



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, October 23, 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:

Police Chief – Skip Edman
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. 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_20231023.pdf](#)

3.2 **Approval of Minutes of the October 10, 2023 Regular Meeting**

[MINUTES 20231010.pdf](#) 

3.3 Approval of the Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended

September 30, 2023 [INVESTMENT REPORT 09-30-2023.pdf](#) 

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

William Durbin spoke in favor of agenda item 7.

Billy Kahn spoke in favor of agenda items 7 and 12.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, TxDOT Projects Update, Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, and the PHMSA Pipeline Grant. [CM REPORT 20231023.pdf](#)



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

There was discussion regarding the new signal poles. The electrical meter has been installed, but we are waiting on the control panel.

Ridlen asked if this was our request. Gobert stated several years ago there was a request to widen the radius to accommodate large trucks. Rankin questioned what was happening under Interstate 10. Warschak stated fiber optics are being installed.

6. Consideration and Action to Approve the Publicity and Tourism Agreement Between the City and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. [TOURISM CONTRACT 2024.pdf](#) 

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, discussed the contract in the packet. Schneider stated the Chamber had a \$19,225 surplus of funds from the prior year.

The contract is in the amount of \$223,125.05, which will be paid in two installments. \$123,125.05 upon signing, and \$100,000 on February 1, 2024.

Motion to approve the tourism contract as presented.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

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

Carried 5-0

7. Consideration and Action to Approve a HOT Fund Grant for the Columbus Historic Preservation Trust.

CCIDC approved \$52,660, and in order to reach the amount for the anonymous match, this grant would need to be \$47,340.

Rankin asked if that would be a budget amendment. Schneider stated it would be at a future meeting.

Motion to approve a HOT fund grant in the amount of \$47,340.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

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

Carried 5-0

- 8. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) from Harbert Street to Spring Street on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the Lighted Christmas Parade as Requested by the Chamber of Commerce.**

[CHRISTMAS PARADE STREET CLOSURE.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the street closure as presented.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

- 9. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Spring Street from the Corner of Milam Street up to the Trefney Law Office at 415 Spring Street on Thursday, December 7, 2023 from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for Ladies Night Out as Requested by the Chamber of Commerce. [LADIES NIGHT OUT STREET CLOSURE.pdf](#) **

Motion to approve the street closure as presented.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 5-0

- 10. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Wallace Street Between Bowie Street and Live Oak Street from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the Use of City Sidewalks on Live Oak Street Between Wallace and Bonham Streets, on Bonham Street Between Live Oak and Bowie Streets, and on Bowie Street Between Bonham and Wallace Streets on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parade and Celebration as Requested by Grupo Guadalupano. [GUADALUPE STREET CLOSURE.pdf](#)**



Motion to approve the street closure as presented.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

- 11. Consideration and Action to send to Planning and Zoning a Consolidation and Subdivision of Eight (8) Lots Located in Block 7 of the City of Columbus into Two (2) Tracts, 0.608 Acres (Tract 1) and 0.442 Acres (Tract 2) as Requested by William Evans.**

[EVANS REPLAT.pdf](#) 

Property is zoned commercial.

The smaller 8 lots will be split into two tracts.

Rankin stated this will clean up a lot of that area.


Motion to approve sending this item to P&Z.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

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

Carried 5-0

- 12. First Reading and Approval of Resolution 269-23, 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 Community Development Grant to the Columbus Historical Preservation Trust for the Addition of Upstairs Restrooms at the Stafford Opera House.** [RESOLUTION 269-23 CCIDC GRANT CHPT.pdf](#) 

Gobert read Resolution 269-23.

- 13. First Reading and Approval of Resolution 270-23, 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 the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department for Equipment to Outfit a New Engine.**

[RESOLUTION 270-23 CCIDC GRANT CVFD.pdf](#) 

Gobert read Resolution 270-23.

- 14. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 271-23, a Resolution Adopting the City of Columbus Investment Policy.** [RESOLUTION 271-23 INVESTMENT POLICY.pdf](#) 

Schneider stated there were no changes.

Motion to adopt the investment policy as presented.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 5-0

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the September 2023 Fire Marshal

Report. [FIRE MARSHAL SEPTEMBER 2023.pdf](#) 

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave the Fire Marshal report in Brent Gorman Jr.'s absence. A copy is attached to these minutes.

LaCourse stated there are ads on the radio and newspaper regarding the ESD election. He encouraged everyone to get out and vote for the ESD.

LaCourse reviewed the new engine photos on the big screen for Council.

The truck will be ready for shipment to Texas in November. The truck will then enter make-ready for acceptance on February 1, 2024.

LaCourse stated it will cost \$159,000 plus to get it ready for use. CCIDC granted \$30,000, and the CVFD will have to make up the balance of the funding.

Gobert questioned when the Ladder will be back. LaCourse stated, probably a couple more weeks. There has been a delay in parts.

Rankin stated that Gorman did a great job on the ESD presentations. His concern is regarding recruitment and its priority.

LaCourse stated the FM position is a separate entity from the Fire Department.

Gobert stated Gorman is very busy with inspections and the ESD.

Rankin stated it is a conversation for Warschak to have and about priorities.

No action was needed.

16. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the September 2023 Code

Enforcement Report. [CODE ENFORCEMENT SEPTEMBER 2023.pdf](#) 

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes.

No action was needed.

17. Consideration and Action to Request the City Secretary Conduct the Annual Audit of Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Funds as Required by Article 59.06 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Motion to request the City Secretary to conduct the annual audit of Chapter 59 funds.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

18. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the September 2023 Police Report.

[STATS SEPTEMBER 2023.pdf](#) 

Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Pumpkin Parade will be next Monday with the young kiddos.

No action was needed.

19. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - I am happy about the opera house funding.

Sciba - Come out for the St. Anthony's carnival Saturday; please go vote

Ridlen - none

Rankin - please say a prayer, if inclined, for Israel

Gobert - regarding National Night Out, police and fire are invaluable, and both are appreciated immensely. Go Astros!

20. Announcements

Schneider - December meeting date change will be up for discussion, either December 20th or 22nd before Christmas; Donald also mentioned brisket; this will be up for vote at a future meeting

21. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 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.