



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, December 11, 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:

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 12.11.2023.pdf](#)

3.2 Approval of Minutes of the November 27, 2023 Regular Meeting
[MINUTES 20231127.pdf](#)

3.3 Approval of July 2023 Financial Statements [FINANCIALS JULY 2023.pdf](#) 

3.4 Approval of August 2023 Financial Statements [FINANCIALS AUGUST 2023.pdf](#) 

4. Consideration and Action to Approve Invoices for Columbus Tire Center (Sciba Corporation). [COLUMBUS TIRE 12.11.2023.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the Columbus Tire invoices as presented.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

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 Sales Tax, Sewer Averaging, Utility Billing, TxDOT Project Updates, and the PHMSA Pipeline Grant. [CM REPORT.pdf](#) 

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

Regarding sales tax, the County and City of Eagle Lake saw increases, while the City of Weimar was flat.

Ridlen questioned if there were any updates on the I-10 expansion. Warschak stated tentatively Spring of 2024.

City Christmas party was this past Friday. Donna Samora, the utility billing clerk, was selected as Employee of the Year.

Sciba questioned when we would hear back from P&Z regarding the mobile food ordinance. City Secretary, Bana Schneider stated P&Z wanted to walk through the permitting process before presenting it to Council.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve a HOT Fund Budget Amendment for a CHPT Grant. [HOT BUDGET AMENDMENT CHPT.pdf](#) 

Motion to amend the HOT budget line item to reflect the increase of \$20,465.05 from \$250,000 to \$270,465.05.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

Aye

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

Carried 5-0

8. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the November 2023 Golf Report.

[GOLF NOV 2023.pdf](#) 

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, went over the golf report with Council.

They are a little upside down, but it is a slower time of the year.

Cart shed rental invoices have gone out.

No action was needed.

9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the October 2023 Fire Marshal

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

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

Rankin asked if there had been any other conversations regarding the ESD.

No action was needed.

10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the October 2023 Code Enforcement

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

LaCourse, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. There was some discussion regarding substandard structures.

No action was needed.

11. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - Ladies Night Out was great; asked about the status of the Mansfield Building

Sciba - none

Ridlen - none

Rankin - Would like to see a revenue comparison for water and gas since the rate changes took effect

Gobert - Congratulated the Chamber on a spectacular LNO; also, the Chamber hosted a great panel from the Governor's office regarding tourism; Thursday is the 75th anniversary celebration for library services in the City with refreshments and a visit with alpacas at 4:30 p.m.

12. Announcements

A reminder that the last meeting in December will be on Friday December 22nd at 12:15 p.m.

13. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 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.