



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, November 28, 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 (Absent)  
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  
Fire Chief – Dusty Dittmar  
Code Enforcement – Richard LaCourse  
Code/Fire Assistant – Duane Naiser

**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:* Paige Sciba

*Seconded by:* Keith Cummings

**Aye** Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, and Keith Cummings

**Carried 4-0**

3.1. **Approval of Invoices** [INVOICES 11.28.2022.pdf](#) 

3.2. **Approval of Minutes of the of the November 14, 2022 Regular Meeting**

[MINUTES 11.14.2022.pdf](#) 

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

Debbie Damon addressed Council regarding the last "Saturdays on the Square" for the year. She stated December 17th would be the last market day instead of the 24th. She also highlighted the arrival of Santa to the market that day.

**5. City Manager's Report Including the MLK Street Sidewalk Project, TxDOT Projects Update, Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, and Sewer Averaging.**

[CM REPORT.pdf](#) 

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

Regarding the MLK Street Sidewalk Project, Warschak reported the ADA inspection has been completed, and we are just waiting for TxDOT for project closeout.

Warschak stated the new East River Bridge would be opening soon, possibly in December; there is no update on the Highway 90 signal light project; the Highway 90 sidewalk project has been bid, but no start date has been confirmed.

TxDOT will begin the application process in December for the Transportation Alternatives Grant Program. The City will apply again for Montezuma Street.

In conclusion, Warschak stated the sewer averaging period for residential customers will begin on December 15th and run thru February 15th. Water used during this time will be used to calculate residential sewer rates for the upcoming year.

Councilman Ridlen asked about street sign replacement and/or cleaning. Warschak stated they are scheduling the inventory of signs and cleaning with the new pressure washer.

Councilman Rankin asked about the abandoned AEP utility poles, and if there was a remedy. Warschak stated he would check with our AEP rep.

**6. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding Parking Closure on Milam Street from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday December 1, 2022 for Ladies Night Out.**

After discussion of the feasibility of closing parking on Milam Street for LNO, no action was taken. Comments were made by Debbie Damon, Cynthia Penney, and Chamber representative Janet Hollman.

**7. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the Use of Sidewalks on Milam Street from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday December 1, 2022 for Ladies Night Out.**

Council discussed passing an ordinance at a future date to address the blocking of sidewalks. No action was taken.

**8. Consideration and Action to Approve the Appointment of One Member to the Planning & Zoning Commission.**

Motion to approve the appointment of Olga Poncik to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

**Aye** Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, and Keith Cummings

**Carried 4-0**

**9. Consideration and Action to Approve the Donation of a CAN-AM Defender Pro XT HD10 Rough Terrain Vehicle Valued at \$44,949.84 from the Columbus Volunteer Fire**

**Department.** [CAN-AM DONATION.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the donation of a CAN-AM from the CVFD as presented.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

**Aye** Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, and Keith Cummings

**Carried 4-0**

**10. Consideration and Action to Approve the October 2022 Fire Marshal Report.** [FIRE](#)

[MARSHAL OCT 2022.pdf](#) 

Code Enforcement Officer, Richard LaCourse delivered the Fire Marshal report. A copy is attached to these minutes. LaCourse reported on the inspections and plans review for October. He also highlighted fire prevention activities and CVFD call responses for the month.

No action was required.

**11. Consideration and Action to Approve the October 2022 Code Enforcement Report.**

[CODE ENFORCEMENT OCT 2022.pdf](#) 

LaCourse gave his report, a copy is attached to these minutes. He highlighted permits issued, and reviewed an updated substandard structure list. He also spoke about the new permitting software, and the need for the City to adopt some new permit fees.

No action was required.

**12. Consideration and Action to Approve the October 2022 Police Report.** [OCTOBER](#)

[2022 STATS.pdf](#) 

Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Edman reported on officer training during the month.

No action was required.

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

Cummings - None

Daley - Absent

Sciba - None

Ridlen - With the holiday season starting, please stay safe

Rankin - None

Gobert - Encouraged everyone to support the Chamber this week by attending the lighted parade and Ladies Night Out.

**14. Announcements**

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated she needed holiday party RSVPs by Friday.

**15. Adjournment**

Gobert adjourned the meeting at 6:19 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.