

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS May 5, 2015

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 5, 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 Joseph Mickens to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2015.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of April 21, 2015. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR MAY 5, 2015.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for May 5, 2015, in the amount of \$224,470.93. 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 "N" – *Approve request for one (1) Fire Personnel to attend the "Peer Assessor Site Visit" to be held in Barstow, CA, at no cost to the City.*

Add Item "O" – *Accept letter of resignation from one (1) Public Works Laborer, effective May 5, 2015, and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process.*

Add Item "P" – *Approve request for the IT Assistant & IT Director to attend the "Train the Trainer Training" to be held in Baton Rouge, LA, and approve payment of lodging, travel and meal expenses.*

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "G" – *Ratify closing of 14th Avenue North from 22nd Street North to 26th Street North, from May 4 to May 7, and approve closing of 14th Avenue North from 27th Street North to Railroad Crossing West on Moss Street, from May 7 to May 15, 2015.*

Add Item "H" – *Discuss/Approve Planning Commission's recommendations that was tabled at the April 21, 2015 meeting.*

Add Item "I" - *Discuss/Approve the Resolution request to make the 2015 COLA payment at the end of 2015.*

DELETE ITEM "J".

Add Item "K" – *Approve the corrected fee for Right-of-Way Quit Claim Deed.*

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the agenda according to the amendments. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request to refund Mary Baity the sum of \$955.00 for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center Rental.
- B. Accept letter of resignation from Kenneth Conn, Diesel Mechanic in the Garage, effective April 28, 2015, and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process.
- C. Approve request for the Mayor, City Council, COO and CFO to attend the "Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council Annual Meeting and Development Opportunities Conference" to be held in Point Clear, Alabama, and approve payment of registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses. Conference is August 25 – 27, 2015. Stay will extend through the 28th.
- D. Approve request for the Columbus Police Department to solicit donations for the "Black and White Community Ball" to be held Saturday, July 16, 2015. The donations help fund the National Night Out on Crime and the annual City-Wide Christmas Toy Drive.
- E. Approve request for Chief Tony Carleton to attend the "2015 Summer Educational Conference and Tradeshow" to be held in Biloxi, MS June 14 – 19, 2015, and approve payment of \$325.00 for registration, \$520.00 for lodging, \$75.00 for travel and \$253.00 for meal expenses.

- F. Approve request for COO David Armstrong to attend the “MDOT Local Public Agency Project Development Manual Training to be held in Hattiesburg, MS, and approve payment of lodging, meals and mileage.
- G. Approve request for the Mayor to attend the “MDOT Local Public Agency Project Development Manual Training to be held in Southaven, MS, and approve payment of lodging, meals and travel.
- H. Ratify permit for Johnathan West from Carter’s Funeral Services to host the “Memorial Celebration of Vanessa P. Carter (Community Give Back)” that was held May 2, 2015 from 3:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. The event took place on 14th Street North between 6th Avenue North and 7th Avenue North.
- I. Accept letter of resignation from Fire Engineer Phillip Hewitt, effective April 28, 2015. The employee will be on vacation until May 9, 2015, which would effectively be his last date of employment with CFR.
- J. Approve request for Fire personnel Carole Summerall to attend the “MS Fire Chiefs and Firefighter’s Conference” to be held in Tupelo, MS, and approve payment of \$25.00 for travel expenses.
- K. Approve request for Fire personnel Madison Guyton to attend the “Southeastern Emergency Medicine Conference” to be held in New Orleans, LA, May 16 – 20, 2015, and approve payment of \$1300.00 for registration, \$60.00 for travel and \$230.00 for meal expenses.
- L. Approve request for Fire personnel Duane Hughes to attend the “Peer Assessor Site Visit” to be held in Hanover, NY, May 17 – 22, 2015, at no cost to City.
- M. Approve request for Fire personnel Kirk Gayle and Chris Carter to attend the “MEMA 2015 Preparedness Summit” to be held in Biloxi, MS, May 26 – 29, 2015, and approve payment of \$100.00 for travel and \$368.00 for meal expenses.
- N. Approve request for Fire personnel Mike Chandler to attend the “Peer Assessor Site Visit” to be held in Barstow, CA, at no cost to City.
- O. Accept letter of resignation from one (1) Public Works Laborer, effective May 5, 2015, and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process.
- P. Approve request for IT Director Walter Wickham, and IT Assistant, Greg Drake, to attend the “Train the Trainer Training” to be held in Baton Rouge, LA, and approve payment of lodging, travel and meal expenses for each.

