

**MEETING OF
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS
JUNE 21, 2016**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 21, 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. 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 on Council Member Mickens to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 7, 2016.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of June 7, 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 JUNE 21, 2016.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for June 21, 2016, in the amount of \$359,699.59. 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:

Delete Item "N"

Add Item "R" – *Accept letter of resignation from a Police Officer, effective June 30, 2016.*

Add Item "S" – Request to approve permit for the Southside Blues Festival to be held on July 2, 2016, and to block off street.

CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

Add Ms. Arlene Weathersby and Pat Thornton: IMPACT - RE: Drug and Alcohol Prevention

Add Carlos Rosales – RE: A Business Venture

POLICY AGENDA:

Delete Item “C”

Add Item “J” – *Request approval to receive the MS STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant and to expend the 30% matching amount.*

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, the Council voted unanimously in favor of same.

The motion carried.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Josh Reynolds to attend “Fire Service Chaplain Training” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$125.00 for registration, \$75.00 for travel and \$78.00 for meal expenses.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Michael Chandler to attend “Executive Planning” to be held at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, and approve payment of \$300.00 for travel expenses.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Shannon Murphy and Eric Minga to travel to Pelham, AL to deliver Ladder Truck 19 for repairs and approve payment of \$48.00 for meals.
- D. Approve payment of \$16,500.00 to motorsportssuperstore.com for the purchase of two new Polaris Rangers to be reimbursed by Homeland Security Grant 14HS152T.
- E. Approve payment to Real Time Communication, L.L.C. for new Satellite Communication System and two year service to be reimbursed by Homeland Security Grant A14HS152T.
- F. Approve request to donate surplus items to Noxubee County Fire Coordinator.
- G. Approve request to donate surplus items to the Lowndes County Fire Service.
- H. Approve request for Human Resources Director to attend the “Employment Law Seminar to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$400.00 for registration, \$230.00 for lodging, \$277.67 for travel and \$\$178.50 for meal expenses.
- I. Accept resignation letter from Reserve Officer, Charles Yarbrough, effective immediately.

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- J. Accept resignation letter from Reserve Officer, Colson Eller, effective June 7, 2016.
- K. Approval to accept resignation and terminate Probationary Police Officer, Robert McCraw effective June 15, 2016.
- L. Ratify request to approve permit for the Zion Gate Youth Program that was held on June 18, 2016, and block off street.
- M. Request to approve permit for the Southside Blues Festival to be held on July 2, 2016, and to block off street.
- N. DELETE
- O. Request permit approval for the Possum Town Triathlon to be held on August 20, 2016. Map is attached.
- P. Request ratification of payment of an invoice in the amount of \$950.00 to Municipal Code Corporation for cost of Annual WEB Hosting.
- Q. Accept letter of retirement from Public Works Department Laborer, Willie G. Miller, effective June 30, 2016, and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.
- R. Accept letter of resignation from Police Officer, Zac Borthwick, effective June 30, 2016.

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 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

Mayor Smith remarked that the COO, CFO, County Tax Assessor/Collector, Dr. Hickman, City School Superintendent, School CFO and the School Board's Attorney, David Dunn, met on June 19, 2016 to discuss the school board's Millage rate. COO David Armstrong also offered remarks regarding the matter.

B. Swearing in of four (4) Fire and Rescue personnel

Mayor Smith swore in Fire and Rescue personnel, Firefighters Roderick Dillard and Justin Cox; Fire Engineer Marco Rodriguez, and Deputy Fire Marshal Madison Guyton. Also present were Chief Martin Andrews, Assistant Chief Duane Hughes and the Fire and Rescue Command Staff.

C. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for May ,2016

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for May, 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

D. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for May, 2016

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for May, 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

E. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for May 2016

The Monthly report from the Municipal Court Division for May, 2016 was presented. Council Member Turner directed a question to the Municipal Court Administrator regarding a matter he had previously discussed. She responded and No action was taken.

F. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for May, 2016

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for May, 2016 was presented. Council Member Mickens directed a question to the Public Works Director about the status of the Rubbish Landfill. Mr. Bush approached the podium and proceeded to answer. No action was taken.

G. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for May, 2016.

The Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for May, 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

H. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for May, 2016.

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for May, 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

I. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for May, 2016

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for May, 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

J. Monthly Financial Report

Milton Rawle, CFO, presented the Monthly Financial Report and remarked that the Sales taxes increased by \$61,233.53 compared to the same time last year.

K. Board Vacancies:

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that the vacancy on the City Utilities Commission can be filled.

City Utilities Commission

- One (1) Vacancy
- Charlie Newell's 5-Year Term will expire 6/30/2016.
- Appointment can be made 6/21/2016.

APPLICANT

- Charlie Newell

Council Member Mickens made a motion to reappoint Charlie Newell to the City Utilities Commission for a five (5) year term, until June 21, 2021. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Columbus Housing Authority

- One (1) Vacancy
- Gretta S. Gardner's 5-Year Term will expire 7/13/2016.
- Appointment can be made 7/5/2016.

