



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, January 24, 2022, at 5:30 PM, in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring St., Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

Mayor – Lori An Gobert
Mayor Pro Tem – Chuck Rankin
Councilman – Keith Cummings
Councilman – Ronny Daley
Councilman – Gary Swindle
Councilwoman – Sandra Frnka
City Manager – Donald Warschak
City Secretary – Bana Schneider
Assistant City Secretary – Dinah Jacobs

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief – Skip Edman
Code Enforcement – Richard LaCourse

1. Call to Order

Mayor Lori An Gobert called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Gobert led the pledge and invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented.


Moved by: Gary Swindle

Seconded by: Sandra Frnka

Ayes: Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Ronny Daley, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

Carried 5-0

3.1. Approval of Invoices [INVOICES_01.24.2022.pdf](#) 

3.2. Approval of Minutes of the January 10, 2022 Regular Meeting [01.10.2022.pdf](#) 

3.3. Approval of the Investment Report for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2021


[INVESTMENT REPORT 12.31.2021.pdf](#) 

4. **Citizens' Presentations and Comments'**

Richard Pop addressed Council regarding the noise issues near his residence. Cynthia Penney stated she has heard the noise as well, and it is very loud. Pop was asking the Police Chief and Council for a no tolerance policy.

Debbie Damon addressed Council regarding "Saturdays On The Square", and the Commissioner's Court renewing this event.

Chris Christensen addressed Council regarding the recognition for the National Guard. He is still working on getting the proclamation for the guardsmen to see.

5. **City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, the McCormick WWTP Riverbank Project Update, the MLK Street Sidewalk Project Update, and Sewer Averaging.** [CM REPORT.pdf](#) 

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the January payment of sales tax was up. The payment was \$148,341.89 versus \$121,116.38 over the same time period last year. The County and City of Weimar both saw increases, while the City of Eagle Lake saw a decrease.

Regarding the McCormick WWTP, the Army Corp is at a standstill, as they need to make an adjustment. Gobert asked how long will this setback be. Warschack replied, he did not know.

Regarding the MLK Sidewalk Project, Warschak stated there will be a pre-construction meeting mid-February.

Regarding sewer averaging, Warschak reminded everyone that we are in the sewer averaging period, December 15th, 2021-February 15th, 2022. If you have a leak of any sort during this time period, once it is repaired, you may submit receipts to the City for a sewer adjustment.

Councilman Cummings asked if there was still an opportunity to go inspect the riverbank project along with Councilwoman Frnka. Warschak replied yes, and to get with him.

6. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 243-22, a Resolution Amending and Adopting the Purchasing Policy and Addendum for the City of Columbus.** [RESOLUTION 243-22 PURCHASING POLICY 2022.pdf](#)



City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated there were two new federal provisions, 200.317(procurements) and 200.326(bonding).

Chris Christensen asked for an amendment for vendors that do not complete a project properly or satisfactorily. He gave an example of a street he did not feel was completed properly. Warschak stated the City has a Performance Bond that has to be completed for any project over \$50,000.

Motion to Approve Resolution 243-22 amending and adopting the Purchasing Policy and Addendum for the City of Columbus.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Gary Swindle

Ayes: Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Ronny Daley, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

Carried 5-0

7. **Consideration and Action to Adopt Ordinance 250-22, an Ordinance of the City of Columbus Authorizing a General (Regular) Municipal Election to be Held on May 7, 2022.** [ORDINANCE 250-22 ORDER OF](#)

[ELECTION.pdf](#) 

Consideración y acción para adoptar ordenanza 250-22, una ordenanza de la ciudad de Columbus que autoriza un elección municipal (regular) general para ser sostenido el 7 de mayo de 2022. [ORDENANZA NRO. 250-](#)

[22 ORDENAR UNA ELECCION.pdf](#) 

Schneider stated this is the first requirement in the election process.

Schneider afirmó que este es el primer requisito en el proceso de elección.

Motion to Adopt Ordinance 250-22 authorizing a General Municipal Election to be held on May 7, 2022.

Moción para adoptar la Ordenanza 250-22 que autoriza una Elección Municipal General para el 7 de mayo de 2022.

Moved by: Gary Swindle

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Ayes: Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Ronny Daley, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

Carried 5-0

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve a Joint Election Agreement with the City of Eagle Lake, Texas, Columbus Independent School District, Rice Consolidated School District, Weimar Independent School District, Rice Hospital District (CAHRMC, LLC), Garwood Water District, and the Colorado County Elections**

Administrator. [JOINT ELECTION CONTRACT.pdf](#) 

Schneider stated all of these entities are contracting with the County and all costs will be shared, should there be an election.

Motion to approve a Joint Election Agreement with the City of Eagle Lake, TX; Columbus ISD; Rice CSD; Weimar ISD; Rice Hospital District; Garwood Water District and the Colorado County Elections Administrator.

