

# **MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS JANUARY 16, 2018**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 16, 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 JANUARY 2, 2018.**

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of January 2, 2018. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

## **III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR JANUARY 16, 2018.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for January 16, 2018 in the amount of \$1,169,781.41. 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 "R" - Accept letter of resignation from one (1) Forensic Scientist Trainee, effective January 31, 2018, and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.*

**POLICY AGENDA:**

Delete Item "D".

Add Item "F" – *Discuss/Approve promotion of one (1) Firefighter to Engineer.*

Add Item "G" – *Discuss/Approve Port Access Road Powerline Easement.*

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. Council Member Jones 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 for Fire and Rescue Firefighters, Marco Rodriguez, Chip Kain, and Josh Boyer, to attend the "HazMat AWR147 Rail Car Incident Response" to be held in Scooba, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Engineer, Eric Minga, to attend "Fire Officer 1021-I-II" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$615.00 for registration, \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighters: Tyler Jones, Baron McKee, Justin Martin, and Billy R. Cunningham, to attend the "NREMT Exam" to be held in Tupelo, MS, and approve payment of \$320.00 for registration, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Chief of Training, Mike Chandler, to instruct the "Safety Instructor Class" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- E. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Deputy Fire Marshal, Madison Guyton, to attend the "MSFIA Board Meeting" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- F. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Brent Younger, to attend the "Hazardous Materials Technician-I Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.

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- G. Approve request for Victims Advocate Coordinator, Dorothy Givens, to attend the "MCADV Staff Development Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$168.51 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- H. Approve request for the Victims Advocate Coordinator to attend the "Building the Bridge of Victim Advocacy to Underserved Communities" to be held in Jackson, MS. There is no cost to City.
- I. Approve request to refund Tamekia Lavender, Timothy Ross, Chelsey Ross, Ida Gipson, Angel Baldwin, and Latrevia Baker the sum of \$25.00 each for basketball registration refunds.
- J. Accept letter of retirement from Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police, Shelia Elder, effective January 31, 2018, and approve payment for any unused vacation days, and also approve request to apply unused sick days to PERS and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.
- K. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Jeremy Brown, effective January 8, 2018.
- L. Accept letter of retirement from CPD Investigator, Andrew Hood, effective May 31, 2018, and approve his request to purchase his service weapon and badge for Ten Dollars (\$10.00) and apply all of his vacation and sick leave to PERS.
- M. Ratify request to for the CPD Officer of Training to attend the "Board on Law Enforcement Standards and Training Meeting" that was held on January 11, 2018 in Ridgeland, MS, and approve payment for travel expense.
- N. Approve request for one (1) CPD Investigator, Tabertha Hardin, to attend the "Law Enforcement on the Stand Training" to be held in Nashville, TN, and approve payment of \$120.00 for registration, \$357.00 for lodging, \$162.25 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- O. Approve request for CPD Investigators, Timothy Jenkins and Christopher Smith, to attend the "Open Source Fundamentals Course" to be held in Pearl, MS, and approve payment of \$186.00 each for lodging, \$100.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- P. Approve request for the Mayor's Youth Council Advisor and Members to attend the "11<sup>th</sup> Annual MML Youth Leadership Summit" to be held at Jackson State University, Jackson, MS, and approve payment for

registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses.

- Q. Approve request for the Mayor, City Council, COO, CFO, and HR Director to attend the 2018 MML Summer Conference to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses.
- R. Accept letter of resignation from Forensic Scientist Trainee, Colleen Warren, effective January 31, 2018, and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.

Council Member Jones 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

## **VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:**

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

- MML Municipal Government Week Resolution

Mayor Smith read a Resolution recognizing MML Government Week, from January 14, 2018 thru January 20, 2018.

### **B. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for December 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for December 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

### **C. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for December 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for December 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

### **D. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for December 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for December 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

### **E. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for December 2017**

The Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for December 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

**F. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for December 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for December 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

**G. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for December 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for December 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

**H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for December 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for December 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

**I. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for December 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for December 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

**J. Monthly Financial Report**

Milton Rawle, Jr., CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report and remarked that sales taxes decreased by \$9,449.11, compared to the same time last year.

**K. Board Vacancies**

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that the City Planning Commission Board has two (2) vacancies and appointments can be made tonight.

**City Planning Commission**

- 2 Vacancies
- 3-Year Terms for Wythe Rhett and Quinn Brislin will expire 01/20/2018.
- Appointments will be made January 16, 2018.

