

**MEETING  
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS  
FEBRUARY 3, 2015**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 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 Mickens to offer the Invocation.

**II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 2015.**

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the minutes for January 20, 2015. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR FEBRUARY 3, 2015.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for February 3, 2014 in the amount of \$666,737.73. Council Member Mickens 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:**

Add Item "L" – *Approve speed bumps for 22<sup>nd</sup> Street North, from 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue.*

Add Item "M" – *Accept letter of resignation from a truck driver and authorize Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment procedures.*

Add Item "N" – *Approve request for the Mayor to attend the MCBM Federal Partnership Roundtable in Atlanta, GA, and approve cost of registration, travel and meals.*

**BOARD VACANCIES:**

Add two (2) applicants to the Columbus Municipal school District Board: Lee Russell Peeples, Jr. and Currie B. Fisher.

**POLICY AGENDA:**

Change Item "B" to read *Ratify request to hire temporary Clerk to work in the Garage while permanent employee is out on medical leave.*

Delete Item "C."

Add Item "F" – *Discuss/Approve ECS Proposal and Invoice for services on the Rotating Beacon at the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport.*

Add Item "G" – *Discuss/Approve lowest quote from Lewis Electric, Inc. for signal improvements at Martin Luther King, Jr. and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue.*

Add Item "H" – *Discuss/Approve field work orders for the 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Ditch Improvement Project.*

Delete Item "I."

Add Item "L" – *Accept seized forfeiture vehicle that was awarded to the City and order undercover tag.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Change Executive Session to five (5) personnel matters.

Council member Mickens made a motion to approve the Agenda according to the amendments. Council member box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve request for Captain Brent Swan to attend the "Officer Involved Shooting Training" to be held in Corinth, MS, and approve payment of \$20.00 for travel.
- B. Approve request for Officer Christopher Vanhouten to attend the "Homicide: Investigative Challenge" to be held in Birmingham, AL, and approve payment of \$295.00 for registration, \$270.00 for lodging, \$100.00 for travel and \$138.00 for meals.

- C. Approve request for Officer James Hanson to attend the "Instructor Training Certification" to be held in Anniston, AL, and approve payment of \$34.28 for travel.
- D. Approve permit for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the Tenn-Tom Waterway Transportation Museum hosted by the Tenn-Tom Waterway, to be held on February 6, 2015, from 3:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., and to block off the Intersection of 7<sup>th</sup> Street North/4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, and ½ block of the entrance parking lot.
- E. Accept letter of resignation from Task Force Investigator, Edward E. Williams, effective immediately.
- F. Approve request for the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department to be permitted to receive donations on behalf of Fire Engineer Michael Swain, who lost his home and all of its contents in a fire. These donations will be passed directly to the family.
- G. Approve request for Firefighter Justin Cox to attend "CPAT Certification" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$40.00 for the cost of registration, \$95.00 for the cost of lodging, and \$65.00 travel and \$46.00 for meals.
- H. Approve request for Firefighter Justin Cox to attend the "Firefighter 1001-I-II Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$1,325.00 for the cost of registration, \$455.00 travel and \$805.00 for the cost of meals.
- I. Approve request for the Fire Department's Administrative Assistant, Tabitha Barham, to attend the "ESAP Planning Meeting" to be held in Flowood, MS, and approve payment of \$65.00 for the cost of travel and \$34.50 for the cost of meals.
- J. Approve request for Firefighter Josh Reynolds to attend the "Airport Firefighter Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$790.00 for the cost of registration, \$75.00 for the cost of travel and \$138.00 for the cost of meals.
- K. Approve request for Fire Chief Martin Andrews, Mayor Smith and 12 personnel to attend the "MS Burn Foundation Hearts for Heroes Banquet" to be held in Brandon, MS, and approve payment of \$275.00 for the cost of travel.
- L. Approve speed bumps for 22<sup>nd</sup> Street North, from 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- M. Accept letter of resignation from truck driver Douglas Cockrell and authorize Human Resource director to begin the normal recruitment process.

- N. Approve request for Mayor Robert Smith to attend the MCBM Federal Partnership Roundtable in Atlanta, GA and approve cost of registration, travel and meals.

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, according to the amendments. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

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

Council Member Mickens announced that the beginning stage of paving is going forth this week on Beech Street and Summerhaven Street.

Robyn Eastman came forth and reported that progress is being made on paving; however, completion is contingent on weather conditions.

