The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in special session on Thursday, August 16, 2012 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	-	Steve Woodall
Councilman	-	John Axel (Absent)
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Acting Police Chief	-	Tomas Ramirez
Utilities Supervisor	-	Jody Ripper

1. **Call to Order.**

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

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

   Mayor Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. **Citizens' Presentations and Comments.**[1]

   There were no citizens' presentations or comments.

4. **Discussion of Budget Workshop.**

   Council discussed manpower needs in the Police and Utilities Departments. It was suggested that the additional patrol officer be budgeted to start in January in order to give the new police chief the opportunity to evaluate department needs.

   City Manager, Donald Warschak, said that another item which had not been previously addressed was the need for a pedestrian crossing light by the city park on Montezuma Street. He told Council that this would cost from $10,000 to $12,000. This was determined to be a safety issue because of the heavy pedestrian traffic during soccer and baseball games.

   Mayor Dungen addressed the needs at the golf course. He suggested that the City budget $25,000 to pick up the utilities expenses at the golf course. He explained that the golf course is the city's largest park and that it is a public golf course that is managed privately. Councilman Rankin asked if the budgeted sales tax revenue had been addressed since last month's collections were increased. It was suggested that the budget for sales tax for 2013 could be increased in light of continued strong current receipts.

   Councilman Tesch said that he would like to see the City Manager's and City Secretary's salaries increased.

   Council asked that the proposed budget be changed to reflect a $12,000 increase in Sales Tax revenues and that the Police patrol office be budgeted for only nine months. They also asked that the Golf Course Department's budget be increased $25,000 to include the payment of utilities and that $12,000 be added for the installation of crossing lights on Montezuma Street. In addition they asked that the City Manager's salary be increased $7,000 and the City Secretary's be increased $5,000. They also said that they would like to see the amounts budgeted for the fuel station cover,

the police storage shed and the tools for the Maintenance Department remain in the budget but be placed on hold until later in the year when actual revenues are known.

The next Budget Workshop will be held on August 23rd at the regular council meeting.

5. **Items from Councilmembers.**[2]

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – gave a CCIDC update in which he reported that the KWI project will be larger than originally planned.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

Mayor Dungen – no comment.

6. **Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.
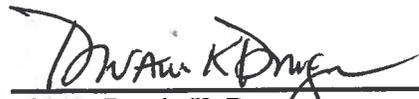
Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:

Linda Lakich, City Secretary

[1]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.

[2]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.