

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, July 28, 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
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
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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 July 14, 2016 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of Quarterly Investment Report for Quarter Ended June 30, 2016.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Rankin 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.¹

There were no citizen comments.

5. City Manager's Report Including Wastewater Treatment Plant Riverbank Erosion, TxDOT Signal Project, and 2016 Street Improvements.

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

Concerning the riverbank erosion at the McCormick WWTP, Warschak stated the Army Corps of Engineers are working on the Federal Determination Interest Study. The report should be finished sometime in August, and will then go to supervisors for review. That review takes approximately 30 days.

Warschak stated the TxDOT Signal Project would not start until October. Councilman Rankin asked why there was a TxDOT sign on Walnut Street. Warschak stated he had not heard from TxDOT, but he assumed it is associated with the upcoming bridge project.

Warschak commented he had received the contracts from H & C Construction for the street seal coating. The contracts need to be signed by the Mayor. In preparation of the project, City crews have been doing patching and leveling in the areas slated for the seal coating.

6. Discussion of Proposed Bond Issuance with Financial Advisor, Jennifer Douglas, of Specialized Public Finance, Inc.

Jennifer Douglas stated she was there to discuss different financing options for some of the projects the City has coming up. She stated one of the options would be to pay cash for the projects instead of issuing bonds. She then explained different types of bonds. They could be backed by tax, and would require an election for approval, or they could be backed by utility revenues. Douglas explained that revenue bonds are a more expensive option. She suggested issuing certificates of obligation which would be paid by utility revenues, but backed by the city's tax pledge. CO's would be less expensive for the city since the interest rates would be longer on this type of debt, and the reserve fund required would be lower.

Douglas continued the discussion with the timeline for issuing certificates of obligation. Council would need to take action to publicize a notice of intent in the newspaper. After publication, there is a 30 day waiting period after notice has been given, and the CO's would be issued 30 days after the waiting period expires.

Councilman Rankin asked about the 3% interest rate in the example provided to Council. Douglas stated the rate at time of issuance could be lower, depending on what the market would bear.

Councilman Rankin asked why the amount of bonds was set at \$3 million. The City Manager stated the bulk of it would be for the water filtration project, and the remainder could go towards the water line project or for the wastewater treatment plant outfall. The Mayor stated the amount of the CO's could be brought down once the notice is published, but the amount cannot go up.

Rankin asked about the cost of the second phase of the water improvements. Warschak stated going off of his initial cost estimate, he would say around \$6 million. Warschak also stated it would take months to get the second phase designed.

Mayor Dungen stated he thinks Council needs to move forward with the CO timeline. He said that we really did not have a choice; the improvements to the water system must be made.

Councilman Swindle asked if the plan was to install the filtration system, get it up and running, and then reevaluate the situation. Dungen answered affirmatively.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 164-16, a Resolution Authorizing the Giving of Notice of Intention to Issue City of Columbus, Texas, Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2016; and Declaring an Effective Date.

Rankin stated the amount of the CO's should be changed to \$3,080,000 in order to cover issuance costs.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution 164-16 with the above stated change. Councilman Hernandez 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 Approve a leave of Absence for Councilwoman Gobert.

The Mayor stated Mrs. Gobert needed a leave of absence until the 25th of August for personal and business reasons.

12. 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 spoke about continuing education some of the officers had completed, his participation in the Circus of Health, and Lt. Edman's participation at a Weimar prayer service.

No action was required.

13. Discussion of Budget Workshop – General, Utility, and Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds.

The City Secretary gave Council the projections for property, sales, and hotel tax revenues for the coming budget year. Mayor Dungen stated it had been 8 years since the last property tax rate increase, and all additional revenues had been from increased valuations. Councilman Rankin asked about the sales tax projection, and would like to see the actual sales tax percentage increase over the last 4 years.

14. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilwoman Gobert – Absent

Councilman Swindle - None

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – None

15. Announcements.

The City Secretary reminded Council there would be a Budget Workshop on August 4th at 6:30 p.m.

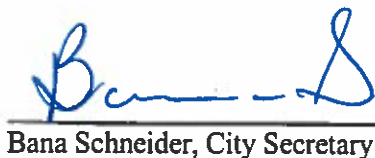
16. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain Dungen

ATTEST:



Bana Schneider, City Secretary



Councilman Rankin made a motion to grant a leave of absence until August 25th for Councilwoman Gobert. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. Public Hearing on Proposed Annexation of 3.700 Acres of Land in the E. Tumlinson Survey, Abstract No. 44 Colorado County, Texas.

Mayor Dungen opened the public hearing at 6:59 p.m.
There were no comments.
Mayor Dungen closed the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 180-16 an Ordinance Annexing 3.700 Acres of Land in the Elizabeth Tumlinson League, Abstract No. 44, Colorado County, Texas.

Warschak stated the property is along North Avenue. The City would have to extend the sanitary sewer line to the property.
Councilman Rankin asked about the owner's plans for the property. Warschak stated he believed Mr. John was going to subdivide the lot and build a house for himself on one lot and sell the other.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve Ordinance 180-16, an ordinance annexing 3.700 acres of land in the E. Tumlinson League, Abstract No. 44, Colorado County, Texas. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action to Approve a Manufactured Home Permit for Part of Lots 5 & 6 Block 66 of Austin Street as Requested by Ruben Perez.

Warschak stated the permit request meets all of the requirements, and there are no restrictions.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve a manufactured home permit as requested by Ruben Perez. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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.

