

**MEETING OF
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS
AUGUST 2, 2016**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 2, 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 upon Council Member Joseph Mickens to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 19, 2016.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of July 19, 2016. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR AUGUST 2, 2016.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for August 2, 2016 in the amount of \$534,410.89. 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 "P" – *Approve request for the Police Chief to attend the "Police Academy Graduation Ceremony" to be held in Pearl, MS, and approve cost of transportation.*

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "N" – *Approve request for Mayor to agree and sign two (2) Memorandum of Understandings between the Mississippi Wireless Communication Commission and the City of Columbus.*

Council Member Taylor 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 for Fire and Rescue Personnel, Kirk Gayle, to attend the "MS SAR Working Group Planning Meeting" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of travel.
- B. Approve request for City Planner, Christina Berry, to attend the "Attracting Retail Development to Underserved Communities" workshop, to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$25.00 for registration, \$58.75 for mileage reimbursement, and \$38.25 for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Municipal Court Judge, Gary Goodwin, and Drug Court Coordinator, Leonardo Dismukes, to attend the Mississippi Association of Drug Court Professional Training Conference, to be held in Tupelo, MS, and approve payment of \$150.00 each for registration, \$69.23 for travel for attendee one (1), \$207.69 for travel for attendee two (2), \$132.50 for meals for attendee one (1) and \$191.25 for meals for attendee two (2).
- D. Approve request for Richard Rast to hold a Wedding Ceremony at the Leadership Plaza on October 22, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., and to block off College Street between 4th Street South and 5th Street South.
- E. Approve request for Forensic Director, Austin Shepherd, to attend the Cell Phone Analysis class and approve payment of \$2,495.00 for registration, \$500.00 for lodging, \$345.00 for meal expenses.
- F. Ratify request for two (2) CPD Officers, Donnie Elkin and Toni Howard to attend a Police Officer's funeral that was held on July 22, 2016 in Baton

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Rouge, LA, and approve payment of \$120.00 for travel.

- G. Approve request for two (2) Police Officers, Anthony Nelson and Kevin Burdine to attend “Drug Identification, awareness and Current Trends Training” to be held in Starkville, MS and approve payment of \$10.00 for travel.
- H. Approve permit request Tameka Smith, on behalf of the Columbus High School Senior Class, to hold a “Senior Class Parade” on August 4, 2016 from 7:15 a.m. until 7:40 a.m. The parade will begin at the Municipal Complex and end on Hemlock Street.
- I. Approve request for Forensic Director, Austin Shepherd, to attend the “Cell Phone Extraction and Decoding Training” and approve payment of \$3,200.00 for registration, \$500.00 for lodging, and \$345.00 for meal expenses.
- J. Ratify payment of \$371.30 for transportation expenses for the Mayor’s Youth Council’s trip to the “MML Youth Track” that was held in Biloxi, MS on June 27 – 29, 2016.
- K. Approve request from CFO Milton Rawle to apply for the “Master Municipal Clerk Program and approve payment of \$400.00 for the application fee.
- L. Ratify request from Tiffany Sturdivant, on behalf of the Memphis Town Builders, to host a “Community Water Fun Day” that was held on July 30, 2016 from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.. Also request to block off the intersection on 14th Avenue North and 23rd Street North, 15th Avenue North and MLK, and 15th Avenue North and 22nd Street North.
- M. Accept letter of resignation from Landfill Equipment Operator, Louis Blackwell, effective August 15, 2016, and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process. Employee also requests to be compensated for 240 hours of accrued vacation leave..
- N. Accept letter of resignation from Public Works Laborer, Lee Roy Deloach, effective August 4, 2016, and authorize Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process. Employee also requests to be compensated for unused vacation leave.
- O. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Tabitha Barham to travel to Decatur, AL for vendor site visit, and approve payment of \$75.00 for travel and \$38.50 for meal expenses.

- N. Approve request for Chief Oscar Lewis to attend the "Police Academy Graduation Ceremony to be held in Pearl, MS, and approve cost of transportation.

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

The motion carried.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members Proclamation – Night Out Against Crime

Mayor Smith presented a Proclamation to Chief Oscar Lewis in recognition of National Night Out on Crime.

Mayor Smith invited citizens to attend one of the seven (7) Night Out on Crime sites throughout the City.

Mayor Smith announced that there will be a Special-Called Council Meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Municipal Complex.

B. Board Vacancies:

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

Board of Adjustment & Appeals

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

Civil Service Commission

- One (1) Vacancy
- Thomas Moore's 4-year Term will expire 8/5/2016.
- Appointment will be made 8/16/2016.

Applicant

- Thomas Moore

Redevelopment Authority Board

- One (1) Vacancy
- Andrew Colom's 2-Year Term will expire 9/1/2016.
- No Applicants at this time
- Appointment will be made 8/16/2016.

Columbus/Lowndes Library Board

- One (1) Vacancy
- Jennifer Box's 5-Year Term will expire 9/30/2016.
- No Applicants at this time
- Appointment will be made 9/20/2016.

Board of Adjustment & Appeals of Development Codes

- One (1) Vacancy
- Ralph McLain's 2-Year Term will expire 9/21/2016.
- Appointed as Electrical Engineer or Contractor
- No Applicants at this time
- Appointment will be made 9/20/2016.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

Anne Freeze – Golden Triangle Regional Homeless Coalition

Ms. Anne Freeze came forth and requested to use the Farmers' Market location to host a Giant Yard Sale as a means to raise funds for temporary shelter for single women with children. Council Member Box made a motion to permit Anne Freeze and the Golden Triangle Regional Homeless Coalition to use the Farmers' Market to host a Giant Yard Sale to provide temporary shelter for single women with children to be held November 5, 2016, contingent on Ms. Freeze findings about sales taxes for this event.

