

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in special session on Thursday, July 21, 2011 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 (Arrived at 6:45)
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Councilman	-	Steve Woodall
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Danny Jackson
Assistant City Sec.	-	Kayla Duncan
Fire Chief	-	Walter Glaeser

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Pro Tem Curtiss Schonenberg called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Mayor Pro Tem Curtiss Schonenberg led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Citizen's Presentations and Comments.¹

Elizabeth Flint spoke to Council about the need to clean up the City. She was especially concerned with illegal dumping and showed pictures that she had taken showing large trash items around town. She asked that Council consider raising the current garbage rate by \$1.00 per month to pay for heavy garbage and limb pickup at least twice per month. She felt that if residents were already paying for this pickup that they would not let large items and limbs sit around on their property or dump them on the property of others. She felt that this would help clean up Columbus.

4. Discussion of Budget Workshop

Finance Director, Linda Lakich, gave Council a summary of what is in the budget. Mayor Dungen arrived at 6:45 pm.

Councilman Rankin said that Council needs to first consider their priorities. He said that his first priority is the Police Department and whether it is staffed appropriately and then his next priority is the serviceability of the infrastructure. Chief Jackson stated that he would like to have an additional investigator and also a patrol officer. He would also like to have a storage facility for vehicles.

During discussion of infrastructure priorities, it was noted that the City's two oldest wells are also its two biggest. City Manager, Donald Warschak, stated that one of the wells would be pulled and evaluated in the coming budget year.

During a discussion of utility rates, an increase to garbage rates was discussed along with a \$1/customer/month fee for heavy garbage pickup. The finance director said that she would bring a history of the City's utility rates and a comparison to surrounding cities' to the next budget workshop.

Council was given a wish list of capital and other large items requested by the department heads. It included raising the City's contribution to the firemen's pension from the minimum \$36/member/month to \$125/member/month at a cost of \$38,000. The Library also asked for the replacement of its air conditioners at a cost of \$14,100 and the installation of additional security cameras at a cost of \$1,100. The cost of the additional police officers mentioned above would be \$49,000 for a patrol officer and \$58,600 for an investigator. The police storage facility would cost \$20,000. The sewer department requested a new sewer machine at a cost of \$45,000 and a sewer camera for \$8,500. The garbage

department requested a new forklift for \$20,000. Donald Warschak also said that he will be getting some estimates for the cost of a new fueling station for city vehicles and paving the parking lot at the Little League field.

5. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

Mayor Dungen – no comment.

6. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

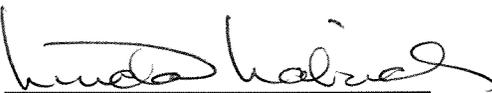
7. Adjournment.

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:30 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.