

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

Mayor Pro Tem – Chuck Rankin (Absent)

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

Public Works Superintendent – Fred Heger

Library Director – Lynnette Weido

1. Call to Order

Councilwoman Sciba was nominated to preside over the meeting.

Nominate Paige Sciba to preside over the meeting.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, and Keith Cummings

Carried 3-0

Paige Sciba called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Sciba led the pledge and invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Moved by: Keith Cummings Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, and Keith Cummings

Carried 3-0

- 3.1 Approval of Invoices 20250310.pdf @
- 3.2 Approval of Minutes of the February 24, 2025 Regular Meeting

 MINUTES 20250224.pdf

 MINUTES 20250224.pdf
- 4. Consideration and Action to Approve Invoices for Columbus Tire Center (Sciba

Corporation). COLUMBUS TIRE 20250310.pdf

Motion to approve the Columbus Tire invoices as presented.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye Michael Ridlen and Keith Cummings

Carried 2-0

5. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Citizens requested to speak at respective agenda items.

6. City Manager's Report Including TxDOT Projects Updates, City Projects Updates, Rise Broadband Fiber Project Update and Sign Replacement Project Update. CM

REPORT 20250307.pdf @

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

Ridlen asked about the WWTP funding availability. Warschak stated it is still a big question mark. The contract is with our attorney. The contract with HGAC is with them. The grant administrator had a lot of questions. It is a lot of back and forth until all of the i's are dotted and the t's crossed.

Ridlen also questioned if the TxDOT intersection is complete. Warschak stated it will be when the walk-thru is completed. The northwest side drops off and is wonky.

Sciba questioned the Montezuma sidewalk request we have in. She questioned if there was any way we could make ourselves more attractive. Thankfully, but there have been no fatalities. City Secretary, Bana Schneider stated that is how you get jumped to the top of the list many times.

7. Consideration and Action Regarding Support to the Columbus Garden Club for the Spring Trash-Off Event.

Marion Schonenburg addressed Council and was present to ask for support of the Trash Off. She did not have any changes, unless Council had any change requests. April 2-5 are the dates,

and it is in conjunction with Keep Texas Beautiful. She was requesting a roll-off like before, assistance with advertising, City personnel collecting limbs and chipping, a request for a volunteer list at the Chamber.

Ridlen questioned the Keep Texas Beautiful standing. He asked how the citizens could be notified of this standing. Schonenburg stated it is not official yet but could be done in a press release.

Cummings asked if the grant was received, how would it be used. Schonenburg stated it is a grant that would be done in conjunction with TxDOT.

Motion to approve Columbus Trash Off as the City has in the past.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, and Keith Cummings

Carried 3-0

8. Consideration and Action to Approve a Keep Columbus Beautiful Proclamation as Requested by the Columbus Garden Club.

Sciba

Motion to approve the KCB proclamation request as presented.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, and Keith Cummings

Carried 3-0

9. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Travis Street Between Walnut Street and Spring Street on the Last Saturday of the Month, March Through November, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for the Columbus Country Market. COUNTRY

MARKET STREET CLOSURE.pdf

Motion to approve the street closure as presented.

Moved by: Keith Cummings Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, and Keith Cummings

Carried 3-0

10. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Spring Street Between Milam and Travis Streets on Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the Joint Health & Wellness Fair and Community Connections Day as Requested by the Wellness Council and Habitat for Humanity. STREET CLOSURE HEALTH FAIR-

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS.pdf @

Tracy Lilie and Dr. Mazie Leftwich were present to discuss the event and street closure.

Ridlen asked if Chief was ok with all of this. Edman stated yes.

Schneider stated the City will be participating.

Motion to approve the street closure as presented.

Moved by: Keith Cummings Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, and Keith Cummings

Carried 3-0

11. 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 @

James Jount with SBEC was present.

The changes were from 50 years to 15 years regarding the contract length. Section 14.9 regarding attachments to their poles, was changed.

Motion to approve Ordinance 288-25 as presented.

Moved by: Keith Cummings Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, and Keith Cummings

Carried 3-0

12. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 296-25, a Resolution Approving the Agreement Between the State of Texas and the City of Columbus for the Maintenance, Control, Supervision and Regulation of Certain State Highways and/or Portions of State Highways in the City of Columbus. RESOLUTION 296-25 TXDOT MUNICIPAL

MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT.pdf

Schneider stated it has been 10 years since the last agreement. It spells out who takes care of the ROWs.

Ridlen asked Warschak if he was ok with this.

Warschak stated it is pretty standard and there haven't been really any problems in the past. Mowing wise, they do a spring and a fall mow. City does the mowing in between to keep it looking better.

Sciba questioned if there was anything the City needed TxDOT assistance with that could be included in this agreement.

Motion to approve Resolution 296-25.

Moved by: Keith Cummings Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, and Keith Cummings

Carried 3-0

- 13. Consideration and Action to Approve Amendment #1 for the Engineering Services Contract for the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Method of Distribution (MOD) Program Contract Number #24-065-060-E570.
 This item is being tabled due to lack of information.
- 14. Consideration and Action to Approve Amendment #2 for the Grant Administration and Environmental Services Contract for the Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Method of Distribution (MOD) Program Contract Number #24-

065-060-E570. HGAC-E570-AMENDMENT NO 2-GA ENV SERVICES.pdf Ø

Schneider stated when the contract is signed, the amounts are not known. Once the budgets have been set, the contract costs are added.

Motion to approve Amendment #2 for grant administration.

Moved by: Keith Cummings Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, and Keith Cummings

Carried 3-0

15. Consideration and Action to Approve an Escrow Agreement with TexPool to Administer Texas Water Development Board Funds as Required by TWDB. TEXPOOL ESCROW

AGREEMENT.pdf @

Schneider stated the draft agreement with the Texas Water Development Board did not require an escrow account, but the final agreement does. Our TexPool account was not set up as an escrow account. This agreement will do that. Their fee is taken as a portion of the interest and is taken before we ever see it.

Motion to approve the TexPool Escrow Agreement as presented.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, and Keith Cummings

Carried 3-0

16. Consideration and Action to Send to Planning & Zoning a Replat of a 0.993 Acre Tract Lot 5, Butler Addition, in the WB Dewees Survey, Abstract 18 in the City of Columbus into Two (2) Lots (0.607 Acres (Lot 1) and 0.386 Acres (Lot 2)) as Requested by Judith

Ann Wick. REPLAT WICK.pdf @

Warschak gave the property description. Ridlen questioned if it will meet all of the setback requirements. Warschak replied yes.

Motion to approve sending this replat request to P&Z.

Moved by: Keith Cummings Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

17. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the February 2025 Golf Report.

GOLF FEBRUARY 2025.pdf @

Schneider reviewed the report with Council. They did not have the greatest month, but they are ahead of last year. Repairs and maintenance is high, but they are trying to fix a lot of items out on the course. She did confirm with the attorney that the card shed replacement would qualify for CCIDC funding through a grant request.

18. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Sciba - Thank you for your patience

Ridlen - none

19. Announcements

Warschak - none

Schneider - working on audit item requests

20. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Lori An Gobert, Mayor

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.