

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS AUGUST 16, 2016

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 16, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Robert Smith presided over the meeting and all Council Members were present. Also present were the COO, CFO, General Counsel, Police Chief, and the Human Resources Director.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. called the meeting to order and called upon Council Member Joseph Mickens to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 2 & AUGUST 10, 2016.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Minutes of August 2 and 10, 2016. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR AUGUST 16, 2016.

Council member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for August 16, 2016 in the amount of \$332,185.92. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

IV. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA:

No changes.

REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

Change Item "B" to read – *Swearing in of six (6) CPD Officers.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Change Pending Litigation matter to two (2).

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the same.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Kirk Gayle to attend the "MS SAR Working Group" planning meeting to be held in Camp Shelby, MS, and approve payment of \$168.00 for lodging, \$75.00 for travel and \$306.00 for meal expenses.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Chris Carter to attend the "Virtual Search Planning Class" to be held in Meridian, MS, and approve payment of \$75.00 for travel and \$102.00 for meal expenses.
- C. Approve letter of resignation from Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Greg Pack, effective August 13, 2016.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Eric Minga to attend the "Vehicle Extrication" training to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$400.00 for lodging, \$50.00 for travel and \$153.00 for meal expenses.
- E. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Wesley Gates, Donald Buckner, and Jamie Adams to attend the "CPAT Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$120.00 for registration, \$273.00 for lodging, \$50.00 for travel and \$153.00 for meal expenses.
- F. Approve letter of resignation from Fire and Rescue Engineer Sam Collier. He also requests to be compensated for any unused vacation time.
- G. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Kirk Gayle to attend the "SAR/GIS" meeting to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and \$25.50 for meal expenses.
- H. Approve request for Police Chief Oscar Lewis and Assistant Chief Fred Shelton to attend the "Criminal Justice Reform Brainstorming Meeting" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$40.00 for travel and \$12.00 each meal expenses.

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- I. Approve request for Assistant Police Chief Fred Shelton to attend the “Blue Prayer Day” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$40.00 for travel.
- J. Approve request for Forensic Scientist to attend the “Southern Association of Forensic Scientist SAFS” meeting to be held in Sarasota, FL, and approve payment of \$505.00 for registration, \$810.00 for lodging, \$390.00 for airfare, \$250.00 for car rental, and \$413.00 for meal expenses.
- K. Approve request for CPD Officer Don Richardson to attend the “Leadership Workshop” to be held in Southaven, MS, and approve payment of \$200 for lodging, and \$147.50 for meal expenses.
- L. Approve request for CPD Officer Kelvin Burdine to attend the “Drug Interdiction Techniques Class” to be held in Corinth, MS, and approve payment of \$60.00 for travel expenses.
- M. Approve request for the CPD to host a fundraiser and solicit donations for the Haunted House, City-Wide Toy Drive and Turkey Drive.
- N. Approve request for CPD Officer Roman Sones and Police Sergeant James Pete Smith to attend the “NRA Instructor Certification Training” to be held in Tupelo, MS, and approve payment of \$595.00 each for registration and \$229.50 for meal expenses for each person.
- O. Ratify request for CPD Officers Andres Rodriguez, Roger Tate, Aaron Andrew, Joshua Vandiver and Kelvin Burdine to attend the “Field Training Officer Basic Course” that was held in Tupelo, MS, and approve reimbursement of \$50.00 each for registration, \$24.00 each for meal expenses.
- P. Approve request for the CFO to attend the “2016 Master Municipal Clerk & Committee Session” to be held in Raymond, MS, and approve payment of \$75.00 for registration, \$240.00 for lodging, \$189.00 for travel and \$115.00 for meal expenses.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. Council Member Box seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the same.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

There were no comments from the Mayor and Council Members.

B. Swearing in of six (6) CPD Officers

Mayor Smith sworn in six (6) Police Officers: Cole Britt, Christian Garcia, Bradley Peden, Glenn Jenkins, Greg Finney and Toni Howard.

C. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for July 2016

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for July 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

D. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for July 2016

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for July 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

E. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for July 2016

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for July 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

F. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for July 2016

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for July 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

G. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for July 2016

The Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for July 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

H. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for July 2016

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for July 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

I. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for July 2016

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for July 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

J. Monthly Financial Report

Milton Rawle, Jr. stated that the sales taxes increased by \$32,882.21 compared to the same time last year.

K. Board Vacancies:

Board of Adjustment & Appeals

- One (1) Vacancy
- Fred Kinder resigned 5/31/2016.
- No Applicants at this time
- Appointment can be made immediately.

Civil Service Commission

- One (1) Vacancy
- Thomas Moore's 4-year Term will expire 8/5/2016.
- Appointment will be made 8/16/2016.

Applicant

- Thomas Moore

Council Member Taylor made a motion to reappoint Mr. Thomas Moore to the Civil Service Commission for a four (4) year term, until August 16, 2020. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Redevelopment Authority Board

- One (1) Vacancy
- Andrew Colom's 2-Year Term will expire 9/1/2016.
- No Applicants at this time
- Appointment will be made 8/16/2016.

