

**MEETING OF  
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS  
NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 15, 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 Robert E. Smith called the meeting to order and called upon Officer Glenn Jenkins to offer the Invocation.

**II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1, 2016 & NOVEMBER 7, 2016.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meetings of November 1 & 7, 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 NOVEMBER 15, 2016.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for November 15, 2016, in the amount of \$1,409,697.52. 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:**

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Add Item "J" – *Approve request for the Columbus Police Department Chief to attend the "Police Academy Graduation" to be held in Tupelo, MS, and approve payment of travel expenses.*

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

Change Item "B" to read – *Swearing In of two (2) CPD Reserve Officers and three (3) Fire & Rescue personnel as Reserve Officers.*

Add Michael C. Foster as an applicant to the Tree Board.

### **CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:**

Add Rev. Jesse J. Slater, Jr., Mt. Zion M. B. Church

### **POLICY AGENDA:**

Delete Item "G".

Add Item "H" – *Discuss/Approve hiring of one (1) certified CPD Officer pending successful completion of pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.*

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Delete "Perspective Litigation."

Council Member Mickens 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.

## V. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Chris Carter to attend "Incident Communications Center Manager Training (INCM)" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$460.00 for lodging, \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Administrative Assistant Tabitha Barham to attend the "Homeland Security Grants Workshop" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Duane Hughes to attend the "CPM with Excellence Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$288.00 for travel, \$75.00 for lodging and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Scott Swain and Mike Gibson to attend the "R0312: Command and Control of Incident Operations Class" to be held in Emmitsburg, MD, and approve payment of \$450.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- E. Approve request to pay Instructor Aubrey L. Futrell, Jr., the sum of \$150.00 for teaching the "Driver Training Course" at the CPD Part-Time Academy.

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- F. Approve request for CPD Investigator George Harris and CPD Captain Brent Swan to attend the “Surviving the Badge Class” to be held in Corinth, MS, and approve payment of \$20.00 each for travel expense.
- G. Approve request for Public Works Office Manager Tabitha Kyser to attend the “Administrative Assistants Conference” to be held in Memphis, TN, and approve payment of \$199.00 for registration, \$131.00 for lodging, \$188.81 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- H. Approve request for City Registrar Brenda Williams and Deputy Registrar Loria Porter to attend the “Municipal Election Training for all Municipal Clerks” hosted by the Mississippi Municipal Clerks and Collectors Association (MMCCA) to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$165.00 each for registration, \$224.00 each for lodging, \$166.99 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- I. Approve request to pay \$14.75 to the Mississippi State Tax Commission for the renewal of undercover tag for the CPD.
- J. Approve request for Police Chief Oscar Lewis to attend the “Police Academy Graduation” to be held in Tupelo, MS, and approve payment of travel expenses.

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

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

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

Mayor Smith announced the Mayor’s Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon will be held Wednesday, November 16, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. – 1: p.m. and invited area Senior Citizens to participate.

**B. Swearing In of two (2) CPD Reserve Officers and three (3) Fire & Rescue Officers**

- Jamarcus Jones
- Tony Hunt
- Christopher Carter – F& R
- Robert Kain, Jr. – F & R
- Frederick Hargrove, Sr. – F & R

Mayor Smith swore in Reserve Police Officers Jamarcus Jones and Tony Hunt and Fire and Rescue Reserve Officers Christopher Carter, Robert Kain, Jr., and Frederick Hargrove, Sr.

Mayor Smith read a letter from Kevin McIntosh, Assistant Vice-President of Kansas City Southern, extending sincere gratitude to the City and individuals that

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were involved in responding to a fire incident on KCS' property the first week of November. The quick action prevented what could have been a more severe incident and likely caused a major service outage for KCS' freight operations.

Assistant Police Chief Fred Shelton came forward and requested permission to Apply for the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" Grant, which is based on population size of the jurisdiction, and based on the population of Columbus, is for \$7,500.00. There is no city match for this grant.

