

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Tuesday, December 27, 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
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.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Mayor Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Invoices
- b. Approval of Minutes of December 12, 2016 Regular Meeting

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

There were no comments.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sewer Averaging and McCormick WWTP Outfall.

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

Warschak stated the City is in the annual sewer averaging period. Residential water consumption from December 15th through February 15th will determine the residential sewer rates for the coming year.

Regarding the McCormick WWTP outfall, Warschak stated he had submitted the plan and cost estimate for the temporary fix to FEMA. The plan would have a cost of \$92,000. The FEMA representative, Joe King, stated the plans will go through a review process and if approved then the City would begin the bid process. King indicated in the past, the review process took a couple of weeks, but now it is a lengthier process. Mayor Dungen asked if the costs had been submitted to LCRA. Warschak stated they had, but there were no comments beyond what the fix would look like.

Councilwoman Gobert asked about the signal project at I-10 and Highway 71. Warschak stated he had not received an update, but he assumes there will be no more work done until January.

6. **Consideration and Action to Authorize the Closure of Preston Street from Back Street to Fannin Street on January 16, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Event.**

Dungen stated this was an event that has taken place the last several years, and requires the street to be closed by the Methodist Church.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to authorize the street closure. Councilman Rankin 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 Authorize a Rolling Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) from Myrah Jane Drive to Spring Street on January 28, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a March for Life.**

The mayor stated this will be the 3rd year for the March. The assembly will go from Schobel's down to the Courthouse, basically in the shoulder and part of one lane of the street.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to authorize the rolling street closure. Councilman Rankin 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, if Necessary, Regarding the November 2016 Code Enforcement Report.**

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

His discussed the various substandard properties, and the plan of action for each.

LaCourse gave an update of his training and announced he had received his code enforcement license.

No action was required.

9. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the November 2016 Police Report.**

Chief Lattimore gave the November police report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Lattimore stated he was working with LaCourse on the junk/abandoned vehicles in the City. He

stated he was shocked at the number he had found. There was discussion regarding the criteria for a vehicle being considered junk or abandoned and the time frame for removal.

No action was required.

10. **Items from Councilmembers.²**

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilwoman Gobert – Happy New Year and thanks to the City employees for their hard work.

Councilman Swindle – None.

Councilman Hernandez – Absent

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – He wished everyone a safe and happy New Year and also thanked the staff for their dedication.

11. Announcements.

Schneider stated the next meeting will be January 9th.

12. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:44 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.

