

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas, met in regular session on Thursday, July 24, 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
Mayor Pro Tem	-	Curtiss Schonenberg
Councilman	-	Steve Woodall (arrived at 6:32 p.m.)
Councilwoman	-	Lori An Gobert (arrived at 6:41 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
Assist. City Secretary	-	Traci Edman
Library Director	-	Susan Chandler

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.

Councilman Woodall arrived at 6:32 p.m.

3. Consent Agenda.

- a. Approval of Invoices.
- b. Approval of Minutes of July 10, 2014 Regular Meeting.
- c. Approval of Minutes of July 15, 2014 Special Meeting.

Mayor Dungen noted that the minutes of the July 10th meeting should show that he was absent. The City Secretary said that they would be corrected. There were no other corrections.

Councilman Schonenberg made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction as noted to the July 10th minutes. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Councilman Woodall, Schonenberg, Hernandez, and Rankin
Absent: Councilwoman Gobert

The motion passed.

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments.¹

Citizens' comments were reserved for Item 6 on the agenda.

5. City Manager's Report Including Downtown Sidewalk Project and Wastewater Treatment Plant Permit Renewals.

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

6. Consideration and Action Regarding Use of City Swimming Pool by High School Swim Team.

Holly Waligura told Council that Columbus has had an active recreational swim team for the past 25 years. She said that they are asking the school district to sponsor a high school swim team this year and would like to be able to use the Columbus city pool for practices three mornings per week for the months of September and October. This would mean that the City would need to delay emptying the pool until the swim team is finished using it.

Councilwoman Gobert arrived at 6:41 p.m.

The City Secretary stated that the cost to the City to run the pool during the summer is about \$1,000 per month for electricity and chemicals, but that with limited use by the high school swim team that costs should be less.

Councilman Rankin made a motion to extend the time that the city swimming pool will be filled and to make it available for the High School swim team's use. Councilman Hernandez seconded the motion.

The vote was as follows:

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

The motion passed.

7. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, on the June 2014 Police Report.

Police Chief, Bill Lattimore, presented his June 2014 Police Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. In addition, he told Council that the Police Department successfully completed a phone audit by the Department of Public Safety to assure that it is in compliance with DPS criminal history management requirements.

No action was necessary.

8. Discussion of Budget Workshop – General, Utility, and Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds.

City Secretary, Linda Lakich, told Council that the Certified Taxable Value for 2014 is \$258,733,790 which is an increase of \$7,203,564 over last year. The effective tax rate is \$0.26953 and the rollback tax rate is \$0.28725. The current tax rate of \$0.27312, if adopted for the 2015 budget year, would be higher than the effective rate, so public hearings would be necessary. She reported that the value of the KWI abatement for the upcoming year is \$37,910 and that a 1 cent increase in overall tax rate would yield \$25,873 in additional taxes. Council indicated that their wish is to continue covering all cost of debt service except those for City Hall renovations with utility fund revenues.

There was a discussion of Police Department and Library expenditure requests. Police Chief Lattimore discussed his department's ammunition requirements and his request to establish a five-year replacement cycle for police vehicles. Library Director, Susan Chandler reported that the Library Advisory Board asked her to communicate that they would like to expand the library in the future. She also discussed her department's programs and the funds necessary to continue those programs.

9. Items from Councilmembers.²

Councilman Woodall – no comment.

Councilwoman Gobert – reminded Council of the upcoming Taste of Columbus event on July 31st.

Councilman Schonenberg – no comment.

Councilman Hernandez – no comment.

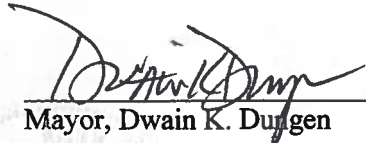
Councilman Rankin – congratulated City staff on the recent raise in Standard & Poor's rating from A+ to AA- for the City.

10. Announcements.

It was announced that the next Council Meeting will be a special meeting held on August 12th at 6:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:07 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.

