

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in special session on Thursday, September 15, 2016 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	-	Lori An Gobert (Absent)
Councilman	-	Keith Cummings
Councilman	-	Gary Swindle
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Bana Schneider

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Dwain Dungen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Invoices.

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Hernandez, Swindle, and Rankin
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.'

There were no comments.

5. Consideration and Action to Accept the Resignation of Barbara Peterman from the CCIDC Board.

Mayor Dungen thanked Mrs. Peterman for her time serving on the CCIDC Board. He stated she was a great asset to the City, and will remain very involved promoting Columbus.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to accept the resignation of Barbara Peterman from the CCIDC Board. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Hernandez, Swindle, and Rankin
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

6. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of Bruce Tesch to the CCIDC Board for a term ending May 2018.

Councilman Cummings questioned if Mr. Tesch could possibly have an advantage, as far as bidding for jobs, while sitting on the CCIDC Board. The Mayor assured Councilman Cummings all contractors must sign a conflict of interest statement. Councilman Rankin added projects go through a sealed bid process. Dungen continued by explaining the full processing for bidding and awarding projects.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve the appointment of Bruce Tesch to the CCIDC Board. Councilman Swindle seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Rankin, Hernandez, Cummings, and Swindle
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

7. Discussion of Budget Workshop.

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated the possible grant repayment had not been included in the final budget summary during prior budget workshops. After the corrections had been made, Schneider had Linda Lakich review the budget document. She stated Lakich had found a couple of minor items that needed correction, but overall the budget appeared sound. All of Lakich's suggestions had been incorporated.

There was discussion regarding the operating shortfall. Warschak gave a breakdown of the makeup of the overages. The departmental wish list items, as well as the return on investment of the new meter system, were discussed. Comparison of prior year utility expenditures and revenues were reviewed. Utility rates and sales tax revenues were also discussed.

8. Public Hearing on the Property Tax Rate for Tax Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017.

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Dungen stated the proposed tax rate of 0.28 per \$100 valuation. There were no other comments.

The public hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m.

9. Public Hearing on Proposed 2016-2017 City of Columbus Operating Budget.

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

There were no comments.

The public hearing was closed at 7:15:30 p.m.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance No. 181-16, an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 173-15 to Adopt a Budget for the Ensuing Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2016 and Ending September 30, 2017.

Councilman Swindle made a motion to approve Ordinance 181-16. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilmen Cummings, Hernandez, Swindle, and Rankin
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

11. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Cummings - None

Councilwoman Gobert – Absent

Councilman Swindle – None

Councilman Hernandez – None

Councilman Rankin – None

Mayor Dungen – None

12. Announcements.

The Mayor reminded Council of next week's meeting in which the tax rate will be adopted. At least 4 members of Council must be present.

13. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:17 pm.



~~Mayor, Dwain Dungen~~ Mayor Pro Tem, Lori An Gobert

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.

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.