- B. Swearing in a Police Officer for the Columbus Police Department.

Mayor Smith swore in newly hired Police Officer, Willis McNeil and read the Oath of Office.

- C. Board Vacancies:

David Armstrong announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that no appointments can be made tonight.

### **Columbus Municipal School District Board**

- Two Vacancies
- Remainder of Greg Lewis' unexpired term, until March 2, 2019
- Currie B. Fisher's 5-Year Term will expire March 2, 2015.
- Appointments can be made March 3, 2015.

### **APPLICANTS:**

- Stephen Jones
- Eric Thomas
- Lori LeVar Pierce
- Josie S. Shumake
- Willie J. Petty, Sr.
- Lee Russell Peebles, Jr.
- Currie B. Fisher

**VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:**

**VIII. POLICY AGENDA:**

**A. Discuss/Approve FY 2014 Budget Amendments.**

Milton Rawle, CFO, came forth and apprised the Mayor and Council of Budget Amendments for FY 2014.

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the FY 2014 Budget Amendments. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**THE BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOLLOWS ON THE NEXT PAGE:**

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- B. Ratify request to hire temporary Clerk to work in the Garage while permanent employee is out on medical leave.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to ratify the temporary hire of Mrs. Doris Bluit in the City Garage as a Clerk on a temporary basis. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

- C. DELETED**

- D. Discuss/Approve recommendation of award to the contractor with the lowest quote for the Rotating Beacon Rehabilitation Project at the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport.**

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the recommendation of award to Webster Electric Co., Inc., the contractor with the lowest quote of \$27,675.00 for the Rotating Beacon Rehabilitation Project at the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**E. Discuss/Approve recommendation of award to the contractor with the lowest quote for obstruction removal next to the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport.**

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the recommendation of award to Smith Landscaping, the contractor with the lowest quote of \$1,070.00 for obstruction removal, next to the Columbus- Lowndes County Airport. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**F. Discuss/Approve ECS Proposal and Invoice for services on the Rotating Beacon at the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport.**

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve ECS Proposal and Invoice for estimate services on the Rotating Beacon at the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**G. Discuss/Approve lowest quote from Lewis Electric, Inc. for signal improvements at MLK and 14<sup>th</sup> Ave.**

Council Member Turner made a motion to approve the lowest quote from Lewis Electric, Inc. for signal improvements at Martin Luther King and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue North.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**H. Discuss/Approve Field Work Orders for the 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Ditch Improvement Project.**

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve Field Work Orders for the 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Ditch Improvement Project. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

**I. DELETE**

**J. Discuss/Approve advertising for exterior repairs and window replacements for City Hall renovations.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to begin advertising for exterior repairs and window replacements for the City Hall renovations. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**K. Discuss approving Resolution in support of financial incentives for additional air service at GTRA. Mike Hainsey and Johnny Fisher were present.**

The Council discussed a Resolution in support of financial incentives for additional air service at GTRA after listening to Mike Hainsey and Johnny Fisher, after which Council Member Box made a motion to adopt the Resolution agreeing to support financial incentives for additional air service at GTRA. Council Member Karriem seconded the motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution and the question been put to a roll call vote, the result was as follows:

Council Member Gene Taylor	voted:	<u>Yea</u>
Council Member Joseph Mickens	voted:	<u>Yea</u>
Council Member Charlie Box	voted:	<u>Yea</u>
Council Member Marty Turner	voted:	<u>Yea</u>
Council Member Kabir Karriem	voted:	<u>Yea</u>
Council Member Bill Gavin	voted:	<u>Yea</u>

**THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:**

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**L. Accept seized forfeiture vehicle that was awarded to City and order undercover tag.**

Council Member Karriem made a motion to accept seized forfeiture vehicle that was awarded to the City and purchase an undercover tag. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**CLOSED DETERMINATION:**

Council Member Karriem made a motion to go into closed session to determine whether it is necessary to go into Executive Session. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

All members of the public, with the exception of the Mayor, the Council, the General Counsel, the COO, the CFO, the Police Chief and the HR Director exited the Council Chambers.

Mayor Smith apprised the Council of five (5) personnel matters and remarked that these matters warrant being heard in Executive Session.

Council Member Karriem made a motion to go into Executive Session. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

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 Karriem moved that the meeting be adjourned. Upon second by Council Member Turner and unanimous vote, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Milton Rawle, Jr.,  
CFO- Secretary-Treasurer

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