

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, June 23, 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
Councilman	-	Woody Moore (Resigned)
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert (Absent)
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Fire Chief	-	Dusty Dittmar

**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 June 9, 2016 Regular Meeting.

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Rankin, Hernandez, and Swindle  
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

**4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.<sup>1</sup>**

Debbie Damon of Bedazzled gave an updated report on AEP delivery charges. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes. Damon stated she would be happy to evaluate the electric bills for anyone who asked.

Mayor Dungen asked the City Manager to check with the attorney handling the combined cities' complaints about AEP concerning a form letter the City could send individually registering the complaint.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Wastewater Treatment Plant Erosion, Gas Line Project and Water Evaluation Study Updates; Fuel Purchasing; and Quarterly Utility Billing Comparison Report.**

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

Concerning the gas line project, the line is now operational, and is holding at 99 pounds of pressure. The only remaining items for the project are clean up and grading of the work areas. Regarding the riverbank erosion at the wastewater treatment plant, the river has receded since the last rise, and there appears to be no additional erosion of the bank. There will be a meeting next week with the Army Corps of Engineers and the LCRA to kick-off the CAT Program, which grant monies were applied for to make the necessary repairs. Also, we will be discussing with them if any of our temporary measures can be integrated into the permanent fix so we are not spending a lot of money on temporary repairs.

Concerning the water system update, Warschak stated he, Councilman Swindle and Jody Ripper had visited a filtration system at a municipal well in Montgomery County last week. The filtration system used there is the size the City is looking to use. Warschak also stated he had a crane company come out to make sure there would not be a problem installing the equipment with the existing infrastructure. They were confident the units could be placed without any problems.

Warschak explained to Council that fuel was not sent out for bids for a six month contract, which would have started in July. Because of the OPIS requirement, there was only one vendor who submitted a bid. In order to have more local vendors participate, we will call the local suppliers and see who can deliver it for the lowest price on that particular day. Dungen asked when the current contract will expire. Warschak stated July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Warschak concluded his report with graphs showing water and gas consumption comparisons for January, February and March of 2015 and 2016. Copies of the graphs are attached to these minutes. The lower consumption for 2016 is attributed to weather variations as well as lower industrial usage. The Mayor asked if the lower gas consumption is due to the slow down at KWI. Warschak stated KWI's consumption was much lower, so far, in 2016 compared to 2015.

**6. Consideration and Action to Approve the Resignation of Councilman Woodrow Moore from City Council Position #1.**

Mayor Dungen stated between his personal and business obligations, Councilman Moore did not have enough time to devote to City Council.

The Mayor also stated an appointment can be made to fill the position until the May 2017 election.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the resignation of Councilman Woodrow Moore. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Rankin, Hernandez, and Swindle  
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

**7. Consideration and Action to Award 2016 Street Seal Coating Bid.**

Warschak gave the results of the seal coat bids, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated bid packets were sent out to two contractors and advertisements were placed in contractor publications. Warschak said only one bid was received, and that was from H & C Construction for \$93,600, which is \$1.95 a square yard. Councilman Rankin asked what would happen if no bids were received. Dungen stated that he and Donald had spoken about that possibility, and perhaps the City should consider doing the seal coating every other year so the job would be bigger, and more contractors would submit bids.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to award the bid for the 2016 Street Seal Coating to H & C Construction. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Rankin, Hernandez, and Swindle  
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

**8. Consideration and Action to Authorize Closure of Bowie Street from Jackson Street to Houston Street for the Circus of Health Fair on Saturday July 23, 2016 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

Dungen stated the area to be closed is directly in front of the Elementary School. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, said it is between the existing gates the school uses to close the street.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to authorize the closure of Bowie Street from Jackson to Houston for the Circus of Health Fair on Saturday, July 23, 2016, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Rankin, Hernandez, and Swindle  
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

**9. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 162-16, a Resolution Approving a Donation from the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department for Fire Station Building Improvements.**

Fire Chief, Dusty Dittmar, stated the Fire Department would like to enclose approximately 2300 square feet on the back side and add an awning to the west side of the building. They would like to have enough room to bring back their antique fire truck, which is currently being held off-site.

Councilman Rankin asked why there was only one bidder, and if the project would drain all of their funds. Dittmar stated the project would not drain the department.

Dungen asked if the department was planning on adding an additional unit to their fleet.

Dittmar stated they were not. There are already plans for the use of the new square footage, training during inclement weather, and space for working on different apparatus. Rankin asked if this renovation would preclude looking at a different location for the fire station. Dittmar stated they did not get much feedback from Council when they were looking for a new location a few years ago.

Assistant Chief, Richard La Course, stated at this time there is no area to work on equipment. The renovation would allow for the generator to be moved outside, freeing up space to work on hose and other equipment.

Assistant Fire Chief, Ford Stein, stated the awning on the west side is being designed so that it could be closed in at a later date.

The Mayor read the resolution. Rankin stated there are no engineered drawings included so the resolution would have to be amended or not approved at this time. Warschak suggested Council approve the Fire Department's plan for renovations, but table the resolution until drawings can be provided.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to table approval of Resolution 162-16 until drawings are provided. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Rankin, Hernandez, and Swindle  
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

**10. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 163-16 Setting the Dates, Times and Places for Public Hearings on the Proposed Annexation of Certain Property by the City of Columbus, Texas and Authorizing and Directing the Mayor to Publish Notices of Such Public Hearings.**

Warschak stated the property was located on North Street. The request has come from Mr. Verne John.

The Mayor read the resolution.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve Resolution 163-16 regarding a proposed annexation. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Rankin, Hernandez, and Swindle  
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

**11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the April 2016 Police Report.**

Police Chief, Bill Lattimore, gave his report to Council, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Lattimore also stated he had participated in Colorado County Safety Day held at the Fairgrounds, and he was very complimentary of the behavior of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Columbus. Additionally, Chief participated in a Hurricane Preparedness meeting. Lattimore also stated the department did not receive the Equipment Grant from H-GAC.

No action was required.

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

Councilman Moore – Resigned

Councilwoman Gobert – Absent

Councilman Swindle - None

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – None

**13. Announcements.**

The Mayor reminded everyone of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festivities at the Golf Course.

**14. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Dwain Dungen

*Jon Q. Gobert*  
Mayor Pro Tem, Lori Ann Gobert

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bana Schneider, City Secretary

*Traci Edman*  
Traci Edman, Asst. 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.