

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in special session on Tuesday, August 31, 2010 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	-	Charles Richardson
Councilman	-	John Axel
Councilman	-	Bruce Tesch (Absent)
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Cathy Ezell

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Danny Jackson
Utilities Superintendent	-	Wayne Karstadt
Public Works Supervisor	-	Michael Poncik
Fire Chief	-	Walter Glaeser
Assistant Fire Chief	-	Dusty Dittamar
Assistant Fire Chief	-	Dwight Mazac

**1. Call to Order.**

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

**2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.**

Mayor Dungen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

**3. Citizen's Presentations and Comments.<sup>1</sup>**

There were no citizen's presentations or comments.

**4. Consideration and Action to Approve the 2010-2011 Budget for the Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corporation.**

Lori An Gobert presented the Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corporation (CCIDC) budget.

Councilman Rankin stated that he would like to have in writing what CCIDC plans to do. Ms. Gobert stated that the plans are in the meeting minutes for CCIDC and asked if that would be sufficient. Councilman Rankin stated yes that would be sufficient.

Councilman Rankin asked if it had been worked through as to who is going to provide staff support from the City. Cathy Ezell stated that until it is determined if the position is going to be filled that she would be providing support along with Donald Warschak. Ms. Gobert stated that the City Manager and City Secretary have been able to help and there have been no issues with staff support.

Councilman Schonenberg stated that since the City increased its Sales Tax revenue projection shouldn't CCIDC do the same and change the estimate of \$310,000 to \$340,000. Ms. Gobert suggested increasing Economic Development Assistance from \$10,000 to \$20,000 and Grants-Economic Development from \$28,000 to \$48,000. Councilman Rankin asked if Grants-Community Development should be increased as well. Ms. Gobert stated that Grants-Community Development could be increased from \$6,550 to \$16,550 and Grants-Economic Development increase from \$28,000 to \$38,000. Council agreed to the changes as follows:

Sales Tax increase from \$310,000 to \$340,000  
Economic Development Assistance increase from \$10,000 to \$20,000  
Grants-Community Development increase from \$6,550 to \$16,550  
Grants-Economic Development increase from \$28,000 to \$38,000

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the 2010-2011 Budget for the Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corporation with the changes presented. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

Ayes: Councilman Richardson, Axel, Schonenberg, and Rankin

The motion passed.

Council moved back to item 5.

#### **5. Discussion of Budget Workshop**

This item was moved up.

City Manager Donald Warschak stated that Council was given two hand outs one being the summary of all funds showing balances with and without capital expenditures and the second being the revised Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.

City Secretary Cathy Ezell stated that she revised the revenue in the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund. She stated that the past quarter's revenue was up but the previous two quarters were down. She also stated that the \$155,000 for this year's estimate and the \$160,000 for next year would be adequate until the true increase could be seen for the new hotels over the next few quarters.

Mayor Dungen asked if all of the grant funds had been disbursed. Donald Warschak stated that not all of the grant funds had been disbursed but that invoices are still being received.

Cathy Ezell then went over the summary page. She stated that all of the changes from the previous Budget Workshops including the adjustments presented by the Fire Department and increasing Sales Tax Revenue by \$20,000 were reflected in the summary. She then stated that this left the General fund with a reserve fund balance of 18% with the capital expenditures included. Donald Warschak stated that in the Sewer Department the sewer machine was taken out and \$2,500 was added for a gas detector.

Councilman Rankin asked how much the changes made to the Fire Department changed the budget. Cathy Ezell stated that the presented changes kept the budget the same. She also stated that the Fire Department recommended taking out the \$1,500 for the roof repair but she kept those funds in because the roof is leaking and if not repaired could cause more damage and cost more later.

Mayor Dungen stated that last year it was budgeted to have a fund balance of approximately \$250,000 and with the prudence of administration that the fund balance was projected to be higher than anticipated this year. He gave credit to department heads for managing their budgets and making sacrifices.

Council moved to item 4.

Cathy Ezell went over the meeting schedule. She stated that the first public hearing on the tax rate and the public hearing on the budget would be on September 9, 2010, the second public hearing on the tax rate would be September 16, 2010, and adoption of the tax rate would be September 23, 2010. She asked Council when they would like to adopt the budget either on September 9, 2010 or September 23, 2010. Council directed staff to prepare to adopt the budget at the September 9, 2010 meeting.

#### **6. Items from Councilmembers.<sup>2</sup>**

Councilman Richardson – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Tesch – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

Mayor Dungen – no comment.

7. **Announcements.**

There were no announcements.

8. **Adjournment.**

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Ezell, 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.