

# **MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS MARCH 17, 2015**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 17, 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 MARCH 3, 2015.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of March 3, 2015. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

## **III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR MARCH 17, 2015.**

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for March 17, 2015 in the amount of \$450,523.27. 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:**

Change the wording on Item "1" to read: *Accept letter of Resignation from one (1) Municipal Court employee and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process.*

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Add Item "L" – *Approve request for the Mayor, COO, any Council Member and any Department Heads to attend funeral services for Mr. Nick Eastman, son of Mr. Robyn Eastman, to be held at 9113 Kiln De Lilse Road on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 in Pass Christian, MS, and pay for costs of travel and meals.*

Add Item "M" – *Accept Letter of Resignation from the Criminal Investigations Secretary, effective April 1, 2015, and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process.*

**POLICY AGENDA:**

Delete Item "E".

Add Item "G" – *Discuss/Approve Riverwalk Extension and request matching funds.*

Add Item "H" – *Discuss/Approve cost of property clean-up on cases previously heard by Council and for which remediation has been completed.*

Add Item "I" – *Approve request to hire one (1) Work Program Supervisor at the Columbus Police Department, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment Medical examination and drug screen.*

Add Item "J" – *Discuss/Approve City Signal Loop repair.*

Add Item "K" – *Discuss/Approve Resolution authorizing Cable One Separation from Graham Holdings Company.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Add one (1) Executive Session Item.

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

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve request for Firefighter Will McReynolds to attend the "Fire Service Instructor 1041-1 Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$380.00 for registration, \$75.00 for travel, and \$138.00 for meal expenses.
- B. Approve request for Fire personnel Alan Walker, Todd Graham, Dale Ballard, Michael Miller, Wes Mims, Will McReynolds, Kirk McKellar, Kevin Brown, Scott Swain, and Tommy Massey to attend the "Structural Collapse/Rope Refresher Course" to be held in Meridian, MS, and approve payment of \$200.00 for travel expenses.

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- C. Approve request for Officer Joseph Strevel to attend the "Basic High Risk Warrant Class" to be held at the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy MS NAS in Meridian, MS, and approve payment of \$70.00 for travel expenses.
- D. Approve request for Officer Joseph Strevel to attend the "Basic Narcotics Investigation Training" to be held at the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy MS NAS in Meridian, MS, and approve payment of \$70.00 for travel expenses.
- E. Approve permit for Barbara Bigelow, Director of Main Street Columbus, to host the "Market Street Festival" to be held May 1-2, 2015 beginning at 5:00 a.m. on May 1, 2015 and ending at 12:00 p.m. on May 2, 2015, in Downtown Columbus and the Riverwalk.
- F. Approve permit for Nancy Carpenter, representing the Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation, to host the "Catfish in the Alley" to be held Saturday, April 11, 2015 from 5:00 until 6:00 p.m. and to block off 4<sup>th</sup> Street South/ Catfish Alley between Main and College and the adjacent parking lot and College Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Street South.
- G. Approve request for Garage personnel Louis Hairston, Joe Koger, Robert Wright, Willie Langford, and Kenneth Conn to attend the "Mac Diagnostics Scanner Training Class" to be held in Starkville, MS, and approve payment of \$30.00 for travel expenses.
- H. Accept letters of retirement from Public Works Department Employees, Laborer, Charley Fisher and Equipment Operator, Timmie Robinson, and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process.
- I. Accept letter of resignation from Municipal Court Collection Clerk Myra Rush, Employee and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process.
- J. Approve request for Human Resources Director Patricia Mitchell to attend the "2015 (III-M) Spring Session of the Certification Program for Municipal Clerks" to be held in Oxford, MS, and approve payment of \$200.00 for registration, \$218.20 for lodging, \$132.25 for travel and \$127.50 for meal expenses.
- K. Approve request to refund Keshia Robinson the sum of \$270.00 for cancellation of Convention Center Rental.
- L. Approve request for Mayor Smith, COO David Armstrong, any Council Member and any Department Head to attend funeral services for Mr. Nick Eastman, son of Mr. Robyn Eastman, to be held at 9113 Kiln De Lilse Rd. on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 in Pass Christian, MS, and pay for costs of travel and meals.
- M. Accept letter of resignation from Latasha Key, Criminal Investigations Secretary, effective April 1, 2015, and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process.

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, according to the amendments. Council Member Gavin 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.**

Mayor Smith presented a Proclamation to volunteers for the American Red Cross and declared March 15, 2015 as American Red Cross Day.

Council Member Turner remarked that he must leave the meeting early and publicly apologized.

### **B. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for February 2015**

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police department for February 2015 was presented. No action was taken.

