

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, March 24, 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

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. First Public Meeting for the General Land Office (GLO-CDBG-MIT Resilient Communities Program (RCP) Grant - Presentation by Langford Community Management Services, Inc.

Jerri Conrado and Tim Jenkins from Langford Community Management Services were present for the public presentation.

4. 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

MINUTES 20250310.pdf @

5. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

A proclamation for the Columbus Garden Club was read by Councilman Michael Ridlen. A photo with Council and Garden Club members was taken following the reading.

- 6. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, TxDOT Project Updates, City Project Updates, and the Rise Broadband Fiber Project Update. CM REPORT 20250321.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 Live Oak and Bowie Streets on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for St.

Anthony's School Career Day. STREET CLOSURE SAS.pdf @

Motion to approve the street closure as presented.

Moved by: Ronny Daley Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith

Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

8. Consideration and Action to Approve the Street Closures Listed Below as Requested by the Chamber of Commerce for the 2025 Magnolia Days Festival. STREET

CLOSURE MAGNOLIA DAYS.pdf

Friday, May 16. 2025

- 1. Spring Street from the corner of Milam Street up to the attorney's office at 415 Spring Street Beginning at 7:00 a.m. At 5.00 p.m., the Remainder of Spring Street to Front Street through Midnight Saturday, May 17, 2025.
- 2. Travis Street from the Corner of Walnut Street to Spring Street Beginning at 7:00 a.m. At 5:00 p.m., Travis Street from Walnut Street to Washington Street through midnight Saturday, May 17, 2025.

Saturday, May 17, 2025

1. Milam Street from Walnut Street to Crockett Street from 7:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.

Motion to approve the street closures as presented.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith

Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Chamber of Commerce Round Table Findings.

Becky Nutt, Executive Director of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, addressed Council regarding the round table findings.

10. Consideration and Action to Appoint Sheryl Brown as the Municipal Court Clerk as Provided in Section 29.010 of the Texas Government Code.

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated this was not done when Brown was hired.

Motion to appoint Sheryl Brown as the Municipal Court Clerk.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith

Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

11. Consideration and Action to Appoint Laura Edman as the Deputy Municipal Court Clerk as Provided in Section 29.010 of the Texas Government Code.

Motion to appoint Laura Edman as the Deputy Court Clerk.

Moved by: Paige Sciba Seconded by: Ronny Daley

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith

Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the February 2025 Code Enforcement Report. FEBRUARY 2025 CODE ENFORCEMENT.pdf Ø

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

Councilman Chuck Rankin questioned if all of the food trucks in town have complied. LaCourse stated all but one, but there is a language barrier, and he is working on it.

SmashBurger has been completed. The others are seasonal but in the process of getting registered.

March 21st was the deadline; LaCourse stated he will have the other completed by the next meeting.

No action was required.

13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the February 2025 Police Report.

FEBRUARY 2025 COPD STATS.pdf @

Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Vigilant Systems is the new camera system being placed in PD units. It will include license plate readers.

No action was needed.

14. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Sciba - April 10th, 6pm - ESD meeting - it would be nice to have all members present

Rankin - the comments earlier relative to Council, there are always a lot of empty seats at the meetings; commends the Mayor for ALL she does

Gobert - echo the sentiments of members being there and show unified support for the ESD at 6pm; also, Atwater National Refuge Festival - Friday April 4th/5th; looking for a representative - Ronny Daley; indicated she will be out the month of May

15. Announcements

Schneider stated no public funds can be expended for advertising - you can advertise GO VOTE, but cannot indicate which WAY to vote; Members cannot say vote for X; members may also not say anything false

16. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Lori An Gobert, Mayor-

Chuck Rankin, Mayor ProTem

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.