

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, June 26, 2017 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	-	Keith Cummings
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle (Absent)
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Police Lieutenant	-	Skip Edman
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse

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 12, 2017 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of May 2017 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: Councilmen Cummings, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Swindle

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Debbie Damon of Bedazzled gave an updated report on her PUC hearing concerning AEP delivery charges. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes.

Damon also spoke to Council regarding billboards advertising the City. She stated the Chamber of Commerce should receive the necessary funding for advertising of this nature. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Mayor Dungen asked Billy Kahn, from the Chamber, about the status of the existing billboards along Interstate 10, which advertise the City. Kahn stated they were in need of repair.

5. City Manager's Report Including Visitors Center Project, Water Filtration System Project, and TxDOT Bridge Project Updates.

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

Warschak stated there has been activity at the Visitors Center site. The contractor prepared the fill for the building foundation and the underground plumbing has been installed. Weather permitting, they will try and pour the foundation at the end of the week.

Warschak continued with an update on the water filtration system. He stated the notice has gone to the paper for advertising bids for the equipment. Bids will be received on July 19th. Councilman Hernandez asked Warschak how many bids he thought would be received. Warschak indicated the specifications were for West Tech equipment. The current equipment at the water plants is West Tech, and we would like to keep it all the same.

Councilman Rankin asked how long the project will take. Warschak stated the equipment will take approximately 24 to 26 weeks to be fabricated. The foundation work can begin when approved submittals have been received. The Mayor stated the project probably would not be completed until the first of the year.

Warschak completed his report with an update of the TxDOT bridge project. The company that provides gas to the City is working on relocating the line from the trestle bridge, and will be boring under the river. They will temporarily close Old Highway 90 for that operation. Front Street from Walnut to the railroad tracks will be closed during this process for safety reasons.

6. **Consideration and Action to Authorize the Closure of Bowie Street from Jackson Street to Houston Street for the Circus of Health Fair on Saturday, July 22, 2017, from 8:30 am to 11:30 am.**

The Mayor stated this was the block in front of the elementary school.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to close Bowie Street for the Circus of Health Fair. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Swindle

The motion passed.

The Mayor moved to items number 8 and 9.

8. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the May 2017 Code Enforcement Report.**

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse presented his May report to Council, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

LaCourse also spoke to Council regarding the Manufactured Home ordinance. He stated the current ordinance does not have an age limit on the homes that can be put into place, and the previous version did take age into consideration. The Mayor stated he never understood why the permit and the ordinance did not match. He asked that Council make those changes to the current ordinance. Warschak stated there was also an issue with the non-conforming and conforming home replacements that should be addressed. Rankin asked the process for change. There was discussion of the steps required. It was determined the Planning & Zoning Commission could address the issues at their meeting in July.

No action was required.

9. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the May 2017 Police Report.**

Police Chief, Bill Lattimore, gave his report to Council, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Lattimore spoke about the training and other programs he and some other officers had participated in during the month.

Lattimore announced he would be retiring on October 31st of this year. He stated he had been training Lieutenant Skip Edman to take over as Chief.

Warschak stated he was saddened by the news, and he appreciated everything Lattimore has done for the City. The City Manager wished Lattimore well in his next endeavors. Warschak stated he is pleased to fill the police chief position with Lt. Edman. He has 24 years of law enforcement experience, and his career started in Columbus. Warschak stated Edman is also an instructor at the Wharton County Junior College Police Academy.

Dungen stated this should be an easy transition.

No action was required.

The Mayor returned to item 7.

7. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the May 2017 Golf Association Report.

John Mangini of the Columbus Municipal Golf Association gave the report to Council, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Mangini stated the club sponsored tournament did well, and they are looking at hosting a tournament with either Eagle Lake or Weimar. He also stated the Fire Department tournament held the first weekend in June was a big success.

Mangini indicated the club had been denied tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(7), but the IRS agent stated they may qualify under another 501(c)(4). He asked if the City Attorney could help with this matter. Dungen stated he would help. He also told him to start working on the Association's budget for next fiscal year.

No action was required.

7. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilwoman Gobert – Thanked City for the use of the pool for the swim team. She stated they had 99 swimmers this year. Also stated the new chlorinator made a big difference. Gobert also told Chief Lattimore she was sorry to see him go because he has been awesome to work with.

Councilman Swindle - Absent

Councilman Hernandez – Congratulated Chief on his retirement. He stated he had known Lattimore for many years and it was a pleasure to see him develop as a police officer.

Councilman Rankin – Wished Chief good luck.

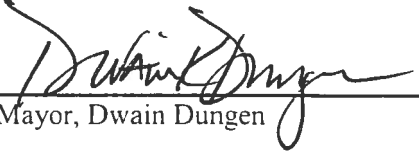
Mayor Dungen – July 20th is the Taste of Columbus, asked Council if they wanted to participate.

8. Announcements.

The Mayor reminded everyone of the 4th of July Festivities starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Golf Course.


9. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain Dungen

ATTEST:



Bana Schneider, City Secretary
Traci Edman, Asst. 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.