



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, March 14, 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 (Absent)
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 Pro Tem, Chuck Rankin, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Rankin 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, Ronny Daley, Gary Swindle,
and Sandra Frnka

Carried 5-0

3.1. Approval of Invoices [INVOICES_03.14.2022.pdf](#) 

3.2. Approval of Minutes of the February 28, 2022 Regular Meeting
[MINUTES_02.28.2022.pdf](#) 

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments'

Chris Christensen addressed Council regarding the 20 acres on the other side of town and the industry going into that area. He felt Council did not have enough information to make the decision they did. Rankin stated they were not at liberty to discuss due to it not being an agenda item tonight.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, the McCormick WWTP River Bank Project, and the MLK Street Sidewalk Project. [CM REPORT.pdf](#)

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Warschak reported sales tax was up over the same time period last year. This was the March payment for January collections. Sales tax was up \$33,000, with the payment being \$147,824 vs. \$114,108. The County and City of Weimar saw increases, while the City of Eagle Lake saw a slight decrease.

Regarding the McCormick WWTP River Bank Project, Warschak reported the contractor was out last week and they will be back on site next week again.

Regarding the MLK Street Sidewalk Project, Warschak reported the contractor had moved in and was working adjacent to Midtown Park. There was discussion for them to move over by the junior high since it is Spring Break this week.

6. Consideration and Action Regarding a Noise Ordinance Variance for Friday, May 20, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. and Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. on the Courthouse Square for the Magnolia Days Festival as Requested by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. [NOISE VARIANCE MAGNOLIA DAYS.pdf](#)

Motion to approve the noise ordinance variance for the Magnolia Days festival as requested by the Chamber of Commerce.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Carried 5-0

7. Consideration and Action to Approve the following Street Closures for the 2022 Magnolia Days Festival as Requested by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce:

Friday, May 20, 2022—close Spring Street from Milam to the end of Patty Hill's property 423 Spring Street (fence line); close Travis Street from Walnut to Spring 7 am – 1 am

Saturday, May 21, 2022—close Spring Street from Milam to Front Street 7 am – 1 am; Close Travis from Walnut to Washington 7 am – 1 am

Saturday, May 21, 2022—close Milam Street from Walnut to the RR tracks from 7 am-5pm

[STREET CLOSURES MAGNOLIA DAYS.pdf](#)

Motion to approve the street closures for the Magnolia Days Festival as requested by the Chamber of Commerce.

Moved by: Gary Swindle

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

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

Carried 5-0

8. Discussion Regarding Guidelines for Filming within the City of Columbus.

[PROPOSED COLUMBUS FILMING.pdf](#) 

Kristen Cepak from the Chamber discussed how Columbus could become a film friendly city and how to become certified with the Texas Film Commission. It would be developed for commercials, films and any other advertising.

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated this would go to the attorney to review and make sure we have everything we need. The City of LaGrange and Bastrop both use these guidelines. Once approved, the attorney would draft the ordinance.

Schneider will forward the draft to the attorney.

9. Consideration and Action to Approve an Engagement Letter from Pattillo, Brown, and Hill for the September 2021 Financial Audit. [AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER 2021.pdf](#) 

Schneider stated this is the same firm, just a few different people working on the audit this year.

Motion to approve the audit engagement letter from Patillo, Brown & Hill.

Moved by: Sandra Frnka

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

10. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of One Member to the Colorado County Central Appraisal District Board of Directors for an Unexpired Term Ending December 31, 2023.

Councilwoman Frnka questioned Mr. Pritchard's qualifications.

Councilman Daley stated he knew him as a friend and local businessman.

Motion to approve the appointment of James Pritchard as the City's shared representative on the Colorado County Central Appraisal District Board of Directors.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the February 2022 Golf Report.

[FEB.2022 GOLF.pdf](#) 

There was no one present from the golf course.

Schneider stated she questioned the equipment line item purchase. It was for parts and supplies for the sprinkler system, not a piece of machinery.

Frnka asked about their grant statuses. Schneider stated they received the CCIDC funding for the lawn equipment, and they did not score high enough for the Texas Parks and Wildlife grant.

Schneider stated operating expenses were a little higher this month because of yearly insurance

premiums that were paid in February.

No action was needed.

12. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Swindle - none

Frnka - none

Rankin - none

13. Announcements

There were no announcements.

14. Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Rankin adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.



Mayor Lori An Gobert

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.