

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, September 8, 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 (Absent)
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Lori An Gobert
Councilman	-	Keith Cummings
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez (Absent)
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Pro Tem, Lori An Gobert, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Gobert led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Invoices
- b. Approval of Minutes of August 18, 2016 Special Meeting
- c. Approval of Minutes of August 25, 2016 Regular Meeting

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Debbie Damon of Bedazzled gave a report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes, concerning utility bill breakdowns of local businesses. Ms. Damon also asked the City Council to request a hearing with the Public Utilities Commission regarding AEP delivery charges.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Water System Flushing and the Mayes Property.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his City Manager's Report, a copy of is attached to these minutes.

Warschak stated the City's sales tax collections were up slightly over the collections from the same time period as last year. Eagle Lake saw an increase as well, while the County and Weimar both experienced a decrease.

Warschak indicated City crews are continuing with the water system flushing. The Northeast quadrant of the City has been completed. Crews are now down near HEB. They will now begin east

of City Hall, working their way down to Auto Zone. It will take an additional 2 to 3 weeks to complete the flushing.

Warschak stated the new plans for the Visitor's Center on the Mayes property have been completed. The bids on the original design were too high, so the size of the project has been reduced. Councilman Rankin asked if "Mayes" has been decided as the official name. He stated the project should have a generic name until it has been decided.

6. Consideration and Action to Ratify an Agreement with Colorado County Central Appraisal District for Assessment and Collection Services for the Year 2017.

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated this is the normal contract between the City and CCCAD.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve and ratify the agreement with Colorado County Central Appraisal District. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve a Certificate of Acceptance of a Right-of-Way Dedication for a 0.611 Acre Tract of Land from the Colorado County Ag Complex to the City of Columbus.

Warschak explained there are three dedications, one from the Ag Complex and two from CCIDC. Item 7 is the dedication from the Ag Complex. The existing road is parallel to Highway 71 going to the east side of the Ag Complex parking lot. The 0.611 acres is a projection of the existing road to reach CCIDC's property on the river. Gobert stated this would make the north property accessible. The 1.267 acres is the existing road in the front acreage the CCIDC recently acquired. The 0.659 is located in the far west side of the property that goes down to the sewerage treatment plant. It is the little sliver of land between the road and the fence. Rankin asked if there was any money involved at this point. Gobert responded no. The City will be responsible for upkeep.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to accept the right-of-way dedication for a 0.611 acre tract of land from the Colorado County Ag Complex. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action to Approve a Certificate of Acceptance of a Right-of-Way Dedication for a 1.267 Acre Tract of Land from the Columbus Community Industrial Development Corporation to the City of Columbus.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to accept the right-of-way dedication for a 1.267 acre tract of land from the CCIDC. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. **Consideration and Action to Approve a Certificate of Acceptance of a Right-of-Way Dedication for a 0.659 Acre Tract of Land from the Columbus Community Industrial Development Corporation to the City of Columbus.**

Councilman Swindle made a motion to accept the right-of-way dedication of a 0.659 acre tract of land from the CCIDC. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. **Public Hearing on the Property Tax Rate for Tax Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017.**

Mayor Pro Tem Gobert opened the public hearing at 6:44 p.m.

There were no comments.

Gobert closed the public hearing at 6:45 p.m.

11. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Milam Street Beginning in Front of the Elementary School, Ending at Walnut Street and the Closure of Walnut Street to the Columbus Cardinal Football Stadium from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 for the Columbus High School Homecoming Parade.**

Chief Lattimore stated there would be a combination of hard and rolling closures. The Booster Club is going to pay for 3 officers like they would for security for a dance.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the street closures for the Columbus High School Homecoming Parade. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

12. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 162-16, a Resolution Approving a Donation from the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department for Fire Station Building Improvements.**

Warschak stated this was the resolution previously presented to Council, but Council asked for the engineered drawings before accepting the donation. He indicated all of the signed drawings had been received.

Richard LaCourse gave an overview of the project expansion of the fire station.

Councilman Rankin asked if the adjacent property owners had been notified of the impending construction. LaCourse stated to his knowledge they had not, but he would make sure everyone was notified.

Resolution 162-16 was read into the record by Gobert.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve Resolution 162-16 approving the donation from the CVFD. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the August 2016 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was required.

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the August 2016 Columbus Golf Association Report.

Mike Craddock of the CMGA gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Craddock thanked the City for all of its support, and he introduced the CMGA board members who were present. Gobert stated it appears the Association will need an additional \$6,700 in order to pay all of the bills.

No action was required.

15. Discussion of Budget Workshop.

The 2016/2017 budget for the golf course was discussed. The City Secretary stated she had projected the budget for the golf course based on the income and expenses to date along with other major expenses. Schneider stated the major repairs should be accounted for in improvements. Gobert suggested they do a mailing for prospective members. Rankin stated to the Golf Association members that they really need some sort of marketing plan for new members. Gobert stated the board needs to make sure the price structure is in line with similar courses. Different ideas for revenue generation were discussed.

16. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings - None

Councilwoman Gobert – Need discussion and action items for a PUC hearing and a Golf Course budget amendment.

Councilman Swindle – None.

Councilman Hernandez – Absent.

Councilman Rankin – None.

Mayor Dungen – Absent.

17. Announcements.

Schneider stated the budget would need to be voted on at the next meet after the budget public hearing, and the second public hearing would also be held during the next meeting.

18. Adjournment.

The Mayor Pro Tem adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.



~~Mayor, Dwain Dungen~~ Mayor Pro Tem, Lori An Gobert

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.

