



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, January 10, 2022, 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  
Councilman – Gary Swindle  
Councilwoman – Sandra Frnka  
City Manager – Donald Warschak  
City Secretary – Bana Schneider  
Assistant City Secretary – Dinah Jacobs

Other City Staff present included:

Police Chief – Skip Edman

**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:* Gary Swindle

*Seconded by:* Sandra Frnka

**Ayes:** Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

**Carried 4-0**

3.1. Approval of Invoices

3.2. Approval of Minutes of the December 27, 2021 Regular Meeting

**4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments<sup>1</sup>**

Chris Christensen spoke about the situation at the border and the National Guard. He discussed the financial burden and loss to these guardsmen while being called to duty. His intent is to help get some kind of funding to them. He stated he has some information that he is willing to pass on to anyone who is interested.

Gobert read a proclamation from the City of Columbus in support of the National Guard. She would like to know where that can be sent.

Christensen stated he will work on who we can get the proclamation to.

**5. City Manager's Report Including the McCormick WWTP Riverbank Project Update and Sewer Averaging.**

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Regarding the McCormick WWTP Riverbank Project, Warschak reported the contractor is in the process of installing the new effluent piping and drop structure. They anticipate several weeks to complete this project. Warschak stated if anyone was interested in going out there, possibly next Monday, weather permitting let him know.

Regarding sewer averaging, Warschak stated it began on December 15th and will run until February 15th. Water usage during this time will be used to calculate residential sewer rates for the upcoming year.

Warschak also reported on the MLK Sidewalk and the Montezuma Sidewalk projects. We are anticipating the contractor moving in mid-February on the MLK project, and he received an email today about the possibility of additional funds available for the Montezuma project.

**6. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 242-22, a Resolution in Support of the Submission of an Application to the 2022 Competitive Housing Tax Credit (HTC) By Oak Bluff Senior Housing Limited Partnership for the Rehabilitation of Oak Bluff Apartments.**

Motion to approve Resolution 242-22.

*Moved by:* Chuck Rankin

*Seconded by:* Keith Cummings

**Ayes:** Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

**Carried 4-0**

**7. Consideration and Action to Approve the Partial Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) from Myra Jane Drive to the Courthouse Square on Saturday, January 22, 2021 Starting at 1:00 P.M. for the Annual March for Life**

Motion to approve street closure as requested.

*Moved by:* Sandra Frnka

*Seconded by:* Keith Cummings

**Ayes:** Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, Gary Swindle, and Sandra Frnka

**8. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the December 2021 Golf Association Report.**

The golf course report was discussed.

No action was needed.

**9. Items from Councilmembers<sup>2</sup>**

Cummings - none

Swindle - questioned how the IT was going with email in Ireland; Schneider reported the new company was here today working and hopefully by the end of the month; Chief Edman stated there will have to be some third party contracting for police related work

Frnka - thanked Chris for his information; requested information to make a contribution; stated the Catholic Charities have funds set aside to help in instances like this; food pantries can be contacted through the Ministerial Alliance for assistance; people need to be made aware of the cuts made to the National Guardsmen; they should not be penalized for joining to serve

Rankin - noticed everyone stood for the flag today; if you listen to the news and the what the Barn Builders were saying some time ago, what they said is coming true

Gobert - Happy 2022; hopefully everything will come to a close in March of 2022, with a two year close to COVID; hopefully returning to a "flu-like" type season; thanked the staff for their hard work in handling all of the changes and issues being dealt with; thank you and shout out to police department for their hard work with all of the issues they have been dealing with

**10. Announcements**

Warschak stated the Harris County Junior Posse will be coming to town on Saturday at 9 a.m. He invited others to come out to see and greet them.

Schneider stated the candidate filing period will open January 19th; Places 3, 4, and 5 are up for election.

**11. Adjournment**

Gobert adjourned the meeting at 5:53 p.m.



Mayor Lori An Gobert

**ATTEST:**



Bana Schneider, City Secretary

<sup>1</sup>During 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.

<sup>2</sup>Limited 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.