



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, March 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 (Arrived at 5:37 p.m.)
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 Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 4-0

3.1 **Approval of Invoices** [INVOICES 03.27.2023.pdf](#)

3.2 **Approval of Minutes of the March 13, 2023 Regular Meeting**
[MINUTES 03.13.2023.pdf](#)

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Gobert stated Beth Easterling was here but had departed. She left an information sheet for Council members. Gobert stated the Chamber/Better Columbus was already working on a number of the items she was going to address.

5. City Manager's Report Including the MLK Sidewalk Project, TxDOT Projects Update, Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, Softball and Baseball Park Restroom Renovations, Midtown Park Workday, and The Spring Trash-Off Event. [CM REPORT.pdf](#)

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

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

Regarding the Hwy 90 East River Bridge Project, Warschak reported TxDOT has completed paving on the east side of the bridge and the project is nearing completion.

Regarding the Hwy 71 (Fannin Street) Signal Light Project, Warschak reported we are next after the contractor installs two signal lights in Dewitt County.

Regarding the Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, Warschak reported our application has been submitted and in the application process. The Yoakum TxDOT office has done a preliminary of the project.

Regarding the Downtown Revitalization Sidewalk Grant, Warschak reported the contractor has completed the project. An ADA inspection is scheduled for this week.

Regarding the Softball and Baseball Park Restroom Renovations, Warschak reported work is being done at both locations and we are working with the subcontractors. Specifically at the Montezuma Street location, the plumbing is complete, and fixtures will be mounted soon. HVAC equipment has been installed. Partitions are anticipated to be installed when received later this week. The exterior door has been replaced as well. Specifically for the Softball field location, Warschak reported the interior demolition and storage has been completed. Plumbers are working on plumbing adjustments. Masonry walls will be constructed soon. This location is approximately a couple of weeks behind the other.

Regarding the Midtown Park Workday, Warschak reported he was out of town, but other City representatives were on hand to help. Gobert stated she was there as well as Cummings. They assisted with painting and everything was well received.

Regarding the Spring Trash Off, Warschak reported this event is this weekend. Citizens can bring household non-hazardous items to the maintenance facility for disposal.

Warschak also reported the Little League BBQ is this weekend.

Let the record reflect that Councilman Ridlen joined the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

6. Public Hearing Regarding the Proposed Zoning Change for Properties as Listed in Exhibits for Ordinance 264-23 from District B, Business or Commercial to District B-1,

Neighborhood Business. [P&Z REPORT.pdf](#) 

Gobert opened the Public Hearing at 5:40 p.m.

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, gave information from the Planning & Zoning meeting. P&Z removed several properties from the proposed list.

There were no other comments.

Public Hearing was closed at 5:41 p.m.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 264-23, an Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Map if the City of Columbus, Texas to Rezone Certain Properties Listed on Exhibit A from B: Business or Commercial District to B-1: Neighborhood Business District.

[ORD 264-23 ZONING B-1.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve Ordinance 264-23.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

8. Consideration and Action Regarding the Naming of the Renovated Alley Behind Milam Street Between Walnut and Crockett Streets.

Warschak reported visiting with the businesses in the alley area and asked for suggestions for naming the alley.

Gobert read the suggested names from Beth Easterling.

Warschak reported all were receptive to the "Artists' Alley" name.


Motion to name the alley "Artists' Alley".

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

9. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 265-23, an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbus, Texas by Amending Chapter 8 Offenses and Nuisances, Article 8.05 Noise; Section 8.05.002 Specific Noises Enumerated, and Adding Section 12.01.002 Engine Braking Prohibited to Existing Chapter 12 Traffic and Vehicles, Article 12.01 General Provisions. [ORDINANCE 265-23 - NO ENGINE BRAKES.pdf](#) 

Chief Edman stated, if approved, signs will need to be obtained before enforcement can begin.

Motion to approve Ordinance 265-23.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Carried 5-0

10. Consideration and Action Regarding a 2023 General Fund Budget Amendment for Dumraese Grant Proceeds and Improvement Expenditures for Nesbitt Memorial Library.

[LIBRARY DUMRAESE.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the General fund budget amendment.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

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

Carried 5-0

11. Consideration and Action to Award Bid for Library Improvement Project. [LIBRARY IMP](#)

[PROJECT BIDS.pdf](#) 

Library Director, Susan Chandler, discussed the bids. She recommended going with the lowest bidder, Five Oak Construction. She also stated the library has funds for the amount over the budget amendment.

Motion to go with the lowest bidder, Five Oak Construction.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 5-0

12. Consideration and Action to Adopt the Personnel Policy Handbook for the City of Columbus.

Motion to adopt the new personnel policy manual.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 5-0

13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the February 2023 Fire Marshal Report.

[FIRE MARSHAL FEB 2023.pdf](#) 

Richard LaCourse gave the Fire Marshal report in Brent Gorman's absence. A copy is attached to these minutes. LaCourse reported on the inspections, reviews, and investigation, as well as the SAFE-D conference to learn about guaranteed funding sources for fire protection.

No action was needed.

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the February 2023 Code Enforcement

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

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. LaCourse reported on 42 permits being issued. Permit software is in full swing with testing all this week, with a go live date of April 11th.

No action was needed.

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the February 2023 Police Report.

[FEBRUARY 2023 STATS.pdf](#) 

Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Edman gave a little information on the Nashville tragedy. Edman reported on training. Edman stated he went to the academy to try to recruit. He received one application that did not make the cut. Edman stated he has funds in the line item for the ability to do a sign on bonus.

Rankin requested Edman work up a proposal and get with management. Edman asked Council if he can move forward without coming back as long as it is within the budget line.

No Action was needed.

16. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Sciba - none

Ridlen - LL BBQ is this weekend

Rankin - questioned sending bills electronically due to the high cost of postage; Schneider will look into this; he also questioned the posting of ordinances he stated he questioned this two years ago and some are still not posted; Schneider spoke about the current process and the move to the new codification platform; Ridlen stated the Ordinances were codified when passed; Schneider stated now they can be uploaded after each meeting.


Gobert - thanked Rankin for running the last meeting

17. Announcements

There were no announcements.

18. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 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.