



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, July 25, 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 (Via Microsoft Teams)  
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 (Absent)

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief – Skip Edman  
Assistant Fire Chief – Sydney Chollett  
Code Enforcement – Richard LaCourse  
Fire Marshal - Brent Gorman, Jr.  
Code/Fire Assistant – Duane Naiser  
CCIDC President – Bruce Tesch

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Pro Tem, Chuck Rankin, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

Rankin led the pledge and invocation.






**3. Consent Agenda:**

Motion to approve consent agenda as presented.

*Moved by:* Ronny Daley

*Seconded by:* Keith Cummings

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

- 3.1. **Approval of Invoices** [INVOICES 07.22.2022.pdf](#) 
- 3.2. **Approval of Minutes of the July 11, 2022 Regular Meeting**  
[MINUTES 07.11.2022.pdf](#) 
- 3.3. **Approval of Minutes of the July 21, 2022 Special Meeting**  
[MINUTES 07.21.2022.pdf](#) 
- 3.4. **Approval of the May 2022 Financial Statements** [MAY 2022.pdf](#) 
- 3.5. **Approval of Investment Report for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2022**  
[INVESTMENT REPORT 06.30.2022.pdf](#) 

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

There were no citizen comments.


**5. City Manager's Report Including the McCormick WWTP Riverbank Project, the MLK Street Sidewalk Project, and the Hwy 90 East River Bridge Project. [CM REPORT.pdf](#)**



City Manager, Donald Warschak gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Warschak highlighted the status of the McCormick WWTP Riverbank project, the MLK Street sidewalk project and the Hwy 90 East River Bridge project.

Rankin asked about the timeline for the completion of the bridge project. Warschak stated the last update puts completion in October.

No action was required.

**6. Public Hearing Regarding a Proposed Zoning Change, Specifically, a 0.4419 Acre Tract and a 0.5133 Acre Tract Located in the WB Dewees Survey, Abstract 18, from District R-1, Multi-Family, Apartment, Townhouse or Condominium to District B, Business or Commercial as Requested by Deborah Herring. [P&Z REPORT.pdf](#)** 

Mayor, Lori An Gobert, who attended remotely, opened the public hearing at 5:36 p.m.

Property owner, Deborah Herring, asked Council to follow Planning & Zoning's recommendation for approval of the zoning change.

Gobert stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission had, again, done a very thorough job on their report.

Gobert closed the public hearing at 6:37 p.m.

**7. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 253-22, an Ordinance Designating a 0.4419 Acre Tract, and a 0.5133 Acre Tract Located in the WB Dewees Survey, Abstract 18, from District R-1, Multi-Family, Apartment, Townhouse or Condominium to District B, Business or Commercial. [ORD 253-22 ZONING HERRING.pdf](#)** 

Motion to approve the zoning change as reflected in Ordinance 253-22.

*Moved by:* Keith Cummings

*Seconded by:* Ronny Daley

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

**Carried 5-0**

**8. Consideration and Action to Approve the Columbus Community & Industrial Development Corporation 2022/2023 Operating Budget. [CCIDC 2023 OPERATING](#)**

**[BUDGET.pdf](#)** 

CCIDC board president, Bruce Tesch, highlighted the changes to the 2023 budget from the 2022 budget.

Motion to approve the Columbus Community & Industrial Development Corporation's 2022/2023 operating budget.

*Moved by:* Ronny Daley

*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 the Certification for Local Governments for House Bill 3834 Cybersecurity Awareness Training. [CYBERSECURITY 2022.pdf](#)** 

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated all members of Council and all employees had completed the cybersecurity training as required by House Bill 3834.

Motion to approve the certification for local governments for House Bill 3834 Cybersecurity Awareness Training.

*Moved by:* Paige Sciba

*Seconded by:* Keith Cummings

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

**Carried 5-0**

**10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the June 2022 Fire Marshal Report.**

**[FIRE MARSHAL JUNE 2022.pdf](#)** 

Fire Marshal, Brent Gorman, Jr., gave his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Gorman highlighted the inspections and calls for the month of June. He also gave

an update on the number of fire calls the department has responded to since the end of June. He stated the trend of increasing calls is the new norm.

Councilman Cummings asked about the number of calls the department responded to over the weekend. Gorman stated they had five calls. They discussed the membership in the department, and Gorman stated they had received two new applicants.

There was a discussion regarding the area departments and the number of calls that CVFD covers in those service areas. Councilman Ridlen stated that the City was bearing the lion's share of the fire calls in the county.

No action was required.

**11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the June 2022 Code Enforcement**

**Report.** [CODE ENFORCEMENT JUNE 2022.pdf](#) 

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He spoke about the number of permits issued during the month, highlighting permits for new buildings, solar panel installation, and generators.

Ridlen asked if LaCourse could provide a graph of permits issued for new structures during the last three years.

No action was required.

**12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the June 2022 Police Report.** [JUNE](#)

[2022 STATS.pdf](#) 

Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave the report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Edman gave an overview of the training during June, and stated the department is currently cycling through vacations. He stated all local law enforcement went on tours of all the schools to better understand the layout and see the places where people could hide. Edman also spoke about the school district's plans to for an ISD police department. Lastly, he stated the 2014 Tahoe would soon be ready to be designated as surplus property.

No action was required.

**13. Discussion of Budget Workshop**

13.1. **Budget Assumptions/Wish List/Miscellaneous** [BUDGET](#)




[ASSUMPTIONS PROPERTY TAX 07.22.2022.pdf](#) 

Schneider discussed the recently received certified values from the central appraisal district. She also stated some new properties in the City had not yet been added to the tax rolls.

13.2. **Special Revenue Funds** [SPECIAL REVENUE FUND 07.22.2022.pdf](#) 

Schneider discussed the transfers from the equipment fund to help pay for the backhoe for the public works department.

There was also discussion regarding the deposits to the fire equipment fund for 2023. The amount needed for the next apparatus as well as the need for other revenue sources was also discussed.

- 13.3. **HOT FUNDS [CHAMBER REQUEST.pdf](#)**   
Chamber Executive Director, Kristen Cepak, presented Council with the 2023 request for HOT funds. There was discussion regarding the Columbus 200 Celebration as well as Magnolia Days Festival.
- 13.4. **Debt Service Funds [DEBT SERVICE 07.22.2022.pdf](#)**   
Schneider gave an overview of the debt service requirements as well as the retirement dates of the debt obligations.
- 13.5. **General Fund [GENERAL FUND 07.22.2022.pdf](#)**   
Chief Edman discussed the need for an increase in police pay to keep the officers currently in the department. He stated they are being heavily recruited, and replacement officers are just not out there.

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

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Sciba - asked about the presentation of the study done a few years ago by Texas A&M students.

Ridlen - restated from the last meeting his desire to have the restrooms at both the softball and little league fields updated.

Rankin - none

Gobert - thanked Council for, again, letting her attend the meeting remotely.

**15. Announcements**

Schneider stated there is a budget workshop scheduled for Monday, August 1st.

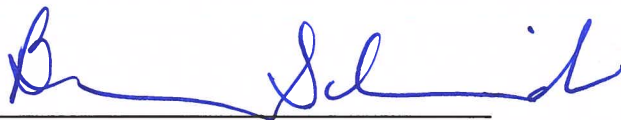
**16. Adjournment**

Gobert adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.



**Lori An Gobert, Mayor**

**Attest:**



**Bana Schneider, City Secretary**

<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.