

# **MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS JANUARY 6, 2015**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 6, 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 Smith called the meeting to order and called upon Council Member Mickens to offer the Invocation.

## **II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2014.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of December 16, 2014. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

## **III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR JANUARY 6, 2015.**

Council Member made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for January 6, 2015 in the amount of \$965,328.06. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

## **IV. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Add Item "O" – *Accept letter of retirement from a Fire Engineer.*

Add Item "P" – *Accept letter of resignation from CMSB Member, Greg Lewis, and begin normal recruitment process.*

Add Item "Q" – *Approve request for the Mayor to meet with State Legislature in Jackson, MS, and approve cost of lodging and meals.*

**BOARD VACANCIES:**

Add Darren Leach as an applicant to the Zoning Board of Adjustment & Appeals.

**POLICY AGENDA:**

Add Item "C" – *Discuss/Approve lowest RFQ for equipment financing.*

Add Item "D" – *Discuss/Approve Resolution to enlarge the City's Central Business District to include the campus of Lee Middle School.*

Add Item "E" – Discuss City's Paving Project.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Change Personnel Matters to four (4).

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve permit for the rally "Recidivism Reduction" to be held March 14, 2015, from 2:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.
- B. Approve request permit for MLK Unity March to be held Monday, January 19, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. until noon from 13<sup>th</sup> Street North & 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. North to 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. North, from 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. North to 20<sup>th</sup> Street North to Hunt School.
- C. Approve request for Director of Training Elizabeth Patrick to attend "Taser Recertification" class to be held in Laurel, MS, and approve payment of \$175.00 for registration, \$99.00 for lodging, \$166.52 for travel and \$69.00 for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for the Chief to attend the "Defensive Tactics Trainer" meeting/training to be held in Cullman, AL, and approve payment of \$111.13 for lodging and \$75.00 for travel.
- E. Approve request for Chief to teach at the MS Delta Law Enforcement Training Academy, in Moorehead, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel.
- F. Approve request from Thomas L. Moore to become a part-time officer, effective December 31, 2014.
- G. Approve request to refund Myra Brown the sum of \$250.00 for cancellation of Convention Center Rental.
- H. Approve request for four (4) Fire and Request personnel, Darren Allbritton, Damon Estes, Eric Grant and Alan Lewis, to attend the "Fire

Officer 1021-I & II” that will be on held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$2,460.00 for the cost of registration, \$100.00 for the cost of travel, and \$3,572.00 meals for all.

- I. Approve request for Fire, Life and Safety Educator Carole Summerall to attend the “Mid-Winter Chiefs’ Conference and Fire Service Legislative Day” to be held in Jackson, MS and approve payment of \$60.00 for the cost of travel.
- J. Approve request for CFO to deposit donated funds from Fred’s, totaling \$442.09, in the general fund.
- K. Approve request to donate surplus items to McMullen Township, AL Fire Department.
- L. Approve request for Mayor Robert Smith, any Council Members, and Christina Berry, Director of Planning and Community Development, to attend an “Activation and Assumption of Command Ceremony” to be held in Valdosta, GA, Moody AFB, and approve payment of travel, lodging, and meals for each.
- M. Approve request for Christina Berry, Community Development Director and George Irby, Assistant, to attend the “Delta Brownfield Redevelopment Workshop” that will be held in Clarksdale, MS, and approve payment of \$76.36 for the cost of travel and \$30.00 for meals for each person.
- N. Approve request for Christina Berry, Community Development Director and George Irby, Assistant to attend the “MS HOME Corp Affordable Housing Conference” that will be held in Natchez, MS, and approve payment of \$225.00 for the cost of registration, \$198.00 lodging for each, \$118.22 for travel for each and \$115.00 for meals for each person.
- O. Accept letter of retirement from Fire engineer, Ron Musgrove, effective January 16, 2015.
- P. Accept letter of resignation from CMSB member, Greg Lewis, and begin normal recruitment process.
- Q. Approve request for the Mayor to meet with State Legislature in Jackson, MS, and approve cost of lodging and meals.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, according to the amendments. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

## VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

### A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Smith announced that the City of Columbus will host its 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas tree bonfire on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., below the old River Bridge and encouraged citizens that had live Christmas trees to bring them there or call and have them picked up.

### B. Board Vacancies:

#### **Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau**

- One Vacancy
- Bernard Buckhalter resigned effective immediately.
- Applicant will fill the remainder of unexpired term, which is July 7, 2015.
- No applicants at this time

#### **Zoning Board of Adjustment & Appeals**

- One Vacancy
- 3-Year Term
- Darren Leach's term will expire February 1, 2015.
- Appointment can be made January 20, 2015.

#### **APPLICANT**

- Darren Leach

#### **City Planning Commission**

- Two Vacancies
- 3-Year Terms
- Quinn Brislin's term will expire February 1, 2015.
- Wythe Rhett's term will expire February 21, 2015.
- Appointments can be made January 20, 2015.

#### **APPLICANTS:**

- Quinn Brislin
- Wythe Rhett

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

- One Vacancy
- Remainder of 5-Year Term, until March 2, 2019
- Greg Lewis resigned effective December 31, 2014.
- Appointment can be made February 2, 2015.

**APPLICANT:**

- Stephen Jones

**VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:**

**VIII. POLICY AGENDA:**

**A. Discuss/Approve Tax Exemption Application for renovated downtown properties.**

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the Tax Exemption Application for renovated downtown properties located at 123 – 5<sup>th</sup> Street South and 425 Main Street. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

**B. Approve request to hire two (2) certified police officers pending approval by the Civil Service Commission for lateral hires and contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire Michael Walker and Willis McNeal as Police Officers, contingent on approval by the Civil Service Commission for lateral hires and successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen. Council Member Karriem seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

**C. Discuss/Approve lowest RFQ for equipment financing.**

Milton Rawle, Jr., CFO, came forth and expounded on RFQs for equipment financing for various pieces of equipment, to include the list below and recommended that the financing be awarded to Regions Bank at 1.99%.

- 5 New 2015 Dodge Chargers -\$110,000.00
- 1 Used 2012 Dodge Charger -\$ 15,750.00
- 2 Used 2011 Ford Crown Vics -\$ 29,990.00
- 1 New Full Size 4-Door PU -\$ 28,000.00
- 1 Forklift -\$ 21,000.00
- 10 Computer Systems for PD Cars -\$ 50,000.00

Council Member Turner made a motion to accept the CFO's recommendation to finance various pieces of equipment. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

**D. Discuss/Approve Resolution to enlarge the City's Central Business District to include the campus of Lee Middle School.**

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the Resolution to enlarge the City's Central Business District to include the campus of Lee Middle School.

Council Member Box seconded the motion, and the question being put to a roll call vote, the result was as follows:

COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR voted:	YEA
COUNCIL MEMBER MICKENS voted:	YEA
COUNCIL MEMBER BOX voted:	YEA
COUNCIL MEMBER TURNER voted:	YEA
COUNCIL MEMBER KARRIEM voted:	YEA
COUNCIL MEMBER GAVIN voted:	YEA

**THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:**

**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 passed.

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 four (4) 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 Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

**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