

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Thursday, September 10, 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
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Utilities Superintendent	-	Jody Ripper
Code Enforcement	-	Ford Steln

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 September 3, 2015 Special Meeting.

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

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.

There were no comments.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax and 2015 Street Improvements.

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He stated the September sales tax report had been issued, and it covered the period of July 2015. He indicated that the collection total was up \$15,000 from the same period last year. The City received \$106,977. He stated the County, Eagle Lake and Weimer also saw an increase of their sales tax over last year.

Warschak discussed the upcoming seal coating project. He indicated the street crews had been prepping the areas and patching the streets in anticipation of the seal coating that will take place the last three days of the month by H & C Construction.

6. Consideration and Action to Ratify Budgeted Property Tax Increase Reflected in the 2015-2016 Budget.

Mayor Dungen asked if this was the item that must be polled for the record. The City Secretary indicated this was to ratify the property tax increase and the poll needed to be done to approve the ordinance.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to ratify the budgeted property tax increase reflected in the 2015-2016 budget. Councilwoman Gobert seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance No. 172-15 to Establish the Property Tax Rate of \$0.27312.

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 3.34 percent increase in the tax rate. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Councilman Rankin	-	Aye
Councilman Hernandez	-	Aye
Councilman Schonenberg	-	Aye
Councilwoman Gobert	-	Aye
Councilman Moore	-	Aye

The motion passed.

8. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance No. 174-15 to Establish Water Utility Rates.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 174-15 to approve water utility rates. Councilwoman Gobert seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilwoman Gobert, Councilmen Moore, Schonenberg, Hernandez and Rankin.

The motion passed.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance No. 175-15 to Establish Sewer Utility Rates.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 175-15 to establish sewer utility rates. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance No. 176-15 to Establish Gas Utility Rates.

Councilman Rankin asked about the highlighted portion of the Ordinance and the City Secretary indicated that this was a correction from the information sent to council members earlier in the week.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve Ordinance No.176-15 to establish gas utility rates. Councilwoman Gobert seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

11. 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 indicated this was an annual agreement the City makes with the Family Crisis Center for services. The budgeted amount is \$1800.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with Family Crisis Center, Inc. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

12. 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 stated these services would be \$1500, which is also in the budget.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with Combined Community Action, Inc. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

13. Consideration and Action to Award Bid for Bank Depository.

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, indicated that only two bids had been received. She stated that Columbus State Bank's President did reach out to the City Manager and they were unable to present a bid at this time. Schneider indicated that Industry State Bank's bid showed the higher rate of the two bidders and that they are the City's current depository.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to award the Bank Depository to Industry State Bank. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

14. Consideration and Action to Approve Partial Closure of Crossroads Blvd. from 10 a.m. Friday, September 25, 2015 through Saturday, September 26, 2015 for the Colorado County Fair.

Councilman Schonenberg asked Chief Lattimore about the workings of this closing and if it was effective. Chief responded that it worked quite well.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the partial closure of Crossroads Blvd as presented. Councilwoman Gobert seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

15. 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 26, 2015.

Councilwoman Gobert made a motion to approve the proposed closure of streets as presented. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

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, September 30, 2015 for the Columbus High School Homecoming Parade.

Chief Lattimore indicated that the police department would again try for the rolling closures of intersections. He stated that if the parade starts late it may be too dark to utilize this plan.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the proposed street closures as presented. Councilwoman Gobert seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

17. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the August 2015 Code Enforcement Report.

Code Enforcement Officer, Ford Stein, discussed the code enforcement report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. There were a total of three building permits for the month. One on Oak Cluster which is for Councilman Schonenberg's remodel, with the others being on Washington Street and King Drive.

No action was necessary.

18. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Moore – None initially, but he did comment on the Chief's letter as well. He indicated that a citizen in reference to the letter said this is real leadership.

Councilwoman Gobert – Wanted continued progress on Planning and Zoning regarding signage. It seems to have stalled. The Mayor commented that with the budget work, it had been put on the "back burner". Also, she asked the City Manager for a more in-depth manager's report with a quarterly calendar of the bigger projects. The Mayor agreed with this suggestion.

Councilman Schonenberg – Thanked Chief Lattimore for the letter he had written to his officers which ended up as in the newspaper. With all that is happening in the police community around the country, he let Chief know that Council "had his back".

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – Agreed with Councilman Schonenberg about the letter from the Chief being so powerful.

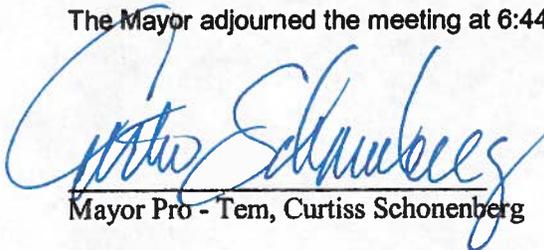
Mayor Dungen – None.

19. Announcements.

The City Manager reminded Council about the special meeting set for September 17th when the Gas Line Project would be awarded.

20. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.



Mayor Pro - Tem, Curtiss Schonenberg

ATTEST:



Bana Schneider, 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.