



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, May 22, 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:

Lieutenant Kevin Daniel
Fire Marshal – Brent Gorman, Jr.
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. Oath of Office for Newly Elected Officials. [CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION.pdf](#)

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, administered the oath of office to Mayor, Lori An Gobert. Mayor Lori An Gobert administered the oath of office to Councilman Keith Cummings and Councilman Ronny Daley.

4. Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

Aye

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

4.1 **Approval of Invoices** [INVOICES 05.22.2023.pdf](#) 

4.2 **Approval of Minutes of the May 8, 2023 Regular Meeting**
[MINUTES 20230508.pdf](#) 

5. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Gobert read a proclamation in recognition of LGBTQ Pride Month. A photo was taken with members of the group.

Gobert read a proclamation for Columbus Garden Club in recognition of National Garden Week. A photo was taken with members of the group.

Amber Becerra was present on behalf of the Chamber to express thanks to Council and the City for their backing of the Magnolia Days Festival.

Matt Guthmann asked a question regarding the white stakes and the activities on county road 2104 in the Industrial Park.

6. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Hwy 71 Signal Light Project, Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, and the Softball and Baseball Park Restroom

Renovations. [CM REPORT.pdf](#) 

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

Regarding sales tax, Warschak reported sales tax for the month of May was \$191,359.88, which was an increase over the same time period last year of \$185,649.15. The County and City of Eagle Lake experienced an increase, while the City of Weimar experienced a decrease.

Regarding the Hwy 71 Signal Light Project, Warschak reported the contractor has installed the signal poles and light fixtures at the location. The next step will be the control cabinets and the connections to operate the lights.

Regarding the Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, Warschak reported the application is being completed for submission to TxDOT.

Regarding the Softball and Baseball Park Restroom Renovations, Warschak reported the Montezuma location is complete and open for use. At the Softball field location, the sub-contractor needs to complete the painting of the walls and floors. Once that is complete, the partitions and plumbing fixtures will be installed.

Councilwoman Sciba questioned the height of the poles and lights. Warschak stated that TxDOT will be the ones to figure that out.

Councilman Ridlen questioned the refurbishing of the street signs. Warschak stated they will be on that as time permits.

7. Public Hearing on Proposed Annexation of 13.954 Acres of Land in the E. Tumlinson Survey League, Abstract 44, Colorado County, Texas.

Gobert opened the public hearing at 5:50 p.m.

With no public comments, the public hearing was closed at 5:51 p.m.

Let the record reflect that Councilman Ridlen was called out and left the meeting at 5:51 p.m.

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 268-23, an Ordinance Annexing 13.954 Acres of Land in he E. Tumlinson Survey League, Abstract 44, Colorado County, Texas; Granting to all Landowners the Rights and Privileges of Other Citizens; Binding Landowners by all of the Acts, Ordinances, Resolutions, and Regulations of the City of Columbus; and Adopting a Service Plan. [ORD 268-23 ANNEXATION.pdf](#)** 


Motion to approve Ordinance 268-23.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 4-0

9. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 265-23, a Resolution Supporting the City of Columbus' Application to the Texas Department of Transportation's 2023 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) Call for Projects. [RESOLUTION 265-23 SIDEWALKS TXDOT.pdf](#)** 

Motion to approve Resolution 265-23.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 4-0

10. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Bid for the 2023 Gas System Improvement Project. [2023 GAS SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS.pdf](#)** 

Warschak gave an overview of the project. There was only one bid from B & D Services. Warschak recommended the bid be awarded to B & D.

Motion to approve the bid from B & D Services.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 4-0

11. Consideration and Action to Award the Contract for Construction and Installation of Handrails for the CDM21-0441 Grant Project. [CDM21-0441 HANDRAIL BIDS.pdf](#)

Warschak presented information on this project.

There were two bidders.

Motion to approve the bid from SWS.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 4-0

12. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Wallace Street Between Bowie and Live Oak Streets from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. 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](#)

[ANTHONY STREET CLOSURE.pdf](#)

Schneider stated the closure was approved before, but the time has changed.

