

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, October 13, 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 (Absent)
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Fire Chief	-	Dusty Dittmar
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Pro Tem, Lori An Gobert called the meeting to order at 6:31 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 the September 8, 2016 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of Minutes of the September 15, 2016 Special Meeting
- d. Approval of Minutes of the September 22, 2016 Regular Meeting
- e. Approval of July 2016 Financial Statements
- f. Approval of August 2016 Financial Statements

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the exclusion of the August 2016 Financial Statements. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

There were no comments.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, TxDot Projects Update, and GFOA Certificate of Achievement.

Donald Warschak gave the City Managers report, a copy of which is attached. Warschak stated the sales tax figures are based on the August collections. The City saw an \$18,000 decrease in sales tax compared to the same period last year. The City of Weimar was down as well, but the County as a whole and Eagle Lake both saw increases. There was discussion regarding the

decrease in sales tax collections. The City Secretary stated the sales tax detail was not currently available, but should be released in a few days.

Warschak also reported on the East River Bridge Project. TXDOT will let this project out for bids after the first of the year, and construction is slated for May 2017.

The North River Bridge project, as indicated by Warschak, will have a fall 2017 letting for bids.

Regarding the I-10 and Highway 71 Signal Project, Warschak stated there will be a preconstruction meeting at the TxDOT office in Wharton next Wednesday. At that time, the timeline for mobilization should be discussed. Councilwoman Gobert asked if the project would take very long. Warschak stated the project entailed the placement of piers for the light columns and controls, and then the stringing them up.

Warschak also commented the City had received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Congratulations to Bana Schneider and the staff for all of the hard work put in to receive this award.

Warschak stated Council members have been given a copy of the letter from the state regarding the KWI project.

Councilman Hernandez stated he had visited the McCormick Street waste water treatment plant, and it appeared the riverbank is still sloughing off. Warschak stated there has been some more erosion near the outlet pipe. He heard from the Corps of Engineers today, and was informed they are waiting for funds in order to get started on the main study. Warschak stated he had sent a letter to the County a couple of months ago for interim funding for temporary repairs. The County has, in turn, sent a request to the State for funding.

6. **Second Reading of Resolution 165-16, 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 the Live Oak Art Center for a Concession and Event Space Within the City of Columbus.**

Gobert read the resolution into the record.

7. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 165-16, 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 the Live Oak Art Center for a Concession and Event Space Within the City of Columbus.**

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution 165-16. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Swindle, Rankin and Hernandez; Councilwoman Gobert.

Absent: Councilman Cummings.

The motion passed.

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve Publicity and Tourism Agreement Between the City and The Columbus Chamber of Commerce.**

The City Secretary stated she had received the budget, budget comparison, and profit and loss statement from the Chamber. She continued that the contract included the entire amount Council had approved in the City's budget. Schneider stated she informed Chamber President, Beth Easterling, Council could approve a lesser amount for the contract, but they could not go over the \$115,000 budgeted. Gobert asked if the Chamber received the amount in a lump sum or several payments. Schneider stated in the Chamber receives one check for the total amount when the signed contract is returned to the City. There was discussion about prior contracts and the Chamber's utilization of the monies from the City.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the Publicity and Tourism Agreement between the City and the Chamber of Commerce. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance No. 185-16 to Establish Garbage Rates.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Ordinance 185-16. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve a 2016-2017 Budget Amendment for Library Grants, Memorials and Donations and Associated Expenditures.

Schneider stated the library had just received the Hancher Foundation grant which will be used for digitization of newspapers. The memorials and donations were for the prior year, but will be credited to FY 2017 since the amendment was not made prior to the last fiscal year end.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the 2016-2017 Library Budget Amendment. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action to Appoint the 2017 Representative and Alternate to the Houston-Galveston Area Council General Assembly and Board of Directors.

