

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in special session on Tuesday, August 17, 2010 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring St., Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

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|------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Mayor | - | Dwain Dungen |
| Mayor Pro Tem | - | Curtiss Schonenberg |
| Councilman | - | Charles Richardson (Absent) |
| Councilman | - | John Axel |
| Councilman | - | Bruce Tesch |
| Councilman | - | Chuck Rankin |
| City Manager | - | Donald Warschak |
| City Secretary | - | Cathy Ezell |
| Assist. City Secretary | - | Linda Lakich |

Other City Staff present included:

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------|
| Police Chief | - | Danny Jackson |
| Utilities Superintendent | - | Wayne Karstadt |

1. **Call to Order.**

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.**

3. **Citizen's Presentations and Comments.**¹

There were no citizen's comments.

6. **Discussion of Budget Workshop**

City Manager Donald Warschak stated that there were several things that needed to be addressed including the tax rate and General Fund expenditures.

City Secretary Cathy Ezell went over the options for property tax. She stated that no change could be made to the Maintenance and Operation (M&O) portion of the tax rate unless the decision was made to go over the roll back rate. She also stated that the only changes could be made in the portion of the Utility Fund debt that was to be paid by the property tax rate. This would mean that the portion of the Utility Fund debt service being paid by the revenues generated by that fund would be reduced and would allow for savings in the Utility Fund. She stated that if Council decided to take this option that the roll back rate would increase and the rollback rate would not be exceeded.

Councilman Rankin stated that he did not want to raise taxes and that our tax base increased this year allowing for an increase in the amount being used for M&O. He also stated that he was inclined to try to hold the tax rate at the currently proposed rate and look for potential expenditure cuts to balance the budget.

The rest of the Council members agreed that tax rate should not be adjusted to increase the amount of debt service for the Utility Fund being funded by ad valorem taxes. Staff was given the go ahead to publish the effective rate as presented.

Cathy Ezell then stated that she had also done an analysis of permit fees comparing the City of Columbus's rates with other cities of comparable size and other cities in the area. She stated that it is difficult to compare the permit fees for mechanical, electrical, and plumbing permits because some entities charge a lump sum permit fee while others charge for each fixture. She stated that she was able to do a comparison of building permit fees for different valuations. She stated that the City of Columbus was comparable to the other cities rates as the valuations increase however on the lower valuation permits the City of Columbus was slightly lower. She stated this was just a starting point and could be looked at in further detail in the future.

Cathy Ezell then went through the General Fund expenditure budget going over the proposed budget cuts. The total cuts presented were \$96,300 in operating expenditures and \$153,580 in capital expenditures. Council marked some accounts to re-visit including Fire building maintenance (8260) \$8,000, Code Enforcement Demolition of Abandon Property (8366) \$20,000, and Public Works Vehicles (8480) \$30,000. In Fire the \$8,000 maybe able to be reduced and in Code Enforcement some of the \$20,000 that was totally removed from the budget may be put back into the budget. The replacement of the bucket truck that was removed maybe discussed further.

Mayor Dungen and Councilman Rankin both inquired about the funds received from CCIDC for the Administrative Assistant Position that is vacant. Assistant City Secretary Linda Lakich stated that the funds are reimbursed to the HOT Fund. She also stated that the position is funded by the HOT Fund and the Sewer Fund. She stated that Council has not reviewed the HOT Fund and it will be reviewed at another workshop.

Mayor Dungen stated that a Budget Workshop needs to be scheduled for next week. Council agreed to schedule the Budget Workshop on Tuesday, August 24, 2010.

7. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Richardson – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

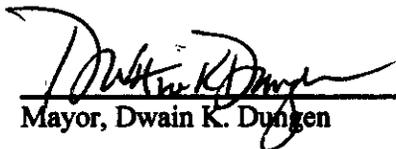
Mayor Dungen – no comment.

18. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

19. Adjournment.

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:



Cathy Ezell, 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.