

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS JULY 21, 2015

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 21, 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 JULY 7, 2015.

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of July 7, 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 JULY 21, 2015.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims in the amount of \$1,047,152.74. 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

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request for Fire personnel Michael Miller to attend the "Instructor Development Class/MILO Week" to be held in Meridian, MS, and approve payment of \$75.00 for travel and \$115.00 for meal expenses.
- B. Approve request for Fire personnel Josh Boyer to attend the "Rope Rescue Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$68.00 for registration, \$75.00 for travel and \$115.00 for meal expenses.
- C. Ratify request for Police Officers Thomas Honnell and Roman Sones to attend "Radar Certification" held in Moorhead, MS, at no cost to the City.
- D. Accept letter of resignation from Police Officer Nicky Williams, effective July 26, 2015, and approve request for compensation for unused vacation days.
- E. Approve permit request from Youth Pastor, Tony Price, to host the 9th Annual Outdoor Community Outreach/Block Party on August 1, 2015, from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., and to block off 22nd Street South and College Street, 21st Street South and College Street.
- F. Approve permit request from Mrs. Annie Barry to host the National Night Out Against Crime Block Party to be held on August 4, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., and to block off the corner of 9th Avenue South and 11th Street South, the corner of 10th Avenue South and 13th Street South.
- G. Approve request from Tiffany Sturdivant to host a Water War to be held on July 25, 2015 from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., and to block off the intersection of 15th Avenue North and 22nd Street North, 22nd Street North and 24th Street North.
- H. Approve request for Police Officer Joseph Strelvel to attend the "Prescription Drug Investigation Training" to be held in Meridian, MS, and approve payment of travel expenses.
- I. Approve request for the Police Chief to attend the "FBI Summer Conference 2015" to be held in Gulfport, MS, and approve payment of \$275.00 for registration, \$387.00 for lodging, \$50.00 travel and \$161.00 for meal expenses.
- J. Approve request for the Mayor and City Attorney to attend a meeting to be held in Chicago, IL, with regard to the prospective purchase of real estate and approve payment of travel, lodging and meal expenses.

Council Member Turner made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Taylor 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

- **PROCLAMATION – National Night Out on Crime 2015**

Mayor Smith presented a Proclamation to the Police Chief in honor of National Night Out on Crime 2015.

Mayor Smith then recognized Alderwoman Lisa Wynn from Starkville, MS.

Mayor Smith read a written request asking the Council to consider approving the lowering of the Mississippi State flag from the front of all City buildings, to remove it from inside of all City buildings and for it not to be raised again until the State of Mississippi comes up with a unifying state flag, reflective of the State's diverse population.

The Council engaged in a discussion about the request, after which Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the request to lower the Mississippi State flag from the front of all City buildings, to remove it from inside of all City buildings and for it not to be raised again until the State of Mississippi comes up with a unifying state flag reflective of the State's diverse population, effective immediately. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Council Member Turner announced that there will be a Water War on July 25, 2015 at 15th Avenue North and 22nd Street North, 22nd Street North and 24th Street North, from 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

B. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for June 2015

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for June 2015 was presented. No action was taken.

C. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for June 2015

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department for June 2015 was presented. No action was taken.

D. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for June 2015

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for June 2015 was presented. No action was taken.

E. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for June 2015

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for June 2015 was presented. No action was taken.

F. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for June 2015

The Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for June 2015 was presented. No action was taken.

G. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for June 2015

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for June 2015 was presented. No action was taken.

H. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for June 2015

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for June 2015 was presented. No action was taken.

I. Monthly Financial Report

Milton Rawle, Jr. reported that the Sales taxes decreased by \$3,278.82 compared to the same time last year.

J. Board Vacancies:

David Armstrong, COO announced vacancies on various board and remarked that no appointments will be made tonight.

Columbus-Lowndes Recreation Authority

- One Vacancy
- Oop Swoope's 5-Year Term expired May 25, 2015.
- Joint Appointment from the Mayor and Board of Supervisors' President
- No Applicants at this time

Civil Service Commission

- One Vacancy
- Dr. Maxine Hall's term will expire August 5, 2015.
- Dr. Hall was appointed to fill the remainder of Glenn Jefferson's 4-Year Term.
- Appointment can be made August 4, 2015.

