

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, April 24, 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 (Absent)
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
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 April 10, 2017 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of February 2017 Financial Statements
- d. Approval of Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2017

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. **Citizens' Presentations and Comments.'**

Those signed in spoke during specific agenda items.

5. **City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax and the Water Filtration Project.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave the report, a copy of which is included in these minutes. Warschak stated the sales tax the City received in the amount of \$99,859 was slightly down from the same time last year which was \$101,643. Weimar and the County as a whole saw decreases as well, and Eagle Lake experienced a slight increase.

Warschak stated the water filtration project plans were in the hands of the TCEQ, and set for review on May 26, 2017. After the review and approval, the project can move forward.

Mayor Dungen asked about the progress of the water system flushing. Warschak stated flushing was suspended for a couple of weeks due to an aerator failure, but City crews resumed flushing starting in the Irwin Addition. It should take approximately 2 more weeks for completion.

**6. Consideration and Action to Approve the City of Columbus Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2016.**

Angela Verduzco, manager with Patillo, Brown & Hill, was introduced by the City Secretary, Bana Schneider. Verduzco gave an overview of the auditor's findings, and highlighted the unmodified opinion of the financial statements. She also gave a report on the Single Audit for grants the City was required to have done since they had over \$750,000 of grant expenditures for fiscal year 2016. Dungen suggested tabling this item before approving so Council could have time for review.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to table action on the CAFR to a later date. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin

Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

**7. Consideration and Action to Approve the City of Columbus Financial Management Goals and Objectives.**

Schneider stated she reviewed the financial management goals and objectives, and did not think there needed to be any changes.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the Financial Management Goals and Objectives. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin

Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

**8. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) from Jackson Street to Walnut Street (Highway 90) and the Closure of Walnut Street from Milam Street to Legion Drive from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 17, 2017 for the Annual Juneteenth Parade.**

Councilman Cummings made a motion to approve the street closures for the annual Juneteenth parade. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin

Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

**9. Consideration and Action to Award the Construction Contract for the Downtown Visitors' Center.**

David Sheblak, of John D. Mercer & Associates, Inc., gave a report on the bids received for the construction of the Visitors' Center, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Sheblak indicated four bids had been received but two of those were exempted due to wrong forms being submitted and no bid security included. He stated after receiving comments from references, he would recommend awarding the contract to Hlavinka Construction Company.

Councilman Cummings asked why there was such a large disparity in the bids, and if the low bidder was using cheap materials. Sheblak stated the specifications for the building materials were included in the bid packets, and substandard materials would not be acceptable. There was discussion regarding the bid differences and the possible reasons for it.

Councilman Rankin asked what the square footage of the building was. Sheblak stated it was approximately 648 square foot inside and the pavilion area was 500 square feet.

The Mayor stated the construction costs have gone down by half from the original plans. He also stated he recommended approving the contract so the building could finally be completed. Rankin asked if a separate committee had looked at the redesign and approved it. Dungen stated they were disappointed that the first plan could not happen, but they seemed to be okay with the new design.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to award Hlavinka Construction the contract to build the Visitors' Center. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**10. Consideration and Action to Approve a 2017 Budget Amendment for Pool Capital Expenditures.**

Warschak stated this would take money from Parks that was earmarked for the zero-turn mower for chlorination equipment at the pool. Dungen asked if the Parks Department would still be able to get the zero-turn mower. Warschak said funds may have to be taken from different accounts in order to purchase it.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the budget amendment for pool equipment. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the March 2017 Code Enforcement Report.**

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. LaCourse stated he had set up a meeting with the owner of the property on MLK. He also stated he had been working on obstructions of view at several intersections. With the help of the Public Works Department, all obstructions have been cleared.

No action was required.

**12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the March 2017 Police Report.**

Chief Lattimore gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Lattimore stated there had been a lot of activity in the City. He also said there had been a shooting at the old Baker Motel early Sunday morning. The shooter ran off, but later called and turned himself in. Lattimore indicated the victim was doing well. He also stated all of the officers involved with the incident did a great job.

Cummings asked if there were a lot of calls for police assistance at that location. Lattimore stated they are mostly disputes of a civil nature, or assaults.

No action was required.

**13. Items from Councilmembers.<sup>2</sup>**

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilwoman Gobert – Absent

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilman Hernandez – Job well done by the police and on the shredding on Highway 90.

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – Asked about the removal of the tree near the pool. Warschak stated the Sycamore was dead.

**14. Announcements.**

Next meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**15. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.



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Mayor, Dwain Dungen

ATTEST:



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Bana Schneider, City Secretary

<sup>1</sup>During 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.

<sup>2</sup>Limited 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.