

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Thursday, September 12, 2013 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	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Code Enforcement Off.	-	Ford Stein

**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 22, 2013 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of Minutes of September 3, 2013 Special Meeting.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

Citizens' presentations and comments were addressed in Item 6 of the agenda.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Cardinal Hill Water Tower, 2012 Water System Improvements, and 2013 Street Improvements.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. In addition he reported that H&C Construction was seal coating this week rather than next and would finish by Monday.

**6. Consideration and Action to Designate Jackson Street from Milam to Bowie Streets as a One-Way Street and to Create a No-Parking Zone on the East Side of Bowie Street from Washington to Houston Streets as Requested by Columbus Elementary School.**

Patrick Parsons, the Columbus Elementary School Principal, told Council about his concerns relating to traffic at the school. He asked that Council consider making Jackson Street in front of the school a one-way street during school drop off and pick up hours to help relieve congestion. He also asked that they consider letting them close the gates on Bowie during those hours. Councilman Schonenberg said that

he thought traffic would back up on Jackson if that was done because drivers would have trouble pulling out onto Milam Street. It was decided to have the Police Chief look at alternatives which might relieve the traffic and bring back suggestions to Council.

No action was taken.

**7. Consideration and Action to Ratify Budgeted Property Tax Increase Reflected in the 2013-2014 Budget.**

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to ratify the budgeted property tax increase reflected in the 2013-2014 budget. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**8. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance No. 158-13 to Establish the Property Tax Rate of \$0.27312**

The City Secretary, Linda Lakich, explained that the tax rate as stated in the ordinance would be \$0.23693 for Maintenance and Operations and \$0.03619 for Interest and Sinking.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.27312, which is effectively a 1.42 percent increase in the tax rate. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Councilman Woodall: Absent  
Councilman Axel: Aye  
Councilman Schonenberg: Aye  
Councilman Hernandez: Aye  
Councilman Rankin: Aye

The motion passed.

**9. Consideration Action to Approve Ordinance No. 159-13 to Establish Water Utility Rates.**

The City Secretary told Council that this ordinance would increase the Water base rate by \$1 from \$15 to \$16.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve Ordinance 159-13 as presented to establish Water Utility rates. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**10. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance No. 160-13 to Establish Sewer Utility Rates.**

The City Secretary told Council that this ordinance would increase the Sewer base rate by \$2 from \$13 to \$15.

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve Ordinance 160-13 as presented to establish Sewer Utility Rates. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**11. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance No. 161-13 to Establish Gas Utility Rates.**

The City Secretary told Council that this ordinance would increase the Gas base rate by \$1 from \$10 to \$11.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve Ordinance 161-13 as presented to establish Gas Utility rates. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**12. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance No. 162-13 to Establish Garbage Rates.**

The City Secretary explained that the ordinance would reflect the scheduled increases per the City's contract with Texas Disposal Systems.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve Ordinance 162-13 as presented to establish Garbage rates. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**13. Consideration and Action to Authorize the Mayor to Enter the City of Columbus into a Contract for Public Services with Family Crisis Center, Inc.**

Mayor Dungen told Council that this is an annual contribution that is made to help fund Family Crisis Center, Inc. The contribution for 2014 will be \$1,500 which is a \$500 increase over last year.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to authorize the Mayor to enter the City of Columbus into a contract for public services with Family Crisis Center, Inc. as presented. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**14. Consideration and Action to Authorize the Mayor to Enter the City of Columbus into a Contract for Public Services with Combined Community Action, Inc.**

The Mayor explained that this is also an annual contract and that the 2014 contribution would be \$1,500.

Councilman Axel made a motion to authorize the Mayor to enter the City of Columbus into a contract for public services with Combined Community Action, Inc. as presented. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**15. Consideration and Action to Approve Amendment to Personnel Policies and Procedures, Section 8.01, Medical and Dental Benefits.**

The City Secretary explained that this amendment would update the City's Personnel Policies and Procedures in the area of medical and dental benefits so that it would conform to current requirements.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the amendment to the City's Personnel Policies and Procedures, Section 8.01, Medical and Dental Benefits as presented. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**16. Consideration and Action to Approve Closure of Milam Street Beginning in Front of the Elementary School Ending at Walnut Street and Closure of Walnut Street to the Columbus Cardinal Football Stadium from 5:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 9, 2013 for the Columbus High School Homecoming Parade.**

Councilman Axel made a motion to approve the street closure for the Columbus High School Homecoming Parade as presented. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**17. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 129-13, a Resolution Designating a Representative and Alternate to the Houston-Galveston Area Council General Assembly for 2014.**

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution 129-13 appointing Dwain Dungen as representative and Curtiss Schonenberg as alternate to the Houston-Galveston Area Council General Assembly for 2014. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**18. Consideration and Action to Approve a 2012-2013 Budget Amendment for Library Donations and Memorials Revenue and for Audio Visual and Supplies Expenditures.**

It was explained that the Library has received \$2,830 in Donations and Memorials and that they would like to allocate those funds to Audio Visual and Supplies expenditures.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the 2012-2013 Budget Amendment for Library Donations and Memorials as presented. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**19. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Colorado County Central Appraisal District 2014 Operating Budget.**

Mayor Dungen said that he had spoken with the County Judge about the Central Appraisal District (CAD) Budget. He said that the County was against the raises included for CAD employees because the County employees will not be receiving raises this year. It was explained that if the majority of the governing boards served by the CAD adopt resolutions disapproving the budget, that the CAD would have to adopt a new budget.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the 2014 Colorado County Central Appraisal District Operating Budget. Councilman Axel seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin  
Abstain: Councilman Hernandez  
Absent: Councilman Woodall

The motion passed.

**20. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the August 2013 Code Enforcement Report.**

Code Enforcement Officer, Ford Stein, presented his August 2013 Code Enforcement Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

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

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Hernandez – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – said the Planning and Zoning Review Committee would be meeting in the next week and invited comments from Council.

**22. Announcements.**

There were no announcements.

**23. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Curtis Shankus Mayor Pro Temp

Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:

Linda Lakich

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.