



Founded 1821

MAYOR

ROBERT E. SMITH, SR.

CITY COUNCIL

GENE A. TAYLOR
JOSEPH W. MICKENS, SR.
CHARLIE BOX
FRED E. STEWART
KABIR KARRIEM
BILL GAVIN

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DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS
GEORGE IRBY

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR
PATRICIA MITCHELL

NOTICE OF

SPECIAL MEETING(S) OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL August 24, 2009

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Mayor and City Council will have a special meeting for the purpose of holding a Special Work Session.

The meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m., August 24, 2009 at the City Hall, 2nd floor, Old Courtroom, 523 Main Street, Columbus, as determined by the Mayor and City Council.

The following topics will be discussed:

- A. Potential New Hire – City Engineer
- B. List of Appropriations
- C. Schedule of Revenue
- D. Debt Schedule
- E. Date for Public Hearing on Extension of Alcohol Sales
- F. Soccer Complex
- G. Set Date for Public Hearing on Budget

This is the 24th day of August 2009.

As determined by the Mayor and City Council

**MINUTES
MONDAY
AUGUST 24, 2009
4:00 p. m.**

The Mayor and City Council met in Special Session on Monday, August 24, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Court Room in City Hall, after having recessed from their meeting of August 19, 2009. Mayor Smith presided over the meeting and all Council Members were present, along with the COO, General Counsel and CFO.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Council Member Mickens offered the Invocation.

The purpose of the meeting is to continue the Budget Work Session and discuss the matters listed below.

Joey Hudnall, with Neel-Schaffer, apprised the Mayor and Council of an option for the City to retain as its employee a licensed Engineer to help streamline operating services in the area of engineering services. Mr. Hudnall suggested that the proposed Engineer should have a degree in Engineering and no less than 8 – 10 years of experience, suggested a salary of \$80,000, plus fringe benefits, and allocate funds for continuing educational classes. Todd Gale, Columbus Light and Water Director, added that the Light and Water Department has an office space available and will share 50% of the salary and all expenses.

Council Member Box commended Joey Hudnall and Neel-Schaffer for the professional services they provide and moved to begin the process of advertising to employ a licensed Engineer at a suggested salary of \$80,000, plus fringe benefits, and allocate funds for continuing educational classes, conditional upon approval by Columbus Light and Water Department Board of Commissioners to share 50% of the salary and expenses. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion, with the exception of Council Member Karriem, who abstained.

The motion passed.

II. ADDITIONAL BUDGET DISCUSSIONS:

A. LIST OF APPROPRIATIONS

The Mayor and Council discussed the following appropriated funds.

<u>APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED/APPROVED</u>
Red Cross Development LINK	\$ 15,200.00

LINK/Blaze Morale Fund \$ 120,000.00 / Approved \$110,000.00

APPROPRIATION **AMOUNT REQUESTED/APPROVED**

Columbus Arts Council \$ 9,500.00

Rachel Smith Hurt, with Columbus Arts Council, was present and requested an increase of \$1,500.00 from the prior year's appropriation. Council Member Box made a motion to approve the request to increase Columbus Arts Council's budget by \$1,500.00 for FY2010. Council Member Karriem seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

Columbus/Lowndes Recreation \$ 551,930.00 / Approved \$ 545,000.00

The Columbus/Lowndes Recreation Board requested a 3.1% increase in the amount of \$16,929.10. Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve a \$10,000 increase. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

Lowndes County Council on Aging, Inc. \$ 26,135.00 / Approved \$ 26,135.00

Council Member Taylor made a motion to increase the Lowndes County Council on Aging, Inc. budget by \$4,000.00. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

Golden Triangle Area Agency On Aging \$ 6,906.00

Bobby Gann was present and requested the Council to begin appropriating funds for the Golden Triangle Area Agency on Aging in the amount of \$6,906.00. Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the annual appropriation of \$6,906.00 for the Golden Triangle Area Agency on Aging. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, Inc. \$ 2,000.00 / Approved \$ 2,000.00

Council Member Box made a motion to appropriate the amount of \$2,000.00 that was appropriated in 2008. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

Safe Haven, Inc.	\$ 10,000.00
Hazardous Material	2,500.00
Columbus-Lowndes Public Library	275,257.00 / Approved \$250,000.00

Council Member Box made a motion to approve an increase of \$12,500 for the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library.

Council Member Karriem made a substitute motion to appropriate the amount of \$250,000 for the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library for FY2010. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion with the exception of Council Member Box, who opposed.

The motion passed.

Columbus/Lowndes County	
Emergency Management	\$ 10,000.00
Main Street Columbus	22,000.00

Amber M. Brislin was present and requested the same amount for Main Street Columbus. Council Member Karriem made a motion to again appropriate \$22,000 to Main Street Columbus for FY2010. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

Council Member Gavin then moved to approve \$10,000 for Columbus/Lowndes Emergency Management for FY2010. Council Member Karriem seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

Hitching Lot Farmers' Market	\$ 15,000.00(from Economic Dev. Funds)
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Amber M. Brislin requested that the Council appropriate \$15,000.00 for the Hitching Lot Farmers' Market. The Farmers' Market has been named a Mississippi Certified Farmers' Market by the MS Department for Agriculture and Commerce and has received statewide recognition of the Best Public/Private Partnership Award. Council Member Box made a motion to appropriate \$15,000 to the Hitching Lot Farmers' Market. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a majority vote.

Dream 365 **\$ 5,000.00**

Council Member Box made a motion to appropriate \$5,000.00 for Dream 365. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion, with the exception of Council Member Karriem, who abstained.

The motion passed with a majority vote.

B. SCHEDULE OF REVENUE:

The Revenue Budget for FY 2010 currently totals \$21,857,000.00.

C. DEBT SCHEDULE:

The CFO elaborated on the City's debt schedule. No action was taken.

D. DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON EXTENSION OF ALCOHOL SALES

The scheduled date for the Public Hearing on Extension of Alcohol Sales is August 31, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Court Room.

The scheduled date for the Budget Hearing is September 8, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Court Room.

E. SOCCER COMPLEX:

Appraisals are being sought for the property for the proposed Soccer Complex and estimated price for the Columbus Country Club was to come in around \$1.5 million dollars. No further action was taken.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Smith asked if there was any addition business to come before the Council. There being none, Council Member Karriem made a motion to recess until Monday, August 31, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

Approved by:

Robert E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

Mike Bernsen
Secretary-Treasurer