

STATE OF TEXAS
 COUNTY OF BRAZORIA
 CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
 OF A REGULAR MEETING
 MONDAY, AUGUST 8TH, 2011

The City Council of the City of West Columbia, Texas, convenes this the 8th day of August 2011, 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 Thomas.
2. ROLL CALL. City Secretary Kuban called the roll of the Council.
 - Present: Mayor Kincannon, Aldermen Thomas, Tindol, Schwebel, and Gilbert.
 City Manager Sutherland, City Secretary Kuban and City Attorney Griggs.
 - Absent: Walker.
3. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL GREETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS:
 - Kincannon greeted those present and stated that Utility Clerk Denise Kemp was the Employee of the Month.
4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS: Alma Spears thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their help on July 4th and John Corder voiced his appreciation for the ability to address council and also of administration's correspondence with TxDOT. Sutherland gave the 2010 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report.
5. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Sutherland's report included the following: Striping issue with the downtown project caused by measurement conversion; New phone system in place with City Hotline implemented and specific dispatch phones added; Ground Storage Tank repairs completed; Elections will continue to be conducted by the county with election months and terms of office remaining the same; Well at the lake is completed and lines are being installed to connect to the aerators; Contractor has begun moving in materials and equipment for the annexation utility extension; Hometown Heroes Celebration will be held September 9th and 10th with a bbq cookoff, dance, military displays, golf tournament, fun run and parade scheduled.
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 submitted in Council's packet.
 - F. CEMS. Report was not included in Council's packet.
 - G. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT. Report was submitted in Council's packet.
 - H. CONSIDER HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX ADVISORY BOARD FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS.
 - I. CONSIDER CORROSION ELIMINATORS PAY REQUEST NO. 3.

Schwebel requested item #H be removed from the consent agenda to be discussed. Motion was made by Gilbert, seconded by Thomas and was duly adopted to approve all other consent agenda items consisting of approval of minutes; department reports; and Corrosion Eliminator, Inc. pay request no. 3 in the amount of \$7,096.46. All voted Aye.
7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: Item #H – Schwebel questioned partial funding of 1st Capitol Historical Foundation's request for advertising of Ghosts Along the Brazos event and recommended funding \$1000. Further discussion of funding the \$150 balance for flyers that were to be sponsored by a local business led Schwebel to make a motion to fund them the full amount of \$1150 and the others as recommended by the Board. Tindol seconded the motion and

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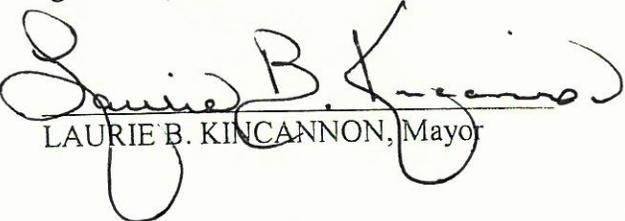
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it was duly adopted to fund the 1st Capitol Historical Foundation \$1150 for advertising, Chamber of Commerce \$259.50 for advertising and tourism and Columbia Historical Museum \$850.50 for advertising. All voted Aye.

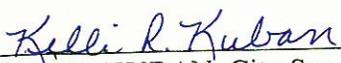
8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF FAIR HOUSING ACTIVITY STATEMENT – TEXAS WORK GROUP: Thomas reported that he had spoken with Gilbert Paul, Darlene Shoemaker and Rosa Figueroa about serving on a committee in addition to himself and Walker (tentatively) and all were interested. Gilbert made motion to accept these to serve on the Fair Housing training group. Tindol seconded motion. All voted Aye.
- B. CONSIDER HOT ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION TO ALLOT 1% OF TAX REVENUE FOR LOCAL ADVERTISING: Kincannon reported that HOT board member Daniel Carreon recommended that advertising be allowed within the 75 mile perimeter and 1% be designated to local advertising. Schwebel stated that advertising should not be limited to this percentage and should be included in the 7% minimum. Council was in favor of local advertising to promote events but suggested to keep an emphasis on outside advertising to best promote tourism. No action was necessary.
- C. CONSIDER VOTE TO PROPOSE A TAX INCREASE AND SCHEDULE TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS: Sutherland explained the effective and roll-back tax rates and stated that the proposed rate only sets a cap for the rate voted on at the September meeting. Capitol Improvement Fund purpose was discussed. Estimated deficits were \$136,000 in GF and \$139,000 in UF. The roll-back rate would produce an estimated \$85,106 in additional revenue if collected at 100%. Increases in various service rates were discussed as were closing facilities and lay-offs, if necessary. Schwebel made a motion to propose the roll-back rate of \$.906078/\$100. Gilbert stated that citizens don't understand that the proposed rate is only a maximum that can be set, but may not be actually be voted at that rate, but motion died for lack of a second. Kincannon reiterated that it is only a proposed cap. Sutherland stated that it could bring public opinion to the attention of council. Schwebel stated that it was council's job to work with the department heads to find the answers to balance the budget and not expect them to keep cutting expenses. Schwebel made the same motion then amended it to propose a rate of .899/\$100. Motion failed for lack of a second. After more discussion of the fact that the proposed rate only sets a cap for the rate to be voted on and department heads cutting operating expenses to an unmanageable extent that services would be affected, Thomas addressed sales tax issue before seconding the motion. Thomas, Schwebel and Gilbert voted Aye. Tindol voted Nay. Motion carried. Two public hearings were set for August 22nd and August 29th.

9. ADJOURN: Mayor Kincannon adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.


 LAURIE B. KINCANNON, Mayor

ATTEST:


 KELLI R. KUBAN, City Secretary