



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, August 26, 2024, 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 20240826.pdf](#)

3.2 Approval of Minutes of the July 29, 2024 Special Meeting  
[MINUTES 20240729.pdf](#)

3.3 Approval of Minutes of the August 12, 2024 Regular Meeting

[MINUTES 20240812.pdf](#) 

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

There were no public comments.

**5. City Manager's Report**

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

**6. Consideration and Action to Award the Bid for the ARPA Waterline Improvement Project. [ARPA BID TABULATION.pdf](#) **

Warschak discussed the two bids. The low bidder was Mercer Construction. Warschak is recommending awarding the project to Mercer Construction.

Motion to award the bid to Mercer Construction for this project.

*Moved by:* Keith Cummings

*Seconded by:* Chuck Rankin

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

**Carried 5-0**

**7. Consideration and Action to Approve a Manufactured Home Permit for BLK 104 LT S/2 S-5, 6 in the City of Columbus as Requested by Linda Hernandez.**

Motion to approve the manufactured home permit 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**

**8. Consideration and Action to Approve the 2024-2025 CCIDC Operational Budget. [CCIDC BUDGET-2024-2025.pdf](#) **

Motion to approve the CCIDC budget as presented.

*Moved by:* Paige Sciba

*Seconded by:* Chuck Rankin

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

**Carried 5-0**

**9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Colorado County CAD 2025**

**Budget. [CCCAD 2025 BUDGET.pdf](#)**

Gobert had several concerns regarding the large increases and the City's charges each year.

Rankin stated he thought they should come and explain why they need these funds. These are only numbers.

3 1/2% pay increases and their contracting

Gobert would like them to slow their roll on the increases.

Ridlen would like their office to come to a meeting and review their budget. They seem to think they can just keep going up and no one cares.

Sciba asked if we could get a better idea on if and how much these things have been tidied up?

Schneider stated they were working really hard to get all of the properties on the tax roll. She will convey that information to the CCCAD and request someone to be present at the next meeting.

Motion to table this item for further information.

*Moved by:* Paige Sciba

*Seconded by:* Michael Ridlen

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

**Carried 5-0**

**10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the July 2024 Code Enforcement**

**Report. [CODE ENFORCEMENT JULY 2024.pdf](#)**

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. There were 35 total permits for July. LaCourse reviewed the ISO audit and weedy lot letters.

Gobert questioned the status of new employee. LaCourse stated that he knows more than he let on and is doing well.

No action was needed.

**11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the July 2024 Police Report. [CPD](#)**

**[STATS JULY 2024.pdf](#)**

Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave his report. A copy was distributed to Council. Edman reviewed departmental training.

Gobert questioned with the I-10 expansion, who responds to accidents? Freeway is County and State, off ramps the City.

The second question, if there is an issue on the courthouse square, who responds? The sheriff is responsible for the courthouse and their properties. City personnel respond many times because we are closer.

Sciba questioned the closure of Legion drive for football games. There is also a lot of traffic for youth football league on Saturday mornings, but there is no closure. They have been in discussions in the past and it can be reviewed again.

No action was needed.

**12. Consideration and Action to Approve an Arbor Day Proclamation as Requested by the Columbus Garden Club.**

Motion to approve the Arbor Day Proclamation 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**

**13. Discussion of Budget Workshop:**

Schneider stated the budget numbers are not pretty.

General, Utility, and Special Revenue funds were discussed.

13.1 General Fund

13.2 Utility Fund

13.3 Special Revenue Funds

**14. Consideration and Action Regarding the Proposed 2024 Tax Rate Notification and Public Hearing. 2024 TAX RATE NOTIFICATION.pdf **

Schneider reviewed the rates.

Vote to maintain the same tax rate

Cummings - yes

Daley - yes

Sciba - yes

Ridlen - yes

Rankin - yes

Motion to adopt the same tax rate.

*Moved by:* Chuck Rankin

*Seconded by:* Michael Ridlen

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

**Carried 5-0**

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

Cummings - questioned if we found out about other entities and their numbers

Daley - none

Sciba - none

Ridlen - none

Rankin - none

Gobert - Fire Marshal resigned; essentially he will help with big projects; Donald to work out what this looks like moving forward

**16. Announcements**

There were none.

**17. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 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.