

**MEETING OF
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS
DECEMBER 6, 2016**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, December 6, 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 Rev. Dr. James A. Boyd, Pastor of Zion Gate M. B. Church, to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of November 15, 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 Pearl, 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 Annual Municipal Compliance Questionnaire, which is required for the annual Audit.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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 Kirk Gayle to attend the "Task Force Leaders Meeting, to be held in Gulfport, MS, and approve payment of \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Wes Mims to attend the "R0312: Command and Control of Incident Operations" to be held in Emmitsburg, MD, and approve payment of \$400.00 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 \$192.00 for lodging, \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Chief Martin Andrews, Training Chief Mike Chandler, Anthony Colom and four (4) additional personnel to attend the "MSFA 1001 Graduation" to be Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$150.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- E. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Chief Martin Andrews to attend the MS State Fire Academy Meeting, to be held in Jackson, MS and approve payment of \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.

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- F. Approve request from Fire Chief Andrews to accept donation in the amount of \$278.04 from Fred's Discount Stores and permit the CFO to amend the Fire and Rescue Fire Prevention budget in the amount of \$319.64 to be used for the purchase of fire prevention equipment to enhance the public education program, which benefits the community.
- G. Approve permit request submitted by Colin Krieger to host the "Northside Christmas Party Fundraiser" for the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library to be held on December 17, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and approve the request to block off the 500 block of 8th Street North.
- H. Approve permit request submitted by James Allen to host the "Messiah Performance" on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and approve the request to block off the 500 block off one side of 8th Street South.
- I. Approve permit request submitted by Cyretha Owens Bell to host the "Columbus March for Life Parade" to be held on January 7, 2017 from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m., and approve the parade route. The parade will start at the Soccer Complex, turn on 3rd Street South to Main Street, left on Main Street to 9th Street South, right on 9th Street South to College Street, College Street to 3rd Street South, right on 3rd Street South to Soccer Complex.
- J. Ratify request for Police Chief Oscar Lewis to attend the "Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy Graduation" to be held in Pearl, MS, and approve payment of \$20.00 for travel expenses.
- K. Ratify request for the Assistant Police Chief, Fred Shelton, to attend the "2017 Alcohol Impaired Driving Special Wave Grant" to be held in Ridgeland, MS, and approve payment of \$20.00 for travel expenses.
- L. Approve request for "Application to Renew Notary Public Commission and Bond Fees for Federal Programs Administrative Assistant, Loria Porter.
- M. Approve request for CFO Milton Rawle, Jr. to attend the "PERS" meeting, to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$170.00 for travel expenses.
- N. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Michael Miller and Marco Rodriguez to attend the "Task Force II Helicopter Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$60.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.

Council Member Box 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.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

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A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Smith recognized and thanked Mrs. Tjajuan Boswell for the hard work, dedication, and commitment in beautifying the City of Columbus for the past eleven (11) years and presented her with a bouquet and ordered a 12-foot Little Gem Magnolia tree to be planted in the median flower bed on Main Street between City Hall and the Downtown Post Office in her honor.

Mayor Smith recognized Pastor Steve M. Jamison, pastor of Maranatha Faith Center Church, and dedicated 7th Avenue North and Waterworks Road to 14th Avenue North and Waterworks Road as "Rev. Steve M. Jamison Way" in honor of Rev. Steve M. Jamison to commemorate the many years of service he has given to the City of Columbus, his Church and the Citizens of Columbus.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve this recognition and dedication of the streets in honor of Reverend Steve M. Jamison. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Mayor Smith recognized Pastor Joe L. Peoples, pastor of Stephen Chapel M. B. Church, and dedicated 20th Street North to 6th Avenue North 20 21st Street North to 7th Avenue North as "Rev. J. L. Peoples Loop" in honor of Reverend Joe L. Peoples, to commemorate the many years of service he has given to the City of Columbus, his Church and the Citizens of Columbus.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve this recognition and dedication the streets in honor of Reverend Joe L. Peoples. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Mayor Smith recognized Rev. Dr. James Alvin Boyd, pastor of Zion Gate M. B. Church, and dedicated 4th Avenue South and 5th Street South to 15th Avenue South as "Rev. James A. Boyd Lane" in honor of Reverend Dr. James A. Boyd, to commemorate the many years of service he has given to the City of Columbus, his Church and the Citizens of Columbus.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve this recognition and dedication of the streets in honor of Reverend Dr. James A. Boyd. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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- B. DELETED**
- C. Board Vacancies**