APPLICANT

- Dr. Maxine Hall
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VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

Andrew Colom – CL&W Update **DELETED**

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve cost of property clean up on cases previously heard by Council and for which remediation has been completed.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to adjudicate the cost of property clean-up on cases previously heard by Council and for which remediation has been completed. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

The Adjudication follows on the next page:

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VIII, A

REPORT OF LOT CLEANING ACTIVITY

Cases Previously Heard by Council for Which Remediation Has Been Completed

TOTAL COST BILLED TO OWNERS THIS REPORT							\$447.00
CASE NO	WARD	OWNER NAME	C/O NAME	SITE ADDRESS	LOT CLEANED BY	BUILDING DEMOLISHED BY	TOTAL CLEANING COST w/Penalty
13-293.5	5	Richard Rucker		1118 18th St. North	Public Works	N/A	\$164.00
		ASBESTOS SAMPLES \$0.00	ASBESTOS REMOVAL \$0.00	PUBLIC WORKS \$164.00	ATTORNEY FEES \$0.00	LEGAL ADVERTISING \$0.00	Approved Penalty \$0.00
NOTES							
14-045.1	5	Simon/Lucille Leavy		507 Military Road	Public Works	N/A	\$119.00
		ASBESTOS SAMPLES \$0.00	ASBESTOS REMOVAL \$0.00	PUBLIC WORKS \$119.00	ATTORNEY FEES \$0.00	LEGAL ADVERTISING \$0.00	Approved Penalty \$0.00
NOTES							
14-370.1	4	Perry Caldwell		16th St. South	Public Works	N/A	\$164.00
		ASBESTOS SAMPLES \$0.00	ASBESTOS REMOVAL \$0.00	PUBLIC WORKS \$164.00	ATTORNEY FEES \$0.00	LEGAL ADVERTISING \$0.00	Approved Penalty \$0.00
NOTES							
							\$0.00
		ASBESTOS SAMPLES	ASBESTOS REMOVAL	PUBLIC WORKS	ATTORNEY FEES	LEGAL ADVERTISING	Approved Penalty
NOTES							
							\$0.00
		ASBESTOS SAMPLES	ASBESTOS REMOVAL	PUBLIC WORKS	ATTORNEY FEES	LEGAL ADVERTISING	Approved Penalty
NOTES							
							\$0.00
		ASBESTOS SAMPLES	ASBESTOS REMOVAL	PUBLIC WORKS	ATTORNEY FEES	LEGAL ADVERTISING	Approved Penalty
NOTES							

B. Discuss/Approve Proposed Changes to Trotter Center Usage Fees.

Council Member Box made a motion to disapprove the proposed changes to the Trotter Usage Fees and to set the fees at \$1,250.00 per night for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and \$950 per night on Monday through Thursdays. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Discuss/Approve Senator Terry Brown Amphitheater Plan and Design.

Kevin Stafford came forward and apprised the Mayor and Council of the proposed Senator Terry Brown Amphitheater Plan and Design and elaborated on each area in the amphitheater and requested the Council to approve Phase I of the design.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve Phase I of the new proposed Senator Terry Brown Amphitheater Plan and Design. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve additional contracts, which will include Environmental permitting, No-Rise Analysis/Permitting, Boundary and Topographical Survey, Geotechnical Investigation, Structural Design, and Architectural Design. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve the hiring of one (1) Diesel Mechanic for the Maintenance Shop, contingent upon successful completion of the pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to hire Edmond Hines as a Diesel Mechanic for the Maintenance Shop at \$13.73 per hour, contingent on successful completion of the pre-employment medical examination and drug screen. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve the hiring of one (1) Entry-Level Firefighter for the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department, contingent upon successful completion of the pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to hire Jaquay Sherrod for the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department, contingent upon successful completion of the pre-employment medical examination and drug screen. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket.

**Brian Pitts, et al.
427 Winterset Drive
Case No. 15-214 Lot**

The General Counsel called cause number **15-214**. 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 uncleanness 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 Karriem 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.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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Approved by: _____
Robert E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

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