

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Thursday, May 14, 2015 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 (absent)
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Councilman	-	Woody Moore (absent)
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Code Enforcement Off.	-	Ford Stein
Fire Chief	-	Doyle "Dusty" Dittmar
Assistant Fire Chief	-	Richard LaCourse

1. **Call to Order.**

Mayor Pro Tem Curtiss Schonenberg called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Schonenberg led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. **Consent Agenda.**

- a. Approval of Invoices.
- b. Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2015 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of Minutes of April 29, 2015 Special Meeting.
- d. Approval of March 2015 Financial Statements.

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

4. **Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹**

Elizabeth Flint requested that Council consider naming the City's property across from the Courthouse "Columbus Green". She stated that she felt this would give the City additional advertising when events were scheduled there, and she asked that the naming be added to a future agenda.

5. **City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Aerator Grant Project, and Auto Read Meter Project.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. In addition, he stated that the City was successful in purchasing the property on the east side of the Mayes property.

6. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 147-15 Authorizing Certification of a Columbus Cultural District.**

Roger Wade asked that Council approve the resolution petitioning the Texas Commission on the Arts for the creation of a cultural district in downtown Columbus. He explained that it will make the City eligible for

grants and that there would be no cost to the City. He said that the City would need to appoint one city employee to serve on the governing board. Councilman Rankin confirmed that the City would not bear any costs associated with the district.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution 147-15 authorizing the certification of a Columbus Cultural District. Councilwoman Gobert seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action to Authorize Closure of Milam Street from Houston to Walnut, Walnut Street from Milam to Prairie, and Prairie Street from Walnut to Midtown Park for a Juneteenth Celebration Parade on June 20, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Joel Usher stated that, since the parade route will cross the railroad track, Union Pacific was contacted for authorization. He said that they had been given a confirmation number by Union Pacific. Chief Lattimore stated that they would treat the parade like the FFA parade, except that it will turn at Prairie Street.

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action to Authorize the Fire Department to Advertise for Bids on Replacement of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Equipment.

Fire Chief Dusty Dittmar explained that the Fire Department needs to replace their air packs. Some of the current air packs are out of date and they have not been able to replace them because they are no longer being made. They would like to replace all of the air packs at one time at a cost of approximately \$111,000, which could come from the Fire Equipment Fund. He said that they would like to replace them all so that they do not have the confusion of two incompatible systems when they are at a fire, and because the new packs will have 45 minute bottles rather than the 30 minutes with the current system. Councilman Rankin asked what other equipment they have coming up in the future for replacement. Chief Dittmar stated that Item 9, concerning the replacement of a truck, is the only other major equipment cost coming up in the near future.

The Mayor Pro Tem moved to Item 9 on the Agenda.

9. Consideration and Action Authorize the Fire Department to Submit an Application to the Texas Forest Service for a Grant for Replacement of a Fire Department Tanker Truck.

Chief Dittmar stated that it has been 10 years since the last truck grant and that they would like to apply for a grant to replace the 25 year old Pierce truck with open cab seating. The total cost would be about \$350,000-400,000 with the grant providing approximately \$200,000 of that cost. Grants will be awarded in November and the Department would have one year after that to take delivery. Chief Dittmar said that there has also been some discussion of providing some funding from the Volunteer Fire Department. Councilman Rankin asked the Chief to submit a five to seven year plan for equipment replacement. He stated that his concern is that after depleting the Fire Equipment Fund, they might need additional equipment before there is a chance to replenish the fund. Chief Dittmar stated that after these two items the next major purchase should be for a truck, but that should be 10-12 years out.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to authorize the Fire Department to submit an application to the Texas Forest Service for a Grant for replacement of a Fire Department Tanker Truck. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

The Mayor Pro Tem moved to Item 8 on the Agenda.

8. Consideration and Action to Authorize the Fire Department to Advertise for Bids on Replacement of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Equipment.

Councilwoman Gobert stated that she would like to see all of the air packs replaced at one time because of the safety issues. Councilman Schonenberg agreed, adding that the additional 15 minutes on the packs would have been useful during the UTEX fire. Councilman Rankin stated that he understood the importance of the packs and confirmed with the Fire Chief that the packs and the truck replacement as discussed would meet the department's equipment needs for the next 10 years.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to authorize the Fire Department to advertise for bids on full replacement of their Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Equipment as requested. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

The Mayor Pro Tem moved to Item 10 on the Agenda.

10. Consideration and Action to Submit to the Planning and Zoning Commission a Proposed Replat of a 12,345.45 Square Foot Tract Situated in Lots 5 and 6, Located in Block D of the Smith and Jones Addition to the City of Columbus, at the Corner of Milam and Jones Streets, into two (2) lots (6,789.95 and 5,555.5 Square Feet) as requested by Donald Rollins.