### **C. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for February 2015**

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

### **D. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for February 2015**

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

### **E. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for February 2015**

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

### **F. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for February 2015**

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

### **G. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for February 2015**

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

**H. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for February 2015**

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

**I. Monthly Financial Report**

Milton Rawle, Jr. gave a Financial Report and remarked that sales taxes increased, compared to the same time last year.

**J. Board Vacancies:**

David Armstrong announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that no action is required tonight.

**Municipal Election Commission**

- One Vacancy
- Barbara Mitchell resigned effective March 10, 2015.
- Applicant will fill the remainder of unexpired 4-Year Term which ends June 30, 2017.
- No Applicants at this time

**Board of Adjustment & Appeals of Development Codes**

- Two Vacancies
- Kevin Stafford's 1-Year Term will expire April 6, 2015.
- Bryan Brown's 5-Year Term will expire April 6, 2015.
- Appointments can be made April 7, 2015.

**APPLICANT:**

- Kevin Stafford

**G.T. Regional Waste Management Authority**

- One Vacancy
- John Dickerson passed away January 19, 2015.
- Applicant will fill the remainder of unexpired 4-Year Term which ends 12/31/2016.
- Appointment can be made April 7, 2015.
- No Applicants at this time.

**VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:**

**Brandy Gardner - Mayor's Youth Council**

Brandy Gardner, Advisor for the Mayor's Youth Council, along with the members of the Youth Council, thanked the Mayor and Council for their continued support, and apprised the Mayor and Council of their recent participation in the MML Statewide Youth Leadership Summit that was held at the Mississippi College in Clinton, MS. Council Member Turner then left the meeting.

**VIII. POLICY AGENDA:**

- A. Discuss/Approve Application to the MDOT 2015 Summer Youth Corps Program, matching funds, and grant authority for the Mayor to sign all pertinent documents.**

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the request to apply for the 2015 MDOT Summer Youth Corps Grant in the amount of \$35,000 and authorize the Mayor to sign all pertinent documents, with the City appropriating \$10,000 matching funds plus an additional \$10,000, which will allow more students to be employed under the program. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

- B. Discuss/Approve Resolution adopting Neighborhood Revitalization District.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Resolution adopting the Neighborhood Revitalization District. Council Member Karriem seconded the motion, and the question being put to a roll call vote, the result was as follows:

COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR	voted: YES
COUNCIL MEMBER MICKENS	voted: YES
COUNCIL MEMBER BOX	voted: YES
COUNCIL MEMBER TURNER	voted: ABSENT
COUNCIL MEMBER KARRIEM	voted: YES
COUNCIL MEMBER GAVIN	voted: YES

**THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS ON THE NEXT PAGE:**

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**RESOLUTION**

**To Adopt the City of Columbus  
Neighborhood Revitalization District**

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, is committed to increasing housing opportunities for eligible households and help improve the housing stock and quality of life in residential neighborhood and communities.

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus encourages the creation/retention of housing lower income households in higher income areas and encourages the creation/retention of housing of higher income households in lower income areas.

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus recognizes the need for decent, safe and sanitary housing for all of its residents regardless of age, race or income

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus seeks to use and apply for grant funds to increase housing investments in its most needy neighborhood

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council for the City of Columbus to adopt the Neighborhood Revitalization District to be made up of Census Tracts that are no more than 80% of the median income of the MSA in which such tract is located and at least 20% of the project units are reserved for very low- low- or moderate income households

The foregoing resolution, having first been reduced to writing, was proposed and motioned by Council Member TAYLOR, seconded by Council Member KARRIEM, and was brought to a vote as follows:

	VOTED YEA:	VOTED NAY:
COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR	_____	_____
COUNCIL MEMBER MICKENS	_____	_____
COUNCIL MEMBER BOX	_____	_____
COUNCIL MEMBER TURNER	_____	_____
COUNCIL MEMBER KARRIEM	_____	_____
COUNCIL MEMBER GAVIN	_____	_____

The Mayor then announced that the Resolution, having received a majority of the vote, had passed as set forth above.

RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus on this the 17<sup>TH</sup> day of March, 2015.

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CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI

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ROBERT E. SMITH, SR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

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MILTON RAWL, SECRETARY/TREASURER

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**C. Discuss/Approve adding Burchfield's Body Shop Wrecker to the City Wrecker Rotation List.**

Council Member Box made a motion to approve adding Burchfield's Body Shop Wrecker to the City Wrecker Rotation List. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**D. Discuss/Approve Recommendations from the Planning Commission Meeting of March 9, 2015.**

**Permitted Use Request P/U 15-01**

**Brian McGee  
On Behalf of Jimmy Adams  
110 Gardner Boulevard**

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request to allow an ice-making vendor, as a Permitted Use.

