

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, May 22, 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 (arrived at 6:32 p.m.)
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 (arrived after meeting's start)
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. Administer Oath of Office to Newly Elected Officials.

The City Secretary administered the Oath of Office to Mayor, Dwain Dungen. Mayor Dungen administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Gary Swindle and Councilwoman Lori An Gobert.

4. Consideration and Action to Fill the Vacant City Council Position #1 by Appointment as Provided by Section 22.010 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Dungen nominated Keith Cummings to again fill vacant Place #1 on City Council.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to fill vacant Place #1 with Keith Cummings. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

5. Administer Oath of Office to Newly Appointed Official to City Council Position #1 for an Appointed Term Ending in May 2018.

Dungen administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Keith Cummings.

6. Consideration and Action to Appoint a Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilman Hernandez nominated Lori An Gobert and made a motion to appoint Councilwoman Gobert to the position of Mayor Pro Tem for 1 year. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Invoices
- b. Approval of Minutes of May 8, 2017 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of March 2017 Financial Statements

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, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert.

The motion passed.

8. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Those citizens's signed in spoke during agenda items #10 and #11.

9. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Water Filtration Project, and TxDOT Bridge Project Updates.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave the report, a copy of which is included in these minutes. Warschak stated the sales tax the City received was up approximately \$22,000 from the same time last year. Weimar and Eagle Lake both saw increases as well, and the County as a whole experienced a slight decrease.

Warschak stated the water filtration project plans were in the hands of the TCEQ, and set for review on May 26, 2017. He stated after any required changes, the City could move forward with a contract for the equipment, then a contract for installation.

According to Warschak, the bid had been awarded for the east river bridge and they are now in the contract phase. TxDOT anticipates an October or November start for construction. Warschak also stated the north river bridge project will go out for bids in July with a January 2018 start slated. There was discussion concerning the simultaneous construction of the bridges.

Councilman Swindle asked if the old bridges would be used once the new ones are in place. Warschak stated they are slated for single lane traffic.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve an Extension for Repair or Demolition for the Property Located at 1022 Jackson Street, Block 74, Lot PT 2, 3 that has been Determined to be in Violation of Article 3.07 Unsafe or Substandard Building, Structures and Premises, as Requested by Vastene Alley Olier.

Ms. Olier updated Council regarding the Jackson Street property. She stated there was a buyer, who wants to remodel the property, and the title company was researching the deed. She spoke with the title company today, and they indicated there is at least a two week backlog for title searches. Dungen asked if she wanted a 30 day or 60 day extension. Olier stated she did not know how long it would take to get the title search finished. Councilman Rankin asked Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, if there was a limit on the number of days for extensions in the City Code. LaCourse stated he would need to look that up. There was further discussion of granting a 90 day extension. LaCourse stated there was no time frame explicit in the code, but any extension stays with the property. He also stated if a building permit was pulled during that extension period, there would not be a need for another extension as long as work was being done.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to grant a 90 day extension for the repair or demolition of the property located at 1022 Jackson Street. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action Regarding the Presentation of Evan Herchek's City Park Playground Eagle Scout Project.

Evan Herchek gave a power point presentation to Council. He gave a history of Eagle Scout projects, as well as an overview of his project. Herchek explained his fundraising efforts, with a goal of \$10,000, in order to purchase playground equipment and installation. Depending on how much money he raises, he would like to include benches.

Dungen stated there have been quite a few Eagle Projects that have contributed greatly to the community.

Councilwoman Gobert complimented Herchek on his very professional presentation.

No action was required.

12. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 173-17, a Resolution Denying AEP Texas Central Company's Application for Approval of a Distribution Cost Recovery Factor to Increase Distribution Rates Within the City.

The Mayor stated this resolution came from the group of attorney's working on behalf of cities across the state.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve Resolution 173-17. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

Dungen stated the grant amount was \$1,622, which will be used for general supplies.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the library budget amendment. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the April 2017 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. LaCourse stated the Board of Adjustments had met and approved 2 variances. The reasons for the variances were discussed. He also stated that currently he was in the process of photographing weedy lots.

No action was required.

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the April 2017 Police Report.

Chief Lattimore gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Lattimore discussed current training of department personnel, and new administrative assistant, Amber Solis. He spoke about the programs Lieutenant Edman and Sergeant Daniel conducted with children from the community. Lattimore closed his report with details of the computer system crash the police department experienced. He explained the process to retrieve police department data not only from the server, but also from Sergeant Alley's computer. Chief Lattimore also commented on the handling of the situation by the City's IT contractor, and stated he wanted to have the contractor in every month for a couple of hours just to run diagnostics and for troubleshooting.

Gobert stated the current backup system needs to be tested. Rankin also stated more needed to be invested for diagnosis. Dungen stated we should contact the school district and maybe the hospital to see how they handle backups.

No action was required.

16. Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.072-Deliberation about Real Property.

The Mayor adjourned the regular session at 7:16 p.m.

17. Reconvene into Regular Session and Consideration and Action, if any, Regarding Executive Session-Real Property Matters.

Dungen reconvened the regular session at 7:28 p.m. All those present before the executive session remained present.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to approve the sale of real property at the Visitors' Center sight to William and Collette Durbin as discussed during the Executive Session. Councilwoman Gobert seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

18. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilwoman Gobert – None

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – Congratulated the graduating seniors, and wished them luck in their next steps.

19. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

20. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:30 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.

