

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Thursday, August 23, 2012 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
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Fire Chief	-	Walter Glaeser
Code Enforcement Off.	-	Ford Stein
Utilities Supervisor	-	Jody Ripper
Acting Police Chief	-	Tomas Ramirez
Public Works Sup.	-	Michael Poncik

**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 9, 2012 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of July 2012 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 Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Tesch, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.<sup>1</sup>**

Stacey Henson, the Regional Manager for International Student Exchange, introduced three of the foreign exchange students who will be attending Columbus High School this year. She presented information about the program and said that the students are interested in becoming involved with the community.

**5. City Manager's Report including Cardinal Hill Water Plant Well, 2012 Water System Improvements, and HOME Grant Project.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

**6. Public Hearing on the Property Tax Rate for Tax Year 2012 and Fiscal Year 2013.**

Mayor Dungen opened the Public Hearing at 6:44 p.m. He explained that the proposed tax rate is \$0.27312 with \$0.23626 going to Maintenance and Operations and \$0.03686 to Debt Service. He asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

City Secretary, Linda Lakich, announced that the date for the tax rate adoption would be September 13, 2012 at the Regular Council Meeting.

Mayor Dungen closed the Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m.

**7. Consideration and Action to Approve Closure of Milam Street Beginning in Front of the Elementary School and Ending at Walnut Street, and Closure of Walnut Street to Veteran's Memorial Center from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for the Colorado County Fair Parade on Saturday, September 8, 2012.**

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve the closure for the Colorado County Fair Parade as presented. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**8. Consideration and Action to Appoint One Member to the Board of Adjustments for a Term Ending May 31, 2014.**

Mayor Dungen explained that a member of the Board of Adjustments had resigned and that he would like to have the position filled by Robert C. Waddle.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to appoint Robert C. Waddle to the Board of Adjustments for a term ending May 31, 2014. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**9. Consideration and Action to Approve Authorization to Advertise for Bids for 2012 Water System Improvements.**

Donald Warschak explained that the engineer is wrapping up the design work on the project and that he would like to have authorization from Council to advertise for bids on it. He also told Council that the total on the project was estimated to be \$460,000 which is within budget.

Councilman Woodall made a motion approve authorization to advertise for bids for the 2012 Water System Improvements. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**10. Consideration and Action to Approve the Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corporation 2012-2013 Budget.**

Councilman Schonenberg reported that the CCIDC Board passed its budget with expenditures of \$390,000 at its meeting on Monday, August 20, 2012.

Councilman Tesch made a motion to accept and approve the Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corporation 2012-2013 budget as presented. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**11. Consideration and Action to Approve and Ratify the Agreement with Colorado County Central Appraisal District for Assessment and Collection Services for the Year 2013.**

Linda Lakich told Council that there were no changes since last year in the agreement and that the agreement has a provision for yearly approval by Council.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve and ratify the agreement with Colorado County Central Appraisal District for assessment and collection services for the year 2013. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**12. Consideration and Action to Approve Amended Contract with the Texas Department of Public Safety for the Failure to Appear Program.**

Linda Lakich explained to Council that the contract is for the state's Failure to Appear collection system as administered by OmniBase. Currently the Court Clerk has five days to report any cleared accounts. The amended contract as requested by DPS will change that period to "reporting immediately". She said that the Municipal Court Judge and the City Attorney had reviewed the amended contract.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the amended contract with the Texas Department of Public Safety for the Failure to Appear Program. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**13. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 136-12 to Remove the City's Statutory Maximum Rate of Contribution for Texas Municipal Retirement System Service Contributions.**

Linda Lakich explained that in order for the City to contribute at the rate actuarially determined by the Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS), the City will need to remove the statutory rate limit originally set by the Texas Legislature. She said that this would allow the City to pay at the rate necessary to fund the plan benefits which the Council has adopted in the past and that many cities have acted to remove the statutory maximum.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve Ordinance 136-12 to remove the City's statutory maximum rate of contribution for Texas Municipal Retirement System service contributions. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**14. Consideration and Action to Approve a Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$4,797 for Library Donations and Memorials.**

Mayor Dungen said that this item would amend the budget for the expenditure of donations and memorials made to the library during the current budget year.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$4,797 for Library donations and memorials. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**15. Consideration and Action to Authorize the Advertisement for 2013 Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds Grant Program.**

Linda Lakich proposed to Council that the Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds Grants would be advertised in the September 12<sup>th</sup> and September 19<sup>th</sup> newspapers with a deadline for submittal of applications of October 5<sup>th</sup>. After review by the City Attorney they should be available for Council's approval on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to authorize the advertisement for 2013 Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds Grant Program. Councilman Tesch seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**16. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the July 2012 Police Report.**

Acting Police Chief, Tomas Ramirez, presented his July 2012 Police Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. In addition he announced that Sergeant Wendy Alley had received the Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award from the County Attorney's office. He also said that the Police Department would be conducting a child fingerprinting event at Wal-Mart on the following weekend.

No action was necessary.

**17. Discussion of Budget Workshop.**

The City Secretary explained that the Council had the proposed budget with the changes that were discussed at the last workshop included. Council expressed their wish to approve the budget as presented. The public hearing on the budget and approval of the budget were scheduled for September 4<sup>th</sup>'s meeting.

**18. Items from Councilmembers.<sup>2</sup>**

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

Mayor Dungen – no comment.

**19. Announcements.<sup>2</sup>**

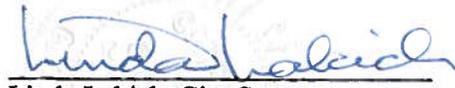
There were no announcements.

**20. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

  
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Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Lakich, City Secretary

<sup>1</sup>During 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.

<sup>2</sup>Limited 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.