Council Member Box 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 announced that the Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the Riverwalk Connector will be held Friday, May 8, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

The Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the New Firing Range will be held Friday, May 8, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

Council Member Box announced that the National Day of Prayer ceremony will be held Thursday, May 7, 2015 in front of the Lowndes County Courthouse, beginning at noon.

Council Member Karriem announced that the Annual Mother's Day Luncheon will be held Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. at Sim Scott Community Center.

Mayor Smith presented a Proclamation to Chief Tony Carleton for National Police Week, which is May 10-16, 2015.

Mayor Smith presented a Proclamation for Kids to Parks Day, which is May 16, 2015.

B. Board Vacancies:

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

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 May 5, 2015.
- No Applicants at this time

Historic Preservation Commission

- Six Vacancies
- Betty Miller's 4-Year Term will expire May 16, 2015.
- Sid Caradine's 4-Year Term will expire May 16, 2015.
- Mike Lowery's 4-Year Term will expire May 16, 2015.
- John Hudson's 4-Year Term will expire May 16, 2015.
- Joseph Boggess' 4-Year Term will expire May 16, 2015.
- Bryan Brown's 4-Year Term will expire May 16, 2015.
- Appointments can be made May 19, 2015.

APPLICANT

- Joseph Boggess

Columbus-Lowndes Recreation Authority

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

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

Santee Ezell – Community Counseling Services, Inc. – Prevention Specialist

Santee Ezell, Prevention Specialist with Community Counseling Services, Inc. came forward and distributed some information on the synthetic drug "SPICE" that is now plaguing our communities.

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 approve the cost of property clean up on Cases previously heard by Council and for which remediation has been completed.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

THE LIST FOLLOWS ON THE NEXT PAGE:

REPORT OF LOT CLEANING ACTIVITY

Current List of Cases Ready for Invoice Preparation and Lien Filing - New Process

TOTAL COST BILLED TO OWNERS THIS REPORT							\$ 238.00
CASE NO	WARD	OWNER NAME	C/O NAME	SITE ADDRESS	LOT CLEANED BY	BUILDING DEMOLISHED BY	TOTAL CLEANING COST w/ Penalty
14-515		Jones		304 Belmont Drive	Public Works		\$ 119.00
TASK MEMO	3	ASBESTOS SAMPLES	ASBESTOS REMOVAL	PUBLIC WORKS	ATTORNEY FEES	LEGAL ADVERTISING	Approved Penalty
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 119.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NOTES							
14-524		Rush	Emma Smith	2025 Dall Avenue	Public Works		\$ 119.00
TASK MEMO	2	ASBESTOS SAMPLES	ASBESTOS REMOVAL	PUBLIC WORKS	ATTORNEY FEES	LEGAL ADVERTISING	Approved Penalty
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 119.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NOTES							
							\$ -
TASK MEMO		ASBESTOS SAMPLES	ASBESTOS REMOVAL	PUBLIC WORKS	ATTORNEY FEES	LEGAL ADVERTISING	Approved Penalty
NOTES							
							\$ -
TASK MEMO		ASBESTOS SAMPLES	ASBESTOS REMOVAL	PUBLIC WORKS	ATTORNEY FEES	LEGAL ADVERTISING	Approved Penalty
NOTES							
							\$ -
TASK MEMO		ASBESTOS SAMPLES	ASBESTOS REMOVAL	PUBLIC WORKS	ATTORNEY FEES	LEGAL ADVERTISING	Approved Penalty
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							\$ -
TASK MEMO		ASBESTOS SAMPLES	ASBESTOS REMOVAL	PUBLIC WORKS	ATTORNEY FEES	LEGAL ADVERTISING	Approved Penalty
NOTES							
							\$ -
TASK MEMO		ASBESTOS SAMPLES	ASBESTOS REMOVAL	PUBLIC WORKS	ATTORNEY FEES	LEGAL ADVERTISING	Approved Penalty
NOTES							