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 approve the request to allow an ice-maker vendor, as a Permitted Use be affirmed. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion, after which 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 15-02**

**Landmark Enterprises  
On Behalf of Rhonda Shoemaker  
809 Alabama Street**

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request to allow a snow-cone business, as a Permitted Use.

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Council Member Karriem 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 approve the request to allow a snow-cone business, as a Permitted Use be affirmed, Council Member Box seconded the motion, after which 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.

**E. DELETE**

**F. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket.**

**GAYLE GRAYS**

**624 Oak Street**

**Case Number: 15-075 Unsafe structures, dilapidated building**

The General Counsel called cause number **15-075**. No one appeared; however, the Code Enforcement Officer remarked that the owner could not be present but contacted him and requested an **extension of forty-five (45) days**. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones remarked that he concurs with the request and recommends entering an Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property is in such a state of uncleanness 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 Taylor 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 Karriem seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

**NINA KING PANNELL**

**1922 – 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**

**Case Number: 15-080 Debris**

**1922 – 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**

**Case Number: 15-081 Debris, property maintenance code**

The General Counsel called cause numbers **15-080 and 15-081**. No one appeared; however, the Code Enforcement Officer remarked that the owner could not be present but contacted him and requested an **extension of forty-five (45) days**. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones remarked that he concurs with the request and recommends entering an Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property is in such a state of uncleanness 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 Karriem 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 Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**CROSS REGIONAL FUNDING, LP**  
**133 Maple Street**  
**Case Number 15-086 Burned Structure**

The General Counsel called cause numbers **15-086**. No one appeared; however, the Code Enforcement Officer remarked that the owner could not be present but contacted him and requested an **extension of forty-five (45) days**. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones remarked that he concurs with the request and recommends entering an Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property is in such a state of uncleanness 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 Mickens 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 Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**JACKIE AND ROBBIE GREEN**  
**2102 – 4<sup>TH</sup> Avenue North**  
**Case Number 15-089 Debris**

The General Counsel called cause number **15-089**. 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 Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**G. Discuss/Approve Riverwalk Extension and request matching funds.**

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the Riverwalk Extension and request matching funds in an amount not to exceed \$3,300.00. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**H. 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 Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**THE ADJUDICATION OF PROPERTIES FOLLOWS:**

**I. Approve request to hire one (1) Work Program Supervisor at the Columbus Police Department, contingent upon successful completion of a pre-employment physical and drug screen.**

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the request to hire Dean Outlaw as Work Program Supervisor at the Columbus Police Department, contingent upon successful completion of a pre-employment physical and drug screen. Council Member Karriem seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**J. Discuss/Approve City Signal Loop repair.**

Kevin Stafford, with Neel-Schaffer, came forward and discussed City Signal Loops that are in need of repair at fourteen (14) intersections that have detection malfunctions. Council Member Box made a motion to approve the repairs and pay the cost out of the General Fund, providing an itemized repair sheet is submitted. Council Member Karriem offered an amendment to the Motion and suggested that the motion include a requirement that officials with the City meet with officials from CLWD to iron out an agreement as to who is responsible for such repairs in the future. Council Member Gavin seconded the substitute motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the substitute motion.

The motion carried.

**K. Discuss/Approve Resolution authorizing Cable One Separation from Graham Holdings Company.**

Mr. Kenny Wright, with Cable One, was present to answer questions regarding Cable One and the separation from Graham Holdings Company. This item was presented for discussion at the March 3, 2015 meeting and was tabled. Council Member Box made a motion to take the item off the table for discussion and possible action. Council Member Karriem asked Mr. Wright if the separation would result in higher cable bills and suggested a "bare bones" package to make cable more affordable for fixed income people. Mr. Wright stated that he hoped the separation might make it easier to keep costs down and stated that he would take the suggestion back to the company for review. Council Member Karriem then made a motion to approve the Resolution authorizing Cable One Separation from Graham Holdings Company. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion and it was brought to a vote, as follows:

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COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR:	voted: <u>YEA</u>
COUNCIL MEMBER MICKENS:	voted: <u>YEA</u>
COUNCIL MEMBER BOX:	voted: <u>YEA</u>
COUNCIL MEMBER TURNER:	voted: <u>ABSENT</u>
COUNCIL MEMBER KARRIEM:	voted: <u>YEA</u>
COUNCIL MEMBER GAVIN:	voted: <u>YEA</u>

**THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:**

**CLOSED DETERMINATION:**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to go into closed session to determine whether it is necessary to go into Executive Session. Council Member Karriem 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 one (1) personnel matter and remarked that this matter warrants 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 Gavin 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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