

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, September 23, 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 Lieutenant – Kevin Daniel 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 <u>INVOICES 20240923.pdf</u>
- 3.2 Approval of Minutes of the September 9, 2024 Regular Meeting

 MINUTES 20240909.pdf

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- 3.3 Approval of Minutes of the September 19, 2024 Special Meeting

 MINUTES 20240919.pdf

 Minutes 20240919.pdf

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

William Durbin requested to speak during agenda item 11.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, TxDOT Projects Update, City Projects Update, WWTP Permit Renewals, and the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements. CM

REPORT 20240923.pdf

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

Regarding the I10 Expansion project, Gobert asked if we can find out why the contractor got the award for so much less. She is hoping this is not a "Brookshire" project that never gets completed.

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, discussed the details about the "TextMyGov" widget that will be on the City website and active soon.

Gobert requested another push go out for signing up for emailed billings.

Sciba pointed out the St. Anthony carnival is during the overlay project.

Consideration and Action to Ratify the Budgeted Property Tax Increase Reflected in the 2024-6. 2025 Budget.

I move to ratify the budgeted property tax increase as reflected in the 2024-2025 budget.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

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 Ordinance 280-24, an Ordinance Establishing the Combined Property Tax Rate of \$0.29500. ORD 280-24 TAX RATE.pdf

I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.29500, which is effectively a 7.22 percent increase in the tax rate.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye

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

Nay

Michael Ridlen

Carried 4-1

8. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of One Member to the Planning & Zoning Commission for an Unexpired Term Ending December 2024.

Gobert stated Brenda Wilson did not attend tonight because she had previous engagement, but she had previously served on P&Z; moved away; and now returned to Columbus.

Motion to approve Wilson to P&Z Commission.

Moved by: Paige Sciba Seconded by: Ronny Daley Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

9. Consideration and Action to Send to Planning & Zoning a Replat of a 0.586 Acre Tract Being All of Original Lot A of Block T of the City of Columbus into Two (2) Lots (0.348 Acres (Lot A-1) and 0.237 Acres (Lot A-2)) as Requested by Andrew Venghaus. VENGHAUS PLAT.pdf

Motion to approve sending the plat to P&Z.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin
Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Aye

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

Carried 5-0

10. Consideration and Action to Approve a General Fund Budget Amendment for Library Revenue and Associated Expenditures. LIBRARY GRANTS MEMORIALS DONATIONS.pdf

Motion to approve the General Fund Budget Amendment 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

11. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 281-24, an Ordinance Amending the City of Columbus Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5 Fire Prevention and Protection by Adding Article 5.06

False Alarm Regulations. ORD 281-24 FALSE ALARM SERVICE FEES.pdf 🔗

LaCourse stated that there are only alarm permits issued on commercial properties, not residential. He stated he has no issues with the ordinance. Cummings questioned if the Courthouse would be charged for false alarms, LaCourse stated no.

Gobert stated this is to also help control and enhance the upkeep of the commercial properties.

William Dubin addressed Council. He thought this was a great idea to hold others accountable. In reviewing the draft proposal, he felt it could be tweaked in the next couple of weeks and for this to be considered its first reading. It does not specifically state this is for commercial purposes.

There was discussion regarding several of the items in the ordinance. There is a need for a little cleanup and clarification.

LaCourse will get with the Fire Marshal.

Motion to table Ordinance 281-24.

Moved by: Paige Sciba
Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Aye

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

12. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 282-24, an Ordinance Amending the Master Fee

Schedule. ORD 282-24 AMENDING MASTER FEE SCHEDULE.pdf

Special Event Permit and Mobile Food Vendor fees have been added.

Motion to approve Ordinance 282-24 as presented.

Moved by: Keith Cummings Seconded by: Paige Sciba

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings,

and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

13. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Bowie Street from the Library Parking Lot to Houston Street from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday October 10, 2024 for the Columbus Elementary School Fall Ball as Requested by CES Fall Ball Coordinator, Traci Edman. FALL

BALL STREET CLOSURE.pdf

Motion to approve the street closure 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

14. Consideration and Action to approve Resolution 284-24, a Resolution Declaring Certain Personal Property as Surplus and Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property. RESOLUTION 284-24.pdf

Motion to approve Resolution 284-24 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

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the August 2024 Code Enforcement Report.

CODE AUGUST 2024.pdf

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. There were 37 permits issued for the month of August.

Discussion of the Fire Marshal position. He is working with City Manager, Human Resources, and the Fire Marshal to come up with a new structure. He is handling the high-level items and looking at Deputy Fire Marshals.

Gobert requested the tiny home designation not be used, because it really isn't a tiny home. It is garden/patio homes.

Ridlen asked if all of the fire department equipment can get every piece of equipment down all of the City streets.

LaCourse responded, it may take a concerted effort. There may have to be some work arounds, but for the most part, yes.

Ridlen asked if the fire department ever requested the City to trim trees. He was asking what protocol is for ensuring the passage of the fire apparatuses. LaCourse stated nothing had been brought to him before now. Ridlen stated it is about fire protection to residents. There are multiple areas that should be prioritized. LaCourse stated they will look into it.

LaCourse stated the homecoming bonfire permit was issued. Bernardo and Frelsburg fire departments will be participating as well.

Regarding the ESD effort, they have 151 signatures. 125 signatures are good; 26 have issues. They are above the 100 minimum. They are moving forward, and all 10 departments are still involved.

No action was required.

16. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the August 2024 Police Report. CPD

STATS AUGUST 2024.pdf

Lt. Kevin Daniel was present in Chief Edman's absence to give the police report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Daniel pointed out that Officer Salinas has completed his field training. There is one officer still on FTO and an additional in the academy. Once the cadet graduates, the force will be complete.

Security details for particular events were discussed. Cummings asked if Chief coordinates any additional security requests. Daniel replied yes.

No action was needed.

17. Consideration and Action to Approve a nora fleming Proclamation as Requested by Cynthia Sutton-Stolle and The Silver Barn.

Motion to approve the proclamation as presented.

Moved by: Paige Sciba
Seconded by: Ronny Daley

Aye

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

Carried 5-0

18. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Sciba - none

Ridlen - none

Rankin - none

Gobert - none

19. Announcements

There were none.

20. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 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.