



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, June 13, 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
Councilman – Michael Ridlen (Absent)
City Manager – Donald Warschak
City Secretary – Bana Schneider
Assistant City Secretary – Dinah Jacobs

Other City Staff present included:

Library Director – Susan Chandler
Code Enforcement – Richard LaCourse
Fire Marshal - Brent Gorman, Jr.
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

Ayes: Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 4-0

3.1. Approval of Invoices [INVOICES_06.13.2022.pdf](#)

3.2. Approval of Minutes of the May 23, 2022 Regular Meeting

[MINUTES_05.23.2022.pdf](#) 

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

Motion to approve invoices from Columbus Tire Center (Sciba Corporation).

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

Ayes: Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Abstained: Paige Sciba

Carried 3-0

5. **Consideration and Action Regarding the Approval of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for FY 2021.** [ACFR_2021.pdf](#) 

Audit Manager Kent Willis, of Patillo, Brown, & Hill joined via a Teams Virtual Meeting. He presented the 2021 audit report.

Willis pointed out the City of Columbus has now received the GFOA award for 15 years in a row.

Willis stated the City of Columbus was given a Clean Opinion, the highest level assurance that can be given.

There was further discussion among Council members on various items in the report.

Motion to approve the annual comprehensive financial report for FY 2021.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Ayes: Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 4-0

6. **Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹**

Kristen Cepak, Chamber Director, addressed Council, regarding a Chamber 200 Committee wanting to do a lighted Christmas parade.

Chief Edman was not present. Gobert stated parades were addressed previously, creating a high demand for personnel and funding. Rankin suggested she visit with Warschak and Edman for a discussion.

7. **City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, the McCormick WWTP Riverbank Project and the MLK Street Sidewalk Project.** [CM_REPORT.pdf](#) 

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

Regarding Sales Tax, Warschak reported sales tax was up \$143,935 compared to \$140,482 for the same period last year. The County and Cities of Eagle Lake and Weimar all saw increases.

Regarding the McCormick WWTP Riverbank Project, Warschak reported the project is pretty much complete and the contractor is wrapping things up. They will also do a ribbon cutting upon completion.

Regarding the MLK Sidewalk Project, Warschak reported the contractor has started sodding areas. They are getting close to completion and finishing up the striping and signage.

8. Consideration and Action to Award the Bid for the 2022 Street Improvements Seal Coat Project. [BID.TAB_2022.pdf](#)

Warschak stated there was only one bid for the project. There was a 7-8% difference from what was budgeted. It would be about \$11,000 over budget. Warschak stated he would recommend moving forward with the project. Gobert stated she was pleasantly surprised there was not a greater increase over budget.

Motion to award the Bid for the 2022 Street Improvements Seal Coat Project to H & C Construction.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Ayes: Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 4-0

9. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Front Street from Walnut Street (Highway 90) to Preston Street Starting June 14, 2022 for Approximately Three (3) Weeks for Underground Utility Work Related to the East River Bridge Construction.

[CLOSURE FRONT STREET.pdf](#)

Warschak reported TxDOT will be doing underground work to the storm sewer drain related to the bridge project. There may be times the street will be open, but a street closure was recommended to make sure the work progresses in a safe and timely manner.

Motion to approve the street closure as listed.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

Ayes: Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 4-0

10. Consideration and Action to Approve the Donation of Improvements to The Nesbitt Memorial Library Meeting Room and Kitchen Area from the Nesbitt Memorial Library Foundation.

Library Director, Susan Chandler, addressed Council. She gave an overview of things they are looking to change: an apartment size refrigerator in the kitchen, a dishwasher to sanitize toys, and a larger sink, which will require tearing out the cooktop, extending the serving area, redoing

the floors, wainscot and chair rail, art lighting, and making everything ADA compliant. There is an LCRA grant and two matching grants. The Nesbitt Memorial Library Foundation is the LCRA grant recipient and will be donating the improvements to the City.

Motion to approve the Donation of Improvements to the Nesbitt Memorial Library Meeting Room and Kitchen Area from the Nesbitt Memorial Library Foundation.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Ayes: Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 4-0

11. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of One Member to The Nesbitt Memorial Library Advisory Board for a Term Expiring October 2024.

Chandler corrected the term for the appointment until October of 2025.

Motion to approve the appointment of Mark Candela to the Nesbitt Memorial Library Advisory Board for a term expiring October 2025.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

Carried

12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the May 2022 Golf Report. [GOLF MAY 2022.pdf](#)

There was no one present from the golf association. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, gave an overview of the report. They are still in the black. They are still bringing in members. There are some large repairs coming up; plumbing, maintenance work on the irrigation well. Schneider stated she did get a request for a paid City superintendent. They feel they can get a better candidate if they get benefits. Rankin was opposed to that. Schneider stated they also need a new roof.

No action was required.

13. Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.072, Deliberations About Real Property - Industrial Park.

Regular session was closed at 6:14 p.m. to go into executive session.

14. Reconvene into Regular Session and Consideration and Action, if Any, Regarding Executive Session - Deliberations About Real Property - Industrial Park.

Regular session reconvened at 6:28 p.m. with the same members present.

Motion to authorize the President of CCIDC to negotiate with a prospective client.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Ayes: Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 4-0

15. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Ridlen - none

Sciba - none

Rankin -none

Gobert - Congratulations and thank you to Bana and Dinah on their hard work on the financials/audit. Amazing 15 year run that we hope continues. Gobert also stated she attended an event recognizing Dr. Robert Sanders, a world class musician, in the Houston area. He has fallen on hard times. He has finally accepted needing help. A GoFundMe account has been set up to assist him.

16. Announcements

There were no announcements.

17. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 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.