



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, January 26, 2026, 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
Councilwoman – Renee Long
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
Library Director – Lynnette Weido
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 Renee Long, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

3.1 Approval of Invoices

3.2 Approval of Minutes of the January 12, 2026 Regular Meeting

[20260112 MINUTES.pdf](#) 

4. **Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹**

Debbie Damon addressed council regarding her concern with flooding from the property being considered for annexation by the city. She stated many of the neighboring property owners are concerned about what will happen when the annexed property is raised.

Other citizens spoke during specific agenda items.

5. **City Manager's Report.**

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

6. **Public Hearing on Proposed Annexation of a 14.166 Acre Tract of Land Situated in the Elizabeth Tumlinson Survey, Abstract Number 44, Colorado County, Texas.**

[ANNEXATION-NOTICE OF 2ND PUBLIC HEARING--01-26-2026.pdf](#) 

Gobert opened the public hearing at 5:43 p.m.

William Durbin spoke about the Planning & Zoning process, and he would expect the city to require engineered proposals for any development. He voiced his concerns about the likelihood of increased property values for neighboring properties if this area was developed. He also stated that even with his concerns, this could be a win/win for the city.

Chris Christensen stated there could be unintended consequences if this annexation went through, and that there was no need to rush to a decision. He suggested council table the item.

Warschak showed drone photos of the area during Hurricane Harvey. The pictures showed that the property was not flooded during this incident.

The civil engineer on this project, Darren McAfee, stated it is their responsibility to ensure no run-off goes to neighboring properties and to mitigate any flooding downstream. He stated all of their analysis would be reviewed by FEMA

Gobert Closed the public hearing at 6:12 p.m.

7. **Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 295-26, an Ordinance Annexing 14.166 Acres of Land Situated in the Elizabeth Tumlinson Survey, Abstract No. 44, Colorado County, Texas; Granting to all Landowners the Rights and Privileges of Other Citizens; Binding Landowners by all of the Acts, Ordinances, Resolutions, and Regulations of the City of Columbus; and Adopting a Service Plan.** [ORD 295-26 ANNEXATION.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve Ordinance 295-26, an ordinance annexing 14.166 Acres of land in the Elizabeth Tumlinson Survey, Abstract No.44 and adoption of a service plan.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 5-0

8. **Public Hearing on Proposed Annexation of a 3.00 Acre Tract of City Owned Property Situated in the W.B. Dewees Survey, Abstract Number 18, Colorado County, Texas.**

[ANNEXATION-NOTICE OF 1ST PUBLIC HEARING--01-26-2026.pdf](#) 

Gobert opened the public hearing at 6:13 p.m.

With no public comments, the public hearing was closed at 6:13 p.m.

9. **Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 314-26, a Resolution Requesting Financial Assistance from the Texas Water Development Board; Authorizing the Filing of an Application for Assistance; and Designating the Authorized Representative for the City of Columbus.** [RES 314-26 TWDB-0201A CITY OF COLUMBUS.pdf](#) 

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated this was for the funding allocated to the city for a new water well, and the authorized representative would be the Mayor.

Motion to approve Resolution 314-26.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 5-0

10. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Liberty Tree Project, a Project of the DAR John Everett Chapter, SAR Robert Rankin Chapter, and the Vietnam Veterans of America, to be Located on City Property.**

David and Judy Zachmeyer asked council for permission to erect a plaque on city property near the Veterans Hall for a Liberty Tree commemorating the nations upcoming 250th birthday. He explained this tree was chosen because it is approximately 250 years old. He showed the plaque to council.

The Mayor, the Zachmeyers, and others involved in the project took a photograph with the plaque.

Motion to approve the Liberty Tree Project.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

11. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) from Houston Street to Walnut Street (Hwy 90); Walnut Street (Hwy 90) from Milam Street (Spur 52) to Legion Drive on Saturday, February 28, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon for the 83rd Annual Columbus FFA Parade.**

Motion to approve the street closure as requested

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 5-0

12. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Spring Street Between Milam and Travis Streets on Saturday, March 28, 2026 from 6:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the Health & Wellness Fair as Requested by the Wellness Council.

