



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, March 13, 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 (Absent)
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 Pro Tem, Chuck Rankin, called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Rankin led the pledge and invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 5-0

3.1 **Approval of Invoices** [INVOICES_03.13.2023.pdf](#)

3.2 **Approval of Minutes of the February 27, 2023 Regular Meeting**
[MINUTES_02.27.2023.pdf](#)

4. Consideration and Action to Approve Invoices for Columbus Tire Center (Sciba Corporation).

[INVOICES_COLUMBUS TIRE.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the Columbus Tire Invoices as presented.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Keith Cummings


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

Abstain Paige Sciba

Carried 4-0

5. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

There were no citizen comments.

6. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, the MLK Street Sidewalk Project, TxDOT Project Updates, Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, Downtown Revitalization Sidewalk Grant Project, Softball and Baseball Park Restroom Renovations, County Hazardous Cleanup Day, and Midtown Park Workday. [CM REPORT.pdf](#) 

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

Regarding Sales Tax, Warschak reported the sales tax payment was slightly down, \$146,915.62 compared to \$147,824.21 the same time last year. The County and the City of Eagle Lake saw increases, while the City of Weimar saw a decrease.

Regarding the MLK Sidewalk Project, Warschak reported we are waiting on TxDOT to close out this project.

Regarding the Hwy 90 East River Bridge Project, Warschak reported traffic has been shifted to the new bridge, and the old truss bridge has been taken out of service. Pavement work is happening on the south side of Front Street.

Regarding the Hwy 71 (Fannin Street) Signal Light Project, Warschak reported we are on schedule after the Dewitt County install, approximately during the summertime.

Regarding the Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, Warschak reported our application is in the submission step.


Regarding the Downtown Revitalization Sidewalk Grant, Warschak reported the contractor has completed most of the work in the alley behind the Live Oak Art Center and on Walnut Street between Columbus State Bank and OST Creamery. Work is being done on the section of Spring between Milam and Bowie.

Regarding the Softball and Baseball Park Restroom Renovations, Warschak reported there is work going on at both locations and coordinating with the various subcontractors. Rankin questioned the timeline, to which Warschak reported they are working on the partition issues, but still aiming towards the first of April.

Regarding the County Hazardous Cleanup Day, Warschak reported the cleanup day will be March 18th at the Fairgrounds.

Regarding the Midtown Park Workday, Warschak reported Willie Mae Williams and a group of volunteers have organized a cleaning day at the park on March 25, 2023, beginning at 10:00a.m. Anyone wishing to participate is encouraged to attend.

7. **Second Reading of Resolution 256-23, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations with Less than 20,000 Residents for Funding of a Combined Community Development and Economic Development Grant to the City of Columbus for Little League Baseball and Softball Restroom Facility**

Improvements. [RESOLUTION 256-23 CCIDC LL RESTROOMS.pdf](#) 

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, read Resolution 256-23.

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 256-23, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations with Less than 20,000 Residents for Funding of a Combined Community Development and Economic Development Grant to the City of Columbus for Little League Baseball and Softball Restroom Facility Improvements.**

Motion to approve Resolution 256-23.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Carried 5-0

9. **Second Reading of Resolution 257-23, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations with Less than 20,000 Residents for Funding of a Business Improvement Grant, Part of the Milam Street Improvement Project, to Magnolia Society at the Hotel Colorado, LLC for Decking and Front Yard**

Improvements. [RESOLUTION 257-23 CCIDC MAGNOLIA SOCIETY.pdf](#) 

Schneider read Resolution 257-23.

10. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 257-23, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations with Less than 20,000 Residents for Funding of a Business Improvement Grant, Part of the Milam Street Improvement Project, to Magnolia Society at the Hotel Colorado, LLC for Decking and Front Yard Improvements.**

Motion to approve Resolution 257-23.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

11. **Second Reading of Resolution 258-23, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations with Less than 20,000 Residents for Funding of an Economic Development Grant to Magnolia Society at the Hotel**

Colorado, LLC for Kitchen and Patio Improvements for a New Restaurant. [RESOLUTION 258-](#)

[23_CCIDC_MAGNOLIA_SOCIETY.pdf](#) 

Schneider read Resolution 258-23.

