

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, August 25, 2011 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
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Councilman	-	Steve Woodall (Absent)
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch (Absent)
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Utilities Director	-	Jody Ripper
Police Chief	-	Danny Jackson
Public Works Director	-	Michael Poncik
Fire Chief	-	Walter Glaeser
Assist. City Secretary	-	Kayla Duncan
City Attorney	-	Pat Gillespie

1. Call to Order.

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Mayor Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of invoices.
- b. Approval of minutes of August 3, 2011 Special Meeting.
- c. Approval of minutes of August 11, 2011 Regular Meeting.
- d. Approval of minutes of August 15, 2011 Special Meeting.
- e. Approval of July 2011 Financial Statements.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin
Absent: Councilman Woodall and Tesch

The motion passed.

4. Consideration and action on approval of B & D Graphics Invoices.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the B & D Graphics Invoices. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin
Absent: Councilman Woodall and Tesch

The motion passed.

5. Citizen's presentations and comments.¹

The citizen who signed in to speak wanted to speak on Item 12 of the agenda.

6. **City Manager's Report including Water Main Leaks, Water Usage, Texas Crossroads Business Park Water Tower, Cardinal Hill Water Plant Well, School Zone Signs, 2011 Street Improvements, SECO Project, and Budget Workshop.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report which is attached to these minutes. He told Council that he and Jody Ripper had recently gauged the water levels at the wells and that the levels were still above the screens. He said that they were now asking citizens to voluntarily conserve on their water usage.

7. **Consideration and Action to Approve Closure of Milam Street beginning in front of the Elementary School ending at Highway 90 and Closure of Highway 90 to Veteran's Memorial Center from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm for the Colorado County Fair Parade on Saturday, September 10, 2011.**

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve the closure of Milam Street beginning in front of the Elementary School ending at Highway 90 and Closure of Highway 90 to Veteran's Memorial Center from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm for the Colorado County Fair Parade on Saturday, September 10, 2011. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin
Absent: Councilman Woodall and Tesch

The motion passed.

8. **Executive Session: In accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 consultation with attorney – Nuisance Abatement.**

Mayor Dungen adjourned the regular session to enter into executive session at 6:45 p.m.

9. **Reconvene into Regular Session and consideration and action, if any, regarding Executive Session: Nuisance Abatement.**

Mayor Dungen reconvened the regular session at 6:57 p.m. with the same members present. He explained that the City Attorney had updated Council on recent legal cases relating to nuisance abatement. No action was necessary.

10. **Consideration and Action on a Tax Increase for Tax Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012 with the rate not to exceed \$0.27312 per \$100 value.**

Mayor Dungen explained that the tax rate of \$0.27312 per \$100 value is the same as last year but that additional tax dollars collected will increase because property values have increased.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve a tax increase for Tax Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012 with the rate not to exceed \$0.27312 per \$100 value. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin
Absent: Councilman Woodall and Tesch

The motion passed.

11. **Consideration and Action to Schedule Two Public Hearings on the Tax Rate.**

Councilman Axel made a motion to schedule the first Public Hearing on the Tax Rate on September 8, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. and the second Public Hearing on the Tax Rate on September 12, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin
Absent: Councilman Woodall and Tesch

The motion passed.

12. Consideration and Action to approve a Manufactured Home Permit for 1130 Dewees St.

Donald Warschak told Council that the manufactured home met all of the requirements of the City and that the owner was present to answer any questions that they might have.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve a manufactured home permit for 1130 Dewees St. as presented. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin
Absent: Councilman Woodall and Tesch

The motion passed.

13. Consideration and Action, if necessary, on the July Police Report.

Police Chief, Danny Jackson, presented his July Police Report, a copy of which is attached.

No action was taken.

14. Discussion of Budget Workshop.

Finance Director, Linda Lakich, reviewed the Budget Fund Summary along with the Utility rate increases included and the increases to Administrative chargebacks and to Utility Gross Receipts. The Fire Department Pension contribution has been increased to \$66/fireman/month. She also said that the proposed budget had been changed to include provisions for changes to the Golf Course Lease. Mayor Dungen explained that the current plan is to have someone lease the Course and operate the club house and for the City to assume the maintenance of the Golf Course. Two employees would be added to the city's payroll and rental would be charged to cover the expenses. Mayor Dungen explained that this is still in the initial stages of planning and that this does not need to be a long term solution. The adoption of the Budget will be at the September 12th meeting after the Public Hearing on the budget.

15. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Woodall – absent.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – announced that he would be selling his business and that the next day would be his last as owner of Curtiss Automotive.

Councilman Tesch – absent.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

16. Announcements.

Mayor Dungen announced that the Colorado County Fair would be starting on September 7th.

Mayor Dungen moved back to Item 11 on the Agenda.

11. Consideration and Action to Schedule Two Public Hearings on the Tax Rate.

Because of the conflict with the opening of the Colorado County Fair, Councilman Axel moved to amend his motion to set the time of the Public Hearing on September 8, 2011 to start at 7:00 p.m. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

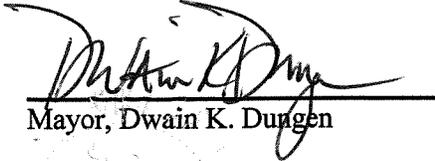
The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin
Absent: Councilman Woodall and Tesch

The motion passed.

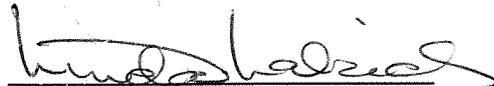
17. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:



Linda Lakich, 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.