

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Thursday, August 13, 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 (arrived at 6:40 pm)
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak

Other City Staff present included:

Assistant City Secretary	-	Traci Edman
Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Utilities Superintendent	-	Jody Ripper

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 August 6, 2015 Special Meeting.

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

Mayor Dwain Dungen moved to item 5, the City Manager's report.

5. **City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Meter Programing and Water System Flushing.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated that the sales tax was up from last year. Weimar and Eagle Lake also saw increases, while the county saw a decrease in their sales tax revenue. The City started flushing the lines on August 10 and will continue flushing for two weeks. The flushing is part of system maintenance that goes along with a phosphate program. The newer phosphates that are being used increases the speed of the breaking up of the build-up on the pipe walls. Flushing is done quarterly, and the next flushing will be sometime in November. Concerning the water quality, four locations are sampled once a month and sent to the lab for testing. One location came back with Coliform. TCEQ was notified and three more samples were sent in. Two of those samples came back positive. TCEQ required notices to customers be

sent out to inform them of the results. Recently, five samples were sent to the lab for testing and the tests came back negative. Additional testing will be done over the next few months to monitor the water. He also discussed the ice pigging process. Flushing is a method to clean the water main to break away debris that has settled on the water lines. Ice pigging is used when the flushing is not enough to clean the lines. Additional money has been budgeted for the next fiscal year for this process. After the flushing in November, the ice pigging process will be used to clean the lines. The Autoread Meter contractor will be installing the remaining meters after the current flushing is complete.

Councilwoman Gobert arrived at 6:40.

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

Dale Alexander brought information to the meeting concerning electricity bills. He wanted citizens to be informed that the electric companies are charging customers for electricity than they are not using.

Sandra Barrett and Andrea Uttz, business owners on Spring Street across from the apartment building, and Brianna Lester, from The Citizen, all stated that boats were being parked on the street. Their customers do not have enough parking spaces during business hours. Chief Lattimore, City Manager Donald Warschak, and the city attorney are looking at options and will come back with some recommendations to address this issue. Councilman Rankin stated that he also contacted the City Manager about the same issue, including the trash cans and recycling cans in the streets.

**6. Consideration and Action on a Tax Increase for Tax year 2015 and Fiscal Year 2016 with the Rate not to Exceed \$0.27312 per \$100 value.**

Mayor Dungen stated that this is not a tax rate increase from the current rate. Due to an overall increase of the taxable values of the City at the same rate, there are additional revenues coming in and it has to be defined as a tax increase.

Councilman Rankin made a motion on the tax increase for tax year 2015 and fiscal year 2016 with the rate not to exceed \$0.27312 per \$100 value. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

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

The two public hearings on the tax rate are scheduled for a regular meeting on August 27, 2015 at 6:30 pm and a special meeting on September 3, 2015 at 6:30 pm

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to schedule the two public hearings on the tax rate for August 27, 2015 and September 3, 2015. Councilwoman Gobert seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**8. Consideration and Action to Approve and Ratify an Agreement with Colorado County Central Appraisal District for Assessment and Collection Services for the Year 2016.**

This is an annual agreement from the Colorado County Central Appraisal District.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve and ratify the agreement with Colorado County Central Appraisal District for Assessment and Collection Services for the year 2016. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the July 2015 Code Enforcement Report.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented a copy of the July 2015 Code Enforcement Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

**10. Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.074-Personnel Matters.**

The Mayor closed the regular session to enter into executive session at 6:56 p.m.

**11. Reconvene into Regular Session and Consideration and Action, if Any, Regarding Executive Session-Personnel Matters.**

The Mayor reopened the regular session at 7:28 p.m. with all members present who were present before. The annual review of the City Manager, Donald Warschak, was completed and the council is very pleased with the job he is doing.

No action was necessary.

**12. Discussion of Budget Workshop – General, Utility, and Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds.**

Donald Warschak reported on future projects, including a 5 year plan on the water tank program, smoke testing, ice pigging, gas system improvements, storage tank improvements and water wells. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes. Councilman Rankin requested a map of the city with the old and new pipes for water, sewer and gas. The budget wish list was discussed and everyone will receive what they requested. The water rate increase discussed in the last budget workshop is now included in the budget.

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

Councilman Moore – complimented Police Chief Lattimore and his department

Councilwoman Gobert – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Hernandez – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – asked that items left on the streets be addressed on a future agenda.

Mayor Dungen – no comment.

**14. Announcements.**

No announcements.

**15. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

  
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Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:

  
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Bana Schneider, 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.