



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, February 10, 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 (Absent)
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

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 Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 3-0

3.1 Approval of Invoices [20250210.pdf](#)

3.2 Approval of Minutes of the January 27, 2025 Regular Meeting
[20250127 MINUTES.pdf](#)

4. Consideration and Action to Approve Invoices from Columbus Tire Center (Sciba Corporation). [COLUMBUS TIRE 20250210.pdf](#)

Motion to approve the Columbus Tire invoices as presented.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye

Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 3-0

5. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Charlotte Stein addressed Council regarding her water being turned off and there being no notice given to homeowners. It happened the prior week as well, and there was no notice given. She stated contractors can be made responsible for notification as well.

City Manager Donald Warschak responded that TextMyGov is our new notification system to push out notices.

Mayor Gobert stated there is corrective action being taken.

Stein stated measures of preparedness could have been taken had she/citizens just been notified.

Let the record reflect that Councilman Ridlen joined the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

6. City Manager's Report Including TxDOT Projects Updates, City Projects Updates, Rise Broadband Fiber Project and Sewer Averaging. [CM REPORT 20250207.pdf](#)

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

7. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the HUD Section 3 Presentation for the City's TXCDBG CDV23-0407 Grant. [A1024 SECTION 3 PRESENTATION.pdf](#)

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, reviewed the information with Council outlining the steps. This Public Information that is required to be given to Council. Cummings questioned government cuts. Gobert stated this means going forward, future funding has been halted.

No action was needed.

8. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 293-25, a Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program Application for Downtown Revitalization. [RESOLUTION 293-25 - APPLICATION CDBG-DR.pdf](#)

Warschak stated this is for sidewalk improvements around the courthouse square. Permission is being sought for submitting a grant application. Funding would be from next year's budget cycle.

Motion to approve Resolution 293-25.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Aye

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

Carried 4-0

9. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 294-25, a Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Cybersecurity-Mitigation Application to the Texas public Safety Office for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program. [RESOLUTION 294-](#)**

[25 APPLICATION-CYBERSECURITY.pdf](#) 

Warschak stated this is to replace computers that are outdated and Windows 10 that will cease to be supported. VC3 put us on to this grant and we are requesting their assistance with the application. There are 21 to 23 computers that would need replacement. The deadline is February 13. Schneider stated there will be more discussions with VC3 and the determination may be to not move forward with this grant. The timing was needed for approval to proceed. There are a lot of hoops to jump through and it is very involved. Total amount of approximately \$50,000 and we would be responsible for 10%. Looking for Council approve if we decide to move forward.

Motion to approve Resolution 294-25.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

Aye

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

Carried 4-0

10. **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](#) 

Chris Christensen addressed Council regarding this ordinance. His big concern is the pole abandonment.

Warschak stated David Mazac with San Bernard is here.

Christensen would like to see this tabled until there is agreement on removing poles.

Mazac discussed their operations. He stated their contracts with third parties requires for removal third party lines within a certain timeframe. They are working to get more teeth in their contracts.

Ridlen suggested a 15-year timeframe for the agreement.

This item was tabled.

11. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the January 2025 Golf Report.**

[CMGA JANUARY 2025.pdf](#) 

Larry Zajicek with the golf association was present to discuss the financial reports.

Larry McGrath, also from the association, was present to discuss the cart sheds. The quote he shared is for 12 cart sheds which is for 1/6 of the entire project. Currently, 63 cart sheds are being utilized. The remainder of the sheds are in such poor condition, they cannot be rented. The association is hoping to complete one side containing 36 sheds one year and the other side of 36 sheds the following year. They believe the total cost for both sides would be a little over

\$200,000. They are hoping council might be able to provide funding for this project before the end of the year.

Ridlen was not in favor of piece-milling the project. It all needs to be completed at one time. It was suggested to apply for grant funding from CCIDC.

12. Discussion Regarding the Request from TxDOT to Close the Highway 71 Median Crossover at the Industrial Park.

Warschak reviewed the map and proposal.

Gobert stated there need to be larger turning radiuses.

This is a discussion item for information and further planning and approval.

No action at this time.

13. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - Hound Song won another medal for one of their beers

Sciba - absent

Ridlen - none

Rankin - Go Eagles

Gobert - Thanked Dinah for the Valentine treats; she wanted to discuss water issues and notifications; Signed the DocuSign for the water board development grant (small grant)

14. Announcements

Warschak - TDEM disaster training Wednesday and Thursday of this week

Schneider - Friday is the filing deadline for the election

15. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 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.