

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in special session on Thursday, August 10, 2017 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
Councilman	-	Keith Cummings
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Police Lieutenant	-	Skip Edman
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse
Fire Chief	-	Dusty Dittmar

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Dwain Dungen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Invoices
- b. Approval of Minutes of July 24, 2017 Regular Meeting

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, Hernandez, and Rankin; Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

All community members present spoke during the budget workshop.

5. Discussion of Budget Workshop.

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated the budget packets included updated information regarding a few changes to the budget since they had been sent to Council.

Revenues were discussed including property tax rate, and the assumptions for sales tax and franchise tax predictions. Comparisons were made between actual revenue and budgeted revenues, as well as revenues from budget to budget.

The Chamber of Commerce made a presentation to Council regarding the Tourism program budget. Executive Director, Billy Kahn, Board President, Kathleen Townzen, and Board Secretary, Kirk Lowe, highlighted the different aspects of the proposed budget increases and some of the programs the Chamber wants to undertake.

Council heard budget requests from Chief Dusty Dittmar and Richard LaCourse of the fire department. There was discussion regarding a maintenance plan for firefighter equipment and department vehicles.

Police Lieutenant, Skip Edman, presented the capital outlay request for the police department. There was discussion regarding the vehicle replacement program the department has been following, as well as the computer replacement program. City Manager, Donald Warschak, stated the City had applied for an LCRA grant of \$25,000 to help with the cost of one vehicle. Council also discussed the computer data loss and recovery the police department experienced earlier in the year.

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, presented the budget request for his department. He asked for fire safety training equipment and the addition of a part-time Fire Marshall. The role of the Fire Marshall was discussed, including the number of hours required for inspections.

The Mayor stated the library and parks department budget would be discussed at the next workshop, and Schneider said the property tax rate would have to be set at the Council meeting on Monday.

6. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilwoman Gobert – Complemented the contractor of the Visitors Center. She stated they had been doing a great job keeping the site clean.

Councilman Swindle - None

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – None

7. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

8. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain Dungen

ATTEST:



Bana Schneider, 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.

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.