Rhonda Cummings – Synergy Management Solutions

Ms. Rhonda Cummings, with Synergy Management Solutions, came forth and requested that the Mayor and Council consider contracting with the afore-mentioned company to offer Management training to City Department Heads. Mayor Smith remarked that he would take the request under advisement.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

- A. Discuss/Approve hiring of five (5) entry level firefighters, contingent upon successful completion of physical examination and drug screen.**

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Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the request to hire five (5) entry-level firefighters, Christopher Sartin, Jacob Faulkner, Tyler Jones, Eric Summerall, and William McDonald, 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 Fire and Rescue personnel to Chief of Training.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to promote Michael Chandler to the position of Chief of Training at the rate of \$23.76 per Hour/\$49,420.80 annually. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Discuss/Approve promotion of a Captain to Battalion Chief.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the request to promote Tommy Massey to the position of Battalion Chief at the rate of \$16.33 per hour/\$51,874.94 annually. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve promotion of two (2) Engineers to Captain.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the request to promote Damon Estes and Eric Grant to the position of Captain at the rate of \$12.12 per hour / \$38,517.52 annually. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve City Workers' Uniform Proposal.

Council Member Turner made a motion to accept the proposal from UniFirst Uniform Company for uniform rentals for a 36-month period, for the Public Works Department, City Garage, the Landfill, and the Convention Center. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

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The motion carried.

F. Discuss/Approve All-Way Stop for 1st St. at 5th Ave. South.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the All-Way Stop sign for 1st Street South at 5th Avenue South. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

G. Discuss/Approve All-Way Stop for 12th St. at 3rd Ave. North.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the All-Way Stop Sign for 12th Street North at 3rd Avenue North. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

H. Discuss/Approve All-Way Stop for 11th St. at 3rd Ave. North.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the All-Way Stop Sign for 11th Street North at 3rd Avenue North. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

I. Discuss/Approve Speed Humps for 22nd St. between Washington and College St.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve Speed Humps for 22nd Street between Washington Avenue and College Street. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

J. Discuss/Approve Speed Hump for Short 3rd Ave. east of 18th St. North.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve a Speed Hump for Short 3rd Avenue East of 18th Street North. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

K. Discuss/Approve Speed Hump for 15th St. North at old Union Academy.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve a Speed Hump for 15th Street North at old Union Academy School. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

THE ADJUDICATED LIST FOLLOWS ON THE NEXT TWO PAGES:

M. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket.

SHARP PROPERTIES, LLC
1515 – 8th Avenue North * 1521
Case Number 16-0043 Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0043**. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones remarked that the owner of this property requested a **45-day extension** to remediate the property and he 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 Taylor 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 Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

EARL AND PEGGY SHAW
1907 Bell Avenue
Case Number 16-0047 Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0047**. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones remarked that the owner of this property requested a **45-day extension** to remediate the property and he 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 Taylor 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 Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
c/o Military Chapel Church
924 – 6th Street South
Case Number 16-0130 Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0130**. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones remarked that the owner of this property requested a **45-day extension** to remediate the property and he 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 Taylor 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 Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

JESSIE AND NANCY COBB
1337 – 5th Street South
Case Number 16-0149 Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0149**. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones remarked that the owner of this property requested a **45-day extension** to remediate the property and he 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)

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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 Taylor 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 Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

SHAUN AND ZIMEKA GOLDEN
139 Beech Street
Case Number 16-0221 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0221**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated 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. This 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 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

MONTE S. EWING
204 Gaylane Drive
Case Number 16-0011 Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0011**. Monte S. Ewing, previous owner of the property came forth and stated that she is no longer the owner. General Counsel, Jeff Turnage recommended that the process starts over with the new owner. No further action was taken.

CHARLIE JOHNSON
1316 – 7th Avenue North
Case Number 16-0017 Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0017**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated 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 entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Taylor 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 times 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.

WILLIE R. SMITH
821 – 17th Street North
Case Number 16-0066 Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0066**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated 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 entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Taylor 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 times 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.

BAKER HARPER, SR.
2125 – 7th Street North
Case Number 16-0227 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0227**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated 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 entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Taylor 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 times 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.

BOYD W. AND RUTHIE B. LEWIS
805 – 21st Street North
Case Number 16-0221 Vegetation/Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0221**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated 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 entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Taylor 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 times 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.

MARCEL PILATE
237 Brynes Circle
Case Number 14-082 Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **14-082** and reported that the City remediated the property but the new owner was not summoned and requested that the City cancel judgment and Lis Pendens for Marcel Pilate. Council Member Box made a motion to cancel judgment and Lis Pendens for Marcel Pilate in Case Number 14-082. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

N. Approve request for Mayor to agree and sign two (2) Memorandum of Understandings between the Mississippi Wireless Communication Commission and the City of Columbus.

Council Member Box made a motion for Mayor to agree and sign two (2) Memorandum of Understandings between the Mississippi Wireless Communication Commission and the City of Columbus. Fireman Kirk Gayle is the liaison for the City of Columbus. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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ADJOURNMENT:

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