

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Thursday, August 8, 2013 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	-	Steve Woodall (arrived at 6:33 p.m.)
Councilman	-	John Axel (arrived at 6:45 p.m.)
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
Code Enforce. Off.	-	Ford Stein
Utilities Supervisor	-	Jody Ripper
Animal Control Off.	-	Butch Schmidt
Fire Chief	-	Walter Glaeser
Fire Asst. Chief	-	Dusty Dittmar
Fire Asst. Chief	-	Richard LaCourse
Library Director	-	Nancy Koehl

**1. Call to Order.**

Mayor Dwain 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 25, 2013 Regular Meeting.

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

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin

The motion passed.

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

There were no citizens' presentations or comments.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Cardinal Hill Water Tower, 2012 Water System Improvements, and 2013 Street Improvements.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, presented his City Manager's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Councilman Woodall arrived at 6:33 p.m.

Donald Warschak also told Council that there would be a meeting on Wednesday, August 14, 2013, for a presentation by BEFCO Engineering on the Downtown Sidewalk Grant for the property owners affected.

**6. Consideration and Action on a Tax Increase for Tax Year 2013 and Fiscal Year 2014 with the Rate not to Exceed \$0.27312 per \$100 Value.**

Mayor Dungen explained that although the tax rate will remain the same as last year that the taxes will increase because property values have increased.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to place a proposal to adopt a tax rate of \$0.27312 per \$100 value on the agenda at a future council meeting. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin

The motion passed.

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

The Mayor said that the two public hearings would be scheduled for August 22, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. and September 3, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to schedule the two public hearing on the tax rate at those dates and times. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**8. Consideration and Action to Approve an Amendment to the Nesbitt Memorial Library Policy.**

Library Director, Nancy Koehl, told Council that currently when someone donates an item to the library they have the donor sign a gift deed, but in the past this was not done. She said that they currently have someone wishing to remove a gifted item and that the Library Board wanted to amend the Library's policy to state "that all materials accepted by the Library become property of the City of Columbus, governed by rules and regulations of the Nesbitt Memorial Library, the Library Advisory Board and, ultimately, the City Council of the City of Columbus". She stated that the Board would like to have it clearly stated that donated items are the property of the City.

Councilman Axel arrived at 6:45 p.m.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to accept the change to the Library Policy as presented. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin

The motion passed.

Mayor Dungen returned to Item 6 on the agenda.

**6. Consideration and Action on a Tax Increase for Tax Year 2013 and Fiscal Year 2014 with the Rate not to Exceed \$0.27312 per \$100 Value.**

Mayor Dungen explained that a recorded vote was required on the motion for Item 6. He reminded Council that the motion was to place a proposal to adopt a tax rate of \$0.27312 per \$100 value on the agenda at a future council meeting. He then asked Council for their vote.

The vote was as follows:

Councilman Woodall: Aye  
Councilman Axel: Aye  
Councilman Schonenberg: Aye  
Councilman Hernandez: Aye  
Councilman Rankin: Aye

The motion passed.

The Mayor moved to Item 9 on the agenda.

**9. Consideration and Action on Mayor's Appointment of a City Attorney for a Term of Two Years.**

The Mayor said that during a recent conversation with the City Attorney, Pat Gillespie, she had said that the past two and a half years have been a learning curve for her and that she is starting to feel comfortable in the position. He said that he would like to reappoint Pat as City Attorney for another two years.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Pat Gillespie as City Attorney for a term of two years. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion. Councilman Rankin told Council that he had some concerns with the appointment because of problems with CCIDC land contract errors and responsiveness.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Axel, Schonenberg, and Hernandez  
Noes: Councilman Woodall and Rankin

The motion passed.

**10. Consideration Action on Mayor's Appointment of an Associate Prosecutor for a Term of Two Years.**

The Mayor stated that his choice for appointment as the City's Associate Prosecutor was Mike Trefney.

Councilman Woodall made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Mike Trefney as the City's Associate Prosecutor for a term of two years. Councilman Schonenberg seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**11. Consideration and Action to Authorize the Mayor to Renew the Continuation of Coverage Administrative Agreement with Texas Municipal League for One Year from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014.**

Linda Lakich explained that this is the annual contract for the City's COBRA administration. She also said that there are no major changes and that the City Attorney had reviewed the contract.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to authorize the Mayor to renew the Continuation of Coverage Administrative Agreement with Texas Municipal League for one year. Councilman Rankin seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**12. Consideration and Action to Approve a Budget Amendment for Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund Purchase of Land.**

Councilman Rankin made a motion to approve a budget amendment for the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund for the purchase of the Mayes property. Councilman Woodall seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Axel, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin

The motion passed.

**13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the July 2013 Code Enforcement Report.**

Code Enforcement Officer, Ford Stein, presented the July 2013 Code Enforcement Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

No action was necessary.

**14. Discussion with Columbus Volunteer Fire Department concerning Renovations and Upgrades to the Fire Station.**

Assistant Fire Chief, Richard LaCourse, made a presentation concerning a proposed Fire Station expansion. He said that the Fire Department would like to look at either expanding at the current site or buying property on Walnut and building a new facility. Councilman Hernandez asked if they had any numbers on cost and was told that they did not. Donald Warschak suggested that they have a facilities assessment done. It was also suggested that they investigate the availability of grants and that they look at equipment requirements for the future.

No action was taken.

**15. Discussion of Budget Workshop.**

Linda Lakich summarized the some of the major items included in the proposed budget including the proposed tax rate of \$0.27312 per \$100 valuation. Donald Warschak suggested that an additional \$10,000 be included in the Fire Department budget to fund a facilities feasibility study by an architect. Linda Lakich also reviewed the estimated 9/30/13 and 9/30/14 fund balances as shown in the proposed budget. She asked Council to review the proposed budget and provide feedback. The next budget workshop is scheduled for August 15, 2013.

**16. Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.074, Deliberations about Personnel Matters.**

The Mayor adjourned the regular session to go into executive session at 7:49 p.m.

**17. Reconvene into Regular Session and Consideration and Action, if any, Regarding Executive Session, Deliberations about Personnel Matters.**

The Mayor reconvened the regular session at 8:00 p.m. with all Council members present.

He explained that no action was necessary.

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

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilman Axel – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Hernandez – no comment.


Councilman Rankin – no comment.

**19. Announcements.**

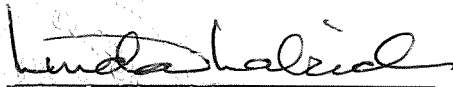
Herb Fish with the American Legion Riders announced that on August 22<sup>nd</sup> his group will be riding their motorcycles through Columbus as part of their ride to the American Legion Convention in Houston.

**20. Adjournment.**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

  
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Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Lakich, 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.



*[Faint, illegible handwritten text]*

