

STATE OF TEXAS
 COUNTY OF BRAZORIA
 CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
 OF A REGULAR MEETING
 MONDAY, JULY 10TH, 2017

The City Council of the City of West Columbia, Texas, convenes this the 10th day of July, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in a regular meeting in the Council Chambers, 512 E. Brazos, West Columbia, Texas.

1. **INVOCATION & PLEDGE.** Invocation was given by Alderman Walker.
2. **ROLL CALL.** City Secretary Kuban called the roll of the Council.
 - Present: Mayor Kincannon, Aldermen Thomas, Walker, and Biedenfeld.
 - Also present were City Manager Sutherland and City Secretary Kuban.
 - Absent: Aldermen Tindol and Maynor.
3. **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL GREETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS:** Kincannon greeted everyone and Walker thanked Columbia United volunteers for completing work on 26 jobsites and the Rotary Club for their monetary donation. Kincannon also commended Sutherland for using personal vacation leave to participate in Columbia United. Biedenfeld recognized the city for the July 4th Fireworks display. Matt Meyer was recognized as the May Employee of the Month for receiving his Class C Groundwater license.
4. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** Margaret Godinho addressed council regarding a previous request for easement that runs through her property at the end of E. Jackson. She has completed tasks set forth by previous council action and the city will move forward with her request.
5. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** Sutherland reported on the following – *City attorney is assisting with easement acquisition of Well No. 4 transmission line. * Final walk through of the TxDOT sidewalk project was completed and two manholes need to be repaired. Kincannon inquired about the job board removal in front of the post office. * Repairs to roof of Replica and ADA compliant ramp construction are being addressed by Tourism Director Chris McCann through Lowes grant application. * Pocket Park renovations are also being addressed by McCann and city crew will be removing the brush. A proposal will be presented in the near future for funding and grants are being sought. * The cistern lid at the Capitol of Texas Park has deteriorated and fabrication of a replacement is being worked on. * Phase II of electrical upgrade to the Museum is completed and the final phase will be the fixtures. Interior painting is now underway. * An extension has been granted for the abatement of mobile home at 225 W. Jackson until July 15th. * Sky Wonder Pyrotechnics provided another wonderful July 4th fireworks display at First Capitol Park. * Council was encouraged to attend an upcoming TML Small Cities' Problem Solving Clinic in Simonton on July 28th.
6. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - A. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S).** Minutes were submitted in Council packet.
 - B. **CITY TREASURER'S REPORT.** Report was submitted in Council packet.
 - C. **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT.** Report was submitted in Council packet.
 - D. **MUNICIPAL COURT REPORT.** Report was submitted in Council packet.
 - E. **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT.** Report was submitted in Council packet.
 - F. **FIRE MARSHAL REPORT.** Report was submitted in Council packet.
 - G. **CEMS REPORT.** Report was submitted in Council packet.
 - H. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT.** Report was submitted in Council packet.

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Motion was made by Biedenfeld and seconded by Thomas to approve all consent agenda reports. All voted Aye.

7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: There were none.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. CONSIDER CENTRAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FUNDING: CEMS Board member Greg Graham was present and reported on replacement of two ambulances over the past two years and expected replacement of another in the near future. He requested council to consider them during the budget process. Walker then addressed the history of the city's contributions to the ambulance service. He stated that the citizen's were being taxed twice, through city tax and ESD #1, plus many make donations on their utility bills. He gave some history on the ESD solely supporting CEMS and no other entity on a valuation of over \$678 million and should be held accountable. Also discussed was the tax rate of both the city and ESD#1. The ESD tax rate is at .08 of a maximum .10 and could surpass the amount currently being funded by the city with only a ½ cent increase equally and fairly shared among all taxpayers within the district. Walker then made a motion to remove CEMS contractual contribution completely and craft a letter to ESD explaining the basis of the decision. The motion was seconded by Biedenfeld and all voted Aye.
- B. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR TO CALCULATE AND PUBLISH EFFECTIVE TAX RATE: Motion was made by Biedenfeld and seconded by Walker to authorize Ro'Vin Garrett, Brazoria County Tax Assessor-Collector to calculate and publish the effective tax rate. All voted Aye.
- C. CONSIDER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Motion was made by Walker, seconded by Biedenfeld to approve the Mayor's re-appointment of Robert Thomas, Billy Jenn and Darlene Shoemaker to the EDC board of directors. All voted Aye.
- D. CONSIDER HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Motion was made to approve the Mayor's appointment of Meredith Wright to the HOT Advisory Board and her re-appointment. All voted Aye. One seat remains vacant and will be filled at a later date.
- E. CONSIDER SUBMISSION OF 2017/18 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR REVIEW: Sutherland submitted the proposed 2017/18 annual budget as required to schedule workshops and public hearings. The current expenditures exceed revenues in the General Fund by \$127,114 and Utility Fund by \$346,325. The department heads will continue to work together to create a balanced budget for adoption. No action necessary.
- F. CONSIDER POLICE DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISING PROPOSAL FOR DUAL PURPOSE K-9 UNIT: Chief Odin reported the city's prior K-9 was retired three years ago due to health issues and submitted information justifying the need for a new unit and explaining the associated expenses. He stated a fundraising goal of \$50,000 with a dog to be acquired by January. This was countered by council with Biedenfeld making a motion to authorize Chief Odin to fundraise toward a \$30,000 goal for a dual purpose K-9 Unit. The motion was seconded by Walker and all voted Aye.
- G. CONSIDER 2015/16 ANNUAL AUDIT: This item was moved to the beginning of the action agenda. Wade Whitlow of Kennemer, Masters, & Lunsford reported on the city's 2015/16 annual audit. He stated that the unassigned General Fund balance goal is six

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months. Although the previous year balance was close to five months, this year's was down to four months due to the flood event; however, federal reimbursement should replenish it bringing the city closer to their ultimate goal.

10. ADJOURN: Mayor Kincannon adjourned the meeting at 7:52 P.M.



LAURIE B. KINCANNON, Mayor

ATTEST:



KELLI R. KUBAN, City Secretary