



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, July 11, 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 (Via Videoconference)  
Mayor Pro Tem – Chuck Rankin  
Councilman – Keith Cummings  
Councilman – Ronny Daley  
Councilwoman – Paige Sciba  
Councilman – Michael Ridlen  
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 5:33 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

Gobert led the pledge and invocation.

**3. Consent Agenda:**

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

*Moved by:* Keith Cummings

*Seconded by:* Michael Ridlen

**Ayes:** Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

**Carried 5-0**

3.1. **Approval of Invoices** [INVOICES 07.11.2022.pdf](#) 

3.2. **Approval of Minutes of the June 27, 2022 Regular Meeting**  
[MINUTES 06.27.2022.pdf](#) 

**4. Consideration and Action to Approve Invoices from Columbus Tire Center (Sciba Corporation).** [INVOICES COLUMBUS TIRE.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve invoices for Columbus Tire.

*Moved by:* Chuck Rankin

*Seconded by:* Keith Cummings

**Ayes:** Michael Ridlen, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and  
Ronny Daley

**Abstain:** Paige Sciba

**Carried**

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

Lindsey Graham requested to speak at item number 8.

Cynthia Penney addressed Council regarding illegal immigrants and pan handlers within the City and County.


**6. City Manager's Report Including sales Tax, McCormick WWTP Riverbank 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 slightly over the same period last year, \$154,705.40 versus \$154,059.62. The County and the Cities of Weimar and Eagle Lake also all saw increases.

Regarding the McCormick WWTP Riverbank Project, Warschak stated the project is nearing completion. The contractor is grading and finishing the cleanup. At the completion a ceremony will be scheduled.

Regarding the MLK Street Sidewalk Project, Warschak stated the contractor has installed the asphalt and signage.

Warschak reported on the fire that broke out near the airport today. The fire department has been out there since before noon and are still out there battling the fire. The CVFD as well as all surrounding departments are out assisting. It is really HOT and the fire fighters are working really hard. Ridlen asked if there were any personnel injuries. Warschak stated none that he was aware of at this time. Sciba stated they have also had air drop assistance on the fire from the forest service. Community members have also been dropping off water and food.

**7. First Reading of Resolution 250-22, 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 Business Improvement Grant to 7GT Properties, LLC for Facade Improvements.** [RESOLUTION 250-22 CCIDC GRANT.pdf](#) 

Mayor Gobert read Resolution 250-22.

Councilman Rankin asked President Tesch about the entity receiving this grant. Tesch reported this was funding from the funds budgeted for Milam Street improvements. Rankin

requested an executive briefing of what the project funding was for when Council receives these resolutions.

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated she would make sure that information is included in the future.

**8. Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Milam Street (Spur 52) from Harbert Street to Spring Street from 5:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, for a Christmas Parade in Conjunction with the Columbus 200 Celebration as**

**Requested by the Chamber of Commerce. [PARADE CLOSURE.pdf](#)**

Lindsey Graham, Co-Chair for the Columbus 200 Bicentennial Celebration, spoke regarding the parade route. She stated the citizens have been asking for this. They are requesting a lighted Christmas parade to kick off the Christmas season. She stated there is minimal impact on intersections and staffing. Gobert asked if the Chief had approved this. Edman spoke regarding staffing and the route. Ridlen asked if there was a fee involved. Schneider stated that charging fees has not passed by Council. Edman stated he has adequate staffing on Tuesday. Graham stated this is a ONE-TIME event.

Sarah Koller spoke regarding the parade route. It is helpful to the small businesses along Milam if the route goes down that street.

Gobert said the Chamber is doing a great job promoting the celebration.

Graham stated it is part of the November/December Columbus 200 event kicking off the monthly events. She gave a highlight of the events for the other months during the celebration year.

Motion to approve the one-time parade street closure.

*Moved by:* Michael Ridlen

*Seconded by:* Paige Sciba

**Ayes:** Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

**Carried**

**9. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the June 2022 Golf Association Report. [JUNE 2022 GOLF REPORT.pdf](#)**

Schneider stated John Mangini is back as the association treasurer. He was planning to be here. Rankin stated the last page is a good indicator as far as numbers go. Jim Stein is gone. Mangini took over for April as treasurer. Shane Barton took over as president. Rankin mentioned Stein's recommendation for rotating terms on the board, stating it was probably a good idea.

No action was needed.

**10. Consideration and Action to Accept Funding from the CDBG-MIT Through the Houston-Galveston Area Council MOD. [MIT FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.pdf](#)**

Gobert stated this is the amount she mentioned in a previous meeting. This is the \$488,000,000 that will be going out for public comment. We have to say yes, we want this money.

Rankin asked what projects fit within this dollar amount?

Gobert stated this funding would help offset the City component for the waste water plant. When we applied for the first round, there was criteria. If approved, we get a lump sum.

Ridlen asked if this was part of the initial amount.

Gobert stated these are two separate funds. This is from MIT funding.

Motion to accept the funding.

*Moved by:* Keith Cummings

*Seconded by:* Ronny Daley

**Ayes:** Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

**Carried 5-0**

**11. Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.072, Deliberations About Real Property - Industrial Park.**

Regular session was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

**12. Reconvene into Regular Session and Consideration and Action, if Any, Regarding Executive Session - Deliberation About Real Property - Industrial Park.**

Regular session reconvened at 6:21 p.m.

Motion to allow the CCIDC President to enter negotiations regarding real property at the industrial park.

*Moved by:* Keith Cummings

*Seconded by:* Michael Ridlen

**Ayes:** Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

**Carried 5-0**

**13. Discussion of Budget Workshop - Budget Calendar**

Schneider had discussions regarding the budget calendar and the slate of special meetings that will be needed.

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

Ridlen - questioned the wells and the need for emergency fire water

Sciba - none

Daley - encouraged everyone to visit the Ken Turner exhibit at the Live Oak Art Center

Cummings - none

Rankin - none

Gobert - none

**15. Announcements**

Edman - pray for the fire fighters

**16. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



**Lori An Gobert, Mayor**

**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.