



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, February 27, 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
Fire Marshal – Brent Gorman, Jr.
Code Enforcement – Richard LaCourse
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. 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_02.27.2023.pdf](#)

3.2 Approval of Minutes of the February 13, 2023 Regular Meeting

[MINUTES 02.13.2023.pdf](#) 

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Debbie Damon addressed Council regarding the Commissioner's Court approving the Saturdays Days on the Square. She encouraged everyone to come out and support them.

She also went on to address her concern over the noise the trains make when coming through town.

5. City Manager's Report Including the MLK Street Sidewalk Project, TxDOT Project Updates, Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, Downtown Revitalization Sidewalk Grant, Softball and Baseball Park Restroom Project, the County Hazardous Cleanup Day, and the Engine Brake Ordinance. [CM REPORT.pdf](#)

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

Regarding the MLK Street Sidewalk Project, Warschak reported we are waiting on the close out of this project.

Regarding the TxDOT Project - Hwy 90 East River Bridge, Warschak reported they are steadily working on this project. Traffic has been shifted and the old truss bridge has been taken out of service. The contractor is working on the south side of the Front Street intersection.

Regarding the TxDOT Project - Hwy 90 Walnut Street Sidewalk Project, Warschak reported this project is more or less complete. They are just watering the grass.

Regarding the TxDOT Project - Hwy 71 (Fannin Street) Signal Light Project, Warschak reported we are just waiting for them to finish up in Dewitt county and move over to us.

Regarding the Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, Warschak reported our application has been submitted. After a zoom meeting, they gave suggestions for us if we make it to the next level.

Regarding the Downtown Revitalization Sidewalk Grant, Warschak reported the contractor's completion of a majority of the work in the alley. There is some asphalt work and cleanup yet to do. They will then move on to the area of Walnut Street to OST on Wednesday. After that they will move to the Spring Street location.

Regarding the Softball and Baseball Park Restroom Renovations, Warschak reported CCIDC had approved grant funding for the project. Demo is set to start on Tuesday.

Regarding the County Hazardous Cleanup Day, Warschak reported the cleanup day will be March 18th at the fairgrounds. We have provided roll offs and oil recycle tanks in the past to assist them with this project.

Regarding the Engine Brake Ordinance, Warschak reported the City Attorney is working on an ordinance regarding the use of engine brakes within the City.

Rankin spoke about the Ohio train derailment, and questioned if we have a plan. Richard LaCourse, Asst. Fire Chief, stated the fire department does have an SOP for the department. It is really hard to know though what is being transported by rail at any given time should something happen.

Gobert stated it really is the same with I10. You have no idea what the trucks are hauling at any given time.

Brent Gorman, Fire Marshal, stated they do have railroad contacts and they have resources more readily available and in larger quantities than the fire department has. Ridlen questioned if it is more of an evacuation procedure to start with, to which Gorman and LaCourse responded, yes.

6. Consideration and Action to Send to Planning & Zoning a Proposed Subdivision of a 0.846 Acre Tract Situated in the W.B. Dewees League A-18 in the City of Columbus into Two (2) Tracts (0.221 Acres (Tract 1), and 0.631 Acres (Tract 2)) as Requested by

Pauline Nelson. [REPLAT NOSKA.pdf](#) 

Warschak stated this tract is at Montezuma and FM 806.


Motion to approve sending this request to P&Z.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 5-0

7. Consideration and Action to Send to Planning & Zoning a Proposed Subdivision of a 2.462 Acre Tract Situated in the W.B. Dewees League A-18 in the City of Columbus into Four (4) Tracts (0.393 Acres (Tract 1), 0.199 Acres (Tract 2), 1.100 Acres (Tract 3), and 0.765 Acres (Tract 4) as Requested by Theresa Hadash. [REPLAT HADASH.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve sending this request to P&Z.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

8. First Reading of Resolution 256-23, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations with Less than 20,000 Residents for Funding of a Combined Community Development and Economic Development Grant to the City of Columbus for Little League Baseball and Softball Restroom Facility Improvements. [RESOLUTION 256-23 CCIDC LL](#)

[RESTROOMS.pdf](#) 

Gobert read Resolution 256-23.

9. **First Reading of Resolution 257-23, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations with Less than 20,000 Residents for Funding of a Business Improvement Grant, Part of the Milam Street Improvement Project, to Magnolia Society at the Hotel Colorado, LLC for Decking and Front Yard Improvements. [RESOLUTION 257-23 CCIDC](#)**

[GRANT MAGNOLIA.pdf](#) 

Gobert read Resolution 256-23.

