



The City Council of the City of Columbus, Texas met in regular session on Monday, April 22, 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 (Absent)
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 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 the consent agenda as presented.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

Seconded by: Paige Sciba

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

Carried 5-0

3.1 Approval of Invoices [INVOICES_20240422.pdf](#)

3.2 Approval of Minutes of the April 8, 2024 Regular Meeting

[MINUTES_20240408.pdf](#) 

3.3 Approval of the Investment Report for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2024

[INVESTMENT REPORT 03-31-2024.pdf](#) 

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments¹

Cheryl Cook addressed Council regarding homes being built on both sides of her house and her opinion on the codes and laws she feels are inadequate.

Chris Christensen addressed Council regarding the group that addressed Council at the last meeting on the school bond up for vote.

William Durban addressed Council regarding the construction on I-10.

5. City Manager's Report Including Sales Tax, Utility Billing, TxDOT Project Updates, and the Texas A&M Transportation Study. [CMREPORT_20240422.pdf](#) 

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

Rankin questioned the timing of TxDOT "arriving" in Columbus area. Warschak responded they are bidding and moving quickly.

Sciba questioned if closures could be communicated better to prepare for the traffic coming through town.

Rankin suggested we get a weekly update if possible.

Sciba questioned the basketball courts and the fixing of the goals. She also questioned the making of a parking lot at the soccer field with asphalt. Warschak stated an even cheaper option is the concrete bumpers.

6. Consideration and Action Regarding a Noise Ordinance Variance Request for a Truck and Tractor Pull to be Held on May 3, 2024 through May 4, 2024 as Submitted by

Thunder By the Colorado, Inc. [THUNDER BY THE COLORADO.pdf](#) 

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, stated it is basically the same request as previous years.

Motion to approve the noise variance as presented.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

7. Consideration and Action Regarding a Noise Variance Request for the Magnolia Days Festival to be Held on May 17, 2024 through May 18, 2024 as Submitted by the

Columbus Chamber of Commerce. [MAGNOLIADAYS.pdf](#) 

Motion to approve the noise variance as presented.

Moved by: Ronny Daley

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 Appointment of One Member to the Nesbitt Memorial Library Advisory Board for a Term Ending April 1, 2027.

Schneider stated Wiste had previously served on the board.

Motion to approve the appointment 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

9. Consideration and Action to Accept a Donation for Midtown Park Improvements to Include Playground Equipment, and Pickle Ball Courts.

Warschak stated this project covers the equipment that was removed and also the installation of pickle ball courts.

Daley, Warschak, and Willie Mae Williams went to a Texas Parks and Wildlife meeting. They were advised on how to improve their future application.

Motion to accept a \$60,000 donation from Todd and Morgan Barten to be used for playground equipment and pickle ball courts at Midtown Park.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Keith Cummings

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

Carried 5-0

10. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the March 2024 Fire Marshal Report.

[FIRE MARSHAL_MARCH2024.pdf](#) 

Code Enforcement officer, Richard LaCourse, gave the report in Gorman's absence. Acopy is attached to these minutes.

LaCourse pointed out the achievement of Gorman's Fire Marshal certification.

LaCourse also pointed out that tonight with the approvals of the payables, the fire truck is now approved for payment. It will be open for viewing after the meeting.

Rankin questioned the Holiday Inn situation. LaCourse stated they have been approved to be open, but they have no furniture.

No action was needed.

11. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the March 2024 Code Enforcement Report. [CODE ENFORCEMENT MARCH 2024.pdf](#)

LaCourse, gave his report. Acopy is attached to these minutes.

He also addressed Ms. Cook's concerns and the BOAboard approving the variance.

No action was needed.

12. Consideration and Action, if Necessary, Regarding the March 2024 Police Report. [CPD STATS MARCH 2024.pdf](#)

Police Chief, Skip Edman, gave his report. Acopy is attached to these minutes.

Cummings asked if there is a contingency when the traffic is backing up.

Edman stated he can overstaff officers and pay tons of overtime. It will NOT make a difference. The traffic fines will never compensate the time of his officers.

No action was needed.

13. Items from Councilmembers²

Cummings - none

Daley - none

Sciba - none

Ridlen - none

Rankin - God Bless Texas

Gobert - absent

14. Announcements

Warschak - public works completed the painting of the pool and it has been filled. Sciba questioned if the pool building had been painted as well. Warschak stated no, but there are several buildings that will be considered for painting.

15. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 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.