

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, October 23, 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 (Absent)
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin (Absent)
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
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
Fire Marshal	-	Brent Gorman

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 the September 25, 2017 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of Minutes of the October 10, 2017 Regular Meeting
- d. Approval of August 2017 Financial Statements
- e. Approval of the Investment Report for the Quarter Ended September 30, 2017

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, and Hernandez

Absent: Councilwoman Gobert, Councilman Rankin

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

There were no citizen comments.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax , FEMA Update, and the Visitors Center.

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

Regarding sales tax, Warschak stated the payment received in October was an increase over the same time period last year. He also said Eagle Lake and Weimar both saw increases as well, while the county as a whole saw a decrease.

Warschak commented FEMA representatives had been in the City during the past two weeks inspecting City infrastructure damaged during the storm.

On a side note, he stated he had heard from the Army Corps of Engineers concerning the riverbank at the WWTP. They will be putting paperwork forward for a feasibility assessment to see if the project will qualify for the CAPS program.

The Visitors Center is moving along, Warschak stated. The contractor is installing the exterior electrical components. The partitions and accessories will be the next items to be installed on the inside. AEP is working on scheduling the hook-up for electric power. It could take up to four to six weeks to get the connection.

Councilman Swindle asked about the status of the water filtration system. Warschak indicated the submittals to the supplier are being worked on. It looks like sometime in the spring for the equipment to be ready. He also stated he would be working on the install packets for contractors. Mayor Dungen asked when the construction phase would begin. Warschak stated they would take bids after the first of the year, and it will take approximately 60-90 days to set the foundations.

6. Consideration and Action to Approve the Publicity and Tourism Agreement between the City and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated there was one change to the contract this year. The expenditures category for a Visitors Center was added to the other eligible uses for the HOT funds. The disbursement of the funds will now be in two installments. The first will be after the contracts are signed, and the second payment will be made in January.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the Publicity and Tourism Agreement with the Chamber. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, and Hernandez

Absent: Councilwoman Gobert, Councilman Rankin

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Travis Street Between Walnut Street (Hwy 90) and the Far End of the Courthouse Drive on Saturday, October 28, 2017 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the Farmers Market Costume Contest.

Schneider explained the location to Council.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to approve the closure of Travis Street as requested. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, and Hernandez

Absent: Councilwoman Gobert, Councilman Rankin

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Spring Street between Milam Street (Spur 52) and Travis Street on Thursday December 7, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for Ladies Night Out.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the street closure as requested. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. **Consideration and Action to Approve Street Closures in the Memorial Oaks Subdivision for Halloween Activities on the Evening of October 31, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Dungen stated the closure should probably last, at least, until 8:00 p.m.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the Halloween street closures in Memorial Oaks from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of Tracy Kelly to the Nesbitt Memorial Library Advisory Board for a Term Ending October 2020.**

Schneider stated Library Director, Susan Chandler, had not received Ms. Kelly's new application, so the application from her prior service on the board was included. Schneider also stated both appointees had been approved by the board.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to approve the appointment of Tracy Kelly to the Library Advisory Board. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

11. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of Roger Wade to the Nesbitt Memorial Library Advisory Board.**

Dungen stated Mr. Wade had previously served on the board. Schneider confirmed he had, and, in fact, had served as the president of the board for awhile.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the appointment of Roger Wade to the Library Advisory Board. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

12. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 176-17 adopting the City of Columbus Investment Policy.

Schneider stated there was one change to the existing policy. Regarding ongoing training, she stated the state had changed the law from 10 hours to 8 hours of training required every two years after the initial 10 hour training. The policy now reflects that rule. Dungen explained to Councilman Cummings this is something that has to be approved on a yearly basis.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the City of Columbus Investment Policy. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

13. First Reading of Resolution 177-17, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations, With Less Than 20,000 Residents for the Funding of a Grant to Colorado County Habitat for Humanity to Assist in Providing Affordable Housing Within the City.

The Mayor read the resolution.

14. Consideration and Action to Request that the City Secretary Conduct the Annual Audit of Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Funds as Required by Article 59.06 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Schneider stated, per statute, the governing body had to request the audit. Councilman Hernandez asked when the last audit was performed. Schneider stated last year at this time.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to request the City Secretary conduct an audit of the Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Funds. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

15. Consideration and Action to Authorize the Mayor to Enter the City of Columbus into an Interlocal Agreement for Procurement Services with Tarrant County.

Warschak stated Lieutenant Edman found police Tahoe units were \$1,200 cheaper than HGAC and the buy board. Since we have two units slated to be purchased this year, the \$2,400 savings would be good. Dungen asked if other items could be purchased through them. Warschak stated they could.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to authorize the Mayor to enter the City to enter into an agreement for procurement services with Tarrant County. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

16. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the September 2017 Golf Association Report.

John Mangini gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Mangini stated the association placed an ad in the Sealy paper since there are no operating courses there, but it did not bring in any golfers. They did have a group from Houston come in, and they indicated they would be coming back every month. They had a night tournament, which was well received.

Mangini continued, stating they had laid off one worker and cut back the hours of the other two. They are having a hard time getting volunteers from the membership to help with mowing the course. He concluded by stating contrary to the rumors going around town, they will not be closing down in April.

There was discussion regarding the budget and how fiscal year 2017 ended.

No action was required.

17. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Fire Marshal Report.

Brent Gorman gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated they had a group of students from the Challenge Academy come to the fire station and learn about becoming firefighters.

He stated his goal was to have a 100% inspection rate for all commercial properties in the City.

No action was required.

18. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the September 2017 Code Enforcement Report.

Richard LaCourse gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated he is working on three manufactured home permits for storm victims, and there are snags with all three. Mr. Milentz is having issues at his MH Park on New World Drive.

There was a discussion regarding abandoned mobile homes.

No action was required.

19. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the September 2017 Police Report.

Chief Lattimore gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

He spoke about the department's participation in National Night Out, training, and fire arms qualifications.

Dungen asked about the status of the rash of robberies and break-ins that had occurred in the City. Lattimore stated the status is still the same; there are no leads, but the numbers of such incidences have gone down.

The Mayor thanked Chief Lattimore for his service to the City, and wished him well on his

retirement.

No action was required.

20. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilwoman Gobert – Absent

Councilman Swindle - None

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – Absent

Mayor Dungen – None

21. Announcements.

Schneider stated she had received a phone call from a citizen who stated she had heard the City had received FEMA trailers, and they were being given out at City Hall. Dungen stated a request for trailers had gone in, but there had been no word on their status.

There was discussion of the extended deadline for applying for assistance and for temporary hotel stays.

22. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:10 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.