Tracy Lilie from the Wellness Council spoke about this year's Health & Wellness Fair.

Motion to approve street closure as presented.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

13. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Travis Street from Spring Street to Washington Street on Saturday, March 28, 2026 from 6:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for the HFHCC 5K 2026 as Requested by Habitat for Humanity.

Motion to approve the street closure as requested.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 5-0

14. Consideration and Action to Approve Ordinance 296-26, and Ordinance Calling and Ordering a General Election for City Council Officers to be Held on May 2, 2026 for the Purpose of Electing Three Councilmembers. ORD 296-26 ORDERING GENERAL

[ELECTION May 2026.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve Ordinance 296-26 ordering a general election.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

Consideración y aprobación de la Ordenanza 296-26, y Ordenanza que convoca y ordena la celebración de elecciones generales para los cargos de concejales municipales el 2 de mayo de 2026 con el propósito de elegir a tres concejales. ORD-296-26-CONVOCATORIA DE ELECCIONES GENERALES PARA MAYO DE 2026..pdf 

Moción para aprobar la Ordenanza 296-26 tal como se presentó.

Movido por: Ronny Daley

Secundado por: Keith Cummings

Si Renee Long, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Aprobado 5-0

15. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Nesbitt Memorial Library Quarterly Report for the Quarter Ended December 30, 2025.**
Library Director, Lynnette Weido, discussed programming and fundraising.
No action was required.
16. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Parks/Public Works Department Quarterly Report for the Quarter Ended December 30, 2025.**
Public Works Superintendent, Fred Heger, discussed activities for parks and public works.
Councilwoman Long gave praise to Heger and his department for their work on the drainage project.
No action was taken.
17. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Utility Department Quarterly Report for the Quarter Ended December 30, 2025.**
Utility Superintendent, Kevin Faichtinger, updated council regarding utility projects and the need for some new fees.
No action was taken.
18. **Consideration and Action to Accept the Donation of a 2025 Kenworth T480 Fire Tanker VIN 2NK5HJ8X1SM157174 Valued at \$464,000 from the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department.**
Motion to accept the donation of a new fire tanker from CVFD.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

19. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the December 2025 Code Enforcement Report.

Code officer, Richard LaCourse gave the report. He updated council on substandard properties.

No action was taken.

20. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the December 2025 Police Report.

[CPD DECEMBER 2025.pdf](#) 

Police Chief Edman gave the report. He highlighted training during the month.

No action was taken.

21. Consideration and Action to Approve a Proclamation to Commemorate the 175 Year Anniversary of the Local Masonic Lodge.

Gobert stated she had received a request but had not received the wording for the proclamation. She asked for approval for a proclamation for this special occasion.

Motion to approve a proclamation for the local Masonic Lodge.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Carried 5-0

22. Consideration and Action to Add Anne Faichtinger as a Bank Signatory.

Schneider is requesting another signatory for times when personnel are out of the office.

Motion to add Anne Faichtinger as a bank signatory.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 5-0

23. Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) - Discussion of Personnel Contingency Planning.

The regular session was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

24. Reconvene into Regular Session and Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding Executive Session - Discussion of Personnel Contingency Planning.

The regular session reconvened at 7:27 p.m. with all members of council remaining present.

Motion to give Mayor Gobert permission to seek legal advice/action for items discussed during executive session.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Renee Long

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

Carried 5-0

25. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Sciba - Wished Chief Edman a happy retirement

Long - none

Chuck - none

Gobert - Welcomed Long officially to council; thanked the city workers for all of their hard work

26. Announcements

Warschak stated next meeting there would be an item to authorize him to choose electric rates.

Schneider stated she had received a heads up regarding gas prices during the cold weather.

Rankin suggesting looking at water usage during that time since people were dripping faucets. He is concerned with sewer averaging.

27. Adjournment

Gobert adjourned the meeting at 7:33 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.

