



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, April 10, 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 (Departed 5:53 p.m.)
Councilman – Michael Ridlen
City Manager – Donald Warschak
City Secretary – Bana Schneider
Assistant City Secretary – Dinah Jacobs

Other City Staff present included:

Code Enforcement – Richard LaCourse
Fire Marshal – Brent Gorman, Jr.

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 04.10.2023.pdf](#) 

3.2 **Approval of Minutes of the March 27, 2023 Regular Meeting**

[MINUTES 03.27.2023.pdf](#) 

4. **Consideration and Action to Approve the 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: Chuck Rankin

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 the MLK Sidewalk Project and TxDOT Project Updates, the Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, the Downtown Revitalization Sidewalk Grant, Softball and Baseball Park Restroom Renovations, and the Spring Trash-Off Event.** [CM 04.06.2023.pdf](#) 

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

Regarding the MLK Street Sidewalk Project, Warschak stated the final walk-thru has been completed and the contractor is working on the punch list with only a few items needing completion.

Regarding the Hwy 90 East River Truss Bridge Rehab Project, Warschak stated TxDOT had a pre-engineering planning meeting last week. TxDOT anticipates taking bids for the project next year.

Regarding the Hwy 71 (Fannin Street) Signal Light Project, Warschak stated we are the next project following the completion of the Dewitt County project.

Regarding the Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, Warschak reported he has been notified by TxDOT that our project is eligible to move forward. The second phase of the application submittal will begin soon.

Regarding the Downtown Revitalization Sidewalk Grant, Warschak reported the contractor has completed the project. The ADA review is complete as well and indicates no deficiencies.

Regarding the Softball and Baseball Park Restroom Renovations, Warschak reported there is construction going on at both locations. The partitions have been installed and the plumbers are mounting fixtures at the Montezuma location. The plumbers have completed the adjustments to the existing plumbing and the masonry contractor can now install the masonry wall at the Softball field location.

Regarding the Spring Trash-Off event, Warschak reported the event was held on April 1. Citizens brought items filling five and one half forty-yard roll-off containers and 60 cubic yards of scrap iron.

Rankin requested remediation of the grass in the old water tank area at Midtown Park.

7. Public Hearing Regarding the Proposed Zoning Change for Properties as Listed in Exhibits for Ordinance 264-23 from District B, Business or Commercial to District B1, Neighborhood Business. [P&Z REPORT.pdf](#)

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, addressed the Mayor stating Councilman Daley had filed an affidavit and was asking to be dismissed from the Public Hearing and vote on the zoning ordinance.

Public Hearing was opened at 5:36 p.m.

With no additional comments, the public hearing was closed at 5:38 p.m.

8. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 266-23, an Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Columbus, Texas to Rezone Certain Properties Listed on Exhibit A from B: Business or Commercial District to B1: Neighborhood Business District. [ORD 266-23 ZONING-B-1.pdf](#)

Motion to approve Ordinance 266-23.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 5-0

9. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 267-23, an Ordinance Adopting a Master Fee Schedule. [ORD 267-23 MASTER FEE SCHEDULE.pdf](#)

Rankin asked if all of the fees existed. Code Enforcement, Richard LaCourse stated yes, most of them, they were just all in different locations. Therefore, with SmartGov coming into effect, this was a perfect time to consolidate them, as well as get the permits with no fee added. SmartGov puts us in the 21st century. Council asked to inquire with the attorney regarding how the fee schedule can be changed.

Motion to approve Ordinance 267-23.

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 to Approve a Bid for a Water Storage Tank Floor

Replacement. [WATER STORAGE TANK REPAIRS.pdf](#) 

Warschak discussed the repair proposal.

Ridlen asked if this was the only bid. Warschak stated yes, he went direct to them because this company did the original installation.

Motion to approve the bid from Superior Tank Company.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 5-0

11. Consideration and Action to Grant or Refuse Petition from Landowners for Annexation by the City of Columbus 13.954 Acres of Land in the E. Tumlinson League, Abstract No.

44, Colorado County, Texas. [CCH ANNEXATION PETITION.pdf](#) 

Ridlen questioned what services were needed and would we have to provide them.

Schneider stated if we annex, we supply everything they would need, but it is a parking lot they are planning for the property.

Motion to accept the petition for annexation from Columbus Community Hospital.

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 263-23 Setting the Dates, Times and Places for Public Hearings on the Proposed Annexation of Certain Property by the City of Columbus, Texas and Authorizing and Directing the Mayor to Publish Notices of Such

Public Hearings. [RESOLUTION 263-23 ANNEXATION.pdf](#) 

Let the record reflect Councilwoman Sciba departed the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

Motion to approve Resolution 263-23.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

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

Carried 4-0

13. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Wallace Street Between Bowie and Live Oak Streets from 9:00 a.m. until Noon on Saturday June 11, 2023, and the Use of City Sidewalks on Live Oak, Bonham, and Bowie Streets for a Eucharistic Procession on the Feast of Corpus Christi as Requested by St. Anthony Catholic Church.** [ST](#)

[ANTHONY STREET CLOSURE.pdf](#) 

Schneider stated she had spoken with Chief Edman, and also explained the options to the church secretary. Schneider stated the requestor is aware of the one street closure and use of sidewalks.

Motion to approve the street closure as presented.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 4-0

14. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the March 2022 Golf Association Report.** [GOLF MARCH 2022.pdf](#) 

John Mangini gave the golf report. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

April 25th is the Crawdaddy Tournament. This is one of two of their fundraisers.

May 13th - Booster Club Tournament

June 10 - Vietnam Vet Tournament

Prior to this year, we had never had a cart shed agreement. He is in the process of drawing up a lease agreement.

Rankin stated when funds are received they should be deposited and not held until April.

Gobert asked about Crawdaddy Tournament details.

Marshall/Wyndham Tournament is in October or November.

Ridlen questioned if they took credit cards for membership dues. Mangini stated no.

Mangini stated memberships are \$600/year or \$700/year for families. That amount can be paid in full or in two installments.

Ridlen asked if cart rental fees increased, to which Mangini stated no.

No action was needed.

15. **Items from Councilmembers²**

Cummings - do you know if there will be continuing improvements at Midtown Park?

Gobert stated yes. There are some challenges, however.

Daley - none

Sciba - departed early

Ridlen - none

Rankin - none

Gobert - Mrs. Williams's husband, who recently passed, served on Council for over 20 years, and Schneider did a nice proclamation for them. There is a State of the City on Wednesday at noon at the Stafford Opera House.

16. Announcements

Schneider stated she gave members the cost analysis for the electronic billing of utility statements. She went over the details. \$8.32/customer/year - it would take 624 customers to recoup the cost

The clerks up front have been taking a poll with customers at the window when they come in and the response has been positive.

Rankin stated it pretty much pays itself back in one year.

17. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 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.