APPLICANT

- Gretta S. Gardner

Board of Adjustment & Appeals

- One (1) Vacancy
- Fred Kinder resigned 5/31/2016.
- No Applicants at this time
- Appointment can be made 7/5/2016.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

JIMMY & BETSY GALLOWAY – CRIME

Mr. Jimmy Galloway came before the Mayor and Council to discuss the rising number of crimes in Columbus, remarked that Columbus has a crime epidemic and appealed to the elected officials to do what they can to help stop the crime. Ms. Betsy Galloway remarked that her home was recently broken into, the intruder intended to harm her and she doesn't feel safe at the Riverwalk and other scenic areas of Columbus. She applauded the Police Department but stated that the incident was never mentioned on the Police Department's Twitter site. Mayor Smith remarked that the Mayor and Council will do what they can.

Yakinda Walker – "Sportsma's" – Summer Community Program for Columbus Youth

Ms. Yakinda Walker came before the Mayor and Council and thanked them for their support in the 2015 Community Jamboree and invited them to a Youth

Explosion that will be held August 6, 2016 where they will give out school supplies and have guest speakers to motivate youth.

ARLENE WEATHERSBY AND PAT THORNTON – IMPACT

Ms. Weathersby and Ms. Thornton, on behalf of Community Counseling, came before the Mayor and Council regarding projects and programs to prevent drug and alcohol abuse, and requested in-kind support by allowing them to host a community event at the Trotter Convention Center on September 30, 2016, free of charge. The General Counsel cited State statutes that prohibits this type of donation. Then, Council Members, along with Mayor Smith and the General Counsel, made donations to the cost of renting the Trotter.

Mr. Carlos Rosales came before the Mayor and Council, discussed the recent Recruitment video he made for the Columbus Police Department and remarked that he wants to work with the City and develop another video. Mr. Rosales also remarked that he was concerned about crime in Columbus.

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 Mickens made a motion to adjudicate the cost of property clean-up on cases previously heard by Council and for which remediation has completed. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

The Adjudicated list follows:

- B. Discuss/Approve payment to Dr. Joseph V. Trahan III, APR, Fellow, PRSA to travel to Columbus, MS to provide a two (2) day Media Relations training session on July 11-12, 2016. Total payment requested is \$7,428.69 for his professional fee and travel expenses.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve payment to Dr. Joseph V. Trahan III, APR , Fellow, PRSA to travel to Columbus, MS to provide a two (2) day Media Relations training session on July 11-12, 2016. Total payment requested is \$7,428.69 for his professional fee and travel expenses.

- C. DELETE**

- D. Discuss/Approve Interlocal Agreement between the City of Columbus, MS and the County of Lowndes for the 2016 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program Award.**

Council Member Turner made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Columbus, MS and the County of Lowndes for the 2016 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program Award. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

THE AGREEMENT FOLLOWS:

E. Approve request for City of Columbus to apply for the 2016 JAG Grant.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request for the City of Columbus to apply for the 2016 JAG Grant, and authorize the Mayor to sign all pertinent documents. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Request to hire an Animal Control Officer, contingent upon a successful completion of drug screen and physical.

Council Member Box made a motion to hire Catherine Eaves as to fill the vacant City/County Animal Control Officer, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

G. Request to hire Entry Level Police Officer, contingent upon a successful completion of drug screen and physical.

Council Member Turner made a motion to hire Bradley Peden as an Entry-Level Police Officer, contingent upon successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

H. Approve request to hire applicant to fill vacant position of Laborer in the Public Works Department at \$10.00 per hour, contingent on successful completion of pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.

Council Member Turner made a motion to hire Mark Johnson as a Laborer at \$10.00 per hour, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

I. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket.

CROSS REGIONAL FUNDING LP
503 – 11th Street North
Case Number 16-0030 Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0030**. Property owner, Balcom Loker came forward and requested a **45-day extension** to remediate the property. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones concurred with this request and recommended the 45-day extension to remediate the property and recommends entering an Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property is in such a state of uncleanliness 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 Jones 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 Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

BEN OWEN
1928 Cherry Street
Case Number 16-0180 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0180**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated that the property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be enter to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Turner made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more time in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and 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 Box seconded the motion.

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All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

LEON SHIELDS
504 Peach Street
Case Number 16-0181 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0181**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated that the property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be enter to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Turner made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more time in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and 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 Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

DELL AND MAMIE J. KIMBROUGH
1509 – 5th Avenue North
Case Number 16-0190 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0190**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated that the property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be enter to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more time in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and 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 Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

HATCHER INVESTMENT PROPERTIES, LLC
1110 – 7th Avenue North
Case Number 16-0202 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0202**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated that the property was in such a state of

uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be enter to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more time in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and 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 Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

LEMON WHITE, JR.
1415 – 7th Avenue North
Case Number 16-0206 Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0206**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated that the property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be enter to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more time in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and 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 Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

LARRY MCKELLAR
2002 College Street
Case Number 16-0207 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0207**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated that 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 uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. The Order should provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council Member Taylor 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 was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

MARION GRIFFIN, et al
20th Street North
Case Number 16-0208 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0208**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated that 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 uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. The Order should provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council Member Taylor 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 was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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J. Request approval to receive the MS STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant and to expend the 30% matching amount.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve receipt of the MS STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant and to expend the 30% matching amount. Council Member Box 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 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

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