divide the lot in order to have access to her driveway and for flood control.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to submit the proposed replat as presented to Planning and Zoning. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Rankin, Hernandez and Schonenberg
Absent: Councilman Moore and Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

7. **Consideration and Action to Approve a 2015-2016 Budget Amendment for Library Grants and Associated Expenditures.**

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 Library Budget Amendment as stated. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Rankin, Hernandez and Schonenberg
Absent: Councilman Moore and Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve a 2015-2016 Budget Amendment for a Golf Course Donation and Associated Expenditures.**

Councilman Rankin asked from whom the donation came. Schneider indicated it was from Alleyton Resources, and it was to be used for rehabilitation of the cart sheds.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 Golf Course Budget Amendment as stated. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Rankin, Hernandez and Schonenberg
Absent: Councilman Moore and Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

9. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the March 2016 Police Report.**

Police Chief, Bill Lattimore, gave his report to Council, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was required.

10. **Items from Councilmembers.**²

Councilman Moore – Absent

Councilwoman Gobert – Absent

Councilman Schonenberg – E'Kabel has a July start date for construction of their facility, and they have started the hiring process.

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – The Boy Scouts present at the meeting are working on a merit badge. The Mayor had them introduce themselves.

11. **Announcements.**

There were no announcements

12. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain Dungen

ATTEST:



Bana Schneider, 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.

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.