



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, April 24, 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 (Absent)

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief – Skip Edman
Code Enforcement – Richard LaCourse
Code/Fire Assistant – Duane Naiser

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 noise variance as requested.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

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 04.24.2023.pdf](#)

- 3.2 **Approval of Minutes of the April 10, 2023 Regular Meeting**
[MINUTES 20230410.pdf](#) 
- 3.3 **Approval of the November 2022 Financial Statements** [NOVEMBER 2022.pdf](#) 
- 3.4 **Approval of the Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2023** [INVESTMENT REPORT 03.31.2023.pdf](#) 

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Debbie Damon read a citizen's statement regarding early voting and the lack of participation at the candidate forum held earlier in the month.

Robin Adams addressed Council regarding issues with her neighbor and a temporary fence he has installed down the center of a shared driveway.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, the MLK Street Sidewalk Project, Highway 71 Signal Light Project, the Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, the Softball and Baseball Park Restroom Renovations, and Gas System Improvements.

[CM REPORT.pdf](#) 

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

He stated sales tax collections received for the month of April were over \$20,000 more than the same time period last year. The County and the other incorporated cities also saw increases.

The MLK Street Sidewalk Project still needs some punch list items remedied before that project can be closed by TxDOT.

Regarding the HWY 71 Signal Light Project, Warschak stated the contracting is currently installing the concrete footings for the poles.

The City has been invited to submit to TxDOT for the Montezuma Street Sidewalk Project.

Warschak indicated the newly renovated restroom at the Little League baseball fields are now open; the softball field restroom building has a new roof, and the masonry block work has been completed. Insulation needs to be installed and then the partitions will be able to go in. Gobert asked how long before the restrooms will be ready to open. Warschak stated it will take approximately two weeks.

In conclusion, Warschak stated bids had been advertised for the Gas Line Improvement Project. The project area is located north of the high school campus. Councilman Rankin asked where this project puts us in our master plan. Warschak stated this is just one of the phases. Gobert asked about the grant he had applied for gas improvements. He stated he had not heard if we will be awarded anything.

Councilwoman Sciba inquired about the condition of some of the street signs in town. Warschak stated the public works department is currently trying to catalog and GPS all of the street signs in the asset control system. They will be able to make an assessment at that time and schedule those signs that need replacement or maintenance.

6. **Consideration and Action Regarding a Noise Ordinance Variance for Friday, May 5, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. to Midnight and Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. to Midnight at the Colorado County Fairgrounds for a Truck and Tractor Pull as Requested by Thunder By The Colorado, Inc.** [NOISE VARIANCE THUNDER BY THE COLORADO.pdf](#) 


Motion to approve the noise variance as requested.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 5-0

7. **Consideration and Action Regarding a Noise Ordinance Variance for Thursday, May 18, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Friday, May 19, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. - Midnight, and Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. for the Magnolia Days Festival as Requested by the Chamber of Commerce.** [NOISE VARIANCE MAGNOLIA DAYS.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the noise variance as requested.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

8. **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 a Minimum Bid Requirement, or Approval of No Minimum Requirement, and Authorizing City Management Take All Necessary Action for the Posting of the Required Notice.** [NOTICE TO BIDDERS.pdf](#) 

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated no bids had been received with the original notice with the minimum bid set at \$81,600. She said she had spoken with the attorney, and Council can set another minimum, or no minimum since the notice states you have the right to refuse any and all bids.

Motion to approve the notice to bidders for the Mansfield property setting a \$0 minimum bid.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

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 Resolution 264-23, a Resolution Authorizing the Use of Public Funds for the Meals on Wheels Program While Housed in the Noah's Ark Coffee House and Ministry. [RESOLUTION 264-23 MEALS ON WHEELS.pdf](#) 

There was discussion regarding the credits for Meals on Wheels. Council requested the utility history for Meals on Wheels when they worked from the Mansfield building. Rankin suggested some sort of contract for services before any approvals.

The item was tabled for a later date.

10. Consideration and Action Regarding the Municipal Telecommunications Right-of-Way Access Line Rates. [ROW ACCESS LINE RATES.pdf](#) 

Motion to leave the ROW Access Line Rates at the current value.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

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

Carried 5-0

11. Consideration and Action to Approve a Utility Fund Budget Amendment for Expenditures Associated with an E-Billing Output Processor. [BUDGET AMENDMENT UTILITY.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the utility fund budget amendment.

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, if Necessary, Regarding the March 2023 Fire Marshal Report. [FIRE MARSHAL MAR 2023.pdf](#) 

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse gave the report. A copy is attached to these minutes. LaCourse highlighted the Fire Marshal activity for the month as well as fire department calls.

No action was required.

13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the March 2023 Code Enforcement

Report. [CODE ENFORCEMENT MAR 2023.pdf](#) 

LaCourse gave the report, a copy is attached to these minutes. He stated 44 permits had been issued. He indicated the new SmartGov permitting software was now up and running so his report may look a little different. He stated the billing clerks were doing a great job with contractor registration and answering questions about the new portal.

Councilman Ridlen asked if the City gets involved with property disputes. LaCourse stated we did not. Rankin asked if barbed wire was allowed as fencing material in the City. LaCourse stated our code does not specify building materials for fencing.

No action was required.

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the March 2023 Police Report.

[STATS MAR 2023.pdf](#) 

Police Chief, Skip Edman gave the report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Edman stated the ballistic shields have been received for the CJD grant, and the new Tahoe was delivered to the up fitters. He also discussed the need for a new police department server for the 24/25 budget year. The cost will be around \$32,500. Schneider stated there could be an increase to equipment fund transfers in this upcoming budget year to set aside some funding for the new equipment.

There was discussion regarding recruitment and hiring bonuses.

No action was required.

15. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - asked about the engine braking signs. Warschak stated the signs were ready, but the poles needed to be ordered. He also needs to get with TxDOT regarding placement.

Daley - is looking forward to the new traffic signal light.

Sciba - none

Ridlen - asked about the mobile food ordinance. Schneider stated Planning & Zoning is working on revisions.

Rankin - none

Gobert - the Chamber tree planting and dedication on Saturday was great. The pre-K children singing the National Anthem was wonderful.

16. Announcements

Schneider stated she had spoken with the City Attorney regarding the procedure when fee amounts are changed. She said an ordinance amending the schedule will need to be passed. Also, the attorney indicated we may need to clean-up some of the existing ordinances in order for them to refer to the Master Fee Schedule.

17. Adjournment

Gobert adjourned the meeting at 6:34 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.