10. **First Reading of Resolution 258-23, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations with Less than 20,000 Residents for Funding of an Economic Development Grant to Magnolia Society at the Hotel Colorado, LLC for Kitchen and Patio Improvements for a New**

Restaurant. [RESOLUTION 258-23 CCIDC GRANT MAGNOLIA SOCIETY.pdf](#) 

Gobert read Resolution 258-23.

11. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 259-23, a Resolution to Select an Administrative Service Provider to Complete Application and Project Implementation for the 2023-2024 TDA CDBG Community Development Fund Program. [RESOLUTION](#)**

[259-23- ADMIN -CDBG.pdf](#) 

Warschak stated Administration met and scored the two applications that were received. This is for a waterline project. The proposals were from Langford and GrantWorks. Langford scored the highest and is being recommended.

Motion to approve Langford for the Administrative Service Provider to Complete Application and Project Implementation.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

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

Carried 5-0

12. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 260-23, a Resolution to Select an Engineering Service Provider to Complete Application and Project Related Engineering for the 2023-2024 TDA CDBG Community Development Fund Program. [RESOLUTION](#)**

[260-22-ENG -CDBG.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve Strand Engineers as the Engineering Service Provider.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

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

13. Consideration and Action to Accept the Certification of Unopposed Candidates for the May 6, 2023 General Election.

Consideración y acción para aceptar la certificación de candidatos sin oposición para las elecciones generales del 6 de mayo de 2023. [CERTIFICATION UNOPPOSED](#)

[CANDIDATES.pdf](#) 

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, certified the candidates for City Council were all unopposed.

La secretaria de la ciudad, Bana Schneider, certificó que los candidatos para el Concejo Municipal no tuvieron oposición.

Motion to accept Schneider's Certification of Unopposed Candidates.

Moción para aceptar la Certificación de Candidatos Sin Oposición de Schneider.

Moved by/Movido por: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by/Secundado por: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 5-0

14. Consideration and Action to Adopt Ordinance 262-23, an Ordinance of the City of Columbus, Texas Declaring the Unopposed Candidates for the Offices of Mayor, City Councilmember Place One, and City Councilmember Place Two as Elected. [ORD 262-23](#)

[CANCEL ELECTION.pdf](#) 

Examen y medidas encaminadas a adoptar Ordenanza 217-19, una Ordenanza de la ciudad de Columbus, Texas Declarar los candidatos sin oposición para la oficina Alcalde, Concejal de la Ciudad de la Lugar Uno, y el Concejal de la Ciudad Lugar Dos como Elegido. [ORD 263-](#)

[23 CANCELADO ELECCIONES.pdf](#) 

Motion to adopt Ordinance 262-23 cancelling the May 6, 2023 general election.

Moción para adoptar la Ordenanza 262-23 que cancela las elecciones generales del 6 de mayo de 2023.

Moved by/Movido por: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by/Secundado por: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 5-0

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the January 2023 Fire Marshal Report. [FIRE MARSHAL JANUARY 2023.pdf](#) 

Fire Marshal, Brent Gorman Jr., gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Gorman reported on five inspections, the large amount of time spent on plans review for Magnolia Society, and a January 21st fire investigation. Gorman also reported a total of 15 fire department calls for service last month.

No action was needed.

16. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the January 2023 Code Enforcement

Report. [CODE ENFORCEMENT JANUARY 2023.pdf](#) 

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. LaCourse reported on a total of 34 permits that were issued and highlighted three of the new building permits. He also reported on violation letters that were sent, civil plan reviews, and the SmartGov permit software being implemented.

Gobert thanked him and all of the fire department for their efforts on a successful fundraising event held yesterday.

No action was needed.

17. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the January 2023 Police Report.

[JANUARY 2023 STATS.pdf](#) 

Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Edman reported on training and the recent TCOLE audit. The department had no deficiencies.

Edman also proposed questions for Council to think about regarding filling vacancies.

No action was needed.

18. Discussion Regarding the Proposed Personnel Policies and Manual.

Council was presented with a draft for an updated personnel policy manual. There was discussion with several proposed changes from the attorney. Consideration and approval will be at a future meeting.

19. Items from Councilmembers²

Rankin - none

Ridlen - thanked the firefighters for all they do

Sciba - questioned about the local loiterers; Edman responded with how they try to handle them

Daley - none

Cummings - questioned about the signs and people at the riverbank

Gobert - shout out to the fire department on their fundraiser and firefighting efforts; thanked staff for their work on the policy manual

20. Announcements

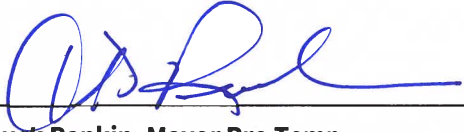
Warschak - none

Schneider - none

Billy Kahn - Rotary Pancake Supper is tomorrow night

21. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.



Chuck Rankin, Mayor Pro Temp

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.