

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in special session on Wednesday, August 4, 2010 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
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Councilman	-	Charles Richardson
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
Assist. City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Danny Jackson
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1. **Call to Order.**

Mayor Dwain Dungen called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

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

Mayor Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. **Citizen's Presentations and Comments.<sup>1</sup>**

There were no citizen's presentations or comments.

4. **Discussion of Budget Workshop.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, stated the focus of the current meeting would be on revenues. He then reviewed the revenue items. In the General Fund he said that the amount budgeted for property taxes has increased to \$531,608 which is higher than last year's budget due in part to an increase in property values. He pointed out that sales tax revenues for the current year are still less than the budgeted amount of \$775,000. A discussion followed of how best to estimate the coming year's sales tax revenue. It was decided that \$660,000 was a conservative estimate, but that sales tax revenue would be revisited in future budget workshops.

In the Utility Department the City Manager reviewed proposed budgeted revenues based on no increase in current utility rates. He also distributed a table showing the water and wastewater rates for Columbus compared to other cities of the same size.

It was decided to hold the next Budget Workshop on August 12, 2010 after the regular council meeting.

Lori An Gobert, President of the Columbus Community & Industrial Development (CCIDC) Board presented CCIDC's proposed Budget for the 2010-2011 year. Councilman Axel asked if the allowed use of CCIDC funds has changed in the last year. Ms. Gobert stated that they had not and that the City Attorney reviews all of the grants.

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

Councilman Richardson – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

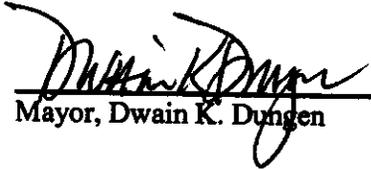
Mayor Dungen – no comment

**6. Announcements.**

Donald Warschak announced that the Highway 71 underpass below the railroad track would be closed part of the week August 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Axel expressed his concern that when the underpass is closed that if there is a train coming thru town, there is limited access to the northwest side of town in case of an emergency.

**7. Adjournment.**

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

  
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Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:

  
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Cathy Ezell, 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.

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.

<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.