



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, April 11, 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
Code/Fire Assistant – Duane Naiser
Fire Marshal – Brent Gorman, Jr.

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 the 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_04.11.2022.pdf](#) 

3.2. Approval of Minutes of the March 28, 2022 Regular Meeting

[MINUTES_03.28.2022.pdf](#) 

3.3. Approval of the December 2021 Financial Statements [DÉCEMBER 2021.pdf](#)



4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Debbie Damon spoke regarding the upcoming May elections and her concerns about being ill-informed. She also requested agenda items 6, 7, 8 be tabled until further notice.

Billy Kahn addressed Council regarding the "A Better Columbus" 501 (c) (3) organization that was formed. There will be a ribbon cutting at the mural at 2 p.m. on April 29th. He invited Council to attend.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, the McCormick WWTP River Bank Project, the MLK Street Sidewalk Project, and Columbus Trash-Off Updates. [CM REPORT.pdf](#)



City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Warschak reported sales tax was up approximately \$25,000, with the payment for April being \$129,808 compared to \$104,137 over the same time period last year. The County and Cities of Weimar and Eagle Lake all saw increases as well.

Regarding the McCormick WWTP River Bank Project, Warschak reported the contractor is currently installing the outfall manhole and pipe. They are waiting on additional material and will continue when it arrives.

Regarding the MLK Street Sidewalk Project, Warschak reported the contractor is working on the section between Back Street and BUS Hwy 71, as well as the section between Austin and Prairie Street. Curbing and sidewalk are being installed in those areas.

Regarding the Columbus Trash Off Day, Warschak reported approximately 300 cubic yards of material and approximately 60 cubic yards of recyclable metal items were brought to the facility on April 2nd.

Councilwoman Frnka asked about the other TxDOT sidewalk grant. Warschak replied we did not score high enough. There was hopes there would be additionally funding available, but we did not get the grant this go round. We will apply again in the future.

Councilman Rankin requested other infrastructure ideas be brought to the next meeting for consideration.

6. Public Hearing Regarding a Proposed Zoning Change, Specifically, a 20.853 Acre Tract in the WB Dewees Survey, Abstract 18 from District R-1, Multi-Family, Apartment, Townhouse or Condominium to District B, Business or Commercial. [P&Z REPORT.pdf](#)



Gobert opened the public hearing at 5:43 p.m.

Gobert asked if there were any public comments.

Warschak gave an overview of the P & Z meeting and his discussions with the owners.

Safety concerns were expressed, as well as fire readiness.

Chris Christensen, Cynthia Penny, Debbie Damon, and Cheryl Cook shared their concerns

about the project.

Fire Marshal, Brent Gorman, Jr., and Assistant Fire Chief/Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, responded regarding the Fire Department's handling of a call should there be some type of incident to occur.

Ross Metersky with GlidePath and Kirk Lowe with Frank Surveying were present and answered questions about the project from Council and citizens. They indicated this would be a \$33-\$35 million project.

The company will be working closely with Gorman and LaCourse during the planning phases. There will be residual outcomes that will benefit the City in the long run as well.

With no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 6:15 p.m.

7. **Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 252-22, an Ordinance Designating a 20.853 Acre Tract in the WB Dewees Survey, Abstract 18, from District R-1, Multi-Family, Apartment, Townhouse or Condominium to District B, Business or Commercial.**

[ORD 252-22 REZONING.pdf](#) 

There was no further discussion.

Motion to approve Ordinance 252-22 designating a zoning change.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Gary Swindle

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

Carried 5-0

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 244-22, a Resolution Reaffirming the City of Columbus' Policies Concerning Civil Rights, Adopting a Citizen Participation Plan and Grievance Procedures; an Excessive Force Policy; a Fair Housing Policy; the Section 504 Policy and Grievance Procedures; and a Code of Conduct Policy for the TxCDBG Grant Agreement CDM21-0441. [RESOLUTION 244-22 A1014 CIVIL](#)**

[RIGHTS 2022.pdf](#) 

Cindy Metro, of Langford Community Management Services, addressed Council regarding the City policies. These are the same policies that have been affirmed over the last several years, with no changes.

Motion to approve Resolution 244-22, reaffirming City policies for the TxCDBG grant agreement CDM21-0441.

Moved by: Gary Swindle

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Carried 5-0

9. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding a Section 3 Presentation as a Condition to Funding for TxCDBG Grant Agreement CDM21-0041. [SECTION 3 PRESENTATION.pdf](#)**

Metro presented information on Section 3 as a condition to funding. The purpose is to use grant funding in a way to help low to moderate income individuals. The presentation encouraged contractors to hire low to mod individuals as labor for the project.

No action was required.

10. **Consideration and Action if Necessary, Regarding the March 2022 Golf Association Report. [GOLF MARCH 2022.pdf](#)**

With no one present from the golf course, City Secretary, Bana Schneider, highlighted a few items from their report. One item noted was membership seemed to be increasing.

No action was required.

11. **Consideration and Action Regarding the Telecommunications Access Line Rates. [TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS LINE RATES.pdf](#)**

Schneider gave an overview of the funds collected over the past year. The decline is due to the number of land lines used within the City.

Motion to keep the telecommunication rates the same.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

12. **Items from Councilmembers²**

Cummings - none

Daley - the mural is beautiful

Swindle - none

Frnka - none

Rankin - none

Gobert - wished everyone a blessed Good Friday and Happy Easter

13. **Announcements**

Warschak - there will be a dedication at Midtown Park for the Hancher Pavillion. The dedication will be Saturday, April 23, at 1:00 p.m.

14. **Adjournment**

Gobert adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.



Lori An Gobert, Mayor

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.