



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, September 12, 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
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 5:30 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 09.12.2022.pdf](#)

- 3.2. **Approval of Minutes of the August 22, 2022 Regular Meeting**
[MINUTES_08.22.2022.pdf](#) 
- 3.3. **Approval of Minutes of the August 26, 2022 Special Meeting**
[MINUTES_08.26.2022.pdf](#) 
- 3.4. **Approval of the June 2022 Financial Statements** [JUNE 2022.pdf](#) 
- 3.5. **Approval of the July 2022 Financial Statements** [JULY 2022.pdf](#) 

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

Motion to approve invoices for Columbus Tire.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 4-0

5. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Pamela Hooper addressed Council regarding drainage in the area of Jackson and Prairie Streets. Gobert stated we are looking at drainage improvements. Warschak is working on the issues in that area.

6. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, 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 is attached to these minutes. Regarding Sales Tax, Warschak reported the September sales tax payment for July collections was down approximately \$6,500. The City's payment was \$142,913.07 compared to \$148,495.71 over the same time period as last year. The County and Cities of Weimar and Eagle Lake all saw increases. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated last year there was a collection for a prior period during that time for approximately that amount.

Regarding the McCormick WWTP Riverbank Project, Warschak reported the contractor had installed the safety device of the ladder located in the effluent structure. The contractor is correcting the items noted after the final walk through. Once this is done, the Corp would like to schedule a project completion event.

Regarding the MLK Sidewalk Project, Warschak reported that TxDOT has conducted a final walk thru, and now are waiting on the ADA inspection.

Regarding the Hwy 90 East River Bridge Project, Warschak reported the contractor is working on the storm sewer portion of the project at the Front Street intersection. Once completed, they will flip and move to the other side. While this is going on, the City will be replacing a cast iron water main crossing on Walnut Street. Rankin questioned how long to finish the project. Will it take as long to do the South side as it did the North side?

7. Discussion of Budget Workshop - Final

Schneider stated there were a few minor changes to the budget. Legal expenses were increased due to a new rate from the attorney. TDS rates were changed. Gobert stated Schneider negotiated with TDS. TDS was wanting a 12% increase. Our contract is a 10-year contract but has the clause "due to extraordinary circumstances". They negotiated a 6% increase along with the contractual annual 3% increase. This will be re-evaluated in a year to see how things are. Rankin asked if the rates have been approved (TDS). Schneider stated that will be voted on at the September 26th meeting. Rankin stated the citizens will see the 9% increase.

8. Public Hearing on Proposed 2022-2023 City of Columbus Operating Budget. [2022-2023](#)

[BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING.pdf](#) 

Gobert opened the public hearing at 5:50 p.m.

With no public comments, the public hearing was closed at 5:51 p.m.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance No. 254-22, an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 242-21 to Adopt a Budget for the Ensuing Fiscal Year Beginning October

1, 2022 and Ending September 30, 2023. [ORD 254-22 BUDGET.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 254-22 adopting the 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

10. Consideration and Action Regarding the Use of the City Swimming Pool by the High School Swim Team Through the end of October or Until Weather no Longer Permits.

[CITY POOL.pdf](#) 

New CHS swim coach, Paula Swindle, made the request for the use of the City pool.

Motion to approve the use of the City pool by the high school swim team until weather no longer permits.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen
Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 5-0

11. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 251-22, a Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Texas Criminal Justice Division Grant Application for the Police

Department. [RESOLUTION 251-22 POLICE GRANT.pdf](#) 

Edman highlighted the specifics of the grant and how it is scheduled to work. They are requesting large enough shields, but not so large they can't be carried in the units at all times.

Motion to approve Resolution 251-22 in support of the Bullet-Resistant Shield Grant Program.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin
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 255-22, a Resolution to Designate the 2023 Representative and Alternate to the General Assembly of the Houston-Galveston

Area Council. [RESOLUTION 255-22 HGAC REP.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve Resolution 255-22 designating the Mayor as the Representative and Councilwoman Sciba as the alternate to the HGAC General Assembly.

Moved by: Keith Cummings
Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

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

Carried 5-0

13. Consideration and Action to Approve an Engagement Letter for Legal Services with the Law Firm of Bovey & Cochran, PLLC. [LEGAL ENGAGEMENT LETTER.pdf](#) 

The engagement letter includes a \$20 per hour increase. There has been no increase since 2019. Schneider stated they have been a great partner with us. They have also added another attorney to the firm as well.

Motion to approve an engagement letter for legal services, including a rate increase, with Bovey & Cochran PLLC.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the August 2022 Golf Report.

[GOLF AUGUST 2022.pdf](#) 

Schneider discussed the report. They were in the red a bit this month. She stated prior management changed phone service, but there was a failure to cancel the old service.

No action was required.

15. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - he went to the fair and really enjoyed it

Sciba - none

Ridlen - none

Rankin - none

Gobert - Shout out to the Chamber regarding their celebrations for Columbus 200. I have heard nothing but good things about the celebrations. The fair did an amazing job as well as the police department doing a great job and there was great City representation.

16. Announcements [SEPT OCT CALENDAR.pdf](#) 

Schneider stated there were two calendars attached and she highlighted the meeting dates and changes.

17. Adjournment

Gobert adjourned the meeting at 6:02 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.