

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, April 9, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 1538 Hwy 71 S, Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

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|----------------|---|---------------------|
| Mayor | - | Richard Heffley |
| Mayor Pro Tem | - | Curtiss Schonenberg |
| Councilman | - | Charles Richardson |
| Councilman | - | John Axel |
| Councilman | - | Bruce Tesch |
| Councilman | - | John Wagner |
| City Manager | - | David Meisell |
| City Secretary | - | Patti Glaeser |
| Police Chief | - | Danny Jackson |

1. **Call to Order.**

Mayor Heffley called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.**

Mayor Heffley led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. **Consent Agenda:**

a. **Approval of Invoices.**

b. **Approval of Minutes March 26, 2009 Regular Meeting.**

Councilman Richardson moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, Wagner

The motion passed.

4. **Consideration and Action to Approve Invoice from Curtiss Automotive.**

Councilman Axel moved to approve the invoice from Curtiss Automotive. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Tesch, Wagner
Abstain: Councilman Schonenberg

The motion passed.

5. **Citizen's Presentations and Comments.**ⁱ

There were no citizen's presentations or comments.

6. **Discussion of City Manager's Report including Water Aeration Project, City Hall Demolition, River Status, Water Pumpage History, Economic Indicators, Elm Trees, Water Tower Inspection, Trash Off, Gas Line Relocation.**

City Manager, David Meisell presented his City Manager's Report, which is attached to these minutes. Mr. Meisell introduced Wayne Karstadt as the new Utility Superintendent.

As part of the Economic Indicators discussion, Mr. Meisell discussed the Sales Tax Revenue for the month. Revenues in Columbus increased by \$15,000 over last year. Most other entities have decreased revenues.

Councilman Schonenberg reported that the Trash Off Day was very successful. There were more volunteers and more loads of debris collected than last year.

7. Discussion and Action Regarding Columbus Independent School District and the Proposed Location of the New Bus Barn.

Mr. Meisell explained the details of the Tolbirt Deed that restricts the uses the property at the old Ag Complex have. The deed says the land must be used for educational purposes. Randy Hoyer, superintendent of the Columbus Independent School District said Ty Prause, the City's Attorney, agrees with the CISD attorney that a new bus barn at that location would meet the restriction of the Tolbirt Deed. Councilman Richardson moved to approve Resolution 59-09, which supports the School's position of the Tolbirt Deed. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, Wagner

The motion passed.

8. Discussion and Action to Consider Land Exchange with the Columbus Independent School District.

Mr. Meisell said the School would like to exchange land with the City. The City owns land adjacent to the Swimming pool well and the swimming pool. The School owns land between the golf course and the football field. The school intends to use the area for long jump. The land the City would acquire could potentially be an area to drill a new water well. Councilman Richardson moved to instruct management to proceed with the exchange of the land and to maintain an easement to the property as well as the existing easements. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, Wagner

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve Sweetbriar Street Extension Project.

Mr. Meisell explained that the owner of the land of Columbus Care has agreed to the City extending Sweetbriar Street south to the Interstate feeder. The City is being asked to repave the parking lot at the nursing home in exchange for the easement. Mr. Meisell explained the estimate received to extend the street was \$130,000. He proposed \$60,000 that was originally budgeted for a new library roof, \$40,000 from the current street seal coating budget, \$10,000 from the current budget for the Sweetbriar extension, and \$20,000 from the current Montezuma Street sidewalk project be used. Mr. Meisell said the Library roof will cost more than \$60,000 and funding will be looked at during the next budget cycle.

Councilman Axel moved to authorize City Management to proceed with the contract for the easement for the Sweetbriar Street Extension Project. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, Wagner

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action to Accept Donations for the Memorial Oaks Entrance.

Councilman Richardson moved to accept the donations for the Memorial Oaks Entrance, which is in the City's easement. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, Wagner

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action to Approve Library Budget Amendment.

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve a Library Budget Amendment for \$17,842.50 for a grant received from the Catherine Dumarese Trust. The expenditure will be for new lights throughout the Library for the same amount. Councilman Wagner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, Wagner

The motion passed.

12. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Wagner – no comment.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Richardson asked about the progress of City Hall. Mr. Meisell responded that the current big issue is with the electrical voltage. The electrical engineer drew the plans with voltage of 208. The existing elevator runs on a 240 line. Converting the elevator to 208 would be extremely expensive. They are looking at options.

Mayor Heffley complimented the Garden Club on the recent successful Trash Off Day.

13. Announcements.

There were no additional announcements.

14. Adjournment.

Mayor Heffley adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Mayor, Richard Heffley

ATTEST:

Patti Glaeser, 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.

Citizens who wish to comment on a posted agenda item may do so when that item is addressed by the Mayor. Citizen's comments are limited to five minutes.

² 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.
