



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, September 11, 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 5:34 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  
Fire/Code Assistant – Duane Naiser

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor, Lori An Gobert

**2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

Gobert led the pledge and invocation.

Gobert also observed a moment of silence in memory of 9/11

**3. Consent Agenda:**

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

*Moved by:* Paige Sciba

*Seconded by:* Keith Cummings

**Aye** Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

**Carried 4-0**

3.1

**Approval of Invoices [INVOICES 09.11.2023.pdf](#)**

3.2 **Approval of Minutes of the August 28, 2023 Regular Meeting**

[MINUTES 08.28.2023.pdf](#) 

3.3 **Approval of the April 2023 Financial Statements** [APRIL 2023.pdf](#) 

**4. Consideration and Action to Approve Invoices for Colorado Valley Veterinary Services.**

[09112023 CVVS.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the CVVS invoice as presented.

*Moved by:* Ronny Daley

*Seconded by:* Chuck Rankin

**Aye** Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

**Carried 4-0**

**5. Consideration and Action to Approve Invoices for Columbus Tire Center (Sciba Corporation).** [09112023 COLUMBUS TIRE.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the Columbus Tire invoices as presented.

*Moved by:* Keith Cummings

*Seconded by:* Ronny Daley

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

**Abstain** Paige Sciba

**Carried 3-0**

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

**7. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, TxDOT Project Update, Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, PHMSA Pipeline Grant, 2023 Gas System Improvements, 2023 Seal Coat Project.** [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 the month of September was \$163,259.99 compared to \$142,913.07 over the same time period last year. The Cities of Weimar and Eagle Lake, as well as the County saw an increase.

Regarding the Hwy 71 (Fannin Street) Signal Light Project, Warschak reported the contractor continues to work towards the completion of this project.

Regarding the Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, Warschak reported the application has been submitted. Target date of October to compile a list of projects to be recommended to the Texas Transportation Commission for award.

Regarding the PHMSA Pipeline Grant, Warschak reported the application has been submitted for the 2023 Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant.

Regarding the 2023 Gas System Improvements, Warschak reported B&D Services has installed the main gas lines, service lines, and connections on the project. The project area is being cleaned up.

Regarding the 2023 Seal Coat Project, H&C Construction will begin soon on the project area on the map attached. The City employees are working on leveling spots on the streets in the project area. The project is to be completed by the end of this month.

Let the record reflect that Councilman Mike Ridlen joined the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Milam Street from the North Side of the Alley by the Probation Office to Crockett Street on Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. for An Evening at the Old Brunson Saloon, as Requested by the Live Oak Art Center.** [BRUNSON NIGHT STREET CLOSURE.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the street closure as presented.

*Moved by:* Ronny Daley

*Seconded by:* Paige Sciba

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

**Carried 5-0**

9. **Consideration and Action to Approve a Library Budget Amendment for Grants, Memorials, and Donations Revenue and Associated Expenditures.**

[LIBRARY GRANTS MEMORIALS DONATIONS.pdf](#) 

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, gave the information for the needed amendment.

Motion to approve the Budget Amendment for the Library.

*Moved by:* Keith Cummings

*Seconded by:* Chuck Rankin

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

**Carried 5-0**

10. **Public Hearing on Proposed 2023-2024 City of Columbus Operating Budget.**

[2023 2024 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING.pdf](#) 

Gobert opened the public hearing for the operating budget at 5:43 p.m.

With no public comments, the public hearing was closed at 5:44 p.m.

11. **Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance No. 270-23, an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 254-22 to Adopt a Budget for the Ensuing Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2023 and Ending September 30, 2024.** [ORD 270-23 BUDGET.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve Ordinance 270-23, amending Ordinance 254-22.

*Moved by:* Paige Sciba

*Seconded by:* Keith Cummings

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

**Carried 5-0**

12. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the August 2023 Golf Report.**

[AUGUST 2023 GOLF.pdf](#) 

Schneider went over the golf report. Revenues were down, but so were the expenditures.

No action was needed.

13. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Posting of a Suicide Prevention Banner on City Property.** [SUICIDE PREVENTION BANNERS 9-2023.pdf](#) 

Dr. Mazie Leftwich, Wellness Council of Greater Colorado County President, gave information regarding suicide and suicide prevention month.

Motion to approve the posting of Suicide Prevention Banners as presented.

*Moved by:* Paige Sciba

*Seconded by:* Keith Cummings

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

**Carried 5-0**

14. **Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.074, Personnel Matters - City Manager Review.**

Regular session was closed at 5:46 p.m. to enter into executive session.

15. **Reconvene into Regular Session and Consideration and Action, if Any, Regarding Executive Session - City Manager Review.**

Reconvene regular session at 6:18 p.m.

All members present before executive session remained present.

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

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Sciba - none

Ridlen - none

Rankin - none

Gobert - Shout out to AL&M for the 9/11 shirts

**17. Announcements**

Schneider - Thursday, September 21, 2023 mandatory tax rate hearing.

**18. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.



**Lori An Gobert, Mayor**

**Attest:**



**~~Bana Schneider, City Secretary~~**

**DINAH JACOBS**

<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.