

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in special session on Thursday, August 6, 2015 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	-	Woody Moore
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert (absent)
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez (absent)
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Assistant City Secretary	-	Traci Edman
Utilities Superintendent	-	Jody Ripper
Library Director	-	Susan Chandler
Police Lieutenant	-	Skip Edman

1. Call to Order.

Mayor 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 July 23, 2015 Regular 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 Moore, Schonenberg, and Rankin
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert and Councilman Hernandez

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

No citizen comments.

5. Consideration and Action Regarding Use of City Swimming Pool by High School Swim Team.

Karin Magera asked for use of the swimming pool for the high school swim team through October. The high school swim team used the pool last year and helped with the maintenance and cleaning of the pool.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to keep the swimming pool open for the high school swim team, potentially through October. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Moore, Schonenberg, and Rankin
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert and Councilman Hernandez

The motion passed.

6. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 149-15 Authorizing Designated Signators for the City's Depository and Other Financial Institutions.

City Secretary, Linda Lakich, will be leaving her position, so another signator for the city's depositories will be needed. Mayor Dungen will temporarily be added as the third signator.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Resolution 149-15, authorizing Mayor Dungen as the third signator for the City's depository and other financial institutions. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Moore, Schonenberg, and Rankin
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert and Councilman Hernandez

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action to Declare Survivair/Sperian Self Contained Breathing Equipment as Surplus Property.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, stated that the new air packs were in, so the old air packs need to be declared as surplus property. There is a neighboring fire department that is interested in purchasing some of them. The air packs are City property, so the proceeds will go to the City. Five of the air packs will go to the City's sewer and water plants.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to declare the Survivair/Sperian Self Contained Breathing Equipment as surplus property. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Moore, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

8. Discussion of Budget Workshop.

Linda Lakich stated that the tax rate will need to be set at the next council meeting on August 13, 2015. The current tax rate is .27312. The tax rate will not need to be adopted until September, but there has to be public hearings and a notice published in the newspaper before it can be adopted. The wish list was updated and discussed. Instead of using the maintenance contract for the tanks and water wells, the money will be put into the budget for the City to do the work. Chuck Rankin asked for a 5 year plan for the tank and well projects. Utility rates were discussed and it was suggested to raise the minimum water and sewer rates to \$18 each and match the higher tiers of water to the current sewer tiers, and to increase the minimum on gas to \$12. The police department computers will be at the original request and the two Tahoes are in the budget.

Chuck Rankin asked for Donald to ask the heads of each department to prioritize their wish list and again asked for the fire department plan.

9. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Moore – asked if the cable and telephone companies doing business in Columbus needed a permit. No permit is needed. The franchise is through the state.

Councilwoman Gobert – absent

Councilman Schonenberg – stated that he appreciated Linda and her excellence in accounting that she brought to the City.

Councilman Hernandez – absent

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

Mayor Dungen – also commented that Linda has done a great job for the City.

10. Announcements.

Mayor Dungen commented on the letters that went out to customers concerning the water. He assured everyone that the water was fine and no one was in danger. The letter was required to let everyone know about it. Council is putting more money into the budget to upgrade the infrastructure.

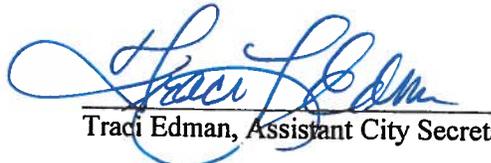
11. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:



Traci Edman, Assistant 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.