

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in special session on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 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 (absent)
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Councilman	-	Steve Woodall
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert
Councilman	-	Eddie Hernandez
Councilman	-	Chuck Rankin (arrived at 6:41 p.m.)
City Manager	-	Donald Warschak
City Secretary	-	Linda Lakich

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief	-	Bill Lattimore
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1. Call to Order.

Mayor Pro Tem Curtiss Schonenberg called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Councilman Schonenberg led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Councilman Rankin arrived at 6:41 p.m.

3. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

There were no citizens' presentations or comments.

4. Discussion of Budget Workshop – General and Utility Funds.

The City Secretary started a discussion of General Fund revenues by saying that the certified appraised values will be available by 7/25/14 and at that time we will be able to calculate the effective and rollback rates. She estimates that current year sales tax revenue will fall short of the amount budgeted for 2014 by about \$20,000. This would still be a 3.5% increase over last year's actual sales tax. She stated that the proposed budget includes a 3% increase for 2015.

Council was given a wish list of capital and other items requested by Department Heads. The Police Department is asking for a \$25 per month per officer cell phone stipend. The Chief would keep his City-owned cell phone, but the other 3 police cell phone accounts would be closed with the net cost to the City being about \$1,600. The Police Department is also requesting approximately \$20,000 in additional supplies, including ammunition, a taser, Vie-View camera, radar units, in-car camera systems, and computers. They are also requesting a vent system to be installed in the evidence room but do not yet have a cost for it. In addition, they are requesting \$78,000 for the purchase of two Chevy Tahoes to be used as patrol vehicles. Chief Lattimore stated that he would like to see the department replace patrol vehicles every five years instead of every ten.

The Fire Department is requesting \$15,000 to have the fluorescent light fixtures in the bay area replaced with LED fixtures and \$15,000 to replace additional SCBA cylinders.

The Library is requesting a \$4,500 increase for the purchase of books, \$500 additional for audio visual, \$500 additional for promotional supplies, and an additional \$1,650 for dues and subscriptions. Council asked that the Library Director attend the next meeting so that they could get additional information about the requests.

The Utility Department is requesting \$6,500 for attachments for the John Deere Backhoe, \$3,000-4,000 for hand held radios, and an undetermined amount to replace lights on the two elevated water towers.

The next Budget Workshop was scheduled for July 24th.

5. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilwoman Gobert – no comment.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Hernandez – no comment.

Councilman Rankin – no comment.

6. Announcements.²

There were no announcements.

7. Adjournment.

The Mayor Pro Tem adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.



Mayor, Dwain K. Dungen

ATTEST:



Linda Lakich, 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.