

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS MARCH 1, 2016

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 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, with the Ward 5 Council seat being vacant. Also present were the COO, CFO, General Counsel, the Police Chief, and the Human Resources Director.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Robert E. Smith called the meeting to order and called upon Council Member Mickens to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2016.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approved the Minutes for the Meeting of February 16, 2016. 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 1, 2016.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for March 1, 2016 in the amount of \$590,270.39. Council Member Box 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 "J" – Approve request for one (1) Fire Personnel to attend the "NPA Course Fire & Life Safety Plans Reviews" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment for lodging, travel and meal expenses.

Add Item "K" – Approve request for the Mayor to attend the "North Mississippi Mayors Spring Training Session" to be held at Lake Tiak-O'Khata and approve payment for travel expenses.

Add Item "L" – *Approve request for the Mayor to attend the "MHSAA State Basketball Playoffs to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve use of City vehicle.*

Add Item "M" – *Authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal Recruitment process to fill the vacant position of Animal Control Officer position.*

BOARD VACANCIES:

Add Glenn Lautzenhiser and Eric Thomas as applicants to the Columbus Municipal School District.

Add Donald R. Pope as an applicant to the City Utilities Commission.

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "G" – *Discuss/Approve Demolition Bid for the Gilmer Inn.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Add two (2) Prospective Land Acquisition matters.

Council Member Turner then made a motion to approve the agenda as presented with the above amendments. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, the council voted unanimously in favor of same.

The motion carried.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request to refund Shemika Peoples the sum of \$375.00 and S. D. Lee Alumni the sum of \$270.00 for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center Rental.
- B. Approve request for Fire & Rescue Administrative Assistant Tabitha Barham to attend the "MS Municipal Clerk Certification" to be held in Hattiesburg, MS, and approve payment of \$200 for registration, \$327.00 for lodging, \$75.00 for travel and \$184.00 for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Fire & Rescue Personnel Brett Thompson to attend the "MS Fire Investigators Association 2016 Spring Seminar" to be held in Tunica, MS, and approve payment of \$200.00 for registration, \$156.00 for lodging, \$75.00 for travel and \$230.00 for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Court Administrator Wendy Blunt to attend the "2016 Court Administrators Spring Conference" to be held in Biloxi, MS. There will be no cost to City.
- E. Approve permit request from Minister Belinda Morris to host "Bridging & Healing the Community through Spiritual Guidance" to be held on Friday, March 18, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. See attached map for parade route.
- F. Approve permit request from Barbara Bigelow, Director of Main Street Columbus, to host "The Market Street Festival" on May 6-7, 2016. The Festival will begin at 5:00 a.m. on May 6th and end at noon on Sunday, May 8, 2016.

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- G. Approve permit request from Chief Jimmy Bonner and Ms. Tawan Williams, Principal of Franklin Medical Sciences and Wellness Magnet School to host a parade for the “Read Across America Day” to be held on March 2, 2016 from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. The parade will begin at 3rd Ave. N. to 5th St. N., turn left, head south to Main Street, turn left on Main, head east on Main St. to 6th St. N., turn left on 6th St. N., head north on 6th St. N. to 3rd Ave. N., then turn left on 3rd to Franklin Elementary.
- H. Approve request for CFO Milton Rawle, Jr. to attend the 2016 Spring Session of the “Certification Program for Municipal Clerks” to be held in Pearl, MS, and approve payment of \$200.00 for registration, \$324.00 for lodging, \$168.91 for travel and \$161.00 for meal expenses.
- I. Approve request to pay Poll Workers for the Special Election Run-Off for Council Member – Ward 5 on March 1, 2016.
- J. Approve request for Fire Personnel Brett Thompson to attend the “NFA Course Fire & Life Safety Plans Reviews” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of for lodging, travel and meal expenses.
- K. Approve request for the Mayor to attend the “North Mississippi Mayors Spring Training Session” to be held at Lake Tiak-O’Khata and approve payment for travel expenses.
- L. Approve request for the Mayor to attend the “MHSAA State Basketball Playoffs to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve use of City vehicle.
- M. Authorize HR Director to begin normal recruitment process to fill vacant position of Animal Control position.

Council Member Taylor then made a motion to approve the Consent agenda as presented with the above amendments. Council Member Box seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, the Council voted unanimously in favor of same.

The motion carried.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

There were no comments from the Mayor and Council Members.

B. Swearing In of one (1) Police Officer

Mayor Smith read the Oath of Office and swore in Officer Cecil Lamar Peacock.

Chief Oscar Lewis requested the Council to approve the payment of \$8,980.00 for K-9 training. Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to pay \$8,980.00 for the purchase of Police Canine Dog “Stanley.” Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Board Vacancies:

GTR Waste Management Authority

- One (1) Vacancy
- Ralph McLain resigned January 5, 2016.
- This 4-Year Term will expire December 31, 2018.
- No Applicants at this time
- Appointment can be made immediately.

Columbus/Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau

- One (1) Vacancy
- Dewitt Hicks' 3-Year Term will expire March 1, 2016.
- He serves as the Historic Home Owner Member.
- Appointment can be made March 1, 2016.

Applicant

- Dewitt Hicks
- Tess Mason

Council Member Taylor made a motion to reappoint Dewitt Hicks to the Columbus/Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau for a three (3) Year term, which will expire March 1, 2019. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Columbus Municipal School District

- One (1) Vacancy
- Glenn Lautzenhiser's 5-Year Term will expire March 7, 2016.
- Appointment can be made March 1, 2016.