Columbus/Lowndes Library Board

- One (1) Vacancy
- Jennifer Box's 5-Year Term will expire 9/30/2016.
- No Applicants at this time
- Appointment will be made 9/20/2016.

Board of Adjustment & Appeals of Development Codes

- One (1) Vacancy
- Ralph McLain's 2-Year Term will expire 9/21/2016.
- Appointed as Electrical Engineer or Contractor
- Appointment will be made 9/20/2016.

Applicant

- Ralph McLain

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

CHARLES STATEN – Purchase of City Property

Mr. Charles Staten came forward and remarked that he had appeared before the Mayor and Council previously regarding the purchase of a small lot on 1st Street South. At that time, he was advised to discuss the matter with the Corp. of Engineers. Mr. Staten then stated that the Corp. of Engineers had no objection to his request. The General Counsel stated that there are several methods to handle the sale of the property in question. The first step is that the property must be declared as surplus and no longer used by the City. Council Member Box made a motion to declare the property in question, located on 1st Street South as surplus. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Member voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

The next step is to obtain two (2) appraisals to be paid for by the City and by the purchaser. Council Member Gavin made a motion for the City to obtain two (2) appraisals, one (1) to be paid for by the City and one (1) to be paid for by the purchaser. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

ANNE FREEZE – Mother Goose Community Picnic

Ms. Anne Freeze came forward on behalf of Friends of the Library and stated that the organization declares this year as year of the Goose. Ms. Freeze requested approval to host a Picnic in honor of Mother Goose, who began working with the Library thirty (30) years ago on August 26. Therefore, they wish to hold the picnic on August 26, 2016 on the Library grounds, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The Council gave their approval.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve request to hire two (2) CPD Officers contingent upon successful completion of physical examination and drug screen.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire Keena Matthews and Joel Wright as entry-level Police Officers, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

B. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket.

**St. Louis – SF RR c/o BNSF
Railway
Main Street
Case Number 16-0241 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0241**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is his recommendation to enter the proposed Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council Member Box made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may remediate the property with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**LUCAS DAVENPORT
520 – 9th Street South
Case Number 16-077 Structure**

The General Counsel called cause number **16-077**. The owner of this property, Lucas Davenport, came forth and requested a **45-day extension** to remediate the property. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones concurred with this request and recommended the 30-day extension to remediate the property and recommends entering an Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property is in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should give the owner seven (7) days on remediation of vegetation and forty-five (45) days to remediate the exterior property and provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council

Member Jones made a motion to grant the extension in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may remediate the property with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property, and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period and remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

PINE HILL COMPANY
1404 – 21st Street North
Case Number 16-0243 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0243**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated the property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Taylor made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

JESSIE AND NANCY COBB
1337 – 5th Street South
Case Number 16-0249 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0249**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated the property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Taylor made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated

fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Discuss/Approve recommendations from the Planning Commission Meeting of August 8, 2016.

Permitted Use Request P/U 16-11

**LAST HOUSE ON THE BLOCK, INC.
206 Tuscaloosa Road**

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request to extend a *permitted* use – for annexed housing.

Council Member Taylor moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to extend a *permitted* use – for annexed housing at 206 Tuscaloosa Road as a Permitted Use be approved. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the permitted use application. No one answered. There followed discussion, consideration, and review by the Council of the issues and facts presented by this request and the action taken by the City of Columbus Planning Commission.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Permitted Use Request P/U 16-12

**BRICKYARD PROPERTIES
On Behalf of Robert D. Brown
2406 Military Road**

The Planning Commission recommends approval to allow a portable building for an office.

Council Member Gavin moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to allow a portable building for an office at 2406 Military Road as a Permitted Use be approved. Council Member Box seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the permitted use application. No one answered. There followed discussion, consideration, and review by the Council of the issues and facts presented by this request and the action taken by the City of Columbus Planning Commission.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Preliminary Plat Review – S/D 16-13

**LEMUEL KIDD
@ Christopher Road**

The Planning Commission recommends approval of preliminary review of plat of a proposed/new subdivision

Council Member Taylor moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission for request of preliminary review of plat of a proposed/new subdivision on Christopher Road be approved. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the permitted use application. Mr. Rob Naugher came forth and stated that he lives near the development of the proposed subdivision and asked some questions, then remarked that he had no objections. There followed discussion, consideration, and review by the Council of the issues and facts presented by this request and the action taken by the City of Columbus Planning Commission.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Mayor then asked if there was any other business to come before the Mayor and City Council. There being none, Council Member Gavin moved that the meeting be adjourned. Upon second by Council Member Jones and unanimous vote, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

Approved by: _____

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Robert E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

**Milton Rawle, Jr.,
CFO- Secretary-Treasurer**

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