



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, April 8, 2024, 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 (Absent)
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 5:30 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, Chuck Rankin, Keith Cummings, and Ronny Daley

Carried 4-0

3.1 Approval of Invoices [INVOICES 20240408.pdf](#)

3.2 Approval of Minutes of the March 25, 2024 Regular Meeting
[20240325 MINUTES.pdf](#)

3.3 Approval of Financial Statements for the Month Ending October 2023

[OCTOBER 2023.pdf](#) 

4. **Consideration and Action to Approve Invoices for Columbus Tire Center (Sciba Corporation).** [COLUMBUS TIRE 20240408.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the Columbus Tire invoices as presented.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 4-0

5. **Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹**

Chris Christensen addressed Council regarding the abandoned AEP utility poles and his conversation with the AEP representative that spoke at the prior meeting.

6. **City Manager's Report Including Utility Billing, TxDOT Projects Updates, PHMSA Pipeline Grant, the Texas A&M University Transportation Study, and Spring Trash Off.**

[CM REPORT 20240405.pdf](#) 

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

Warschak reported he was just informed this afternoon, we did not get the PHMSA Pipeline Grant, but we will apply again.

7. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the School Bond Presentation by the Champions for Columbus Children.**

Mandy Kulhanek and Lee May, representatives from the Champions for Columbus PAC, gave a power point presentation on the proposed school board bond. They are wanting to get correct information out and are asking for support of Prop A & Prop B.

8. **Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the March 2024 Golf Report.**

[CMGA MARCH 2024.pdf](#) 

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, reviewed the report with Council.

There were some new Board members. They were supposed to come tonight, but many were out. They will come to a future meeting and introduce themselves.

No action was needed.

9. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Telecommunications Site License Agreement with Meridian LTE, LLC.** [MERIDIAN AGREEMENT.pdf](#) 

Clint Ruckman and Donald Jones of Meridian spoke on behalf of the agreement.

This is a 20-year agreement. In exchange for the equipment on the property out at the industrial park, the City would get 6 free fiber drops.

Motion to approve the agreement as presented.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Chuck Rankin

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

Carried 4-0

10. Executive Session: In Accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.072, Deliberation about Real Property - Possible Sites for New Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Regular session closed at 6:03 to enter into executive session.

11. Reconvene into Regular Session and Consideration and Action, if Any, Regarding Executive Session - Possible Sites for New Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Regular session reconvened at 6:46 p.m. All members remained present.

Motion to authorize to proceed on the identified real estate transactions as discussed.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

Carried

12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding Financial Review of Remaining Bond Funds and MCF Transfer Funds. [BOND MCF TRANSFER FUNDS.pdf](#)

Schneider reviewed the funds.

This was an update on what the monies have been spent to date.

Gobert wanted a 6-month review/update.

Rankin stated to spend the bond money first. We do not want to lose it. Save the MCF funds for later use.

Schneider stated the bond monies will be expended.

Warschak gave an update on ARPA funds. The project will use those remaining funds.

No action was needed.

13. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Ridlen - update on Midtown Park? Warschak stated they met with the donor, and they took numbers back; report at next meeting

Rankin - It has been six months since the terrorist attack in Israel

Gobert - Midtown Park - Warshack, Daley and Willie Mae Williams will be attending a funding workshop; they are also considering a pickleball court or two to go along with the splash pad; the new Fire engine has arrived; we were awarded the sprinkler system for the fire department by LCRA, and we are hopeful to get the Texas Parks and Wildlife grant for a new pumper. Gobert thanked Schneider and Jacobs, and all involved for their team efforts at the check signing event; Gobert stated that next year at Trash Off we need to consider signage as things were really crazy (i.e. "Enter and dump at your own risk") in order to mitigate any problems. Warschak stated that next year we can look at signage and staging people to monitor and move traffic in a safe manner.

14. Announcements

There were no others.

15. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



Lori An Gobert, Mayor
Chuck Ranicki

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.