

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in special session on Thursday, September 21, 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 (arrived at 6:31 p.m.)
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Police Lieutenant	-	Skip Edman
Code Enforcement	-	Richard LaCourse

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 August 28, 2017 Regular Meeting
- c. Approval of Minutes of September 7, 2017 Special Meeting

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated there were no invoices included in the consent agenda.

Councilman Swindle arrived at 6:31 p.m.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the consent agenda of minutes only. 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

Brent Gorman, Jr. introduced himself to Council and gave a brief history of his education and experience in firefighting. Mayor Dungen stated Gorman was up for the appointment as Fire Marshal. He would not be able to attend the meeting the night of the vote, so he wanted to give Council the opportunity to ask any questions.

Cynthia Cowell of the SBA introduced herself and her associate, Elizabeth Vargas. She stated she would be the Public Information Officer for SBA in our area, and she will leave her card with the City Secretary.

5. Consideration and Action to Approve Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) Beginning in Front of the Elementary School and Ending at Walnut Street (Highway 90), and Closure of Walnut Street (Highway 90) to Memorial Stadium from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the Columbus High School Homecoming Parade on Monday, October 2, 2017.

Chief Lattimore stated the rolling closures used in previous years did not work very well, so the parade this year will have hard closures of the intersections.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the street closures for the Homecoming Parade. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

6. Discussion of Budget Workshop.

Schneider stated Council had received the final budget numbers.

7. Public Hearing on the Property Tax Rate for Tax Year 2017 and Fiscal Year 2018.

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:34 p.m.

He stated the tax rate will stay the same as last year, but it is considered an increase since there was an increase in property valuations.

The public hearing was closed at 6:35 p.m.

8. Public Hearing on Proposed 2017-2018 City of Columbus Operating Budget.

The budget public hearing was opened at 6:35 p.m.

There were no public comments.

The hearing was closed at 6:35:30 p.m.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance No. 194-17, an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 181-16 to Adopt a Budget for the Ensuing Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2017 and Ending September 30, 2018.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve ordinance 194-17 adopting the budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – None

Councilwoman Gobert – Commended the City on the great job they are doing picking up the storm debris. She stated on a recent trip to Houston she observed and smelled piles of storm debris.

Councilman Swindle - None

Councilman Hernandez – Asked that we keep the O’Leary family in our prayers after the passing of longtime City employee, Mabel O’Leary.

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – Read an email he had received from Eric Miller regarding the Hurricane.

11. Announcements.

Schneider stated at the meeting on Monday, the tax rate will be ratified. Gobert asked if this was the meeting for mandatory attendance. Schneider confirmed, and stated there will be a roll call vote.

12. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:37 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.

