

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in special session on Monday, September 22, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring Street, Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

Mayor	-	Richard Heffley
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Councilman	-	Charles Richardson
Councilwoman	-	Sandra Frnka
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch (Arrives at 6:49pm)
Councilman	-	John Wagner
City Manager	-	David Meisell
City Secretary	-	Patti Glaeser

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Heffley called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Mayor Heffley led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Budget Workshop.

4. Consideration and Action to Set Glidden Fresh Water District's Sewer Rate.

A lengthy discussion occurred regarding the rate Glidden Fresh Water District will pay the City for the processing of their sewer.

Councilman Tesch arrived at 6:49pm.

Councilman Tesch moved to set the rate at \$7,000 per month for a 2-year contract. Councilman Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Wagner:	Aye
Councilman Tesch:	Aye
Councilman Schonenberg:	Against
Councilwoman Frnka:	Against
Councilman Richardson:	Aye

The motion passed with a 3-2 vote.

5. Consideration and Action Regarding Personnel Wages.

Mr. Meisell discussed the TMRS history of the City's benefit plan. He also discussed the Minimum Wage History and discussed its impact on wages.

Councilman Schonenberg moved to leave the wage scale as is. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Councilman Wagner:	Aye
Councilman Tesch:	Aye
Councilman Schonenberg:	Aye
Councilwoman Frnka:	Abstain
Councilman Richardson:	Aye

The motion passed with a 4-0-1 vote.

6. Consideration and Action Regarding the Hiring of a Police Officer.

Mayor Heffley reviewed the request of hiring an additional Police officer. He said that normally the request would come from the City Manager. This request came through a Council member. Mayor Heffley asked Councilman Richardson to review cases to see how many of the 500 unsolved cases have merit. Councilman Richardson said he reviewed 25 cases. Of those, seven might be able to continue; 3 cases could proceed. Many have become cold cases. Mayor Heffley asked Chief Jackson to categorize the cases as to date and type.

Councilman Schonenberg moved to not hire a police officer at this time. Councilman Wagner seconded to the motion. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Wagner:	Aye
Councilman Tesch:	Against
Councilman Schonenberg:	Aye
Councilwoman Frnka:	Aye
Councilman Richardson:	Aye

The motion passed with a 4-1 vote.

7. Consideration and Action Regarding an Ad Valorem Tax Rate.

Councilwoman Frnka moved to direct management to prepare the Budget with the tax rate of \$.27312 per \$100 property valuation. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Councilman Wagner:	Against
Councilman Tesch:	Aye
Councilman Schonenberg:	Aye
Councilwoman Frnka:	Aye
Councilman Richardson:	Aye

The motion passed with a 4-1 vote.

The \$.27312 is divided into a \$.19202 for Maintenance and Operations and \$.08110 for Debt Service.

8. Announcements.

Councilman Schonenberg said the Colorado County Groundwater District hired Jim Brasher as the director. They will lease office space in the Opera House.

Mayor Heffley asked about the progress of the Railroad.

9. Adjournment.

Mayor Heffley declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Mayor, Richard Heffley

ATTEST:

Patti Glaeser, 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.