

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, October 28, 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 (Absent)
Mayor Pro Tem – Chuck Rankin
Councilman – Keith Cummings
Councilman – Ronny Daley
Councilwoman – Paige Sciba (Absent)
Councilman – Michael Ridlen (Absent)
City Manager – Donald Warschak
City Secretary – Bana Schneider (Absent)
Assistant City Secretary – Dinah Jacobs

Other City Staff present included:

Police Captain – Wendy Alley Code Enforcement – Richard LaCourse

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem, Chuck Rankin, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Rankin 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 Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 3-0

- 3.1 Approval of Invoices 20241028.pdf
- 3.2 Approval of Minutes of the October 15, 2024 Regular Meeting

 MINUTES 20241015.pdf

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4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Amber Pilsner addressed Council regarding mosquito spraying. She was told the City does not do mosquito spraying. She stated she had just lost someone to this. She felt we need to do something regarding mosquitos. Rankin stated the City Manager will be putting something together, but they could not address citizens for items not on the agenda.

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

TextMyGov. CM REPORT 20241025.pdf Ø

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

Warschak also addressed the mosquito issue. He stated 80% of individuals who contract West Nile are asymptomatic; 19-20% get flu-like symptoms; and less than 1% result in serious illness. Spraying is actually not as effective as it is thought to be. Spraying does not reach the canopy or brushy areas that are really inhabited, and a couple hours later the mosquitos are right back. Warschak gave several recommendations to citizens: empty any standing water; use sprays with DEET; wear long sleeves and pants. There will be further research to see if there is anything else that could be effective.

6. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 286-24, a Resolution to Select an Administrative Service Provider to Complete Application and Project Implementation for the 2025-2026 TDA CDBG Community Development Fund Program. RESOLUTION

286-24- ADMIN -CDBG.pdf @

Motion to select Langford Community Management Services as the administrative service provider.

Moved by: Keith Cummings Seconded by: Ronny Daley

Ave Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 3-0

7. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 283-24, an Ordinance Amending Article 4.02 Alcoholic Beverages, Section 4.02.003, Sale Near School, Church, or Hospital, of the Municipal Code of the City of Columbus, Texas. ORD 283-24 ALC BEV-MFCL LLC.pdf



Amir Bashir and Omer Khan addressed Council regarding the licensing. Finding something downtown that was out of the lease price point as well as parking were issues. They thought they were okay where they were and found out when trying to get the license, there was an issue.

Rankin asked if this was for having alcoholic beverages on site. The gentleman replied yes.

Cummings stated there was already alcohol at the golf course. And the school has not had any issues.

Gentleman stated this is a quarter of a million-dollar project. They have the construction set up. The town is hot, and property is being scooped up very quickly. This location has a large lot and can accommodate the people.

Daley asked if there were any churches in the area. There are none.

The name will be Cigar Spot.

Captain Alley suggested they get a good security system.

Motion to approve Ordinance 283-24.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye

Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 3-0

8. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 284-24 Regarding Placing 4-Way Stop Signs at the Intersection of Jackson and Back Streets. ORD 284-24 STOP SIGNS.pdf

Warschak discussed the intersection. There is a day care in that area that will help with traffic.

Cummings asked about flow of traffic and backup.

Alley stated she did not think so. LaCourse stated he did not think it would be an issue either. There is a different flow of traffic for day care pickup.

Motion to approve Ordinance 284-24.

Moved by: Keith Cummings Seconded by: Ronny Daley

Aye

Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 3-0

9. Discussion Regarding Trailers Parked in City Easements/Rights-of-Way.

Warschak stated there is nothing in the ordinances regarding regular vehicles. Alley stated it is not more than 6000 lbs. for a single axle. There are regulations for large vehicles in the ROW.

Warschak stated that maybe there should be an item in the Food Truck Ordinance regarding parking in the ROW.

Cummings stated, "what is a reasonable amount of time"?

Rankin thought there should be something restrictive.

Warschak stated the City Attorney has been contacted but we have not heard back.

No action, discussion only.

10. Consideration and Action to Approve Street Closures in the Memorial Oaks Subdivision for Halloween Activities on the Evening of Thursday, October 31, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Motion to approve the street closure as requested.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 3-0

11. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) from Harbert Street to Spring Street on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the Lighted Christmas Parade as Requested by the Chamber of Commerce.

CHRISTMAS PARADE STREET CLOSURE.pdf @

Motion to approve the street closure as requested.

Moved by: Keith Cummings Seconded by: Ronny Daley

Aye

Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 3-0

12. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Spring Street from the Corner of Milam Street up to the Trefney Law Office at 415 Spring Street on Thursday, December 5, 2024 from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for Ladies Night Out as Requested by the Chamber

of Commerce. LADIES NIGHT OUT STREET CLOSURE.pdf @

Motion to approve the street closure as presented.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye

Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 3-0

13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the September 2024 Code

Enforcement Report. CODE ENFORCEMENT 2024.pdf

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. LaCourse highlighted the 39 issued permits, high grass, trash, and substandard property.

Fire Department update - 158 signatures verified. Only 100 were needed to go to Commissioner's Court. The three cities will be after that for approvals. October was a very busy month for the fire department. The engine is now property of the Bernardo Fire Department. As of this morning, there were 217 fire calls.

No action was required.

14. Consideration and Action to Request the City Secretary Conduct the Annual Audit of Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Funds as Required by Article 59.06 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Warschak stated this is something we have to do each year.

Motion to approve the City Secretary to conduct the Annual Audit of Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Funds.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Aye

Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 3-0

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

COLPD STATS SEPTEMBER 2024.pdf @

Police Captain, Wendy Alley, gave the report in Chief Edman's absence. She highlighted the multitude of training again. She also highlighted the Crimestoppers tips call line.

No action was required.

16. Consideration and Action to Approve a Catholic Daughters of America Proclamation.

Rankin read the Proclamation.

Motion to approve the proclamation as presented.

Moved by: Keith Cummings Seconded by: Ronny Daley

Aye

Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 3-0

17. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Rankin - get out and vote

18. Announcements

Asst. City Secretary, Dinah Jacobs, reminded Council members the November meeting will be on Tuesday, November 12th because of the Veteran's Day holiday on the 11th. Council Members are also invited to attend the Arbor Day Proclamation on Friday, November 1, at 10:30 a.m., at Midtown Park, for a tree planting ceremony.

19. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 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.

^aLimited 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.