



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, November 14, 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
Public Works Superintendent – Michael Poncik

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 11.14.2022.pdf](#) 

3.2. **Approval of Minutes of the October 24, 2022 Regular Meeting**

[MINUTES 10.24.2022.pdf](#) 

3.3. **Approval of the Investment Report for the Quarter Ended September**

30, 2022 [INVESTMENT REPORT 09-30-2022.pdf](#) 

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

Motion to approve the Columbus Tire Center Invoices.

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

Debbie Damon addressed Council regarding vendors at Ladies Night Out and Magnolia Days and vehicles parking along the street in front of her store. She stated she contacted TxDOT and there was no issue with closing parking along that street.

6. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, the MLK Street Sidewalk Project, TxDOT Projects Update, and Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application. [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 November was \$176,504.52 compared to \$172,522.10 for the same time last year. The County, City of Weimar, and City of Eagle Lake all saw increases as well.

Regarding the MLK Street Sidewalk Project, Warschak reported the ADA inspection portion of the project has been completed and found to be in substantial compliance. The Contractor now needs to complete the punch list so the project can be closed out.

Regarding TxDOT Projects - the Hwy 90 East River Bridge Project, Warschak reported the contractor is working on bridge approaches and guard rail system. The City will continue the replacement of a cast iron water main crossing Walnut Street when the contractor starts the storm drain improvements. Two-way traffic shift is to begin November 21st, and the existing truss bridge will be taken out of service. The bridge will be closed for inspection on November 14th and 15th.

Regarding the Hwy 90 (Walnut Street Sidewalk Project), Warschak reported the project has been bid by TxDOT. This project is being combined with another project in Matagorda County, with anticipation of the Columbus Project starting first.

Regarding the Hwy 71(Fannin Street) Signal Light Project, Warschak reported TxDOT has bid this project. This project is also part of a larger project of signal lights within the Yoakum District. We are waiting on an anticipated start date.

Regarding the Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, Warschak reported TxDOT will begin the application process in December for the Transportation Alternatives Grant Program. The first part of the application will be due in January. We will be updating our costs associated with that grant when we reapply.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 252-22, a Resolution Adopting the City of Columbus Investment Policy. [RESOLUTION 252-22 INVESTMENT POLICY.pdf](#) 

Councilman Ridlen questioned how interest rates affect this policy. City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated the interest rates are dealing with our depository which is determined when we go out for bids. No changes have been made to the policy since there were no law changes.

Motion to approve Resolution 252-22.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 5-0

8. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 253-22, a Resolution Declaring Certain Personal Property Surplus, and Authorizing Sale of Surplus Property. [RESOLUTION 253-22 SELLING SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY.pdf](#) 

Schneider realized we should have been doing this for all surplus property. Moving forward approval to make property surplus will be done in this manner.

Motion to approve Resolution 253-22.

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 Ratify a Contract for Collection Services with the Colorado County Central Appraisal District. [CCCAD CONTRACT 2022.pdf](#) 

Schneider stated this is late coming out, but there was no reminder, so it is being done now. It is the same contract.

Ridlen asked if they have personnel to do the collection. Schneider stated she just must monitor it more closely.

Rankin questioned about CAD not having identified all properties. Schneider confirmed and stated when they are added, they can go back and tax from the prior year. Rankin also suggested it might be nice to have him come to the meeting and introduce himself. Gobert stated the new Chief Appraiser has identified a multitude of issues and is working his way through them.

Motion to ratify a contract for Collection services with the Colorado County Central Appraisal District.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

10. Consideration and Action Regarding a Noise Ordinance Variance for Thursday, December 1, 2022 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Bowie Street at Walnut Street for Live Music Celebrating Ladies Night Out as Requested by Sarah Koller and Jane Vasquez.

[NOISE VARIANCE KOLLER.VASQUEZ.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve a noise ordinance variance 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

11. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Wallace Street Between Bowie Street and Live Oak Street from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 11, 2022 for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parade and Celebration as Requested by Grupo

Guadalupano. [GUADALUPE STREET CLOSURE.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the street closure 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

12. Consideration and Action to Approve the Purchase of a Case 580N EP 4WD Backhoe.

[CASE BACKHOE.pdf](#) 

Public Works Superintendent, Michael Poncik, spoke about the backhoe. It is considered used, but it is literally new since it was never leased out.

Motion to approve the purchase of a Case 580N EP 4WD Backhoe.

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, if Necessary, Regarding the October 2022 Golf Association

Report. [OCT 2022 GOLF.pdf](#) 

Schneider gave an overview of the report. She is awaiting a few answers and clarifications from John Mangini.

No action was required.

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Second Council Meetings in

November and December. [NOV DEC CALENDAR.pdf](#) 

Schneider stated the Monday after Thanksgiving is the next meeting. Everyone seemed good with the date and no change needed. The second meeting in December is Tuesday, December 27th, because the 26th is the City observed holiday.

Motion to move the second meeting in December to Wednesday, December 21st at noon.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 5-0

15. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Sciba - none

Ridlen - I was able to secure up to \$25,000 from the Little League to subsize the CCIDC grant. Five Oak said they would honor the bid; we need to get the bidding part started soon; Warschak stated we need to get drawings and then go back to CCIDC

Rankin - none

Gobert - went to HGAC with Sciba; very informative and interesting with all cities suffering with similar issues; Gobert stated there were some issues with the dog "pound"/"shelter" - it is not a shelter/pound, but a quarantine area stated Michael Poncik; there is a group that is willing to start fundraising program to help with assistance of animals that are quarantined

16. Announcements

Schneider stated the Christmas party invitation is included with the pay stubs. Please let her know by December 2nd if you plan to attend.

17. Adjournment

Gobert adjourned the meeting at 5:59 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.