



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in special session on Thursday, September 18, 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 (Absent)
City Manager – Donald Warschak
City Secretary – Bana Schneider
Assistant City Secretary – Dinah Jacobs (Absent)

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. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

There were no citizen comments.

4. Public Hearing on the Property Tax Rate for Tax Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026.

[2025 TAX RATE NOTICE.pdf](#)

Gobert opened the public hearing at 5:31 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Gobert closed the hearing at 5:31 p.m.

5. Discussion of Budget Workshop: [TAXPAYER IMPACT STATEMENT_2026.pdf.pdf](#)

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, gave an overview of the final budget which includes increased utility rates as discussed at the last meeting.

5.1 Combined Summary [COMBINED FUND SUMMARY.pdf](#) 

6. Public Hearing on Proposed 2025-2026 City of Columbus Operating Budget.

[PUBLIC HEARING BUDGET.2025_2026.pdf](#) 

Gobert opened the public hearing at 5:32 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Gobert closed the public hearing at 5:32 p.m.

7. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, to Approve Ordinance 290-25, an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 279-24 to Adopt the 2025-2026 Budget. [ORD 290-25 BUDGET.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the City of Columbus 2025-2026 Operating budget as presented.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 4-0

8. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - asked when the meeting to adopt the tax rate is.

Daley - None

Sciba - Please attend the St Anthony Halloween Carnival October 25th

Ridlen - Absent

Rankin - None

9. Announcements

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave an update regarding the failed booster pumps at the Hill water plant. He stated yesterday afternoon a conservation notice went out via several different systems to citizens. He also stated a small replacement pump is being installed in order to keep the system pressure up while the regular pumps are being rehabbed.

10. Adjournment

Gobert adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Lori A Gobert

Lori A Gobert, Mayor

Attest:

B. Schneider

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.