Motion to approve the street as presented.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Carried 4-0

13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Sale/Disposal of City-Owned Real Property Located at 930 Travis Street, Columbus, Texas.

Schneider indicated no bids were received. She stated she had spoken with the city attorney. There are still guided options on what could be done. He stated maybe trying to demo it and then sell the lot.

Daley questioned if there was a minimum. Schneider stated there was no minimum but there are guidelines for submitting a bid.

Rankin questioned if the building should be continued to be used.

A citizen asked questions regarding what would have to happen if it were "gifted" to a non-profit organization, and what would need to happen.

Rankin asked if Code were to issue a Certificate of Occupancy, what would need to be done.

Chris Christensen questioned if the City had considered demoing. Warschak replied that the cost to demo was in the \$40,000-\$50,000 range. Warschak stated the appraisal was \$81,000, but he was unsure of the value of just the lot itself.

Rankin stated we needed to look at the costs involved since it is being used for public use.

Gobert asked Warschak to come back with a list of what it would cost to fix or demolish.

No action was taken.

14. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of Leonard Peters as Municipal Court Judge.

Gobert stated she had spoken to him and was happy to continue serving.

Motion to approve Leonard Peters as Municipal Court Judge.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 4-0

15. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of Stan Warfield as Associate Municipal Court Judge.

Motion to approve Stan Warfield as Associate Municipal Court Judge.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Carried 4-0

16. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of Luke Cochran as City Prosecutor.

Motion to approve Luke Cochran as City Prosecutor.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 4-0

17. Consideration and Action to Approve Bovey & Cochran, PLLC as City Attorney.

Motion to approve Bovey & Cochran, PLLC as City Attorney.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Carried 4-0

18. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of Brent A. Gorman, Jr. as City Fire Marshal.

Motion to approve Brent A. Gorman, Jr. as City Fire Marshal.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 4-0

Let the record reflect that at 6:15 p.m., Michael Ridlen rejoined the meeting.

19. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of Bart Klaus as City Public Health Officer.

Motion to approve Bart Klaus as City Public Health Officer.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Carried 5-0

20. Consideration and Action to Approve the Reappointment of Five Members and the Appointment of two Alternates to the Board of Adjustments for Terms Ending May 2025.

Motion to approve the five members and two alternates, Sherry Tucker, and Anna Schultz for the Board of Adjustments.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Carried 5-0

21. Consideration and Action to Approve the Reappointment of Two Members and Appointment of One New Member to the Columbus Community and Industrial Development Corporation Board for Terms Ending May 2025.

Motion to approve Morgan Barten to the CCIDC Board.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Abstain Keith Cummings

Carried 4-0

22. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of One Member to the Nesbitt Memorial Library Board for a Term Ending October 1, 2026.

Motion to approve Zach Zahradnik to the Nesbitt Memorial Library Board.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

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

Carried 5-0

23. Consideration and Action to Appoint Members to the Employee Grievance Committee.

Motion to approve Chuck Rankin and Keith Cummings to the Employee Grievance Committee.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 5-0

24. Consideration and Action to Appoint Members to the Citizen Grievance Committee.

Motion to approve Mayor Gobert, Councilman Daley, and Barbara Peterman to the Citizen Grievance Committee.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 5-0

25. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the April 2023 Fire Marshal Report.

[FIRE MARSHAL APRIL 2023.pdf](#) 

Fire Marshal, Brent Gorman, Jr. gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Gorman highlighted inspections, investigations, and training, as well as monthly calls.

No action was needed.

26. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the April 2023 Code Enforcement Report. [CODE ENFORCEMENT APRIL 2023.pdf](#) 

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. LaCourse gave a recap of permits issued.

No action was needed.

27. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the April 2023 Police Report.

[STATS APRIL 2023.pdf](#) 

Lieutenant Kevin Daniel gave the report in Chief Skip Edman's absence. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

28. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - enjoyed the weekend

Sciba - enjoyed the weekend

Ridlen - proud of this community

Rankin - none

Gobert - Thanked the officers for all of their hard work; enjoyed the weekend and the well-orchestrated event even without an executive director; she thanked all involved present and behind the scenes

29. Announcements

There were none.

30. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 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.