



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, October 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  
Councilwoman – Paige Sciba (Absent)  
Councilman – Michael Ridlen  
City Manager – Donald Warschak  
City Secretary – Bana Schneider (Absent)  
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  
Library Director – Susan Chandler

**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:* Ronny Daley

*Seconded by:* Keith Cummings

**Aye** Michael Ridlen, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and  
Ronny Daley

**Carried 4-0**

- 3.1. **Approval of Invoices** [INVOICES 10.24.2022.pdf](#) 
- 3.2. **Approval of Minutes of the October 11, 2022 Regular Meeting**  
[MINUTES 10.11.2022.pdf](#) 
- 3.3. **Approval of the August 2022 Financial Statements** [AUGUST 2022.pdf](#)  


#### **4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments<sup>1</sup>**

Shirley Chase addressed Council regarding the police being called in reference to her blowing her horn to scare off deer in her neighborhood. The Council could not address her, but Police Chief, Skip Edman stated he could, and did. It was the length of time the horn was being blown, three blocks, not the fact of the horn being blown. Vehicle horns are meant to be used in emergency situations, not in the way she was using it for three blocks.

Gobert read the DAR Proclamation regarding National Family Literacy Day. A photo was taken with Gobert, DAR members present, and library personnel.

Emily Obenhaus was recognized by Library Director, Susan Chandler, for being the first recipient of the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Chandler presented Obenhaus with a certificate and gift.

#### **5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, the MLK Sidewalk Project, Other TxDOT Projects, and Utility Billing Statements.** [CM REPORT.pdf](#)

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

Regarding sales tax, Warschak reported the payment for September was \$159,720.48 compared to \$133,099.08, resulting in an increase over the same time last year. The County, City of Weimar, and City of Eagle Lake all saw increases.

Regarding the MLK Sidewalk Project, Warschak reported TxDOT has scheduled the ADA inspection. Once that is complete along with the punch list items, the project will be complete and closed out.

Regarding TxDOT project - Hwy 90 East River Bridge, the TxDOT contractor is working on bridge approaches at the Front Street intersection and at the end of the bridge. The City will continue the replacement of a cast iron water main crossing at Walnut Street when the contractor starts the storm drain improvements. Substantial completion is projected by TxDOT by the end of the year.

Regarding TxDOT project - Hwy 90 (Walnut Street Sidewalk Project), Warschak reported it has been bid by TxDOT. This project was combined with a similar project in Matagorda County, and the project will start in one of these areas soon.

Regarding TxDOT project - Hwy 71 (Fannin Street) Signal Light, Warschak reported TxDOT has bid this project. This project is part of a larger project of signal lights in other locations within the Yoakum District. Lighting lead times are taking a while.

Regarding Utility Billing Statement, Warschak reported utility bills will be mailed out this week. They will be in a new format, letter style versus postcard. This new format will provide additional information to citizens. Late notices will continue to be in postcard format.

**6. Consideration and Action to Approve the Publicity and Tourism Agreement Between the City and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. [CHAMBER TOURISM AGREEMENT.pdf](#)** 


Motion to approve the Publicity and Tourism Agreement.

*Moved by:* Keith Cummings

*Seconded by:* Ronny Daley

**Aye** Michael Ridlen, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and  
Ronny Daley

**Carried 4-0**

**7. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Spring Street from the Corner of Milam Street up to Gillespie & Trefney Attorneys at Law at 415 Spring Street on Thursday, December 1, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for Ladies Night Out as Requested by the Chamber of Commerce. [LADIES NIGHT OUT STREET CLOSURE.pdf](#)** 


Motion to approve the street closure as listed.

*Moved by:* Keith Cummings

*Seconded by:* Chuck Rankin

**Aye** Michael Ridlen, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and  
Ronny Daley

**Carried 4-0**

**8. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Wallace Street Between Bowie Street and Live Oak Street on Saturday, October 29, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to Midnight for the St Anthony's School Carnival. [ST ANTHONY CARNIVAL STREET CLOSURE.pdf](#)** 

Motion to approve the street closure as requested.

*Moved by:* Michael Ridlen

*Seconded by:* Keith Cummings

**Aye** Michael Ridlen, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and  
Ronny Daley

**Carried 4-0**

**9. Consideration and Action to Approve Street Closures in the Memorial Oaks Subdivision for Halloween Activities on the Evening of Monday, October 31, 2022 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Motion to approve the street closure as requested.

*Moved by:* Michael Ridlen

*Seconded by:* Keith Cummings

**Aye** Michael Ridlen, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and  
Ronny Daley

**Carried 4-0**

**10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the September 2022 Fire Marshal**

**Report.** [FIRE MARSHAL SEPT 2022.pdf](#) 

Fire Marshal, Brent Gorman, Jr., gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Gorman reported on five inspections, 2 consults, and total fire calls this month. Gorman also reported the meeting with the Bernardo Fire Department regarding alternative funding for fire protection went well. There is an upcoming meeting with the Frelsburg Fire Department.

No action was required.

**11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the September 2022 Code**

**Enforcement Report.** [CODE ENFORCEMENT SEPT 2022.pdf](#) 

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. LaCourse reported there were a total of 37 permits issued in September. LaCourse highlighted the Habitat and LEYCO permits. LaCourse gave an update on the substandard structure located at 1336 Back Street. LaCourse distributed a listing of all substandard structures to Council members and answered questions. LaCourse also distributed a listing of the major construction projects going on within the City.

No action was required.

**12. Consideration and Action to Request the City Secretary Conduct the Annual Audit of Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Funds as Required by Article 59.06 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.**

This is a yearly item needing Council approval.

Motion to request the City Secretary conduct the annual audit of Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Funds.

*Moved by:* Chuck Rankin

*Seconded by:* Keith Cummings

**Aye** Michael Ridlen, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and  
Ronny Daley

**Carried 4-0**

**13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the September 2022 Police Report.**

[SEPTEMBER 2022 STATS.pdf](#) 

Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Edman highlighted the officer training, specifically one conducted by a professional with specialized training in Performance Pistol by Fast Iron held at Big Easy Ranch. The training was donated by Charles Butler.

Edman went on to request additional funding for police cameras. A portion of their current camera line is being cancelled. There are several new operating system options. If additional cameras are purchased before the end of the year, they can be saved and used in additional patrol vehicle purchases, allowing additional time to research the best operating system to migrate over to. If additional cameras are purchased before the end of the year, the company will continue to support them until there is a new operating system. A new operating system would require a new server to be purchased. Rankin questioned Edman on who he was using as references for the future operating system options. Edman stated, himself, another one of his officers, and DPS. Edman is wanting to purchase three additional cameras for future use in patrol units.

No action was required.

**14. Consideration and Action to Approve a Police Budget Amendment for Additional Vehicle Expenses.** [POLICE VEHICLE.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve a budget amendment for two cameras, not three as originally requested.

*Moved by:* Keith Cummings

*Seconded by:* Chuck Rankin

**Aye** Michael Ridlen, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

**Carried 4-0**

**15. Items from Councilmembers<sup>2</sup>**

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Sciba - absent

Ridlen - none

Rankin - I voted today. Get out and vote.

Gobert - inquired on how Schneider was doing

**16. Announcements**

Warschak stated a company has requested our City mapping structure and will be installing fiber optics.

Warschak also stated, we have found a backhoe. It was not on the agenda tonight, but information will be presented at the next meeting.

**17. Adjournment**

Gobert adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.



**Lori An Gobert, Mayor**

**Attest:**



**Bana Schneider, City Secretary**

<sup>1</sup>During 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.

<sup>2</sup>Limited 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.