



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, July 28, 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 (Absent)

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief – Skip Edman
Code Enforcement – Richard LaCourse
Library Director – Lynnette Weido
Parks/Public Works Superintendent – Fred Heger
Utility Superintendent – Kevin Faichtinger

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: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 4-0

3.1 Approval of Invoices [20250728.pdf](#) 

3.2 Approval of Minutes of the July 14, 2025 Regular Meeting

[20250714_MINUTES.pdf](#) 

3.3 Approval of the Investment Report for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2025

[INVESTMENT REPORT 06-30-2025.pdf](#) 

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

There were no public comments.

5. City Manager's Report Including TxDOT Projects Updates, City Projects Updates, Rise Broadband Fiber Project, City Hall Power Pole Replacement, and the CDBG

Water Line Grant Project. [CM REPORT 20250728.pdf](#) 

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave the report a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Councilman Chuck Rankin stated the area of the old water tower at Midtown Park is in need of mowing.

6. Consideration and Action Regarding a Noise Variance Request for the Liz Cook Trail Ride to be Held at the Colorado County Fairgrounds on Saturday, August 2, 2025 from Noon until 2:00 a.m.; Set Up Will Begin on Thursday, July 31, 2025 and Clean Up Will Be Completed on August 3, 2025. [NOISE](#)

[VARIANCE_LIZCOOKTRAILRIDE.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the noise variance as requested.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 4-0

7. First Reading and Approval of Resolution 305-25, 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 Schobel's Restaurant. [RESOLUTION 305-25_CCIDC_SCHOBEL'S.pdf](#) 

Gobert read Resolution 305-25.

8. First Reading and Approval of Resolution 306-25, 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 a Community Development Grant to the Cardinal Athletic Booster Club for a Memorial Monument to Recognize the Columbus High School 2024 State Championship Football Program.

[RESOLUTION 306-25_CCIDC-CARDINAL BOOSTER CLUB.pdf](#) 

Gobert read Resolution 306-25.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 307-25, a Resolution Declaring Certain Personal Property as Surplus and Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property.

[RESOLUTION 307-25 SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve Resolution 307-25 as presented.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 4-0

10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Nesbitt Memorial Library

Quarterly Report. [NESBITT LIBRARY QTR REPORT 20250728.pdf](#) 

Library Director, Lynnette Weido, gave the quarterly report a copy is included with these minutes. She highlighted the summer reading program and the growth of participants.

No action was required.

11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Parks/Public Works

Quarterly Report. [PARKS PUBLIC WORKS QTR REPORT 20250630.pdf](#) 

Public Works Superintendent, Fred Heger, gave the report a copy is included with these minutes. Heger spoke about the preparation activities readying the streets for the upcoming seal coat project.

No action was required.

12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Utility Department Quarterly

Report. [UTILITY QTR REPORT 20250728.pdf](#) 

Utility Superintendent, Kevin Faichtinger, gave the report a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He spoke about the issues associated with the fiber optic company requests for locates, and his work with the city attorney on an ordinance for permitting right-of-way construction/boring.

No action was required.

13. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the June 2025 Code Enforcement

Report. [CODE ENFORCEMENT JUNE 2025.pdf](#) 

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse gave his report a copy is attached to these minutes. LaCourse spoke about the status of substandard properties.

No action was required.

14. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the June 2025 Police Report.

[CPD JUNE 2025.pdf](#) 

Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave the report a copy is attached to these minutes. Councilman Keith Cummings asked the chief about citations for large trucks parking in the turn lanes outside of restaurants.

No action was required.

15. Discussion of Budget Workshop:

- 15.1 Property Tax
 - Certified Values
 - Tax Rate Calculation Worksheets
 - Alternate Tax Rates

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, discussed the different tax rate and revenue options. There was discussion regarding consequences of keeping the same tax rate as last year.

- 15.2 General Fund

Schneider led the review of the general fund projections and upcoming projects.

- 15.3 Special Revenue Funds

There was discussion regarding budgeted transfers to the equipment and fire equipment funds.

- 15.4 Debt Service Funds

Schneider highlighted the retired debt service account.

16. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Sciba - absent

Ridlen - none

Rankin - none

Gobert - stated the need to change the regular meeting from Monday, August 11 to Tuesday, August 12.

She gave a shout out to Schneider for not only doing all of her required duties, but also covering for Assistant City Secretary, Dinah Jacobs, while she is on leave.

17. Announcements

Schneider stated there is a budget workshop on Monday, August 4th. She also recognized the Columbus Junior Softball team for making it to the World Series in Kirkland, Washington.

18. Adjournment

Gobert adjourned the meeting at 7:06 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.