

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, June 9, 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 Lieutenant – Christopher Mayfield Library Director – Lynnette Weido Assistant Librarian – Jessica Commanda

1. Call to Order

Mayor Lori An Gobert called the meeting to order at 5:32 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

- 3.1 Approval of Invoices 20250609.pdf
- 3.2 Approval of Minutes of the May 27, 2025 Regular Meeting

MINUTES 20250527.pdf @

4. Consideration and Action to Approve Invoices from Columbus Tire Center (Sciba

Corporation). COLUMBUS TIRE 20250609.pdf

Motion to approve the Columbus Tire invoices as presented.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and

Ronny Daley

Abstain

Paige Sciba

Carried 4-0

5. Consideration and Action to Approve the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2024.

Paula Lowe, audit partner from Patillo, Brown, & Hill, LLC, was present to go over the financial report with Council and answer any questions. The City was given the "Highest Opinion" possible, and she congratulated the City on that achievement again.

The City has also had 17 consecutive years of receiving the Certificate of Achievement Award from the Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA) and Lowe believes the City will be awarded this certificate again for fiscal year 2024.

Motion to approve the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye

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

Carried 5-0

6. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Jessica Commanda announced that Elaina Thiele was being awarded the "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" award. Commanda and Library Director, Lynnette Weido presented the award and a photo was taken.

Ken Braden addressed Council regarding the permitting and the drainage for the property behind his. He questioned the maintenance of the ditch area behind the property fence built by the developer. He questioned who would be maintaining it, and how would AEP be able to do their maintenance. Gobert stated there was discussion with the developer regarding an easement being granted to the City, and the City Manager, Donald Warschak would follow up with the developer.

Chris Christensen addressed Council regarding the safety and security of the City. He questioned if the City has a plan and if not, he thought there needed to be one. Gobert stated there is a County-wide Emergency Preparedness Plan. He also questioned the safety of 2-wheeled vehicles and pedestrians. Can education of some sort be done in the schools. Gobert stated we could talk to the Wellness Council and suggested he take this to the school board. Christensen stated he would not go to the school board because he would not go 30 minutes prior to sign in to speak; maybe Gobert could go to the school board or the Fire Department could provide the education at one of their events.

- 7. City Manager's Report Including TxDOT Projects Updates, City Projects Updates, and the Rise Broadband Fiber Project Update. CM REPORT 20250609.pdf

 City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. He stated there would be bid approvals for two City projects at the next meeting.
- 8. Second 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 Pagyor Gobert gave the second reading of Resolution 301-25.
- 9. Consideration and Action to Approve 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.

Motion to approve Resolution 301-25 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 Approve Resolution 302-25, a Resolution Supporting the City of Columbus' Application to the Texas Department of Transportation's 2025

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) Call for Projects. RESOLUTION 302-25

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES.docx

Warschak stated the original application was submitted, and TxDOT asked if we could reconsider an expanded area to tie together with current and future TxDOT sidewalks. The cost estimate was \$1.9M. If we get the grant, we have to come up with 20%, which has to be cash and paid up front. Gobert stated this is a chunk of funds, but it increases our chances of being awarded the grant. They have not asked for anything additional in the past when we have submitted an application. Ridlen stated that it was a lot of money. Cummings questioned if they were going to widen the street between Montezuma and Legion Drive. Warschak stated no and explained the reasoning for the side chosen for the sidewalk.

Motion to approve Resolution 302-25.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith

Cummings, and Ronny Daley

11. Consideration and Action to Send to Planning & Zoning, a Replat of a 0.218 Acre Tract and a 0.195 Acre Tract Located in Block 44 Lot 1 and PT Lot 2 into Three(3) Tracts (0.173 Acres (Tract 1), 0.120 Acres (Tract 2) and 0.120 Acres (Tract 3)) as Requested by

John Zweigel. REPLAT ZWIEGEL.pdf @

Motion to send the replat as presented to P&Z.

Moved by: Paige Sciba Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

Aye

Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith

Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the May 2025 CMGA Golf Report.

CMGA MAY 2025.pdf @

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, reviewed the report with Council.

No action was needed.

13. Consideration and Action to Authorize a Development Agreement with the Columbus Municipal Golf Association for Construction and Dedication of Golf Course Improvements to Include New Concrete Cart Paths. DEVELOPMENT

AGREEMENT CMGA.pdf

This document is needed in order for the Golf Association to be able to apply for a grant from CCIDC.

Schneider stated this is an improvement to the course and would benefit everyone versus the cart sheds. The golf association would provide 10% (approximately \$14k) towards the project.

Motion to authorize a Development Agreement 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

14. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - when will budget meetings begin? - Schneider stated after she returns from vacation in July

Daley - none

Sciba - none

Ridlen - comments regarding statements made today - ultimate responsibility is for parents to educate their children how to navigate and stay out of roadways; questioned if we can pursue bids and see what costs would be if we did the sidewalks on our own? Warschak stated it would have to go out for bids with oversight from TxDOT. City would have to come up with almost \$400k, but it would seem it could be done for less. The number is just astonishing.

Rankin - Chuck introduced his new wife, Anita, to Council members

Gobert - there is a lot of time and energy that goes into the work and detail that goes into these grants. She thanked Donald, Bana, Anne, and Dinah for their work and patience. She also thanked the staff for their continued work with excellence with the audit and achieving another year of the highest audit opinion. 17 years of continued great work is incredible and helps them know there is great work behind the items presented to Council. We have officially received and signed the contract with HGAC for the WWTP.

15. Announcements

There were no announcements.

16. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Lori An Gobert, Mayor

Attest:

Bana Schneider, City Secretary

Dinah Jacobs, Assistant 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.

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