



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, September 25, 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 (Absent)
Assistant City Secretary – Dinah Jacobs

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief – Skip Edman
Fire Marshal – Brent Gorman
Code Enforcement – Richard LaCourse
Fire/Code 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 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 09.25.2023.pdf](#) 
- 3.2 Approval of Minutes of the September 11, 2023 Regular Meeting
[MINUTES 09.11.2023.pdf](#) 
- 3.3 Approval of Minutes of the September 21, 2023 Special Meeting
[MINUTES 09.21.2023.pdf](#) 
- 3.4 Approval of the May 2023 Financial Statements [MAY 2023.pdf](#) 

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Missy Parker with Save the Opera House addressed Council regarding the historic value of the Opera House and the urgent need for \$700,000 for repairs.

Chris Christensen addressed Council regarding JP Morgan and requested the City dissolve any investments they have with them.

5. City Manager's Report Including TxDOT Project Update, Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, PHMSA Pipeline Grant, 2023 Gas System Improvements, 2023 Seal Coat Project. [CM 20230925.pdf](#) 

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Warschak recapped the items listed in his report.

Gobert asked when the striping after the seal coat would begin. Warschak replied in a couple of weeks.

6. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 270-23, an Ordinance Amending the Master Fess Schedule as Adopted by Ordinance 267-23. [ORD 270-23 AMENDING MASTER FEE SCHEDULE.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve Ordinance 270-23.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

7. Consideration and Action to Approve the Industry State Bank Renewal Option as City Depository until September 30, 2024.

Motion to approve the ISB renewal option.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

8. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Wallace Street Between Bowie Street and Live Oak Street on Saturday, October 28, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to Midnight for the St Anthony's School Halloween Carnival. [SAS HALLOWEEN STREET](#)

[CLOSURE.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the street closure 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

9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the August 2023 Fire Marshal Report. [FIRE MARSHAL AUGUST 2023.pdf](#) 

Fire Marshal, Brent Gorman, gave his report. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Gorman reported on inspections and investigations listed in his report. He also reported that total fire calls for the month was 25.

Sciba asked about information on the ESD. Gorman stated there are four town hall meetings scheduled. Tuesday, tomorrow, will be the first one in Frelsburg, then CVFD, then at Bernardo, and then back at CVFD, in each of the subsequent weeks following. Each meeting will be 6-8 p.m.

No action was needed.

10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the August 2023 Code Enforcement Report. [CODE ENFORCEMENT AUGUST 2023.pdf](#) 

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. LaCourse reported 52 permits being issued and highlighted the items in his report.

No action was needed.

11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the August 2023 Police Report.

[STATS AUGUST 2023.pdf](#) 

Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Edman highlighted all of the training and parades, as well as one mental health transport.

No action was needed.

12. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - Octoberfest was nice

Sciba - Encouraged members to be a part of the town hall meeting

Ridlen - none

Rankin - none

Gobert - Pray for me and Dinah, as we travel with Donald to the TML conference

13. Announcements

There were no announcements.

14. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:53 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.