

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, June 9, 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	-	Lori An Gobert
Councilman	-	Woody Moore
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Code Enforcement	-	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.**

Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

**3. Consent Agenda:**

- a. Approval of Invoices
- b. Approval of Minutes of May 12, 2016 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of Minutes of May 25, 2016 Regular Meeting

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Moore, Swindle, Hernandez and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

**4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.**

Local business owner, Debbie Damon, gave a report on AEP's proposed rate increase, and the delivery charges currently paid by local businesses. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Ms. Damon also gave a report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes, about the "Mayor's Monarch Pledge" which is a program that supports monarch butterfly habitats in the state.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Gas Line Project Update, and Erosion at Waste Water Treatment Plant.**

Donald Warschak gave the City Manager's report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Regarding sales tax, Warschak stated the sales tax payment just received by the City was based on April collections. He indicated there was a \$15,000 increase for the same time period last year. Eagle Lake and the County also saw an increase, while Weimar was down from last year. Warschak stated all of the welds on the steel pipe for the gas line have been completed. After the poly fusion welds that will marry the steel and PVC lines, a pressure test will be done. He also

stated the construction should be completed within 30 days, and weather permitting, clean up along Highway 90 can take place.

Warschak moved to the erosion at the McCormick wastewater treatment plant. After the 2 rises in the river level this year, there has been significant erosion of the river bank at the plant. At this time, the river bank has receded to within 16 feet of the fence bordering the plant, and is only 48 feet from the plant itself. He stated he has been in contact with LCRA and the Corps of Engineers regarding the problem. A temporary measure would be to install bull rock up to where the discharge pipe is. He stated a 30 foot length of pipe that has been lost. This would not be a full restoration, merely a stop gap measure. He stated there may be funding available for a permanent fix from the CATS Program, which covers endangered public works projects. In the feasibility phase, there would be a 50/50 cost share, and the latter phase of the project would have a 65/35 cost share with the Feds and the City respectively. Councilman Rankin asked how quickly the permanent solution could be implemented. Warschak stated we would have to follow the Corps of Engineers and the Federal government's pace. Mayor Dungen stated they have been working quickly. Rankin asked the cost for a temporary fix. Warschak stated Bruce Tesch of B & D Construction said it would require about 2,000 tons of bull rock, so the materials alone would be \$80,000. Rankin stated we should fast track the permanent solution. He continued by asking if Warschak had inspected the City's two other properties located on the river. Warschak stated there has been some erosion, but not near as significant as at the treatment plant. Duncan stated there would be no action without coming back to Council for approval. Councilman Swindle stated LCRA has a vested interest in making sure the plant does not wash down the river.

Swindle also asked if there would be an impact to the City's gas line grant project because of the job losses at KWI. Warschak stated for every job under 100 at the company, the City would have to repay the state \$10,000. He stated feelers have been put out to Grantworks regarding any leeway for repayment. The project must be closed out by September, so hopefully the oil industry will recover before then.

**6. Consideration and Action to Authorize Closure of Legion Drive from Veterans Drive to Legion Circle for Independence Day Activities on Monday July 4, 2016 from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

The Mayor stated this was a request from the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to authorize the street closure as requested by the Chamber. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Moore, Swindle, Rankin, and Hernandez; Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

**7. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the April 2016 Columbus Municipal Golf Association Report.**

Mike Craddock gave the Golf Association monthly report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Craddock stated they will be negotiating with Tim Mewis to purchase some of the furniture and fixtures, as well as some of his equipment. He also went over the upcoming bills that will need to be paid before the end of the month. A list of the items they may purchase, as well as the outstanding bills, is attached to the minutes. Craddock also stated they had placed ads in the Sealy newspaper for new members. They are aimed at members from nearby clubs that have been closed because of the recent floods. Councilman Rankin stated it appears the golf association will need an additional \$18,000 to cover expenses. He also said sales really needed to be increased.

No action was required.

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

The Mayor stated the \$40,000 increase Golf Course operations would come from decreases from various accounts in the Park's Department.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 Budget Amendment for golf course expenditures. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Moore, Swindle, Hernandez and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

9. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the April 2016 Code Enforcement Report.**

Code Enforcement Officer, Ford Stein, gave his report to Council, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated the numbers of requested permits seems low, and he thinks it has to do with the flooding. The Mayor asked if the next item on the list should be the overgrown lots and yards. Stein stated he would wait for everything to dry up so people would have the chance to mow. Rankin asked what is considered an adequate surface for parking lots. He asked specifically about the gravel lot across from Hoelscher's garage. Stein stated it must be hard and dust-free, but he said he would have to look at the other ordinance for the specific wording.

No action was required.

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

Councilman Moore – None

Councilwoman Gobert – None

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – Asked about an update on E'kabel and the specific dates to fulfill their performance agreement. He also mentioned that with the low price of oil, Venezuela is in trouble, and wanted to know how E'kabel was impacted. Gobert stated one of the reasons they were delayed in the project was because they were moving all of their monies out of the country.

Mayor Dungen – None

6. **Announcements.**

There were no announcements.

7. **Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

  
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Mayor, Dwain Dungen

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bana Schneider, 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.

<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.