

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, July 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    |
| Councilman     | - | Keith Cummings  |
| Councilwoman   | - | Lori An Gobert  |
| Councilman     | - | Eddie Hernandez |
| Councilman     | - | Chuck Rankin    |
| Councilman     | - | Gary Swindle    |
| 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.**

Mayor Dwain Dungen 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 July 10, 2017 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of Quarterly Investment Report for Quarter Ended June 30, 2017

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.<sup>1</sup>**

Debbie Damon of Bedazzled gave an updated report on her PUC hearing concerning AEP delivery charges, as well as a report on her analysis of the United Methodist Church's utility rates. Copies of her reports are attached to these minutes. Damon indicated several other churches have asked for an analysis of their utility bills.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Water Filtration Project, and Visitors Center Project.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave the City Manager's report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Warschak stated the sales tax the City received was up from the same time as last year. Weimar, Eagle Lake and the County as a whole also saw increases.

Regarding the water filtration project, bids were accepted last week and information is in the packet to award the contract for the filtration equipment.

Lastly, Warschak stated the Visitors Center is coming along. It has been dried in, and they are working on the electrical and plumbing. Brick should be delivered the week of August 8<sup>th</sup>, and they will be able to do the masonry work. They will also start on the covered area located behind the building. The approximate completion date is sometime in the middle of October.

**6. Consideration and Action to Award the Contract for the Water Filtration System Equipment.**

Warschak stated the bid result was in the agenda packets. WesTech was the only vendor to bid because the project was designed around their equipment. The existing equipment in the water plants is also from WesTech. The bid came in at \$1,215,000, which is a little over budget. There will be a 6 to 8 week submittal time for the drawings. Fabrication will take approximately 18-24 weeks, with delivery expected sometime after the first of the year. The contract for construction can be let while fabrication is being done. Councilwoman Gobert asked how long before the filtration system would be up and running. Warschak stated once the equipment has been delivered, it will take approximately 2 months to get the filtration system operational. There was discussion about the flushing process after the filtration system was completed, and discussion regarding the use of phosphates.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to award the water filtration equipment contract to WesTech. Councilwoman Gobert seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**7. Consideration and Action on the Mayor's Appointment of One Member to the Columbus Community Industrial Development Board.**

The Mayor put forth Ryan Thomas for the position. He stated Mr. Thomas was on vacation so he could not get his application to Council. Dungen stated he is with Five Oak Construction and the son-in-law of Dr. Hancher, whom got the CCIDC going. Councilman Cummings stated he would like to meet Mr. Thomas before he voted for him.

Councilman Cummings made a motion to table this item until Mr. Thomas could come before Council. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**8. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the June 2017 Code Enforcement Report.**

Richard LaCourse gave the Code Enforcement report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated he would be attending a plumbing safety and inspection class in Fort Worth so he will be gone for the rest of the week. He stated the Olier property finally has new owners, and they will be completely renovating the property for a home/day care. He stated he sent 16 letters to property owners regarding high weeds and trash, and he is looking at properties with tires and the parking lot behind Whataburger.

There was discussion regarding some substandard properties located throughout the City.

No action was required.

**9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the June 2017 Police Report.**

Chief Lattimore gave the police report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated that he and office Moulder attended the health fair last Saturday. Moulder has received his intermediate certification, and officer Flores is in her last stage of field training program. Gobert asked about the spike in citations in May. Lattimore stated there could have been wrecks on I-10, which created more traffic in town, and there were new officers on the streets.

No action was required.

**10. Discussion of Budget Workshop.**

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated the certified tax levy was received that day. With the increase in valuation, the current tax rate will raise approximately \$58,014.42 more than last year.

There has been a .573% increase in retirement benefit contributions.

Healthcare costs increased 20%.

Appraisal District collection fee for 2017-2018 will be \$26,764.60.

Various wish list items were discussed.

Sales tax collections were also discussed.

Warschak discussed some of the items he is working on for the budget for utilities and for some improvements at the swimming pool.

Schneider stated a special budget meeting has been scheduled for August 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilwoman Gobert – None.

Councilman Swindle - None

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – Stated August will be upon us soon, and we have a deadline in September regarding the gas line grant.


Mayor Dungen – None

**12. Announcements.**

There were no announcements.

**13. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Dwain Dungen

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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.