

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, January 9, 2017 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
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
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.

The Mayor 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 the December 27, 2016 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of November 2016 Financial Statements

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Evan Themudo, representing Golden Eagle EMS, gave a presentation on the company, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Themudo outlined the requirements to secure a state license as an EMS service provider, and asked Council for the required letter from the municipality.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sewer Averaging, and Online Bill Pay.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, stated sewer averaging will be in effect from December 15th through February 15th. During this time residential customers' average water usage will determine their sewer rate until the next sewer averaging period. Councilman Rankin asked if many people had experienced burst pipes due to the freezing weather. Warschak stated he believed there were only a few, and he added the City works with those customers so their sewer average is not raised above their normal consumption.

Warschak continued his report, and announced online bill pay for court and utility payments was now up and running. He stated, since the site was launched on December 29th, the City had received 9 online payments. Councilwoman Gobert asked how customers were being notified. City Secretary,

Bana Schneider stated they have printed fliers to give out, and after sewer averaging ends, they will be putting stickers on the utility bills.

Warschak concluded his report with an update on the TxDOT signal project. He stated the contractor is preparing to drill and pour the foundations. If everything runs smoothly, the project may be completed by mid February.

6. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 171-17 Setting the Dates, Times and Places for Public Hearings on the Proposed Annexation of Certain Property by the City of Columbus, Texas and Authorizing and Directing the Mayor to Publish Notices of Such Public Hearings.**

The Mayor stated, per the plat, this is the property adjacent to the business park. Dungen stated the dates of the public hearings and the date of action on the petition. Councilman Rankin asked if this property was owned by the CCIDC. Dungen confirmed that it was, and they are the petitioners.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution 171-17. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. **Public Hearing Regarding the Commercial Corridor Overlay District.**

Mayor Dungen opened the public hearing at 6:42 p.m.

There were no public comments.

The public hearing was closed at 6:43 p.m., and regular session was reconvened.

8. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Tourism Quarterly Report for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2016.**

Chamber of Commerce President, Beth Easterling, gave the tourism report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Dungen asked about upcoming events. Easterling gave an overview of the public relations and advertising changes as well as the launch of the Chamber's new website. She also highlighted the Magnolia Festival and the refurbishment of the community bulletin board.

No action was required.

9. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the December 2016 Columbus Golf Association Report.**

Mike Craddock gave the December report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Craddock thanked the City for all of the support the CMGA has received. There was discussion concerning generating more revenue and increasing membership.

No action was required.

10. **Items from Councilmembers.**²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilwoman Gobert – None

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – Asked about the water system status and if there had been any recent testing of the iron levels in the raw water. Warschak stated he is still working on the design of the filtration system, but the demo of the old sand filter and foundations has begun. Rankin asked for some type of report on the status, either monthly or every other month.

Mayor Dungen – Welcomed everyone back for 2017.

6. **Announcements.**

Schneider stated the filing period for a place on the May 6, 2017 general election ballot will be from January 18th – February 17th, and applications will be available in her office on the 18th. She also stated the offices up for election are Mayor, Council Places 1 & 2 and the unexpired term of Place 3.

7. **Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:59 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 council members 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.

