

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in special session on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring St., Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

Mayor	-	Lori An Gobert (Absent)
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Chuck Rankin
Councilman	-	Keith Cummings
Councilman	-	Michael Ridlen (Absent)
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff Present:

Police Chief	-	Skip Edman
Library Director	-	Susan Chandler

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Rankin called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Rankin led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of Invoices

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilwoman Frnka seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka
Absent: Councilman Ridlen

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Carol Braden and Doreen Alexander from the Colorado County Fair Association requested a Hotel Occupancy Tax grant of \$100,000 for upgrades at the fairgrounds. Braden stated in the past the Association had received funding. Braden commented they have not received any funds since the City started awarding the funds to the Chamber. She asked why they qualified in 2012, but they do not now, even though they now purchase more hotel rooms during the fair.

Rankin stated they could not deliberate the inquiry, but he stated the Chamber administers the funds. If the association has a valid request they should take it to the Chamber.

5. Public Hearing on the Property Tax Rate for Tax Year 2020 and Fiscal Year 2021.

Rankin opened the public hearing at 5:39 p.m.

He stated the tax rate per \$100 valuation is decreasing from last year's rate. It will be going to 0.28392 from 0.2850

There were no other public comments.

The public hearing was closed at 5:40 p.m.

6. Discussion of Budget Workshop.

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated there were some minor changes from the last budget Council had received. She stated the changes were for some of the estimated expenditures based on current information.

Schneider also stated there is a possibility the street seal coating will not be done before October 1st. She said she had spoken to the auditors, and she will not be able to book a payable for the contract amount. Schneider said she had not changed the budget so an amendment might have to be made if the project is not completed before the end of the fiscal year. Rankin stated a budget amendment should not be an issue.

7. Public Hearing on the Proposed 2020-2021 City of Columbus Operating Budget.

Rankin opened the public hearing at 5:44 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Rankin closed the public hearing at 5:45 p.m.

8. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 235-20, an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 219-19 to Adopt a Budget for the Ensuing Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2020 and Ending September 30, 2021.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve Ordinance 235-20. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka
Absent: Councilman Ridlen

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve a 2019-2020 Budget Amendment for Library Memorials and Donations and Associated Expenditures.

Rankin stated a new donation came in today so the budget amendment has been updated from the one in the Council packet.

Councilwoman Frnka made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the library. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka
Absent: Councilman Ridlen

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve Library Expenditures for COVID-19 Mitigation.

Library Director, Susan Chandler, stated the items she is requesting include an automatic door opener, and permanent sneeze guards for the circulation desk and computer area. Lastly she stated she was hoping to also upgrade the book drop. Rankin asked if all of these items qualify for the

COVID funds. Schneider stated she believed they did. The City would have to justify how these items were used for COVID mitigation if we are audited.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve the expenditures. Councilman Cummings seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Swindle, and Rankin; Councilwoman Frnka
Absent: Councilman Ridlen

The motion passed.

11. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings – Stated the *Colorado County Citizen* misquoted him after the last meeting. He stated he agreed with the Barn Builders, but he was not in support of them.

Councilman Ridlen – Absent

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilwoman Frnka – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Gobert – Absent

12. Announcements.

Schneider stated the next meeting would be on Monday, September 28, 2020. It is very important for everyone to be there since we will be ratifying the tax rate.


13. Adjournment.

The Mayor Pro Tem adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m.



Mayor, Lori An Gobert

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 council members 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.