Council Member Taylor made a motion authorizing Assistant Fred Shelton to apply for the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" Grant in the amount of \$7,500.00. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**C. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for October 2016**

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

**D. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for October 2016**

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

**E. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for October 2016**

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for October 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

**F. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for October 2016**

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for October 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

**G. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for October 2016**

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

**H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for October 2016**

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

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### I. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for October 2016

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

### J. Monthly Financial Report

Milton Rawle, Jr. reported that the sales taxes for November increased by \$49,208.21, compared to the same time last year.

### K. Board Vacancies

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

#### Tree Board

- Four Vacancies
- 3-Year Terms
- Terms will expire for Todd Gale, Mildred Monroe, Christina Berry and Fred Kinder on December 5, 2016.
- Appointments can be made on December 6, 2016.

#### Applicant

- Michael C. Foster

#### G.T. Regional Waste Management Authority

- Two Vacancies
- 4-Year Terms
- Terms for Howard Starkloff and Lesia T. Jackson will expire on December 31, 2016.
- Appointments can be made on December 20, 2016.
- No applicants at this time

## VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

- **Angela Shine - Get Covered MS!**

Ms. Angela Shine was not present.

- **Rev. Jesse J. Slater, Jr. – Mt. Zion M. B. Church**

Rev. Jesse J. Slater, pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, came forward and addressed a matter involving reports made to the media attributed to Council Member Turner regarding the church and neighborhood teens' access to Wi-Fi services. Rev. Slater presented some facts in his letter and asked Council Member Turner to respond. Council Member Turner apologized to the pastor and congregation for offending them, if they were, but stated that he would not recant his story.

**VIII. POLICY AGENDA:**

**A. Discuss/Approve promotion of one (1) Engineer to Accreditation Manager.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the promotion of Engineer Alan Lewis to the position of Accreditation Manager, effective November 21, 2016, and be compensated \$22.12 per hour (\$46,000.00) annually. 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) Entry-Level Firefighters, pending successful completion of physical examination and drug screen.**

Council Member Mickens made a motion to hire Ryan K. Stevenson and Derek Montanio as Firefighters, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**C. Discuss/Approve Advertising City Resources.**

Council Member Box moved to ratify the expenditure of \$541.75 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 Taylos seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**D. Discuss/Approve All-Way Stop for 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North @ 12<sup>th</sup> Street North.**

Kevin Stafford, with Neel-Schaffer, came forward and requested that an All-Way Stop sign be erected at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North at 12<sup>th</sup> Street North, which will increase intersection safety and should be installed in accordance with the MUTCD. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to erect All-Way Stop Signs at 12<sup>th</sup> Street North at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, which will increase intersection safety and should be installed in accordance with the MUTCD. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

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All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**E. Discuss/Approve All-Way Stops for 16<sup>th</sup> Street North at 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue North.**

Kevin Stafford, with Neel-Schaffer requested that an All-Way Stop signs be erected at 16<sup>th</sup> Street North at 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, which will increase intersection safety and should be installed in accordance with the MUTCD, and install "NO PARKING FROM HERE TO CORNER" signs on each approach from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, in order to assure sight distance is maintained at these intersections

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to erect All-Way Stop Signs at 16<sup>th</sup> Street North at 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, which will increase intersection safety and should be installed in accordance with the MUTCD, and install "NO PARKING FROM HERE TO CORNER" signs on each approach from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, in order to assure sight distance is maintained at these intersections. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**F. Consider/Approve sale to Latanya Moore of blighted real property acquired by reason of a tax sale, said property being located in a blighted area.**

General Counsel Jeff Turnage remarked that he had been asked to prepare necessary documents for the sale of blighted real property that has been acquired by the City by reason of a tax sale. Council Member Turner made a motion to approve a Resolution deeding certain property located in the City of Columbus, Mississippi, at 501 Peach Street and 500 Pear Street, to Latanya Moore by way of a Quitclaim in the amount of \$200.00 per parcel. Council Member Jones seconded the motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution, and the question being put to a roll call vote, the result was as follows:

Councilman Gene Taylor voted:	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Joseph Mickens voted:	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Charlie Box voted:	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Marty Turner voted:	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Stephen Jones voted:	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Bill Gavin voted:	<u>YES</u>

The motion having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Governing Body present, being a quorum of said Governing Body, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016.

