

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Thursday, July 25, 2013 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 (absent)
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Councilman	-	Steve Woodall
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
--------------	---	----------------

**1. Call to Order.**

Mayor Pro Tem Curtiss Schonenberg called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

**3. Consent Agenda.**

- a. Approval of Invoices.
- b. Approval of Minutes of July 11, 2013 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of Minutes of July 17, 2013 Special Meeting.
- d. Approval of June 2013 Financial Statements.
- e. Approval of Quarterly Investment Report to the Quarter Ended June 30, 2013.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.<sup>1</sup>**

There were no citizens' presentations or comments.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Cardinal Hill Water Tower, 2012 Water System Improvements, and 2013 Street Improvements.**

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

**6. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the June 2013 Police Report.**

Police Chief Bill Lattimore presented the June 2013 Police Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

**7. Discussion of Budget Workshop – General, Utility, and Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds.**

City Secretary, Linda Lakich, told Council that the taxable value for 2013 is \$251,530,226 which is a \$5,655,509 increase over last year. The effective rate is \$0.26929 per \$100 and the rollback rate is

\$0.28776. She reminded them that they have been utilizing ad valorem taxes to cover the debt service for the debt used to fund the renovations to City Hall and have used Utility funds for the remaining debt service because the debt proceeds were used for utility improvements. Council agreed that they would like to continue to do so. The City Secretary told Council that because taxable values have increase the current tax rate of \$0.27312 will produce an increase in tax revenue. She said that the resulting tax increase will be on the next Council agenda together with setting up public hearings.

There was a discussion of wage increases with the City Manager explaining that he would like to do a combination of a cost of living raise and a merit increase.

There was also a discussion of Hotel Occupancy Tax expenditures. The City Secretary explained that with the purchase of the Mayes property the proposed budget includes \$10,000 for maintenance and \$30,000 for professional services to plan for the property's use. She asked Council for feedback on whether they would like to fund any other HOT grants other than the funding for the Visitors Center. Councilman Woodall said that he would like to get the Mayor's input.

The next Budget Workshop is scheduled for August 8, 2013.

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

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – gave an update on CCIDC activities.

Councilman Hernandez – wished good luck to the area all star teams.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

**9. Announcements.**

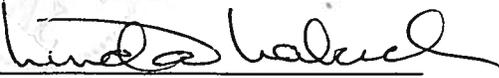
Donald Warschak announced that the Recycling Center is open for regular hours. He also reminded everyone that the Liz Cook Trail Ride will be at the Fair Grounds the first weekend in August.

**10. Adjournment.**

The Mayor Pro Tem adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Lakich, 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.