

**MEETING OF
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS
MARCH 20, 2018**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. 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 Box to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2018.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of March 6, 2018. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR MARCH 20, 2018.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for March 20, 2018, in the amount of \$363,450.99. 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:

Add Item "S" – *Approve request for one (1) Fire and Rescue of Training to attend "Peer Assessor – Clover, CA" to be held in Clovis, CA at no cost to the City.*

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Add Item "T" – *Accept letter of resignation from one (1) Public Works employee, effective March 22, 2018, and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.*

Add Item "U" – *Approve request for the Mayor to travel to Jackson to meet with State Legislators.*

REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

Add Item "A1" – *Swearing in of one (1) CPD Officer.*

CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

Add: *Brittany Hamilton – CPS (Child Protection Services)*

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. Council Member Box seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, all Council Members voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote.

The motion carried.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request to refund Martha Patterson the sum of \$900.00 for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center rental.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Jamie Adams, to attend the "Driver/Operator NFPA 1002: Pumper Apparatus" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$675.00 for registration, \$50.00 for travel, and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for three (3) Fire and Rescue Firefighters: Baron McKee, Justin Martin, and Christian Davis to attend the "Firefighter 1001-I-II" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$1,500.00 for registration, \$350.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Engineer, Michael Miller, to attend "ADSAR Class/SAR Tech I" as an instructor. The class will be held in Meridian, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- E. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Murphy Buckner, and Chief of Training, Mike Chandler to attend "CPAT" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment \$40.00 for registration, \$96.00 for lodging, \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- F. Approve request to collect donations at Fire Station #1 on April 28, 2018 for local "Special Olympic Athletes."
- G. Accept letter of retirement from Fire & Rescue Captain, Jimmy R. Whitson, effective April 1, 2018.

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- H. Approve request for Interim City Planner George Irby and Code Enforcement Officer, Tomarris Jones, to attend the "Mississippi Home Corporation (MHC) Annual Meeting" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$149.00 each for lodging and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- I. Approve request to refund four (4) citizens the sum of \$150.00 each for clean-up Deposits, one (1) citizen the sum of \$175.00 for soccer registration and one (1) the sum of \$60.00 for baseball registration.
- J. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow on behalf of Main Street Columbus to host a "Community Viewing & Involvement with the Clydesdale Horses" to be held on April 18, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. See attached route map.
- K. Approve permit request submitted by Dr. John Robinson on behalf of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church to host a "Spring to Life Community Health Fair/5K Run/Walk" to be held on April 21, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The 5K Run/Walk will begin at 12th Avenue South to College Street to 15th Street South to 11th Avenue South and end at 12th Avenue South.
- L. Approve permit request submitted by Glenn Lautzenhiser on behalf of the Christian Community in Prayer to hold the "National Day of Prayer" on May 3, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in front of the Lowndes County Courthouse, and approve request to block off 2nd Avenue North in front of the Courthouse.
- M. Approve request for CPD Investigator, Reginald Adams, to attend the "Interview and Interrogation Training" to be held on March 20 - 28, 2018 in Meridian, MS. There will be no cost to City.
- N. Approve request for CPD Director of Training, Liz Patrick, to attend a "Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training Meeting" to be held in Ridgeland, MS at no cost to City.
- O. Approve request to renew the notary commission of CPD Administrative Assistant, Doris Bluitt, and apply for a new notary commission and purchase all necessary supplies for Records Clerk, Daphne Terry.
- P. Approve request for Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. to attend the "2018 Annual MAPDD Conference" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$325.00 for registration, \$337.00 for lodging, \$87.03 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- Q. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow on behalf of Main Street Columbus to host the "Annual Market Street Festival" to be held on May 4-5, 2018. The Festival will be held from 5:00 a.m. on May 4th until May 5, 2018 ending at noon. The Festival will be held in downtown Columbus, The Riverwalk Park, stage and bridge.
- R. Approve permit request submitted by Francis Glenn, on behalf of the Columbus/Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau, to host "Catfish in the Alley." It will be held on April 6-7, 2018 beginning at 3:00 p.m. and ending at 8:00 p.m. on both days

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Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and their being none, all Council Members voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote.

The motion carried.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

Council Member Mickens announced that there will be a Ward II Community Meeting at the East Columbus Gym on March 22, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Council Member Box announced that there will be a Ward III Community Meeting, Thursday, March 22, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Smith announced that the Annual Mayor's Unity Picnic will be held Saturday, April 7, 2018 at the Riverwalk and invited the public to attend.

Officer Glenn Jenkins, Officer James Powell and Investigator Reginald Adams came forward and presented a gift card to Chief Fred Shelton.

