



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, February 28, 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 (Absent)
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
Fire Marshal – Brent Gorman, Jr.
Code Assistant – Duane Naiser
Fire Chief – Dusty Dittmar
Assistant Fire Chief – Sydney Schollett

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 of Allegiance and Invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve consent agenda as presented.

Moved by: Sandra Frnka

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Carried 4-0

3.1. Approval of Invoices [INVOICES_02.28.2022.pdf](#) 

3.2. Approval of Minutes of the February 14, 2022 Regular Meeting

[MINUTES_02.14.2022.pdf](#) 

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

Cheryl Cook addressed Council regarding what she called the "incinerator next door" to her. She expressed her displeasure of this structure with a PowerPoint presentation regarding fires and the fire hazard of this outdoor fireplace that is being allowed within the City of Columbus.

5. **City Manager's Report Including the McCormick WWTP River Bank Project and the MLK Street Sidewalk Project Updates.** [CM REPORT.pdf](#) 

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak stated the Army Corps of Engineers and contractor are working on a solution to the outfall issue. The contractor will be out once plans are finalized.

Regarding the MLK Sidewalk Project, Warschak stated a preconstruction meeting was held in Wharton. The anticipated start date was the week of March 14th, but is now set to begin a week earlier.

6. **Consideration and Action to Add an Handicapped Parking Space on Travis Street Outside the Colorado County Annex as Requested by the Colorado County Elections Administrator.**

Colorado County Elections Administrator, Rebecka LaCourse, addressed Council requesting a Handicapped parking space on Travis Street. Warschak stated he would need to look at the grades to see if it can be ADA accessible, and if it could even be van accessible. LaCourse appreciated the consideration, and Warschak will look into the feasibility.

7. **Consideration and Action to Approve a Manufactured Home Permit for Block 88, Lot 1 of the Genz Division as Requested by Wildwood Property Partners, LLC.** [MH PERMIT 1117 BONHAM.pdf](#) 

Property owner, Neelee Mangam, spoke on behalf of the development and plans they are proposing. Code Enforcement, Richard LaCourse stated the survey was complete for four separate lots. There can only be one living structure on each lot, therefore there is no way for this property to become a multi unit mobile home park. LaCourse went on to state these mobile homes meet our code and there will be only one on each very large lot. Warschak questioned off street parking. LaCourse replied there will be two off street parking spaces per lot.

Motion to approve a manufactured home permit for Block 88, Lot 1 of the Genz Division as requested by Wildwood Property Partners.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Carried 4-0

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve a Manufactured Home Permit for Block 88, Lot 2 of the Genz Division as Requested by Wildwood Property Partners, LLC.** [MH PERMIT 1620 BACK.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve a manufactured home permit for Block 88, Lot 2 of the Genz Division as requested by Wildwood Property Partners.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin
Seconded by: Gary Swindle

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

Carried 4-0

9. Consideration and Action to Approve a Manufactured Home Permit for Block 88, Lot 3 of the Genz Division as Requested by Wildwood Property Partners, LLC. [MH PERMIT 1630 BACK.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve a manufactured home permit for Block 88, Lot 3 of the Genz Division as requested by Wildwood Property Partners.

Moved by: Gary Swindle
Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 4-0

10. Consideration and Action to Approve a Manufactured Home Permit for Block 88, Lot 4 of the Genz Division as Requested by Wildwood Property Partners, LLC. [MH PERMIT 1640 BACK.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve a manufactured home permit for Block 88, Lot 4 of the Genz Division as requested by Wildwood Property Partners.

Moved by: Gary Swindle
Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 4-0

11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the 2021 Annual Fire Department Report.

[2021CVFD YEAR END REPORT.pdf](#) 

Fire Marshal, Brent Gorman Jr., gave the year-end report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Gorman highlighted the calls and the percentages of calls between the City and County. Charts and graphs were presented to show income, call percentages, and property value saved. Frnka questioned why they were not getting more County funding. Gobert replied, they feel they are the dispatch service and this is considered funding to them. Rankin requested additional information on total calls to see how they compare, as well as the condition of the rest of the equipment. Equipment replacement was discussed, with Rankin requesting the additional information be included in their year-end reports. On behalf of the City, Gobert praised and thanked the Fire Department for all they do. Fire Chief, Dusty Dittmar, thanked the City for allowing the volunteer fire fighters who are City employees do what needs to be done for the fire department. Dittmar reported the annual oyster/fish fry fundraiser was a success, with 1625 plates being sold. Total numbers are not in yet. Costs for oysters and oil were higher than previous years.

Gorman went on to report that Pumper Unit 1423 is due for replacement in 2025. There is currently a 12-16 month build time. It was budgeted for \$510,000, but engine replacements are running \$650,000-\$700,000. There is a grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture. This application would need to be done through the City. Gorman, on behalf of the Fire Department, was requesting the City to pursue this grant for the Fire Department. Gobert stated we would definitely pursue it.

12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the January 2022 Fire Marshal Report. [FIRE MARSHAL JANUARY 2022.pdf](#) 

Fire Marshal, Brent Gorman, Jr., gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Gorman

highlighted the inspections, consults, investigations, and responses for the month of January.

No action was required.

13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the January 2022 Code Enforcement Report.

[CODE ENFORCEMENT JANUARY 2022.pdf](#) 

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. LaCourse stated 41 permits were issued. LaCourse highlighted the permits and miscellaneous information happening within the Code department.

No action was required.

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the January 2022 Police Report. [JANUARY](#)

[2022 STATS.pdf](#) 

Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman spoke about the training being mandated by the government now and the meetings he had recently attended.

No action was required.

15. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - absent

Daley - none

Swindle - none

Frnka - none

Rankin - none

Gobert - none



16. Announcements

There were no announcements.

17. Adjournment

Gobert adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

ATTEST:


Lori An Gobert, Mayor
Chuck Rancin, Mayor Pro Tem

City Secretary, Bana Schneider

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.