

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, January 27, 2025, 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
Library Director – Susan Chandler
Public Works Superintendent – Michael Poncik
Utility Superintendent – Kevin Faichtinger

1. Call to Order

Mayor Lori An Gobert called the meeting to order at 5:00 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

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Leaning Oak Designs owner, Michelle Gorman, addressed Council and thanked them for awarding her the bid for the Nesbitt Memorial Library renovations.

5. City Manager's Report Including TxDOT Projects Updates, City Projects Updates, Rise Broadband Fiber Project, and Sewer Averaging.

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

Ridlen questioned the Rise Broadband Fiber Project. Warschak stated it was not an award. The company is running fiber optic cable all through town.

Gobert questioned how Pulice has been. Warschak stated no real issues so far.

6. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 292-25, a Resolution to Select an Administrative Service Provider to Complete Application and Project Implementation for the CDBG-Downtown Revitalization Program. RESOLUTION

292-25-ADMIN -CDBG-DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION.pdf 🛭

Gobert, Warschak, and City Secretary, Bana Schneider, scored the service provider proposals. Warschak recommended Langford.

Motion to approve Resolution 292-25 approving Langford as Grant Administrator for the project.

Moved by: Keith Cummings Seconded by: Paige Sciba

Aye

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

Carried 5-0

7. Consideration and Action to Adopt Ordinance 287-25, an Ordinance of the City of Columbus Authorizing a General (Regular) Municipal Election to be Held on May 3,

2025. ORDER OF ELECTION ORDINANCE 287-25.pdf

Motion to approve Ordinance 287-25 as presented.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith

Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

Consideración y acción para adoptar ordenanza 287-25, una ordenanza de la ciudad de Columbus que autoriza un elección municipal (regular) general para ser sostenido el 3

de mayo de 2025. ORDEN DE ELECCION ORDENANZA 287-25.pdf Ø

Moción para aprobar la Ordenanza 287-25 tal como se presentó.

Movido por: Chuck Rankin Secundado por: Michael Ridlen

Si

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith

Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Aprobado 5-0

8. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 288-25, an Ordinance Granting a Non-Exclusive Franchise to San Bernard Electric Cooperative, INC. ORD 288-25

SBEC FRANCHISE.pdf

Warschak stated this is an ordinance allowing SBEC to operate within the City. This agreement had expired and needs to be renewed. Pole removal was added into the contract agreement.

Ridlen stated this is the last time/instrument to get old poles removed. Warschak stated the attorney was consulted and this is what was formulated.

Gobert stated Anne Faichtinger is reaching out each month to AEP.

Rankin stated companies respond to money. If the pole is not removed by x time, they will be fined x dollars.

LaCourse stated there is nothing in the ordinance dictating what can be done.

Ridlen asked if this can be tabled. Gobert stated the attorney has already reviewed/drafted this document.

Ridlen stated we need to be consistent with other agreements.

Rankin stated is there a way to make it more of a "requirement" for the poles to be removed.

Ridlen stated he would like to see more direct language for whoever owns poles within the City.

Admin is to pull the other provider contracts and have legal review for stronger language.

This item was tabled.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) from Houston Street to Walnut Street (Hwy 90); Walnut Street (Hwy 90) from Milam Street (Spur 52) to Legion Drive on Saturday, March 1, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon for the 82nd Annual Columbus FFA Parade. STREET CLOSURE FFA

PARADE.pdf Ø

Motion to approve the street closure as presented.

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 to Send to Planning & Zoning a Replat of Lot 2 in Block N of the City of Columbus into Two (2) Lots One Lot to be Attached to Lot 3, Block N and One Lot to be Attached to Lot 1 Block N as Requested by Vernon and Ilene

Schindler. REPLAT SCHINDLER.pdf

Motion to send to a replat 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

11. Consideration and Action to Approve a General Fund Budget Amendment for

Library Revenue and Associated Expenditures. LIBRARY DONATIONS.pdf

Library Director, Susan Chandler, reviewed the donation the library received. She stated it was being designated for improvements.

Motion to approve the budget amendment 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

12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Nesbitt Memorial Library

Report for 2024. NESBITT LIBRARY 2024.pdf

Chandler reviewed library website items with Council.

Ridlen thanked Chandler for her years of service.

No action was needed.

13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Public Works/Parks Report for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2024. PUBLIC WORKS OCT-DEC 2024.pdf

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Public Works Director, Michael Poncik, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes.

No action was needed.

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Utility Department Report for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2024. UTILITY_OCT-DEC 2024.pdf ∅

Utility Superintendent, Kevin Faichtinger, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes.

No action was needed.

15. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the December 2024 Code Enforcement Report. CODE ENFORCEMENT DECEMBER 2024.pdf

Code Enforcement, Richard LaCourse, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Tower 14 is out of service. He thinks one of the computers went out.

Center door of the fire station had a broken spring. All units are relocated to different places in the station until the repair can be made.

Mayor Gobert congratulated LaCourse on becoming Fire Chief.

Sciba questioned the food trailer that has an enclosure.

LaCourse stated there is nothing prohibiting them from doing it.

No action was needed.

16. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the 2024 Report on Racial

Profiling. RACIAL PROFILING 2024.pdf

Police Chief, Skip Edman, reviewed the Racial Profiling report.

Traffic stops are only a very small portion of what we do.

Ridlen stated there is no analysis of this date. It is a collection and submission of data.

No action was needed.

17. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the December 2024 Police Report.

COPD STATS DECEMBER 2024.pdf

Edman stated not all training was listed on the distributed sheet. Everyone is doing a lot of training to get to their next level of certification. He did not want to bore everyone with all of their training.

Gobert questioned the recent incident that happened. She questioned if there could be a Gun Safety class that could be presented. Edman stated stupidity is hard to stop. There is a lack of caring.

No action was needed.

18. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Sciba - Betty's Ribbon Cutting (was Chica's)

Ridlen - none

Rankin - thank you to Susan Chandler - she has done an outstanding job

Gobert - thank you to all of the department heads for their reports and for the storm preparation

19. Announcements

Warschak - working on a bid packet for the water tower repaint; if anyone has any ideas, stop by and discuss

Schneider - filing period has opened for the May election; Mayor, Council Places 1 and 2 are up.

20. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 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.