



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, January 9, 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
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:

3.1 **Approval of Invoices** [INVOICES 01.09.2023.pdf](#) 

3.2 **Approval of Minutes of the December 21, 2022 Regular Meeting**
[MINUTES 12.21.2022.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 5-0

4. Consideration and Action to Approve the Invoices for Colorado Valley Veterinary Services. [INVOICES CVVS.pdf](#)

Motion to approve the CVVS invoices as presented.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Abstain Michael Ridlen

Carried 4-0

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

Motion to approve Columbus Tire invoices as presented.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Abstain Paige Sciba

Carried 4-0

6. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Citizens signed in to speak at respective agenda items.

Brenda Wyman addressed Council regarding drainage on Fairview street.

Ken Braden, a Fairview resident, stated there is some misunderstanding or disagreement on who is supposed to clean out the ditch/gutter area along Highway 90, TxDOT or City.

Warschak stated he would reach out to TxDOT. In the meantime, the City could possibly run the sewer machine to clean out the culvert and ditch area. If the ditch needs regrading, that would be a TxDOT job.

7. City Manager's Report Including the MLK Street Sidewalk Project, TxDOT Projects Update, Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, Sewer Averaging, and Downtown Revitalization Sidewalk Grant. [CM REPORT.pdf](#)

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

Regarding the MLK Sidewalk Project, Warschak reported the ADA inspection has been completed for the project and has been found in substantial compliance. When the contractor completes the punch list, we can close this project out.

Regarding the East River Bridge Project, Warschak reported TxDOT anticipates possibly shifting two-way traffic to the new bridge this week. The existing truss bridge will be taken

out of service and the contractor will complete the work on the south side of the Front Street intersection.

Regarding the Hwy 90 (Walnut Street Sidewalk Project), Warschak reported that TxDot has indicated our project will begin the second weekend of January. The contractor has been on site laying out the project, with a starting place on the west end of the FM 806 intersection. This is approximately a four-month project but hopes to complete sooner.

Regarding the Hwy 71 (Fannin Street) Signal Light Project, Warschak reported TxDOT has had a pre-construction meeting. Dewitt County has two signal lights to be installed and then our project will follow.

Regarding the Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, Warschak reported we will be applying for the Transportation Alternatives Grant Project, like before. This project will be located on Montezuma Street. This application is due at the end of January.

Regarding Sewer Averaging, Warschak reported that sewer averaging started December 15, 2022 and will continue through February 15, 2023. Citizen water usage during this time will be used to calculate the residential sewer rates for the upcoming year.

Regarding the Downtown Revitalization Sidewalk Grant, Warschak reported a pre-construction meeting was held on January 5th to discuss this project. We also met with the businesses impacted by this project. The contractor is ready to start once the documents are signed.

Gobert commented on the street repair taking place on Milam street because of the buckling. These are TxDOT contractors and not City employees working. The repairs do not seem to be any better than the current problem they are addressing.

Councilman Ridlen questioned the Little League restrooms. Warschak stated he is working on the project. There were some changes that needed to be made and things that needed to be done. Ridlen questioned whether they will be completed in the next couple of months. Rankin suggested a plan be created with a timeline to make sure things get completed. Ridlen stated expediency is appreciated.

8. Consideration and Action to Allow the Live Oak Art Center to Use Street Parking in Front of Their Property on Milam Street for Food Truck Vendor Set-Up on Thursdays and Fridays from 1:00 p.m. Thru 10:00 p.m. During Construction of the CDBG

Downtown Revitalization Grant Project. [LIVE OAK ART CENTER.pdf](#) 

Warschak gave information regarding the food truck parking request.

Tori Kramr addressed Council regarding the request for the set up in front of the Live Oak Art Center on Thursdays and Fridays. Several parking spots will be needed to be marked off for the parking of the truck. Three spots will be lost during that time frame.

Motion to approve the use of street parking during the revitalization grant project.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

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

Carried 5-0

9. Consideration and Action to Approve the Partial Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) from Myra Jane Drive to the Courthouse Square on Saturday January 21, 2023 Starting at 1:30 P.M. for the Annual March for Life.

Motion to approve the partial street closure as presented.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Carried 5-0

10. Discussion Regarding the Report and Recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission on the Proposed Mobile Food Vendor Ordinance. [P Z REPORT.pdf](#)

Gobert thanked the Planning & Zoning Commission for all their hard work on this ordinance. She stated it would be helpful if commission members would attend council meetings during discussion to get their insights.

Council discussed state laws regarding mobile food vendors, and the exemptions for vendors at farmers markets, festivals, etc.

Citizen, Chris Christensen, questioned the why for an ordinance. He stated the City has never made a statement to that effect. He conveyed he does not think mobile food vendors should be allowed in the City since they do not pay property tax. Christensen commented we should support local brick and mortar businesses. Councilman Rankin stated P&Z should possibly have some sort of round table with restaurants, mobile food vendors, and maybe the Chamber to see how they feel about the ordinance.

More information is needed before the ordinance will be presented for a vote.

11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the December 2022 Golf Association Report. [DECEMBER 2022 GOLF.pdf](#)

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, gave a recap of the golf report. She stated it appeared they had a pretty good month. They were \$1,858 in the black, which is always good. Software has been upgraded for cash collections, so there is more accountability now.

12. Announcements

Schneider stated she has candidate election packets available.

January 18th is the first day an application can be filed.

The packet is on the website as well.

Warschak stated he received late notice that the grant for police shields was received.

13. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Sciba - none

Ridlen - none

Rankin - none

Gobert - encouraged Council to go to the time capsule opening; she received an invitation for the Harris County Junior Posse that is coming thru town on January 14th and encouraged others to come out; Happy New Year

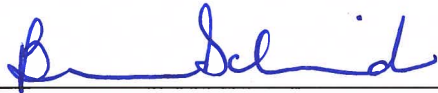
14. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 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.