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**THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:**

There came on for consideration the matter of deeding certain property to Latanya Moore located in the City of Columbus, Mississippi, and after a discussion of the subject matter, Council Member           **TURNER**           offered and moved for the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, GIVE QUITCLAIM DEEDS TO THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED DEEDS TO LATANYA MOORE, FOR \$200.00; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi, acting for and on behalf of the City of Columbus, Mississippi (the "City"), is authorized by Section 21-17-1(11), Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended to sell and convey et al without public notice or advertisement and on such terms and conditions as the parties agree; and

WHEREAS, it would be in the best interest of the City to sell and convey such property; and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized and empowered to sell said property for the purposes herein set forth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY, ACTING FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, AS FOLLOWS:

The property is real property acquired by the City by reason of a tax sale.

The property is blighted and is located in a blighted area.

The subject property is not needed for governmental or related purposes and is not to be used in the operation of the City.

That the sale of the property in the manner otherwise provide by law is not necessary or desirable for the financial welfare of the City.

That the use of the property for the purpose for which it is to be conveyed will promote and foster the development and improvement of the community in which it is located and the property shall be put back on the tax roll.

The deeds executed pursuant to the authority granted shall contain a clause of reverter providing that title to the property will revert to the City if the person or entity to whom the property is conveyed does not fulfill the purpose for which the property was conveyed and satisfy all conditions imposed on the conveyance within two (2) years of the date of the conveyance.

The conditions of the conveyance are that the grantee shall maintain the property in all respects in compliance with all codes and ordinances of the City of Columbus and shall pay such taxes, fees and assessments that might be due in a timely fashion.

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In such deed the City shall retain all mineral rights that it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove same.

The City has agreed to accept \$400.00 from Latanya Moore in exchange for Quitclaim Deeds with the provisions stated herein above.

Council Member           **JONES**           seconded the motion to adopt the foregoing resolution, and the question being put to a roll call vote, the result was as follows:

Councilman Gene Taylor voted:	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Charlie Box voted:	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Joseph Mickens voted:	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Marty Turner voted:	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Stephen Jones voted:	<u>YES</u>
Councilman Bill Gavin voted:	<u>YES</u>

The motion having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Governing Body present, being a quorum of said Governing Body, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Milton Rawle, Secretary-Treasurer

**G. DELETE**

**H. Discuss/Approve hiring of one (1) certified CPD Officer pending successful successful completion of pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire Hunter D. Cates, a certified Law Enforcement Officer to work in the Police Department, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion,

The motion carried.

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**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 Box 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 a personnel matter involving the job performance of a City employee that was continued from the special meeting of November 7, 2016, and remarked that this matter warrants being heard in Executive Session.

Council Member Jones made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss one (1) personnel matter. 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 one (1) personnel matter.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**PERSONNEL MATTER (1):**

The first matter of personnel involves the job performance of Employee, I. D. Number 915. This employee was invited in the Council Chambers. Mayor Robert Smith began by reading a letter from Lowndes County Tax Assessor/Collector, Greg Andrews, who was not present. Following the reading of this letter, Mayor Smith remarked that the contents in the letter were not true. Council Member Mickens asked the COO, David Armstrong if the funds should have been transferred to the General Fund. His response was, "NO" and he was unaware that this had been done. Council Member Mickens asked for an outside auditor to review the City's financials. The General Counsel remarked that has to have Council approval. No action was taken.

**OPEN SESSION:**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to end the discussion of the matter and return to

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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 reported that the Mayor and Council considered one (1) matter of personnel involving the job performance of a City employee in Executive Session, and after thoroughly discussing the matter, took no action.

**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 Jones 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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