



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Friday, December 22, 2023, at 12:15 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 12:15 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 20231222.pdf](#)

3.2 Approval of Minutes of the December 11, 2023 Regular Meeting  
[MINUTES 20231211.pdf](#)

**4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments<sup>1</sup>**

There were none.

**5. City Manager's Report Including Sewer Averaging, Utility Billing, TxDOT Projects Update, PHMSA Pipeline Grant, and the Texas A&M Transportation Study. [CM REPORT.pdf](#)**

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

Emailing of utility bills was highlighted. There will be "notice" printed on the bills once the sewer averaging period is complete.

Ridlen questioned if we could offer an incentive for people to sign up?

Gobert stated a discount discussion once the averaging has ended should be revisited.

**6. Consideration and Action to Approve a Noise Variance Request for the Legends of Zydeco Concert to be Held on December 30, 2023 at the Colorado County Fairgrounds from 6:00 p.m. to 12:45 a.m. as Requested by Smalltyme Entertainment. [NOISE VARIANCE LEGENDS OF ZYDECO.pdf](#)**

Motion to approve the noise variance 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**

**7. Consideration and Action to Approve the Partial Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) from Industry State Bank to the Courthouse Square on Saturday January 27, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the Annual Walk for Life. [WALK FOR LIFE STREET CLOSURE.pdf](#)**

Motion to approve the street closure as presented.

*Moved by:* Ronny Daley

*Seconded by:* Chuck Rankin

**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 Fire Marshal Report. [FIRE MARSHAL NOV 2023.pdf](#)**

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

No action was needed.

**9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the November 2023 Code Enforcement Report. [CODE ENFORCEMENT NOV 2023.pdf](#)**

LaCourse gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes.

No action was needed.

**10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the November 2023 Police Report. [COPD](#)**

[STATS NOV 2023.pdf](#) 

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

There is a new cadet signed up to start the Academy January 8th. He won't hit the streets until late June 2024.

No action was needed.

**11. Items from Councilmembers<sup>2</sup>**

Cummings - Merry Christmas

Daley - Merry Christmas

Sciba - Merry Christmas

Ridlen - Merry Christmas

Rankin - Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Gobert - Wished everyone a Merry Christmas as well, along with a heartfelt thanks to all of the City staff and personnel.

**12. Announcements**

There were no announcements.

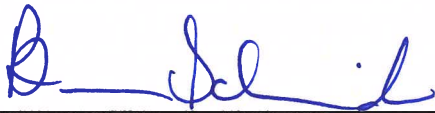
**13. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 P.M.



**Lori An Gobert, Mayor**

**Attest:**



**Bana Schneider, City Secretary**

<sup>1</sup>During 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.

<sup>2</sup>Limited 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.