Moved by: Sandra Frnka

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

Ayes: Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Ronny Daley, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

Carried 5-0

9. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) from Houston Street to Walnut Street (Highway 90), and the Closure of Walnut Street (Highway 90) from Milam Street (Spur 52) to the City Swimming Pool on Saturday March 5, 2022 Starting at 9:30 a.m. for the Annual FFA Parade.** [COLUMBUS](#)

[FFA PARADE 2022.pdf](#) 

This is one of two of the traditional parades that will run a full closure parade route.

Motion to approve the street closures as requested for the annual FFA parade.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Ayes: Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Ronny Daley, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

Carried 5-0

10. **Consideration and Action to Amend the City of Columbus's Personnel Policies Regarding Age Requirements, Modified Duty, and Cell Phone, Internet, and Social Media Use.**

Motion to amend the City of Columbus's Personnel Policies regarding age requirements; modified duty; and cell phone, internet, and social media use.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Ayes: Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Ronny Daley, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

Carried 5-0

11. Consideration and Action to Approve a 2021-2022 Budget Amendment for Golf Course Grant and Associated Expenditures. [BUDGET AMENDMENT GOLF COURSE.pdf](#) 

Schneider stated the City had received a grant from CCIDC on behalf of the golf course. This is the adjustment for that expenditure. Gobert stated this is a pass through.

Motion to approve 2021-2022 budget amendment for the golf course.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

Ayes: Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Ronny Daley, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

Carried 5-0

12. Consideration and Action to Approve a 2021-2022 Budget Amendment for a Police Donation and Associated Expenditures. [BUDGET AMENDMENT POLICE DONATION.pdf](#) 

This was an anonymous citizen donation to the Police Department for items they could use that were not previously in the budget.

Motion to approve a 2021-2022 budget amendment for the police department.

Moved by: Sandra Frnka

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

Ayes: Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Ronny Daley, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

Carried 5-0

13. Consideration and Action to Declare the Following Fire Department Equipment as Surplus Property: 1988 Johnson 20 Horsepower Outboard Motor ID# R6296250, 1989 Sportsman Boat Trailer VIN 1BTA1DD13K1B18475, 1990 14 Foot Alumaweld Boat HIN JBC08213H990, 2006 Yamaha 25 Horsepower Outboard Motor ID# 65WS10274636.

Assistant Fire Chief, Richard LaCourse, stated the new rescue boat is in service and the old boat is ready for surplus.

Motion to declare requested fire department equipment as surplus property.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Ayes: Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Ronny Daley, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the December 2021 Fire Marshal Report. [FIRE MARSHAL DEC 2021.pdf](#)

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave the Fire Marshal report in Fire Marshal Gorman's absence. A copy is attached to these minutes. LaCourse highlighted the inspections, Dollar General in particular, along with the consults for new projects. LaCourse reported a total of 220 fire calls for the year.

No action was needed.

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the December 2021 Code Enforcement Report. [CODE ENFORCEMENT DEC 2021.pdf](#)

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. LaCourse highlighted the permits issued for the month. He will also be working on CE credits along with scheduling himself and Duane Naiser for CSI and Code Enforcement Officer training.

Chris Christensen stated his opinion that no permit should be issued to new owners of properties until all fines have been paid. He also had issues on several signs. LaCourse responded the signs were installed per code at the time. Christensen also stated the signs posted on poles or stuck in the ground are a blight to Columbus. LaCourse responded that Naiser has an entire truck bed full of signs that have been picked up, and it is better if Code picks them up versus individual citizens going around to pick them up.

No action was needed.

16. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the December 2021 Police Report.

[DEC.2021 STATS.pdf](#)

Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Edman highlighted officer training, the Junior Mounted Posse coming to town, and the March for Life that was held. He also stated the last two weeks have had a multitude of vehicle break ins. He strongly urged citizens to take their personal belongings out of their vehicles: cell phones, laptops, purses, etc.

No action was needed.

17. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the 2021 Report on Racial Profiling. [RACIAL PROFILING 2021.pdf](#)

Police Chief Edman presented his Racial Profile report to Council. This is a requirement of his agency. He stated there were zero racial profile cases. They continue to practice fair justice. All of this required data goes to the state.

No action was needed.

18. Items from Councilmembers?

Swindle - none

Daley - none

Cummings - thanked LaCourse for taking care of the situation a couple of weeks ago on Austin Street

Frnka - stated she was the oldest member on Council and would not be seeking re-election. She expressed her heartfelt thanks to the Fire Department, Police Department, her church, this town, the Council, City staff, and her privilege to serve this community.

Rankin - responded to a request of the President on January 11th; a copy of his statement is attached to

these minutes

19. Announcements

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated election packets are available until February 18th at 5:00 p.m.

20. Adjournment

Gobert adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.



Mayor 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.