

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Thursday, August 14, 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
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Councilman	-	Steve Woodall
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez (arrived at 6:40 p.m.)
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Code Enforcement Off.	-	Ford Stein
Library Director	-	Susan Chandler

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Dwain Dungen called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 July 24, 2014 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of June 2014 Financial Statements.
- d. Approval of Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2014.

Councilman Schonenberg had questions regarding the invoices, which the City Manager answered.

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert
Absent: Councilman Hernandez

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.

Scott Mattingly, the new Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity, summarized the group's activities in the County and in Columbus. He thanked Council for their support in the past and asked for their continued support. He also invited them to a ground breaking ceremony on Saturday, August 23rd, at 10 a.m. for their latest house that will be built at 716 Martin Luther King.

Councilman Hernandez arrived at 6:40 p.m.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Downtown Sidewalk Project, and Milam Street Water Line Cleaning.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He also reported that the company which was going to do the cleaning of the water lines on Milam examined the sections cut out of the pipes. The company representatives stated that in their opinion, the cleaning would not be effective. He said that the City would be exploring other options to take care of the water lines.

6. Consideration and Action to Approve the Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corporations 2014-2015 Budget.

Councilman Schonenberg reported that the CCIDC Board approved a budget, a copy of which is attached to these minutes, at its July meeting. Councilman Rankin asked the CCIDC Board to consider additional funding for Habitat for Humanity. He also would like to see them put together a plan for commercial development and for improving sales tax revenues for the City.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the CCIDC budget as presented. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action on a Tax Increase for Tax Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 with the Rate not to Exceed \$0.27312 per \$100 Value.

The Mayor stated that the rate of \$0.27312 would be the same rate the City currently has but it is considered an increase because taxable values have increased, which will generate more revenue. The City Secretary explained that because the proposed current rate is greater than the effective rate, there are publications that are necessary and that two public hearings will also be necessary. She stated that if Council wants to adopt a tax rate higher than \$0.27312 that she would be able to bring back the item with a higher rate at the next meeting and that the budget calendar would be pushed back a week, but that there would still be plenty of time to complete the budget.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to place a proposal to adopt a tax rate of \$0.27312 per \$100 valuation on a future City Council agenda. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. After discussion of the proposed rate and the timeline for publication and public hearings, the Mayor called for a vote on the motion. The results were as follows:

Councilman Rankin:	Aye
Councilman Hernandez:	Aye
Councilman Schonenberg:	Aye
Councilwoman Gobert:	No
Councilman Woodall:	Aye

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action to Schedule Two Public Hearings on the Tax Rate.

A motion was made by Councilman Rankin to set the first public hearing on the tax rate during the regular meeting on August 28, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. and the second public hearing during a special meeting on September 2, 2014 at 6:30. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Colorado County Central Appraisal District 2015 Operating Budget.

The City Secretary explained that, if the Central Appraisal District budget was acceptable to Council, no action was necessary. If it was not acceptable, they would need to adopt a resolution disapproving and if a majority of the taxing units also did so, the Central Appraisal District would have to draft a new budget. None of the Council members objected to the budget.

No action was taken.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 137-14 Regarding a Contract for Financing an Automated Meter Reading System.

The City Secretary explained that the financing of the automated meter reading system would be through a five year capital lease with Government Capital Corporation at a rate of 2.695%. She said that the City Attorney had reviewed and approved the contract.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve Resolution 137-14 regarding a contract for financing an automated meter reading system. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

11. Consideration and Action to Approve a Contract for Engineering Services for the Mayes Property Project.

Donald Warschak stated that this contract is with John D. Mercer & Associates, Inc. for engineering services associated with the Visitor's Center construction at the Mayes property. The total for the contract is \$39,100.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

12. Consideration and Action to Approve Industry State Bank Renewal Option as City Depository until September 30, 2015.

The City Secretary explained that the City would like to exercise the option to renew the depository contract with Industry State Bank for a third year. She said that she is pleased with their service and interest rates.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the renewal of the depository contract with Industry State Bank until September 30, 2015. Councilwoman Gobert seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

13. Consideration and Action to Approve Schedule for October, November, and December City Council Meetings.

The City Manager explained that there is a conflict on the October 9, 2014 regular meeting with a class that department managers will be taking. There is also a conflict due to holidays on the November 27th and December 25th meetings. There was a suggestion to reschedule the October 9th meeting for October 8, 2014 at 6:30 p.m., to reschedule the November 27th meeting for November 24, 2014 at 6:30 p.m., and to reschedule the December 25th meeting for December 22, 2014 at noon.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to reschedule the meetings as suggested. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the July 2014 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement Official, Ford Stein, presented his July 2014 Code Enforcement Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

15. Discussion of Budget Workshop.

There was a discussion of water line issues including whether the replacement of water lines would be effective in improving water quality. The City Manager explained that, while there are some things that could be done in-house, most would need to be outsourced. He said that in order to get interest from bidders on a project that the value of the project needs to be at least \$250,000. Councilman Rankin suggested that the problem should be studied first to see if line replacement is the answer. He said that he would like to see an evaluation of the water, sewer, and gas systems with recommendations for maintenance plans for the next 5 to 10 years. The City Manager was asked to bring back an estimate for the cost of such a planning study.

Councilman Schonenberg stated that the individual contracted to run the City golf course is asking for additional support from the City. Currently the City provides water, fuel, and electricity. He said that they are asking for \$15,000 more for chemicals and sand. There were questions about membership makeup, and the cost of membership. Council stated that more information would be needed before they committed additional City funds.

Council also discussed Library staffing and the purchase of property by the Library Foundation for future construction.

16. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilwoman Gobert – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – said that he was glad to see the Scouts in the audience.

Councilman Hernandez – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – reminded everyone to drive carefully since school would be back in session soon.

Mayor Dungen – reminded the City Manager of the need for an additional school zone sign at Houston Street.

17. Announcements.

The schedule for upcoming budget related Council meetings was announced.

18. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:14 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.

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