- 12. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 258-23, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations with Less than 20,000 Residents for Funding of an Economic Development Grant to Magnolia Society at the Hotel Colorado, LLC for Kitchen and Patio Improvements for a New Restaurant.**

Motion to approve Resolution 258-23.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 5-0

- 13. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Travis Street from Walnut Street (Highway 90) to Spring Street from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the Last Saturday of Every Month Beginning on March 25, 2023 and Ending on November 25, 2023, as Requested by the Columbus Country**

Market. [STREET CLOSURE COLUMBUS COUNTRY MARKET.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the street closure as requested.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 5-0

- 14. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Spring Street from Milam Street up to the Property Line at 415 Spring Street on Friday May 19, 2023 Beginning at 7:00 a.m. and the Closure of Spring Street from Milam Street to Front Street Beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 19, 2023 until Midnight, Saturday, May 20, 2023; the Closure of Travis Street from Walnut Street to Spring Street Beginning at 7:00 a.m. and the Closure of Travis Street from Walnut Street to Washington Street Beginning at 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 19, 2023 until Midnight, Saturday, May 20, 2023; and the Closure of Milam Street from Walnut Street to the Railroad Tracks Beginning at 7:00 am until 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, 2023 as Requested by the Chamber of Commerce for the Magnolia Days Festival. [STREET CLOSURE MAGNOLIA DAYS.pdf](#)**



Motion to approve the street closure as requested.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

- 15. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 261-23, a Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program Application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the Community Development Fund. [RESOLUTION 261-23 CDBG APPLICATION.pdf](#)** 

Schneider stated A1013 has to be adopted. The others have to be reaffirmed.

Motion to approve Resolution 261-23.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 5-0

- 16. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 262-23, a Resolution Authorizing City Representatives in Matters Pertaining to the City's Application in the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program. [RESOLUTION 262-23 SIGNATORY AUTHORIZATION.pdf](#)** 

Motion to approve Resolution 262-23.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

- 17. Consideration and Action Regarding the Sale of Real Property Owned by the City, Located at 930 Travis Street, Pursuant to Section 272.001 Local Government Code; the Approval of the Required Minimum Bid of \$81,600, and Authorizing City Management Take All Necessary Action for the Posting of the Required Notice. [NOTICE TO BIDDERS.pdf](#)** 

Warschak stated the \$81,600 was the appraised value. There are two buildings on the property. We'd like to declare as surplus and take sealed bids to get the property off of our books. Purchaser will have to demo or bring up to code within 9 months. Rankin stated the mineral rights are reserved for the City.

Motion to proceed with the sale of the above said property.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Carried 5-0

18. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of the Honorable Stan Warfield as Associate Judge for Columbus Municipal Court.

Warschak stated Judge Truchard, who passed away recently, had been serving as the associate judge. Judge Peters recommended Warfield for the position.

Motion to approve the appointment of Honorable Stan Warfield as Associate Judge.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 4-0

19. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Naming of the Renovated Alley Behind Milam Street Between Walnut and Crockett Streets.

Warschak stated this is the alley where the new sidewalk was installed. Roger Wade has submitted a name for consideration for the alley. The City still maintains it.

Roger Wade was present and stated his proposed name is "Artist's Alley".

Ridlen stated he was not opposed to the name but thought there were a number of property owners and felt they should be notified and get their input.

Motion that any action for naming the alley be placed on the agenda for the next meeting and that the City approach the property owners that border the alley to notify those owners before action is taken.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

20. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the February 2023 Golf Report.

[GOLF FEBRUARY 2023.pdf](#) 

Schneider stated members had the report. Rankin stated it seemed to be better. Schneider also went over the comparison chart from 2022 to 2023 thus far. Rankin stated activity level is down. Ridlen stated we just need to keep an eye on it. Chief Edman stated he wondered if this is due to coming out of COVID. There was a sharp increase due to being an activity to do outdoors with COVID and now it is starting to decline.

No action was needed.

21. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Sciba - none

Ridlen - none

Rankin - none

22. Announcements

There were no announcements from management.

23. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 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.