

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Tuesday, October 15, 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 (Absent)

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 Library Director – Susan Chandler CCIDC Board President – Bruce Tesch

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: Keith Cummings Seconded by: Paige Sciba

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, and Keith

Cummings

Carried 4-0

3.2 Approval of Minutes of the September 23, 2024 Regular Meeting

MINUTES 20240923.pdf

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4. Consideration and Action to Approve Invoices from Columbus Tire Center (Sciba Corporation). COLUMBUS TIRE 20241010.pdf Ø

Motion to approve the Columbus Tire invoices as presented.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

Ave

Michael Ridlen, Chuck Rankin, and Keith Cummings

Abstain

Paige Sciba

Carried 3-0

5. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Patsye Goodwin addressed Council regarding the homeless population in Columbus, when there were shelters in place. She just wanted to make everyone aware and see what was happening.

Police Chief Skip Edman responded they try to move them along as quickly as they can. The people find a kind heart from the citizens of Columbus and just keep moving around and there is no crime. They move them to facilities and locations that they can to assist them.

Gina Carter addressed Council. She stated she was a homegrown girl. She is excited to death; the easement has been cut. Please share with the departments that took care of that. Her concern, she resides at Back and Jackson, and there is a food truck that is parked outside their home. It is an eye sore as well as a safety concern. Citizens cannot see the stop sign. They initially thought they could speak with their neighbor. That did not go well. She understands this is an easement and there is a responsibility to take care of the easement. She wants to know what can be done. Neighbors told her to park her horse trailer in front of the food trailer owner's home. But she stated that really doesn't solve anything.

Edman stated there is nothing they can do as long as the registration is current, and it is in the easement.

Gobert requested this be put on the agenda for the next meeting so there can be discussion.

Bruce Tesch, CCIDC President, requested to speak at a specific agenda item.

6. City Manager's Report Including TxDOT Projects Updates, City Projects Updates, WWTP Permit Renewals, and the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI)

Update. CM REPORT 20241008.pdf

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

7. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Wallace Street Between Bowie Street and Live Oak Street on Friday, October 26, 2026 from 5:00 p.m. to Noon Sunday, October 27, 2024 for the St Anthony's School Halloween Carnival. <u>ST</u>

ANTHONY CARNIVAL STREET CLOSURE.pdf @

Motion to approve the street closure as presented.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, and Keith

Cummings

Carried 4-0

8. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of One Member to the Nesbitt Memorial Library Advisory Board for a Term Ending October 1, 2027.

Library Director, Susan Chandler, introduced the applicant.

Motion to approve the member as presented.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, and Keith

Cummings

Carried 4-0

9. Consideration and Action to Authorize the Mayor to Enter the City of Columbus into a Contract for Public Services with Family Crisis Center, Inc. CONTRACT FAMILY

CRISIS CENTER 2024.pdf

Motion to authorize the Mayor to enter the City into a contract as presented.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, and Keith

Cummings

Carried 4-0

10. Consideration and Action to Authorize the Mayor to Enter into a Contract for Public Services with Combined Community Action, Inc. CONTRACT COMBINED COM

ACTION 2024.pdf

Motion to authorize the Mayor to enter the City into a contract as presented.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin Seconded by: Paige Sciba

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, and Keith

Cummings

11. Consideration and Action to Approve a Partial Release of Easement of a 6.229 Acre Tract of Land Described Further as Tract E-2, Texas Crossroads Business Park.

RELEASE OF EASEMENT.pdf @

Warschak displayed a map with the request on the big screen for Council to see.

Motion to approve the release of the partial easement as presented.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, and Keith

Cummings

Carried 4-0

12. Consideration and Action to Approve the Use of a Private Water Well for Processing Purposes Contingent Upon Purchase of Real Property in the Texas Crossroads Business Park.

Bruce Tesch addressed Council. This request is for the concrete plant. This is only for processing the concrete as they cannot use chlorinated water. City water will be used for everything else. They will connect to City sewer. Rankin stated it just needs to be stipulated for processing purposes only.

Motion to approve the use of a private well with the stipulation it is to be used only for processing.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, and Keith

Cummings

Carried 4-0

13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding Vacation Accrual, Holiday and Comp Pay Changes to the Personnel Policy as Recommended by Management.

Asst. City Secretary/HR Manager, Dinah Jacobs, presented the proposal to Council. The proposal entails that new employees be granted 40 hours of their vacation at 6 months of employment and then the remainder of their annual vacation accrual be granted at their one-year anniversary of employment. The proposal for holiday pay is to pay all employees for the holiday when it occurs and if an employee is on call, or physically working on the holiday, they would accrue a comp day to be used at another time.

Motion to approve the proposals as presented.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, and Keith

Cummings

Carried 4-0

14. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 285-24, a Resolution Designating the 2024 H-GAC General Assembly Representative and Alternate. RESOLUTION

285-24 HGAC REP.ALT.pdf @

Schneider stated that the Mayor is the representative and Councilwoman Sciba is the alternate.

Motion to approve Resolution 285-24 naming Gobert and Sciba as representative and alternate.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, and Keith

Cummings

Abstain

Lori An Gobert

Carried 4-0

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the September 2024 Golf Report.

SEPT 2024 GOLF.pdf

Schneider discussed the golf report with Council. There was discussion regarding the cart sheds.

No action was required.

16. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - absent

Sciba - none

Ridlen - none

Rankin - none

Gobert - Happy Indigenous People Day; She stated she, the Chief, and the City Manager attended a town hall meeting yesterday. There were things brought to their attention that need to be looked at. One of the recurring comments was regarding retaliation for reporting information. Captain Alley stressed Crimestoppers and it being 100% anonymous.

Warschak stated there was a stop sign request. That will be on the next agenda for action.

17. Announcements

Schneider stated she was happy to have Warschak and Jacobs back from the TML conference.

Warschak stated there was a lot of good information that came out of the sessions. We look forward to diving in and sharing more information.

18. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Lori An Gobert, Mayor

Chuck Rankin, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest:

Bana Schneider, City Secretary

Dinah Jacobs, Asst. 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.