

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, September 8, 2011 at 7:00 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	-	Steve Woodall
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin (Arrived at 7:03 p.m.)
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Utilities Director	-	Jody Ripper
Police Chief	-	Danny Jackson
Public Works Director	-	Michael Poncik
Assist. City Secretary	-	Kayla Duncan
Code Enforcement Off.	-	Ford Stein

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Dwain Dungen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Mayor Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of invoices.
- b. Approval of minutes of August 25, 2011 Regular Meeting.

Councilman Rankin arrived at 7:03 p.m. during the discussion of the invoices.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

4. Consideration and action on approval of Curtiss Automotive Invoices.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve the Curtiss Automotive Invoices. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Tesch, and Rankin
Abstain: Councilman Schonenberg

The motion passed.

5. Citizen's presentations and comments.¹

There were no citizen's presentations or comments.

6. City Manager's Report including Water Usage, Texas Crossroads Business Park Water Tower, Cardinal Hill Water Plant Well, School Zone Signs, 2011 Street Improvements, SECO Project, and 2011-2012 Budget.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report which is attached to these minutes.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve Closure of Milam Street beginning in front of the Elementary School ending at Highway 90 and Closure of Highway 90 from Milam Street to the High School from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 for the Columbus High School Homecoming Parade.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve the closure of Milam Street beginning in front of the Elementary School ending at Highway 90 and Closure of Highway 90 from Milam Street to the High School from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 for the Columbus High School Homecoming Parade.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

8. Public Hearing on the Property Tax Rate for Tax Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012.

Mayor Dungen opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m. There were no comments or input from the public.

Mayor Dungen closed the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

9. Consideration and Action to award bid for replacement of windows at City Hall and door at Nesbitt Memorial Library funded with SECO Grant CS0680.

Donald Warschak explained that this item would need to be postponed to a later meeting.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$6,442 for Library Donations and Memorials.

The Mayor explained that this budget amendment increases the budget for revenues from library donations and memorials and also increases expenditures for the same amount.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$6,442 for Library Donations and Memorials as presented. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action to approve Resolution 97-11 a Resolution of the City of Columbus, Texas, Designating Representative and Alternate to the Houston-Galveston Area Council General Assembly for 2012.

Mayor Dungen told Council that he was the representative and Mayor Pro-Tem Curtiss Schonenberg was the alternate for 2011. He asked if anyone else would like to volunteer for 2012.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to approve Resolution 97-11 designating Dwain Dungen as representative and Curtiss Schonenberg as alternate to the Houston-Galveston Area Council General Assembly for 2012. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

12. Consideration and Action to authorize the advertisement for 2012 Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds Grant Program.

Councilman Rankin asked if the City had considered using the company that is auditing the sales tax to audit hotel tax compliance. The City Secretary said that she would look into it.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to authorize the advertisement for the 2012 Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds Grant Program. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

13. Consideration and Action to approve the purchase of pickup truck for the Public Works Department.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented quotes for the purchase of a 2012 F250 Pickup for the Public Works Department. The quotes were for either an XL or XLT model and were from Tommie Vaughn and HGAC. The Tommie Vaughn quote was \$22,600 and HGAC was \$23,201 for the XL model. Donald Warschak explained that this was an item that was in the 2010-2011 Budget, but because it is so late in the year that it was carried over to the 2011-2012 Budget.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2012 F250 XL Pickup from Tommie Vaughn for \$22,600. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

14. Consideration and Action, if necessary, on the August 2011 Code Enforcement/Inspection Report.

Code Enforcement Officer, Ford Stein, presented his August 2011 Code Enforcement/Inspection Report, a copy of which is attached. Mayor Dungen asked if any more inspections had been done. Ford said that he had sent out letters and that he would be following up on them in the future. Councilman Rankin asked Ford for an update on the status of the previous properties that had been brought before Council. Ford said that he would update Council on this also. Councilman Schonenberg asked how the fire inspections were going. Ford said that he was setting up a schedule where ever business in the City would be inspected. Councilman Schonenberg said that he would like to have an item in the paper about it.

No action was taken.

15. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Woodall – Asked about the status of the gun ordinance.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – Thanked the citizens and the city for their support of his business over the last 37 years.

Councilman Tesch – Reminded everyone that the County Fair was taking place.

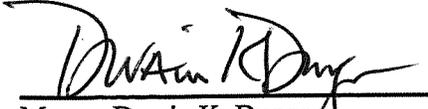
Councilman Rankin – no comment.

16. Announcements.

Mayor Dungen announced that there would be a special meeting on Monday, September 12, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. At that time Council would conduct a 2nd Public Hearing on the Tax Rate, a Public Hearing on the Budget and Adopt the 2011-2012 Budget.

17. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:



Linda Lakich, City Secretary

¹During 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.

²Limited 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.