B. Discuss/Approve the hiring of one Vehicle Servicer/Tire and Oil Technician for the City Garage, contingent on successful completion of the pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire Robert W. Melton as a Vehicle Servicer/Tire and Oil Technician for the City Garage at an hourly rate of \$10.82, contingent on successful completion of the 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.

C. Discuss/Approve Project Acceptance and Final Payment to the Contractor on the PAPI Installation Project at the Columbus Lowndes County Airport.

Kevin Stafford, with Neel-Schaffer, came forward and remarked that the PAPI Installation FAA: AIP No. 3-28-0019-014-2012 has been completed and requested that the Council release the retainage fee and close out the project.

Council Member Turner made a motion to make the final payment for the PAPI Installation Project, AIP No. 3-28-0019-014-2012, release the retainage fee and close out the project. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve Preliminary Engineering Services for AIP FY2015 Grant Projects at the Columbus Lowndes County Airport.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the preliminary Engineering Services for AIP FY2015 Grant Projects at the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve the hiring of two (2) Police Officers, contingent on successful pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to hire Christopher Seth Barker and Tyler Conwill as Certified Police Officers, contingent on 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 paving 5th St. North from 2nd Ave. North to 5th Avenue North.

Mayor Smith asked the Council Members to consider donating a portion of their allocated paving funds for the purpose of paving 5th Street North, from the Magnolia Bowl to Zachary's, which will cost approximately \$65,000. No action was taken.

G. Ratify closing 14th Avenue North from 22nd Street North to 26th Street North, from May 4th to May 7th, and approve closing 14th Avenue North from 27th Avenue and North to Railroad Crossing west of Moss Street, from May 7th to May 15th.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to ratify the closing of 14th Avenue North from 22nd Street North to 26th Street North, from May 4 – 7, 2015, and approve closing 14th Avenue from 27th Street North to the Railroad crossing west of Moss Street, May 7 – 15, 2015. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

H. Discuss/Approve Planning Commission recommendation that was tabled at Council Meeting of April 21, 2015.

Docket No. 15-01

**Heirs of Mary J. Doughty
603 – 8th Avenue North**

The Planning Commission recommends denial of request to rezone from R-1 (Single-Family Residential) Zone District to C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial) Zone District, with finding of facts: No mistake was made in the original zoning; nor has there been a change in the character of the neighborhood or a public need for rezoning, with this application.

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 **deny** the request to rezone from R-1 (Single-Family Residential) Zone District to C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial) Zone District be approved, with finding of facts that no mistake was made in the original zoning; nor has there been a change in the character of the neighborhood or a public need for rezoning, with this application. Council Member Mickens 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.

I. Discuss/Approve the Resolution request to make the 2015 COLA payment at the end of 2015.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Resolution to make the 2015 COLA payment at the end of 2015. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. The foregoing Resolution was read, considered and voted upon section by section and as a whole, the vote of each and all of the sections, and upon the Resolution as an entirety, was taken by “yea” and “nay” vote with the following results:

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

THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS ON THE NEXT PAGE:

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J. **DELETE**

K. **Approve the corrected fee for Right-of-Way Quit Claim Deed.**

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve a Corrective Fee Right-of-Way Quit Claim Deed and Grant of Access Rights Instrument from Greenfield Environmental Multistate Trust, LLC as Grantor and City of Columbus, MS as grantee in connection with the 14th Avenue Drainage Improvement Project. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There are no executive session items to be discussed.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Mayor then asked if there was any other business to come before the Mayor and City Council. There being none, Council Member Turner 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**