



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Tuesday, May 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 (Absent)
Councilman – Keith Cummings
Councilman – Ronny Daley (Absent)
Councilwoman – Paige Sciba
Councilman – Michael Ridlen
City Manager – Donald Warschak
City Secretary – Bana Schnicker
Assistant City Secretary – Dinah Jacobs (Absent)

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. Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve consent agenda as presented.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, and Keith Cummings

Carried 3-0

3.1 Approval of Invoices [20250523.pdf](#)

3.2 Approval of Minutes of the May 12, 2025 Regular Meeting
[MINUTES 20250512.pdf](#)

4. **Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹**
Gobert presented a proclamation to the Columbus Garden Club recognizing National Garden Week.

5. **City Manager's Report Including TxDOT Projects Update, City Projects Update and the Rise Broadband Fiber Project Update. [CM REPORT 20250527.pdf](#)** 
City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report a copy of which is attached to these minutes.
Chris Christensen asked about a fine the city received from the RRC and if it should be the responsibility of the Rise Broadband contractor.

6. **First Reading and Approval of Resolution 301-25, a Resolution Approving Expenditures of 4B Revenues over \$10,000 of City Created Economic Development Corporations with Less than 20,000 Residents for Funding of an Economic Development Grant to the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department for Firefighter Structural Turnout and Wild Land Rescue Gear. [RESOLUTION 301-25 CCIDC GRANT CVFD.pdf](#)** 
Gobert read the resolution. There was discussion regarding the fire department's use of this gear and recertification of unused gear, gear for new members and rotation of gear in the department

7. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the April 2025 Code Enforcement Report. [CODE ENFORCEMENT APRIL 2025.pdf](#)** 
Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave the report a copy of which is attached to these minutes. LaCourse gave an overview of the permits issued, status of food trucks and the substandard property list.
Councilwoman Sciba asked about business operations and when the business might be considered a nuisance.
No action was required.

8. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the April 2025 Police Report. [CPD APRIL 2025.pdf](#)** 
Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave the report a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He highlighted the officer training during the month.
Edman stated questions regarding a nuisance business would need to go through the City Attorney.
No action was required.

9. **Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property) - Discussion of Negotiations Regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant.**
Gobert adjourned the regular meeting at 6:12 p.m. in order to go into Executive Session.

10. Reconvene into Regular Session and Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding Executive Session - Discussion of Negotiations Regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Gobert reconvened the regular session at 6:30 p.m. with all members still present.

Motion to allow Councilmen Ridlen and Rankin along with City Manager, Donald Warschak, to enter into negotiations for a utility easement for the new wastewater treatment plant within the parameters discussed during executive session.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, and Keith Cummings

Carried 3-0

11. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Sciba - none

Ridlen - none

Gobert - thanked the chamber for another great Magnolia Days Festival; the Memorial Day Service at the veteran's center was quite moving; extended congratulations to Councilman Rankin on his recent marriage.

12. Announcements

There were no announcements.

13. Adjournment

Gobert adjourned the meeting at 6:31 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.