Gobert stated the Mayor had informed her typically the mayor is the representative and the Mayor Pro Tem is the alternate.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to appoint the Mayor as Representative and the Mayor Pro Tem as Alternate to the 2017 H-GAC. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

12. Consideration and Action to Submit to Planning & Zoning a Proposed Replat of a 0.43 Acre Tract Situated in Block 94 of the City of Columbus, into Two (2) Lots (0.2346 and 0.1954 Acres) as Requested by Donnie Rollins.

Rankin asked Warschak if Donnie Rollins was the owner of the property. Warschak stated it was his understanding that Mr. Rollins was the owner. Rankin stated it cannot be approved for submission unless he is the legal owner. There was discussion regarding City utility services that would need to be extended, as well as the "alley" type road which the City would need to improve. There was discussion regarding sewer improvements for the new McCormick Street development. Rankin asked the Code Enforcement Officer what was going to be built on the subdivided lot for Mr. Rollins. Richard LaCourse stated he will be building a spec home, which will face the river. Rankin confirmed it would be a single family property.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to submit the proposed replat to Planning & Zoning, stipulating the legal owner of the property must be confirmed to be Mr. Rollins. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

13. Consideration and Action to Approve Street Closures in the Memorial Oaks Subdivision for Halloween Activities on the Evening of October 31, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00p.m.

Hernandez stated this was the same closure as in years past. Gobert asked if Chief Lattimore had security in place. Warschak stated the homeowners pay for security during the closure.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the street closures for Halloween. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

14. Discussion Regarding Change in Day and Frequency of Regular City Council Meetings.

Gobert stated the Mayor is finding it difficult to attend some of the Thursday night meetings, and he would like a change to the meeting schedule.

Councilwoman Gobert and Councilman Rankin both stated they believed there should continue to be two meetings a month. There was discussion about what had to be done in order to change the meeting night. Warschak stated a new ordinance would have to be passed.

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the September 2016 Columbus Golf Association Report.

Schneider stated Mr. Craddock was on vacation and could not be here. Gobert stated she would like to move to quarterly instead of monthly reports. There was discussion concerning the frequency of payments to the Golf Association. Gobert stated she would like to see a more budgeted approach for payments to them. Rankin stated if the payments were set up with a budgeted approach, then the reports could be on a quarterly basis.

No action was required.

16. Consideration and Action to Declare a Fire Department Equipment/Vehicle – 1990 Pierce Arrow, VIN 4P1CA01D0LA000317 – Surplus Property.

Chief Dittmar explained the department decided they did not need this truck in the fleet any longer. In order to get it up to speed, it would take a significant amount of money. Gobert asked if the vehicle was sold, who would get the proceeds. Warschak stated the City would get the proceeds. Schneider stated any proceeds should probably be put into the fire equipment fund. Dittmar stated it probably had a value of approximately \$10,000. Dittmar thought a surrounding department might be interested in it or it could go to auction. If it goes to a department nearby, the CVFD would still have access to the truck via mutual aid agreements.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to declare the equipment surplus property. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

17. Consideration and Action, If Necessary, Regarding the September 2016 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse gave his September Code Enforcement Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

LaCourse stated he can now schedule the test for his code enforcement license. He also discussed the recent actions of the Board of Adjustments.

Hernandez asked about the vacant house at the end of Milam Street. LaCourse stated it is on his list. Rankin stated some work might need to be done on the spreadsheet of substandard housing. There was further discussion of properties throughout the City.

No action was required.

18. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – Absent

Councilwoman Gobert – Agenda items for next meeting - PUC Hearing, maintenance at Mansfield Building, Executive Session regarding personnel questions.

Councilman Swindle – Stated he feels the lot sizes of some of new houses seemed small. Warschak explained the ordinance governing the lot size.

Councilman Hernandez – Asked if the City's 3 acres near the cemetery were for sale. Warschak stated the Rose property was for sale.

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – Absent

6. Announcements.

Monthly water meeting will be hosted by Columbus next Thursday, October 20th at the KC Hall. Hernandez stated this was a meeting of the Guadalupe Valley Water District.

7. Adjournment.

The Mayor Pro Tem adjourned the meeting at 7:23 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.