



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, February 13, 2023, 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

1. Call to Order

Mayor Lori An Gobert called the meeting to order at 5:31 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, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings,
and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

3.1. **Approval of Invoices** [INVOICES 02.13.2023.pdf](#) 

3.2. **Approval of Minutes of the January 23, 2023 Regular Meeting**
[MINUTES 01.23.2023.pdf](#) 

4. Consideration and Action to Approve Invoices for Columbus Tire Center (Sciba Corporation).

[INVOICES COLUMBUS TIRE.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the Columbus Tire invoices.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Abstain Paige Sciba

Carried 4-0

5. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Sharon Wegenhoft with the Garden Club distributed a handout to Council members regarding the Trash-Off event. She thanked the Mayor, City Manager, Public Works and CCIDC for their assistance in the past. She was requesting assistance again this year to help Keep Columbus Beautiful.

Sondra Baker addressed Council regarding engine brakes. She would like to have a sign put up stating "No Engine Brakes". (Warschak stated we would have to coordinate with TxDOT for signage and an ordinance will have to be passed.)

Debbie Damon addressed, with good news, regarding AEP delivery charges. Her rates have gone down over the last several years. She also stated there are some issues regarding nuisances within the City. Code Enforcement, Richard LaCourse, responded on the code laws and rules and stated several properties were already in the process of being addressed and letters sent.

Chris Christensen spoke on agenda item #8.

6. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, the MLK Street Sidewalk Project, TxDOT Project Updates, Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, Sewer Averaging, Downtown Revitalization Sidewalk Grant Project, Softball and Baseball Park Restroom Renovations, and the GFOA Certificate of Achievement Award. [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 February was \$214,082.72 compared to \$183,195.60 from last year. The County and Cities of Weimar and Eagle Lake all saw increases.

Regarding the MLK Street Sidewalk Project, Warschak reported we are just waiting on TxDOT to close out the project.

Regarding the TxDOT Projects:

Hwy 90 East River Bridge Project, Warschak reported the traffic has been shifted to the new bridge. They are still working on the south side. At the last meeting a concerned citizen addressed Council regarding the speed limit. We are getting with TxDOT on the speed.

Hwy 90 (Walnut Street Sidewalk Project), Warschak reported the contractor is moving really fast on this project.

Hwy 71 (Fannin Street) Signal Light Project, Warschak reported the contractor is expected to be in Columbus about June.

Regarding the Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, Warschak reported we have submitted the application back in January. There will be a meeting tomorrow to go over the application.

Regarding Sewer Averaging, Warschak reported we are still in the sewer averaging period that will end February 15th.

Regarding the Downtown Revitalization Sidewalk Grant Project, Warschak reported the contractor has started work in the alley behind the Live Oak Art Center. The contractor will do the sidewalk and 3' of "road". The City will complete the rest of the paving work.

Regarding the Softball and Baseball Park Restroom Renovations, Warschak reported we have completed our cost estimate for the project. The combined cost is approximately \$100,000. It has a built-in \$5,000 contingency.

Regarding the GFOA Certificate of Achievement Award, Warschak reported this is an award for financial reporting. This is the highest form of recognition. He congratulated Bana and the staff for their dedication and efforts in achieving this award.

7. Consideration and Action on Support to the Columbus Garden Club for the Spring Trash-Off

Event. [TRASH-OFF 2023.pdf](#) 

Gobert stated most of this is already in the budget for assistance. Schneider stated the roll offs are in our contract, and the recycling center extended hours are in the budget.

Motion to assist the Garden Club with the Columbus Trash-Off.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 5-0

8. Discussion Regarding the Report and Recommendation from the Planning and Zoning

Commission on the Proposed Mobile Food Vendor Ordinance. [P Z ORDINANCE.pdf](#) 

Tracy Lillie and Robin Garcia from P & Z were present to discuss the proposed ordinance with Council members.

There was a lot of discussion on the who, why, and how food vendors would meet the criteria in the proposed ordinance.

At the end of the discussion, Council sent the ordinance back to P & Z for more definitive items on an annual permit from a recognized entity, liability insurance requirements, all parties of any type would need to be permitted and obtaining weekly water from a certified location within the last 7 days prior to the opening of their food truck/trailer.

Christensen voiced his concern about the safety of consumers and that a disclaimer should be posted at each vendor regarding the food not being inspected by the City of Columbus.

9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the January 2023 Golf Report. [GOLF JAN](#)

[2023.pdf](#) 

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, reviewed the report with Council.

Rankin stated they look like they are running behind a bit.

Schneider stated they have been closed some days due to weather.

No action was needed.

10. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - Happy Valentine's Day

Sciba - I like the sidewalks

Ridlen - thanked Warschak on his work for the LL restroom information

Rankin - Noticed there was a light at the flagpole

Gobert - there is a lot going on in town; the sidewalks have received rave reviews; thank you to Cummings and Rankin for their help and input on the personnel handbook; thank you to Dinah for the cookies

11. Announcements

12. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 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.