Mayor Smith swore in new Police Officer, Dillard Robinson as he recited the Oath of Office. Chief Shelton pinned his badge on him and presented a plaque to him.

Mayor Smith announced that the Annual Mayor's Unity Picnic will be held Saturday, April 7, 2018 and invited the public to attend.

B. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for February 2018

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for February 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

C. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for February 2018

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for February 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

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D. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for February 2018

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for February 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

E. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for February 2018

The Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for February 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

F. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for February 2018

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for February 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

G. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for February 2018

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for February 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for February 2018

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for February 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

I. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for February 2018

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for February 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

J. Monthly Financial Report

Milton Rawle, Jr., CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report and remarked that the sales taxes increased by \$6,606.05, compared to the same time last year.

K. Board Vacancies

COO David Armstrong announced vacancies on various Boards and remarked that one (1) appointment can be made tonight.

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Historic Preservation Commission

- 1 Vacancy to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Jim Borsig who resigned January 31, 2018.
- 3-Year Term will expire 05/19/2019.
- Appointment can be made immediately.

- **No applicants at this time**

Columbus Municipal School District

- 1 Vacancy to fill the unexpired 5-Year term of Currie Fisher who resigned 02/09/2018.
- Currie Fisher's 5-Year Term expires 03/03/2020.
- Appointment to fill the unexpired term will be made 03/20/2018.

Applicants

- Willie J. Petty, Sr.
- Cedric Vance
- James E. Samuel
- June Leigh
- Johnny Judson
- Telisa Clay Young
- Eric Thomas

Council Member Taylor recused himself and exited the Council Chambers.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to appoint Johnny Judson to the Columbus Municipal School District. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Council Member Mickens made a substitute motion and moved to appoint Telisa Clay Young to the Municipal School District the remainder of Currie Fisher's unexpired term, until March 3, 2020. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

Council Members Mickens, Jackson, and Jones voted in favor of the motion. Council Members Box and Gavin opposed the motion.

The motion passed with a majority vote: 3/2.

Council Member Taylor returned to the Council Chambers.

Ms. Telisa Clay Young thanked the Mayor and City Council for their support.

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Municipal Election Commission

- 1 Vacancy
- Leon Speck resigned 03/01/2018 (letter received 03/15/18).
- Remainder of 4-Year Term will expire 07/18/2021.
- Appointment can be made May 1, 2018.
- **No applicants at this time**

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

BRITTANY HAMILTON – CPS (CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES)

Ms. Brittany Hamilton and representatives of CPS (Child Protection Services) came before the Mayor and Council and announced that April is Child Abuse Awareness Month and asked assistance with on April 21, 2018 at the Riverwalk called “Walk a Mile in their shoes. It shouldn’t hurt to be a child.” Ms. Hamilton asked the Council for financial support. Council Member Mickens made a motion to contribute \$500.00 if CPS can find a local donor to match the funds. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve Advertising City Resources.

Council Member Taylor moved to approve the expenditure of \$1,500.00 in support of MUW Alumni Association, from 001-004-703 (Advertising City Resources) and find that said amount is a legitimate expense that will advertise and bring into favorable notice the opportunities, possibilities and resources of the City of Columbus. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

B. Discuss/Approve hiring of two (2) Police Officers, contingent upon a successful drug screen and pre-employment medical exam.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire Katelyn Hicks and Antwan Jethrow as Police Officers, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.

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All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**C. Discuss/Approve recommendations from the March 12, 2018
Planning Commission meeting.**

DOCKET NO. 18-01

**DBK Enterprises of Mississippi, LLC
On Behalf of Don Shelton
100 Plymouth Road**

The Planning Commission recommended approval of request to rezone a specific portion (300' x 725') of the subject parcel on Plymouth Road from A-1 (General Agricultural) District to C-3 (Highway Commercial) District. *The recommendation of approval is based on (1) change in the character of the of the district, and, (2) that there is a public need.*

Council Member Box 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 of request to rezone a specific portion (300' x 725') of the subject parcel on Plymouth Road from A-1 (General Agricultural) District to C-3 (Highway Commercial) District be approved. *The recommendation of approval is based on (1) change in the character of the of the district, and, (2) that there is a public need.* Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

PERMITTED USE REQUEST P/U 18-02

**On Behalf of Curley Williams
2703 – 14th Avenue North**

The Planning Commission recommended approval of request to allow a child day care.

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 of request to allow to a child day care be approved. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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PERMITTED USE REQUEST P/U 18-03

On Behalf of Angela Sykes
538 Alabama Street

The Planning Commission recommended approval of request to allow a child day care.

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 of request to allow to a child day care be approved. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel Matter (2)