Applicants

- Josie S. Shumake
- Willie J. Petty, Sr.
- Glenn Lautzenhiser
- Eric Thomas

Council Member Gavin made a motion to reappoint Glenn Lautzenhiser to the Columbus Municipal School District Board for a 5-Year Term, until March 7, 2021. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

Council Members Box and Gavin voted in favor of the motion. Council Members Taylor, Mickens, and Turner opposed the motion.

The motion failed.

Council Member Turner made a motion to appoint Josie S. Shumake to the Columbus Municipal School District Board for a 5-Year Term, until March 8, 2021. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Tree Board

- One (1) Vacancy
- Jeffrey C. Wilson's 3-Year Term will expire 4/6/2016.
- He serves as the MSU Extension Service Member.
- No Applicants at this time
- Appointment can be made April 5, 2016.

City Utilities Commission

- One (1) Vacancy
- Andrew Colom resigned January 21, 2016.
- The remainder of this 5-Year Term will expire 06/30/2018.
- Appointment can be made March 1, 2016.

Applicants

- Tiffany Sturdivant
- Hilbert Williams
- Donald R. Pope

Council Member Taylor recused himself and exited the Council Chambers. Council Member Turner made a motion to appoint Tiffany Sturdivant to the City Utilities Commission Board for the remainder of Andrew Colom's unexpired term, until 6/30/16. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

Council Members Mickens and Turner voted in favor of the motion. Council Members Box and Gavin opposed the motion.

Mayor Smith broke the tie in favor of the motion.

Council Member Taylor returned to the meeting.

Board of Adjustment & Appeals of Development Codes

- One (1) Vacancy
- Kevin Stafford's 1-Year Term will expire 04/07/2016.
- Appointment can be made March 15, 2016.

Applicant

- Kevin Stafford

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

- A. Discuss/Approve hiring of two (2) Entry-Level Firefighters for the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department upon successful completion of physical examination and drug screen.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire Marquon Evans and William L. Boren as Firefighters, contingent on successful completion of a 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.

B. Discuss/Approve promotion of one (1) CPD Captain to Assistant Chief of Police, effective March 2, 2016.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to promote Captain Fred Shelton to the position of Assistant Chief, effective March 2, 2016. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Discuss/Approve payment to a vendor.

Approved under Reports Agenda.

D. Discuss/Approve purchase of GPS Units for the CPD.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to purchase 40 GPS Unites for police cars at a rate of \$29.00 each, plus monthly maintenance. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve request to financially assist the Lowndes County Chapter MUW Alumni Association with their Welcome Home Reception.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to give MUW the sum of \$500.00 to assist the Lowndes County Chapter MUW Alumni Association with their Welcome Home Reception. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Discuss/Approve Final Payment for Lehmborg Road Bridge Repairs.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Final Payment of \$46,400.00 for the Lehmborg Road Bridge Repairs. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

G. Discuss/Approve Demolition Bid for the Gilmer.

Robyn Eastman, with J5, came forward and requested to advertise for bids for the demolition of the Gilmer Inn and Old Brumley's Sporting Goods store. Council Member Turner made a motion to approve the request to advertise for bids for the demolition of the Gilmer Inn and Old Brumley's Sporting Goods store. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

H. Approve request to apply for a "Rails to Trails" Grant.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the request to apply for a "Rails to Trails" Grant. Council Member Box seconded the motion and then the question was put to a roll-call vote; the result was as follows:

COUNCIL MEMBER GENE TAYLOR voted:	<u>YEA</u>
COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH MICKENS voted:	<u>YEA</u>
COUNCIL MEMBER CHARLIE BOX voted:	<u>YEA</u>
COUNCIL MEMBER MARTY TURNER voted:	<u>YEA</u>
COUNCIL MEMBER BILL GAVIN voted:	<u>YEA</u>

CLOSED DETERMINATION:

Council Member Mickens made a motion to go into closed session to determine whether it is necessary to go into Executive Session. Council Member Turner 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 Police Chief and the HR Director exited the Council Chambers.

Mayor Smith apprised the Council of two (2) Prospective Land Acquisition matters and remarked that these items warrant being heard in executive session.

Council Member Turner made a motion to go into Executive Session. Council Member Mickens 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 the aforementioned matters.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Prospective Land Acquisition (1):

The first Prospective Land Acquisition matter involves property located on Highway 45 North. Mr. Jim Mauldin and Kevin Stafford were invited in the Council Chambers. Mr. Jim Mauldin proceeded to discuss the potential purchase of real property, answered questions and discussed possible option regarding the same. Council Member Gavin made a motion to table the matter for thirty (30) days. Council Member Turner seconded the motion. Council Member Gavin then withdrew his motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Council Member Box made a motion to discuss this matter after Mr. Mauldin meets with the Redevelopment Authority Board. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Prospective Land Acquisition (2):

The second Prospective Land Acquisition deals with the land behind the Plaza Motel. The appraised value is \$15,000. The Council agreed to give the Mayor and COO permission to negotiate the price up to a certain limit and if more was required to bring the matter back to the Council for consideration. No further action was taken.

OPEN SESSION:

Council Member Gavin made a motion to return to Open Session. Council Member Turner 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 Council met in Executive Session, discussed two (2) Prospective Land Acquisition matters and took no action.

ADVERTISING CITY RESOURCES:

Item "E" on the Policy Agenda was approved as Discuss/Approve request to Financially assist the Lowndes County Chapter MUW Alumni Association with their Welcome Home Reception. This matter should have been approved under Advertising City Resources.

Council Member Gavin moved to approve the expenditure of \$500.00 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 Turner seconded the motion.

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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 Taylor moved that the meeting be adjourned. Upon second by Council Member Mickens 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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