

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in special session on Tuesday, August 12, 2014 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
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert (absent)
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Library Director	-	Susan Chandler

1. Call to Order.

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Councilman Schonenberg 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.

The City Secretary summarized the major items contained in the proposed budget. She stated that the Library Director had withdrawn her request for additional funds for books and audio visual items. The library will apply for grants to cover those items. She also said that the proposed budget for seal coating had been increased to \$100,000. She also reviewed the tax rollback and effective rates. The Council members present indicated their wish to keep the overall tax rate the same as last year. Council Rankin stated that he would like to hold property taxes flat and drive sales taxes to increase through commercial development. Council also reviewed Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund requests from the Chamber of Commerce, which contracts the operation of the City's Visitor's Center. The Chamber's budget request has not changed from last year, except that they are requesting an additional \$10,000 for promoting activities downtown on the courthouse square, such as the farmer's market and a family movie night. Councilman Rankin asked that the Chamber provide docents for the Courthouse and Opera House.

The City Secretary then reviewed the overall effects on the fund balances of the proposed budget. She asked that Council review the proposed budget and make suggestions at the next budget workshop.

5. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Hernandez – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

6. **Announcements.**²

There were no announcements.

7. **Adjournment.**

The Mayor Pro Tem adjourned the meeting at 7:19 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.