**Applicants**

- Wythe Rhett
- Quinn Brislin

Council Member Taylor made a motion to reappoint Wythe Rhett and Quinn Brislin to the City Planning Commission Board for a 3-Year Term, until January 20, 2021. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals**

- 1 Vacancy
- 3-Year Term for Darren Leach will expire 01/20/2018.
- Appointment can be made January 16, 2018.
- No applicants at this time

**VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA**

**JODY ANDREWS – Downtown Parking**

Jody Andrews did not show up.

**VIII. POLICY AGENDA:**

**A. Discuss/Approve revised scope for MDOT TAP Grant**

Kevin Stafford, with Neel-Schaffer, Inc., came before the Mayor and Council and discussed the MDOT TAP Grant. This is a \$1million dollar project, 80/20 with the City's match being 20% or approximately \$282,000, \$100,000 would be due in FY19 and 100,000 in FY20 and the balance in FY21. MDOT would like to make Traffic Improvements. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the revised scope for the MDOT TAP Grant. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**B. Discuss/Approve hiring of seven (7) CPD Officers, contingent upon a successful drug screen and pre-employment medical exam.**

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Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire Latessa Fluker, Jamarcus Jones, Matthew Lasker, Darnell Madison, and Eli Shumaker as entry-level Police Officers, and Dillard Robinson and Will H. Simon as certified Police Officers, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**C. Discuss/Approve hiring of one (1) Certified Part-Time CPD Officer to work 20 hours per week.**

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the request to hire Richard Jones as a part-time, certified Police Officer to work 20 hours per week. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**D. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) Animal Control Officer, and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruiting process.**

Item "D" was deleted.

**E. Discuss/Approve recommendation from the January 8, 2018 Planning Commission meeting.**

**-Permitted Use Request P/U 18-01**

**On Behalf of Gloria Jones  
d/b/a Happy Start Learning Center  
225 Byrnes Circle**

The Planning Commission recommends 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 to allow a Child day care as a Permitted Use be approved. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the permitted use application. No one answered. There 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.

**F. Discuss/Approve promotion of one (1) Firefighter to Engineer.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to promote Roderick Dillard to the position of Fire and Rescue Engineer. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**G. Discuss/Approve Port Access Road Powerline Easement.**

General Counsel Turnage presented the written request for the Port Access Road Powerline Easement for approval. The easement is granted for a term of fifty (50) years, beginning September 1, 2017 and ending August 31, 2067. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the Port Access Road Powerline Easement and authorize the Mayor to sign pertinent documents related to same. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**H. Discuss/Approve 2% Restaurant Tax**

General Counsel Turnage discussed the 2% Restaurant Tax and requested approval of the Resolution Memorializing the support of the City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi, for the Enactment by the Mississippi Legislature of a Local and Private Act to Amend Certain Existing Local and Private Laws Relating to the Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitor's Bureau and an Extension of the Repeal Date of

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The Two Percent (2%) Tax on the Gross-Receipts of Certain Restaurants Located within the City and Lowndes County, Mississippi. Council Member **GAVIN** made a motion to approve the Resolution. Council Member **BOX** seconded the motion, and, after a thorough discussion, the question being put to a roll call vote, the result was as follows:

Council Member Gene A. Taylor	voted: [ <u>yea</u> ]
Council Member Joseph Mickens, Sr.	voted: [ <u>yea</u> ]
Council Member Charlie Box	voted: [ <u>yea</u> ]
Council Member Fredrick Jackson	voted: [ <u>yea</u> ]
Council Member Stephen Jones	voted: [ <u>yea</u> ]
Council Member Bill Gavin	voted: [ <u>yea</u> ]

The motion having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the Council Members present, the motion was declared passed by the Mayor on this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018.

**THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:**

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**CLOSED DETERMINATION:**

Council Member Jones made a motion to go into closed session to determine whether it is necessary to go into Executive Session. Council Member Gavin 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, and the HR Director, exited the Council Chambers.

Mayor Smith apprised the Council of two (2) Personnel Matters, and remarked that these matters warrant being heard in Executive Session.

Council Member Jones made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss two (2) personnel matters. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

The Chief Operations Officer then announced to the general public outside the Council Chambers that the Council was going into Executive Session to discuss two (2) personnel matters.

**OPEN SESSION:**

Council Member Jones made a motion to end the discussion of these matters and return to Open Session. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

The Chief Operations Officer then announced to the general public outside the Council Chambers that the Council was back in Open Session.

The General Counsel announced that the Mayor and Council considered two (2) personnel matters in Executive Session, and the Council voted to suspend one employee in the Police Department for fourteen (14) work days without pay for

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failure to follow the Police Department's SOP and voted to terminate another employee of the Police Department for failure to follow the SOP, specifically the User Force section.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Mayor then asked if there was any other business to come before the Mayor and City Council. There being none, Council Member Jones moved that the meeting be adjourned. Upon second by Council Member Jackson 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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