

STATE OF TEXAS
 COUNTY OF BRAZORIA
 CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
 OF A REGULAR MEETING
 MONDAY, AUGUST 13th, 2012

The City Council of the City of West Columbia, Texas, convenes this the 13th day of August, 2012, 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 Pastor Littleman of First Baptist Church.
2. ROLL CALL. Kuban called the roll of the Council.
 - Present: Mayor Kincannon, Aldermen Thomas, Schwebel, Walker and Biedenfeld.
 City Manager Sutherland, City Secretary Kuban and City Attorney Griggs.
 - Absent: Tindol.
3. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL GREETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS: Kincannon welcomed everyone and announced the Employ of the Month award was given to Manuel Espinoza.
4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS: Kincannon reported on the 2011 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report and asked for public comments or questions. There were none.
5. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Sutherland reported on the following topics: TxDOT updates; Highway 36 overpass; Lightning strike damage & emergency siren repair; Generator behind HEB was repaired; Streets and Drainage report was given; Parks & Recreation board will be hosting 2nd Annual Hometown Heroes Celebration on September 15th; Fire Marshal is working on certification and negotiations with Sweeny are underway; Police Department have received the ticket writers; and City Attorney Griggs has filed a detailed submission of the city's Eminent Domain authority.
6. CONSENT AGENDA:
 - A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S).
 - B. CITY TREASURER'S REPORT. Report was submitted in Council's packet.
 - C. POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT. Report was submitted in Council's packet.
 - D. MUNICIPAL COURT REPORT. Report was submitted in Council's packet.
 - E. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT. Report was not submitted in Council's packet.
 - F. CEMS. Report was submitted in Council's packet.
 - G. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT. Report was submitted in Council's packet.
 - H. CONSIDER HOT ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING.
 Motion was made by Walker, seconded by Biedenfeld and was duly adopted to approve all Consent Agenda items including department reports and the HOT board recommendations of funding to the Chamber of Commerce \$150 for tourism phone and mailing expenses and to the City \$364.72 for tourism signage. All voted Aye.
7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: There were none.
8. OLD BUSINESS:
 - A. CONSIDER ORDINANCE AMENDING SEWER CHARGES: Ordinance was received at the meeting and council requested more time to review it. Motion was made by Walker, seconded by Thomas to table for further review. All voted Aye.
9. NEW BUSINESS:
 - A. CONSIDER ADDITIONAL USE OF POOL REQUEST – MARY HOLLER: It was requested that some of the West of the Brazos Swim Team members be allowed to continue use of the pool during the off season for personal practices through September for the same \$3 per hour rate as the water aerobics participants. Walker inquired about the rate not being enough to cover the heating costs. It was stated that the heating was inoperable. Ms. Holler revised her request to include the month of October. She stated practice sessions would be Saturday mornings from 10 until noon and possibly one week night. Motion was made by Walker,

- seconded by Thomas and was approved to allow members of the West of the Brazos Swim Team to use the pool through the month of October at \$3 per hour. All voted Aye.
- B. CONSIDER PARADE PERMIT REQUEST – COLUMBIA HERITAGE FOUNDATION: It was reported that the Columbia Heritage Foundation is hosting the Roughneck Blowout during homecoming weekend with events held at the football game and the old Jr. High gymnasium. They have requested a parade permit for Saturday, September 22nd to hold a parade through downtown area, beginning at the high school and ending at the Jr. High. Sutherland discussed the overtime expenses affecting the Police Department budget. Motion was made by Schwebel, seconded by Thomas to approve the parade permit request. All voted Aye.
- C. CONSIDER UTILITY ADJUSTMENT REQUEST – ST. JOHN’S MASONIC LODGE: It was reported that St. John’s Masonic Lodge had an extreme water bill and are requesting an adjustment be made in the amount of \$255.63. Motion was made by Walker, seconded by Biedenfeld and utility adjustment request was granted by all voting Aye.
- D. CONSIDER BUILDING CODE VARIANCE REQUEST – FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH: It was reported that the First Baptist Church is requesting a set-back variance of 2’ in one corner of their property at the corner of 16th and Bernard that isn’t quite square for the gymnasium they are building. They will trade pieces of property with St. Mary’s Episcopal Church which will correct the set back clearance in the future. Motion was made by Walker, seconded by Schwebel to approve the variance request. All voted Aye.
- E. CONSIDER COLUMBIA HISTORICAL MUSEUM REQUEST TO RENT TO COLUMBIA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION: Columbia Cemetery Association is requesting to rent an office space in the Museum building which must be approved by the City. Motion was made by Thomas, seconded by Biedenfeld and was duly adopted to approve the rental request. Thomas, Walker and Biedenfeld voted Aye. Schwebel abstained. Motion carried.
- F. CONSIDER COLUMBIA HISTORICAL MUSEUM CONTRACT: Museum contract committee met to make amendments, update language, and clarify each party’s role and responsibilities. The revised contract was received at the meeting so council requested time to review it. Motion was made by Walker, seconded by Thomas to table approval of contract for further review. Thomas, Walker and Biedenfeld voted Aye. Schwebel abstained. Motion carried.
- G. CONSIDER AND DISCUSS REGULATION OF MOBILE VENDORS: Due to the increase in number of mobile vendors, Sutherland and Terry Elliott, city inspector have requested a review for the need for an ordinance to regulate them. Current procedures require that they have property owner permission to locate. Motion was made by Schwebel, seconded by Biedenfeld to have city attorney draft an ordinance regulating mobile vendors. Walker recommended giving more direction, to which Sutherland stated she would work with city attorney on verbage to regulate, not license, paying attention to not over-regulate. All voted Aye.
- H. CONSIDER UTILITY DEPARTMENT TRUCK PURCHASE: Sutherland stated that in monitoring end of year projections, she felt that the utility fund would be under budget enough to purchase one new vehicle in the current year’s budget. The last new vehicle was purchased in 2004. The utility department vehicles have excessive mileage on each of them. The proposed vehicle is a standard flatbed that will carry heavy tools. Biedenfeld made motion to authorize purchase of new vehicle. Schwebel seconded motion and all voted Aye.

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- I. CONSIDER TAX RATE, VOTE TO PROPOSE A TAX INCREASE AND SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARINGS: It was explained that by adopting the same tax rate, an actual tax increase would result triggering two public hearings because the increased appraisal valuations also result in more tax revenue being collected. Sutherland stated that the final tax rate adopted could not be any higher than the rate proposed and the proposed budget was based on the 2011 tax rate. Walker made motion to propose the 2011 tax rate (0.831900), Biedenfeld seconded motion. Public hearings were scheduled for Monday, August 27th and Tuesday, September 4th. All voted Aye.
- J. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF S. 14TH STREET SEWER LINE PROJECT: Sutherland reported that the CDBG contract to replace the sewer line from E. Bernard to Mockingbird did not cover the top of the line area between Mockingbird and the manhole. Matula & Matula has agreed to honor their current labor only per foot bid price to replace the remaining 1100 feet at \$56,000. Walker stated that this is equivalent to a half price job because it will include materials. The job extension meets the bid requirements but exceeds her procurement authorization limit. Walker made motion that was seconded by Thomas to approve the bid for the S. 14th Street sewer line extension project.
10. ADJOURN: Mayor Kincannon adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.


LAURIE B. KINCANNON, Mayor

ATTEST:


KELLI R. KUBAN, City Secretary