

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS JANUARY 3, 2017

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 3, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Robert 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 Rev. Stephen James, Pastor of United Christian M. B. Church to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 20, 2016.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of December 20, 2016. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR JANUARY 3, 2017.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for January 3, 2017, in the amount of \$796, 124.93. Council Member Jones 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:

There were no amendments to the Consent Agenda.

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "D" – *Discuss/Approve Sale of Cemetery Plot owned by the Library.*

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, the Council voted unanimously in favor of same.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Eric Summerall and Tyler Jones to attend "Fire Fighter 1001-I-II" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$1,514.00 for registration, \$200.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Marquon Evans to attend "National Registry of EMT Exam" to be held in Tupelo, MS, and approve payment of \$70.00 for registration, \$30.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "Quality Improvement through Accreditation" to be held in Columbus, GA, and approve payment of \$1,250.00 for registration, \$728.00 for lodging, \$200.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "National Registry Paramedic Continued Education Re-Certification Training" to be held in Starkville, MS, and approve payment of \$400.00 for course, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- E. Approve request for COO and Public Relations Specialist to meet with MDEQ Officials in Jackson, MS, and approve payment for travel and meal expenses.
- F. Accept letter of retirement from Public Works Foreman, Mitchell Gardner, effective January 19, 2017.
- G. Approve request for the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process to fill the vacant positions of one (1) Equipment Operator and one (1) Tractor Operator for Public Works Department.
- H. Approve request to ratify travel expenses for the Interim City Planner's trip to close out MDAH Grant for City Hall Renovations.

- I. Approve permit request from Leslie Jones on behalf of the Annunciation Catholic School to host the "In Our Nation Day Parade" to be held on January 31, 2017 from 8:40 a.m. until 9:10 a.m. and approve the parade route. The parade will begin at Browder Street to Hwy 82 to Gardner Blvd. to Maxwell Lane and return to the Annunciation Catholic School.
- J. Approve request for the Election Commissioners, Registrar, Brenda Williams, and Clerk, Loria Porter, to attend the "Municipal Election Officials Mandatory Certification Training, 2017 Municipal Elections" to be held at Itawamba Community College in Belden, MS, and approve payment of \$305.00 each for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Council Member Turner 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.

There were no comments for the Mayor and Council members.

B. Recognition of two (2) CPD Officers and one (1) CPD Corporal for assisting an elderly citizen in her home:

- Officer Kelvin Burdine
- Officer Rhonda Sanders
- Corporal Donald Richardson

Chief Oscar Lewis recognized two (2) Police Officers and one (1) Police Corporal for assisting an elderly citizen who was semi-conscious in her home.

C. No Board Vacancies

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

• Donna Chatman – Cable One Rate Increase

Ms. Donna Chatman, General Manager with Cable One, came before the Mayor and Council and discussed local cable service and the rate increase that will be effective in January 2017.

• Ren Forester – Cable One Concerns

Mr. Ren Forester, local citizen, came before the Mayor and Council regarding Cable One concerns.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve promotion of an Assistant Foreman to Foreman for the Public Works Department.

Council Member Turner made a motion to approve the promotion of Timmy Hodges to the position of Foreman. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

B. Discuss/Approve request to fill vacant I.T. Help Desk Support Tech, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the hire of John A. Bailey as I. T. Help Desk Support Tech at \$25,000.00 per year, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Consider suspension of certain rental permits for Columbus Fair and Livestock Association.

The Legal Counsel apprised the Mayor and Council on Violations of City Ordinance regarding events at which more than 100 people are in attendance and alcohol, beer or light wine is served. Ms. Jane Jordan, president of the Columbus/Lowndes Fairgrounds, came forward. Ms. Jordan stated that she was somewhat familiar with the Ordinance but denied knowledge of its contents or of her responsibilities under the Ordinance. She added that she didn't like renting the place for private parties where large numbers are present and drinking, but didn't know how she could legally refuse. There followed a lengthy discussion about, among other things, the Fairgrounds, her excuse for there not being a permit, the number of security officers present when the recent shooting happened, what the Police Department knew and when.

Council Member Box then made a motion to discontinue permitting any rentals for private parties. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Council Member Gavin made a substitute motion to pass a 90-day moratorium on any activities on the Fairground property to give Ms. Jordan ample time to return to the Council with a plan of action to avoid shootings at the Fairgrounds. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve Sale of Cemetery Plot from Library.

Steve Rogers, member on the Columbus-Lowndes Library Board, reported that while inventorying documents, the Library Board discovered that the Library owned five (5) cemetery plots at Friendship Cemetery and were told that they could not own real property. Four (4) of the plots have been sold and the Library needs to sell the final plot. Council Member Jones made a motion to purchase the cemetery plot for \$100.00. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no Executive Session matters to come before the Council.

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 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**