



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, May 23, 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
Councilwoman – Paige Sciba
Councilman – Michael Ridlen
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/Fire Assistant – Duane Naiser

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. Oath of Office for Newly Elected Officials.

Mayor Gobert administered the oath of office to Councilwoman Sciba, Councilman Ridlen, and Councilman Rankin.

4. Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve consent agenda as presented.






Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

Ayes: Michael Ridlen, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Abstained: Paige Sciba

Carried 4-0

- 4.1. Approval of Invoices [INVOICES 05.23.2022.pdf](#) 
[INVOICES 05.23.2022](#) 
- 4.2. Approval of Minutes of the May 9, 2022 Regular Meeting
[MINUTES 05.09.2022.pdf](#) 
- 4.3. Approval of Minutes of the May 17, 2022 Special Meeting
[MINUTES 05.17.2022.pdf](#) 
- 4.4. Approval of the March 2022 Financial Statements [MARCH 2022.pdf](#) 

5. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Cheryl Cook addressed Council regarding expired federal funds.

Debbie Damon addressed Council regarding her business and the Magnolia Days Festival/Ladies Night Out.

Chef Raoul addressed Council offering his services to the City of Columbus and any other event coordinators.

6. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, the McCormick WWTP Riverbank Project, the MLK Street Sidewalk Project and the City Swimming Pool. [CM REPORT.pdf](#) 

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

Regarding sales tax, Warschak reported the sales tax payment for May was \$185,649.15 compared to \$168,319.61. This is an increase 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 Riverbank Project, the contractor has completed the outfall line and rock riprap installation. The area is now being cleaned and prepped for hydro-mulch.

Regarding the MLK Sidewalk Project, work continues on the section between Back Street and BUS Hwy 71, and the section between BUS Hwy 71 and Prairie Street. Curbing, sidewalk, and asphalt are being installed in those areas.

Warschak reported the swimming pool will open for the summer on May 31st.

Gobert noted to Council members, the spruce up of the Spring Water Plant with fencing, painting and signage.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of Two New Members and the Reappointment of Two Members to the Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corporation Board of Directors for Terms Ending May 2024.

Gobert stated Larry Solansky and Chuck Hall have expiring terms and will not be returning. Bruce Tesch and Shalor Townzen also have expiring terms but will be recommitting for another term.

Applications for the two vacant positions include Christopher Davis and David Wiggs.

There was discussion on the applicants that the Mayor was proposing for appointment to fill the two vacant positions.

Motion to approve the recommended appointees, Christopher Davis and David Wiggs, to fill the vacant positions on the CCIDC Board.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

Ayes: Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

8. Consideration and Action to Appoint One Member to the Planning & Zoning Commission for an Unexpired Term Ending December 2022.

Motion to approve the recommended appointee, Cynthia Penney, to P&Z for the unexpired term ending December 2022.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

Ayes: Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

9. Consideration and Action to Appoint Members to the Employee Grievance Committee.

Rankin and Cummings volunteered to serve on the Employee Grievance Committee.

Motion to approve the appointment of Chuck Rankin and Keith Cummings to the Employee Grievance Committee.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

Ayes: Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

10. Consideration and Action to Appoint Members to the Citizen Grievance Committee.

Motion to approve the appointment of Mayor Gobert, Ronny Daley, and Barbara Peterman to the Citizen Grievance Committee.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

Ayes: Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

11. Consideration and Action to Elect a Mayor Pro Tem.

Current Mayor Pro Tem is Councilman Rankin.

Motion to elect Chuck Rankin as the Mayor Pro Tem.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Ayes: Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

12. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 248-22, a Resolution Authorizing the Commitment of Local Funds up to \$93,097.53 for the Completion of Phase 2 of the

CDBG-DR Contract 20-065-030-C097. [RESOLUTION 248-22.pdf](#) 

This resolution is to correct a \$3 difference in the dollar amount.


Motion to approve Resolution 248-22, replacing Resolution 247-22, authorizing local funds for CDBG-DR contract 20-065-030-C097.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Ayes: Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

13. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Legion Drive in Front of Memorial Stadium on Thursday, May 26, 2022 from 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM for the Columbus High School Graduation Activities. [GRADUATION STREET CLOSURE.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve street closure as requested.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

Ayes: Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the April 2022 Fire Marshal Report.

[FIRE MARSHAL APRIL 2022.pdf](#) 

Fire Marshal, Brent Gorman, Jr., gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Gorman highlighted the inspections and consult, as well as public education, and fire response call numbers for the month.

It was noted that Gorman was recognized at the Texas Fire Chief's Association Conference on April 13th, and received the Valor Award for his water rescue on the Colorado River during Winter Storm Uri.

Councilman Cummings thanked Gorman for his knowledge content given at the prior meeting on the lithium ion batteries. Your knowledge eased the minds for a lot of people.

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, added that Gorman will also be receiving The 100 Club award for the water rescue this coming Thursday.

No action was required.

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the April 2022 Code Enforcement

Report. [CODE ENFORCEMENT APRIL 2022.pdf](#) 

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. LaCourse highlighted the number of permits for the month, two in particular, one being a commercial property and the other a residential property. LaCourse updated the substandard property status and the high grass issue.

LaCourse, Gorman, and Asst Code/Fire Duane Naiser gave a demonstration of a piece of new fire rescue equipment.

No action was required.

16. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the April 2022 Police Report.

[APRIL 2022.pdf](#) 

Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Edman highlighted department training and mental health transports. Edman also distributed a request for an additional pay increase for his department. He encouraged Council to strongly absorb the information given.

Gobert thanked the department for their efforts during the Magnolia Days Festival.

No action was required.

17. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Sciba - looking forward to working with the other Council members

Ridlen - again, looking forward to working with this group

Rankin - welcomed the new members aboard

Gobert - stated the festival was fantastic; there were lots of positive comments; thank you to the Chamber and all City personnel that helped coordinate all of the setup that needed to be done

18. Announcements

Warschak - welcome to Paige and welcome back Michael; weather dependent, TxDOT will be working with City employees at 71/I-10 on cleanup in that area

Schneider - annual Cyber Security training needs to be done; a link will be sent out to members to complete

Cynthia Penney reminded everyone to vote in the runoff election tomorrow

19. Adjournment

Gobert adjourned the meeting at 6:14 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.