

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, March 27, 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 (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 February 27, 2017 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of Minutes of March 13, 2017 Regular meeting

Councilwoman Gobert 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 Council an update regarding AEP and the KW ratchet rate. She read a letter, a copy of which is attached to these minutes, which she received from the PUC, outlining the process for a formal complaint. She stated she filed a complaint as an individual, and will be working with other small businesses.

5. City Manager's Report Including Water System Flushing, Water Filtration Project Update, and Trash-Off.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave the report, a copy of which is included in these minutes. He stated City crews had completed flushing in the northeast quadrant of the City, and they are currently working in the southeast quadrant moving toward HEB.

Regarding the Water Filtration Project, Warschak stated he had completed the plans for the new water filtration system, and had submitted them to TCEQ. He commented that based on information on TCEQ's website, plan review would have a sixty day turn around.

Warschak concluded his report with the annual Garden Club Trash-off event. Volunteers are needed on the morning of April 8th at 8:00 a.m. Anyone wishing to help should report to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Roll-offs will be available all that week at the City maintenance yard, and limb chipping will be available the week after the event.

6. Consideration and Action Regarding the Municipal Telecommunications Right-of-Way Access Line Rates.

Mayor Dungen stated the PUC has determined the maximum rates the City can charge for right-of-way access. Typically, the City has not increased the rates since it is essentially a tax on the end user. He commented that the City Secretary had determined the additional revenue to the City would be approximately \$3,400. Bana Schneider stated this amount is based on an average since the larger telecommunications companies do not give a breakdown on the type of line. The increases range from 15% on point-to-point to 25% on residential. Schneider also stated Councilman Rankin had requested the percentage rate changes for utilities the last few years to compare with the rate increases for the access line charges. A copy of the information is included with the minutes. Council woman Gobert asked that the contact information be updated. After further discussion, Council decided the rates should remain the same as 2016.

No action was taken.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve a 2016-2017 Budget Amendment for Library Grants and Associated Expenditures.

Dungen stated the Library had received a grant \$15,946, and would be using the monies for equipment.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the 2016-2017 budget amendment for the library grants and associated expenditures. 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 to Approve the Appointment of Yvette Schnelzer to the Library Advisory Board for a Term Ending October 1, 2020.

Dungen asked who Ms. Schnelzer would be replacing. Schneider stated Tracy Kelly. Rankin asked if anyone knew her. Warschak stated she hosts a current library program. Dungen stated the Library Advisory Board has already approved her application.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the appointment of Yvette Schnelzer to the Library Advisory Board. Councilman Rankin 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, if Necessary, Regarding the February 2017 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. In addition, LaCourse gave an update about the properties on his watch list, and stated letters were going out to owners with appliances and other junk on their properties. LaCourse also stated he was looking at properties that have overgrown vegetation in City rights-of-way, which are causing obstructed views. There was discussion of various properties near the junior high campus. Councilmen Swindle and Rankin both complimented LaCourse on the good job he has been doing.

No action was required.

10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the February 2017 Police Report.

Chief Lattimore gave the February police report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He gave an update regarding abandoned/junk vehicles, as well as personnel updates.

No action was required.

11. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – Thanked Warschak for the new swings for Midtown Park.

Councilwoman Gobert – None

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilman Hernandez – Absent

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – None.

12. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

13. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:55 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.