

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in special joint session with the Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corporation (CCIDC) on Monday, August 31, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 1538 Hwy 71 S, Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

Mayor	-	Dwain Dungen
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Councilman	-	Charles Richardson
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
Councilman	-	John Wagner (left at 8:30pm)
City Manager	-	David Meisell
City Sec/Fin Dir	-	Patti Glaeser

And the following from the CCIDC Board:

President	-	Richard Heffley
Secretary	-	James Weishuhn
Treasurer	-	Lori An Gobert
Member	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Member	-	John Wagner
Member	-	Matt Sprague
Member	-	Elizabeth Flint
Admin Asst	-	Melanie Appelt

**1. Call to Order.**

Mayor Dungen called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Richard Heffley called the CCIDC meeting to order.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.**

Mayor Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Agenda Item #6 was then addressed:

**6. Discussion of Budget Workshop.**

Mayor Dungen explained to CCIDC that the City Council made suggested changes to the CCIDC proposed budget. The purpose of this joint meeting was to get the CCIDC Board's input regarding these changes. The budget changes included reducing advertising \$10,000, reducing Professional Services \$40,000 due to a forensic auditor no longer being needed, reducing Grants by \$5,000, and increasing City Infrastructure by \$68,500 and increasing sales tax revenue \$12,500. A copy of the proposed CCIDC budget is attached to these minutes. Ms. Flint asked what the \$193,000 would be used for by the City. City Manager, David Meisell, explained that the money would be used for debt service to pay for the infrastructure that was used for economic development. Lori An Gobert expressed her concern with paying off City debt with 4B money. Mayor Dungen reassured her that using the money for City debt was allowed. Ms. Gobert continued with concerns that the Council was making changes to the CCIDC Budget and that there should not be a need for a CCIDC Board. Ms. Gobert is also concerned that if the City is making so much money in the water and sewer department, why does the City need money from the CCIDC. Mr. Meisell discussed the effects of low ad valorem taxes. He said the amount we receive in ad valorem taxes does not cover police labor. Councilman Axel explained that everyone is too busy worrying about personality things than dealing with the facts. Mr. Meisell explained that the City is going by the ordinance that established the 4B taxes in 1995 and its uses. Ms. Gobert continued with her concerns that the Council is making decisions for the CCIDC. Councilman Axel says the law makes the rules and the rules must be followed. James Weishuhn would like to see advertising money be left in the CCIDC budget. Mr. Meisell discussed the recent events with the closing of Exterran and BAE Systems losing their big contract. Mr. Meisell said Exterran closed because of energy costs, reduced rig counts and the lack of skilled labor. The CCIDC approved the above changes to their budget along with an increase in Advertising of \$5,000 and add back the \$5,000 for Grants. The amount of transfer to the City would be \$183,500.

Councilman Schonenberg said that 4B money could be used to fund the Sweetbriar Extension project. This City project is estimated at \$130,000. With no further business for the CCIDC, President Heffley adjourned the CCIDC meeting.

Mayor Dungen moved to Agenda Item #3.

**3. Citizen's Presentations and Comments.**

There were no citizen's presentations or comments.

**4. Consideration and Action to Approve Invoice from H&S Livestock.**

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve the invoice from H&S Livestock for \$9,825 for the fence around the Tait Water Plant. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, Wagner

The motion passed.

**5. Consideration and Action Regarding Severance Package for David Meisell.**

Councilman Wagner moved to table Agenda Item #5, regarding severance package for David Meisell. Councilman Axel seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, Wagner

The motion passed.

Mayor Dungen then returned to Agenda Item #6.

**6. Discussion of Budget Workshop.**

Patti Glaeser discussed the effects of the proposed changes to the Water and Sewer rates as discussed in the August 18, 2009 Budget Workshop. She estimated an additional \$100,000 in water revenues with the increased rates proposed by Council, based on 2009 consumption. These rates are \$13.00 for the first 3,000 gallons. The first tier is \$2.90, the second tier is \$3.15, and the third tier is \$3.40. The increase in sewer rates result in an estimated additional increase of about \$60,000 in sewer revenues. The Sewer rates are \$13.00 for the first 3,000 gallons. The first tier is \$2.50, the second tier is \$2.75 and the third tier is \$3.00. Councilman Tesch suggested cutting \$20,000 for the cool deck from the pool. Mayor Dungen asked why the actual expenses of Public Works were lower than the Budget. Ms. Glaeser said that \$40,000 of the street seal coating was not spent, but was going to be used on the Sweetbriar extension. Councilman Tesch asked how much the employee raises would cost. Ms. Glaeser said that with the increase to 5%, as requested by Council, from the original 3% wage increase would be \$7,500 for this budget cycle. Raises are given at the end of July. This wage increase would still keep the City below 50% of the surrounding cities.

Councilman Schonenberg moved to approve the budget s discussed. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch

Absent: Councilman Wagner

The motion passed.

7. Adjournment.

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:42 pm.

  
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Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:

  
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Patti Glaeser, City Secretary

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.

Citizens who wish to comment on a posted agenda item may do so when that item is addressed by the Mayor. Citizen's comments are limited to five minutes.

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