



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, August 28, 2023, 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
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
Code Enforcement – Richard LaCourse

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 the consent agenda as presented.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

3.1 **Approval of Invoices** [INVOICES 20230828.pdf](#)

3.2 **Approval of Minutes of the August 14, 2023 Regular Meeting**
[MINUTES 08.14.2023.pdf](#)

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

Motion to approve the Columbus Tire invoices as presented.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

Aye Michael Ridlen, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Abstain Paige Sciba

Carried 4-0

5. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Debbie Damon addressed Council regarding the Columbus water tower Veterans marker and when it will be replaced.

Gobert responded it is on County property and County responsibility.

Allison Korell addressed Council regarding September 11 events. AL&M chose to "never forget". She requested we take a moment to remember 9-11. Texas Great Southern helped sponsor t-shirts that she wanted to distribute.

6. City Manager's Report Including Hwy 71 Signal Light Project, Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant, PHMSA Pipeline Grant, and the 2023 Gas System Improvement Project. [CM REPORT.pdf](#)

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

Regarding the Hwy 71 (Fannin Street) Signal Light Project, Warschak reported the contractor continues to work on this project.

Regarding the Montezuma Street Sidewalk Grant Application, Warschak reported having submitted the application that has a target date of October for a recommendation list.

Regarding the PHMSA Pipeline Grant, Warschak reported having the application submitted.

Regarding the 2023 Gas System Improvements, Warschak reported B&D has installed the main gas lines on the project and service lines are currently being connected. Once all of that is complete, the old line will be taken out of service.

7. Consideration and Action to Approve the Use of the City Swimming Pool by the Columbus High School Swim Team During the Months of September and October.

The Columbus High School Swim Coach was present to request the use of the City Pool.

There was discussion on the cost.

Motion to approve the use of the pool with negotiations to be agreed upon by the City and CISD on cost to use.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

8. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Cardinal Lane from Park Street to Montezuma Street; Montezuma Street from Cardinal Lane to Legion Drive; Legion Drive from Montezuma to Veterans Drive; Veterans Drive from Legion Drive to Milentz Street; Milentz Street from Veterans Drive to the Marley Giddens Center on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for the Columbus Cardinal Booster Club Homecoming Parade.**

Motion to approve the street closure as requested.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Ronny Daley

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

9. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Closure of Legion Drive from the Large Memorial Entrance Gate to Legion Circle for all Varsity, Sub-Varsity and Junior High Home Football Games as well as any Play-off Games Hosted at the Stadium as Requested by Columbus Independent School District. [HOME FOOTBALL GAMES.pdf](#)**

Motion to approve the street closure as presented.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

10. **Consideration and Action to Award the Bid for the Fire Station Roof Project.**

Warschak discussed the roof project. The Spanish tile roof would be replaced with a metal standing seam roof. There was only bid received. It was from Vincent Roofing and within our budget. Warschak recommended going with their bid.

Motion to award the bid to Vincent Roofing contingent upon documented verification of SAM.gov UEI number and non-disbarment status.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding City Owned Real Property Located at 930 Travis Street.

No bids were received.

There is new legislation that would allow the City to give the property away. There are stipulations and requirements that have to be met or the property would revert back to the City.

There was also discussion of requesting proposals from non-profit organizations
\$20,000 minimum

Motion to have the property advertised with the options discussed.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

12. Consideration and Action to Approve the 2023-2024 Columbus Community & Industrial Development Corporation Budget. [CCIDC BUDGET-2023-2024.pdf](#)

Motion to approve the CCIDC budget as presented.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

13. Second Reading of Resolution 267-23, a Resolution Authorizing CCIDC Approval for Acquisition of Real Property for Economic Development Purposes Requiring an Expenditure that Exceeds \$10,000. [RESOLUTION 267-23 CCIDC PURCHASE.pdf](#)

Gobert read the resolution.

14. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 267-23, a Resolution Authorizing CCIDC Approval for Acquisition of Real Property for Economic Development Purposes Requiring an Expenditure that Exceeds \$10,000.

Motion to approve Resolution 267-23.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

15. Consideration and Action to Approve the Certification for Local Governments for House

Bill 3834 Cybersecurity Awareness Training. [CYBERSECURITY 2023.pdf](#)

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated all City employees and Council members have passed the Cyber Security training that is required by the State.

Motion to approve the certification of training for HB 3834.

Moved by: Keith Cummings

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

16. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the July 2023 Fire Marshal Report.

[FIRE MARSHAL JULY 2023.pdf](#)

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave the report in Fire Marshal Brent Gorman's absence.

LaCourse pointed out the False Alarm Proposal.

There have been a couple of commercial properties that are abusing the fire department.

Motion to explore a false alarm fee schedule for residential and commercial properties to be presented to Council.

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 5-0

17. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the July 2023 Code Enforcement Report. [CODE ENFORCEMENT JULY 2023.pdf](#)

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave his report. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

LaCourse highlighted permits and miscellaneous code items of substandard properties, a sidewalk repair, gas meter testing, Domino's Pizza and a Board of Adjustments meeting.

LaCourse addressed the Ace Hardware drainage issue that was questioned. The bridge opening is the first stack up point. Once under the bridge, they built up the property, and created a retention pond. They put in 25' piers up to 22' in the front of the building.

Ridlen questioned the number of units the fire department is required to have. We are an ISO of 4 now. It is based on the number of units and response area. One engine is needed, two for sure to have a backup. We will have 4 when the new unit arrives. All of the other equipment is supplemental related units to service outside the City limits. The FD pays for the supplemental units, the City just has to maintain all units. The City has only really paid for one engine.

No action was needed.

18. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the July 2023 Police Report. [JULY 2023 STATS.pdf](#)

Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Edman highlighted training, being the highest month of training so far. School has started. The school has hired another officer, M-F 8:30-3:30; working 187 days.

No action was needed.

19. Discussion of Budget Workshop

There were budget discussions on the general fund and utility fund.

19.1 **General Fund**

19.2 **Utility Fund**

20. Consideration and Action Regarding the Proposed 2023 Tax Rate Notification and Public Hearing. [PROPOSED TAX RATE PUBLIC HEARING.pdf](#)

Schneider stated this has to be published next Wednesday. It is a proposed tax increase to 0.295 and sets the public hearing date.

Motion to approve the notice for the public hearing indicating an increase in the tax rate to .295 on September 6th.

Cummings - for

Daley - for

Sciba - for

Ridlen - for

Rankin - nay

Moved by: Paige Sciba

Seconded by: Michael Ridlen

Aye Michael Ridlen, Paige Sciba, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Nay Chuck Rankin

Carried 4-1

21. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - noticed the speed limit sign at the bridge

Daley - everyone needs to sweep up their leaves from the gutters

Sciba - none

Ridlen - none

Rankin - none

Gobert - thanked everyone for the due diligence with the budget and thanked staff for all of their hard work to make this a viable business organization

22. Announcements

Schneider - stated she would be canceling the special meeting on Thursday, August 31st.

23. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 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.