



The Columbus Community & Industrial Development Corporation met in regular session on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 5:30 PM, in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 605 Spring St., Columbus, Texas, with the following present:

President – Bruce Tesch
Vice President – Michael Ridlen
Treasurer – Shalor Townzen
Secretary – David Wiggs (absent)
Board Member – Morgan Barten
Board Member – Dwain Dungen (absent)
Board Member – Chuck Rankin
City Manager – Donald Warschak
Assistant City Secretary – Dinah Jacobs
City Secretary – Bana Schneider
Mayor – Lori An Gobert

1. Call to Order

President Bruce Tesch called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Tesch led the pledge and invocation.

3. Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Morgan Barten

Aye Chuck Rankin, Bruce Tesch, Morgan Barten, Shalor Townzen, and Michael Ridlen

Carried 5-0

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

3.2 Approval of Financial Statements for April 2025 [BankRecApril2025.pdf](#)

3.3 Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting on April 21, 2025 [4.21.2025](#)

[Regular Meeting Draft Minutes.pdf](#)

4. Citizens' Presentations and Comments

Citizens requested to speak at respective agenda items.

5. City Manager's Report: Sales Tax [May 2025 Sales Tax.pdf](#)

City Manager, Donald Warschak, gave the report. A copy is attached to these minutes. The City saw an increase over the same time period last year. The City of Eagle Lake and Weimar also saw increases, while the County saw a decrease.

6. Public Hearing, Discussion and Action, if necessary, concerning proposed project described in the Economic Development Grant from the Columbus Volunteer Fire Department for Fire Fighter Turn Out Gear Replacement.

Public Hearing was opened at 5:41 p.m.

Fire Chief Richard LaCourse and Asst. Fire Chief Sydney Chollett were present to give information on their grant application. LaCourse thanked the Board for their support in the past. They strive to stay NAFP compliant with gear and equipment. Gear is only effective 10 years and then it has to be discarded by the guidelines. The department had just added six (6) new members. They do not have adequate gear for the new members that will fit them properly for safety purposes.

Ridlen questioned the value of the gear. LaCourse stated that once it is aged out it has to be removed. It is a liability issue.

Ridlen questioned the liability of having volunteers in outdated equipment. City/fire department and Chief in charge could be sued if there is an accident and gear is found to be out of date.

Ridlen asked what the County is going to do. LaCourse stated they are meeting with the County next week.

Public Hearing was closed at 6:55 p.m.

Motion to approve the Economic Development Grant for the Fire Department for the Turn Out Gear.

Moved by: Chuck Rankin

Seconded by: Morgan Barten

Aye Chuck Rankin, Bruce Tesch, Morgan Barten, Shalor Townzen, and Michael Ridlen

Carried 5-0

7. Discussion regarding th2 2025-2026 Budget.

City Secretary, Bana Schneider, and Mayor Lori An Gobert were present for help with budget discussions.

8. Executive Session: In accordance with Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 consultations with attorney, Section 551.072 deliberation regarding real property and Section 551.087 deliberation regarding economic development.

Regular session closed at 6:59 p.m. to enter into executive.

Mayor Lori An Gobert joined executive session with the Board.

9. Reconvene into Regular Session and Consideration and Action, if any, regarding Executive Session, consultations with attorney, deliberations regarding real property and economic development.

Regular session reconvened at 7:07 p.m.

Motion to authorize President Bruce Tesch to secure and entertain negotiations regarding the rail spur crossing.

Moved by: Michael Ridlen

Seconded by: Shalor Townzen

Aye Chuck Rankin, Bruce Tesch, Morgan Barten, Shalor Townzen, and Michael Ridlen

Carried 5-0

10. Discussion and Action, if necessary, regarding any prospective companies interested in land at the Crossroads Business Park.

There were none.

The prior prospective company has backed out due to construction costs.

11. Discussion of items to be placed on future agendas and announcements.

Approval of the financial audit

Budget

Strategic planning

12. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.



President - Bruce Tesch



Assistant City Secretary -
Dinah Jacobs