The City Manager confirmed that the proposed lots would meet the City's size requirements.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to submit the proposed replat to the Planning and Zoning Commission as requested. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action to Submit to the Planning and Zoning Commission a Proposed Replat of a 1.621 Acre Tract Situated in the W. B. Dewees Survey, Abstract No. 18, in the City of Columbus Texas and being a part or portion of Lot No. 4 of the Butler Addition and a part or portion of Lot No. 15 and 16, into two (2) tracts (1.043 and 0.578 Acres) as requested by Paul and Edith Hardy.

Donald Warschak stated that the owners wish to establish access through the front lot to the back tract on this property. He stated that there were no issues and that there would be fire department access to the back lot.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to submit the proposed replat to the Planning and Zoning Commission as requested. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

12. Consideration and Action to Submit to the Planning and Zoning Commission a Proposed Replat of a 75 Acre Tract Situated in the W. B. Dewees Survey, Abstract No. 18, Colorado County Texas, Separating Out a 0.658 Acre Tract as Requested by the Colorado County Ag Complex and the Columbus Community & Industrial Development Corporation.

Councilman Schonenberg stated that this and the next two items relate to a proposed land swap with the Colorado County Ag Complex. This area is the five foot buffer zone between the road and property line.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to submit the proposed replat to the Planning and Zoning Commission as requested. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

13. Consideration and Action to Submit to the Planning and Zoning Commission a Proposed Replat of a 75 Acre Tract Situated in the W. B. Dewees Survey, Abstract No. 18, Colorado County Texas, Separating Out a 12.129 Acre Tract as Requested by the Colorado County Ag Complex and the Columbus Community & Industrial Development Corporation.

This property would be exchanged for Tract E-1 separated out in the next item.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to submit the proposed replat to the Planning and Zoning Commission as requested. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

14. Consideration Action to Submit to the Planning and Zoning Commission a Proposed Replat of a 14.176 Acre Tract Situated in the W. B. Dewees Survey Abstract No. 18, Original Lot E of the Texas Crossroads Business Park, into Two (2) Tracts (7.947 and 6.229 Acres) as Requested by the Columbus Community & Industrial Development Corporation.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to submit the proposed replat to the Planning and Zoning Commission as requested. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

15. Consideration and Action to Submit to the Planning and Zoning Commission a Proposed Replat of a 30.805 Acre Tract Situated in the W. B. Dewees Survey Abstract No. 18, in the City of Columbus, and Being Out of a Part of Original Lot D of the Texas Crossroads Business Park, into two (2) Tracts (5.689 and 23.5 Acres) with a remainder (1.616 Acres) as Requested by the Columbus Community & Industrial Development Corporation.

Councilman Schonenberg stated that this division relates to the proposed E'Kabel project.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to submit the proposed replat to the Planning and Zoning Commission as requested. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

16. Consideration and Action to Approve a Leave of Absence for Councilman Woodrow Moore.

The City Manager stated that because of commitments made prior to coming on Council, Councilman Moore would not be able to attend the current meeting or the next.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve a leave of absence for Councilman Woodrow Moore. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

17. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the Nesbitt Memorial Library Quarterly Report.

Library Director, Susan Chandler, presented her quarterly Nesbitt Memorial Library Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

18. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the Planning and Zoning Committee Report.

Ford Stein presented Council with a draft of a commercial corridor overlay district and proposed sign ordinance. He asked that Council review the proposals before taking action at a later date.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to table the item to give Council the opportunity to review the report. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Moore

The motion passed.

19. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the April 2015 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement Official, Ford Stein, presented a copy of his April 2015 Code Enforcement Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

20. Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.072 – Deliberations about Real Property.

The Mayor Pro Tem closed the regular session to enter into executive session at 7:46 p.m.

21. Reconvene into Regular Session and Consideration and Action, if Any, Regarding Executive Session – Deliberations about Real Property.

The Mayor Pro Tem reopened the regular session at 7:59 p.m. with all members present who were present before.

No action was taken.

22. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilwoman Gobert – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Hernandez – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

23. Announcements.

The City Manager announced that Texas Disposal Systems plans to deliver curbside recycling carts in the middle of June.

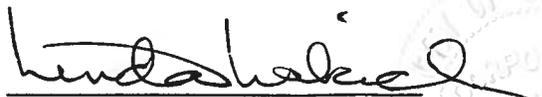
24. Adjournment.

The Mayor Pro Tem adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:



Linda Lakich, 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.

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.