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that appointments can be made to the Tree Board 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**
- **Mildred Monroe**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to appoint Michael C. Foster and Reappoint Mildred Monroe to the Tree Board for a three (3) Year term, until December 5, 2019.

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.

Applicant

Lesia T. Jackson

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

- **Major Alan Phillips – Bell Ringing for Salvation Army**

Major Alan Phillips could not be present, but his wife, Major Cheryl Phillips came forth and requested that the City of Columbus ring bells at Wal-Mart on December 10, 2016.

- **Rev. Tommy Ross**

Rev. Tommy Ross came forth with complaints against the Columbus Police Department. Mayor Smith asked Rev. Ross to schedule an appointment with Chief Oscar Lewis in an attempt to resolve his issues.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. DELETED

- B. Discuss/Approve hiring of five (5) Entry-Level CPD Officers and send them to the MLEOA in Pearl, MS, contingent upon approval from the Civil Service Commission and successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.**

Council Member Turner made a motion to hire Alonzo Brooks, Robin Conner, Justin Kenney, Zachary O'Callaghan, Christian Wright as Entry-Level Police Officers, contingent on approval from the Civil Service Commission and successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

- C. Discuss/Approve request to hire applicant to fill the vacant Public Defender position in the Municipal Court Division, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment drug screen..**

Council Member Turner made a motion to hire Attorney Amanda Meadows as Public Defender in the Municipal Court Division at \$25,751.70 annually. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried with a 4/2 vote.

- D. Discuss/Approve Advertising City Resources.**

Council Member Jones moved to approve the expenditure of \$97.62 from 001-004-695 (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 Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

- E. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket.**

LAURA CUNNINGHAM YOUNG
804 Railroad Street
Case Number 16-0273 Structure/Vegetation

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The General Counsel called cause number **16-0273**. 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 Jones 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 Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

ESTATE OF WILLIAM L. BAMBACH
C/O BARBARA BAMBACH, EXECUTRIX
606 – 3rd Avenue North
Case Number 16-0339 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0339**. 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 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 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 Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

RICHARD P., JR. AND JULIA G. JOHNSTON
1206 – 7th Street North
Case Number 16-0345 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0345**. 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

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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 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 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 Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried..

DANNY SAUISBERRY
707 Hemlock Street
Case Number 16-0346 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **16-0346**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated the property was in such a state of uncleanness 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 Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Discuss/Approve Agreement for Removal of Vegetative Growth at Columbus-Lowndes Airport

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Agreement for Removal of Vegetative Growth at the Columbus-Lowndes Airport at net-zero cost. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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G. Discuss/Approve Bids for Catfish Alley Improvement, Approve lowest Bidder, and give Mayor the authority to execute the contract.

Kevin Stafford came and remarked that Neel-Schaffer has advertised for bids for the Catfish Alley Improvement project and requested that the Council approve and award the Bid to Weathers Construction at \$219,741.91, their bid being the lowest. Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the bids for the Catfish Alley Improvement project and award the Bid to Weathers Construction at \$219,741.91. The City's cost in this project is \$15,000 and the Columbus Convention and Visitors' Bureau will share in the remaining cost. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

H. Discuss/Approve Annual Municipal Compliance Questionnaire that is Required for the Audit.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Annual Municipal Compliance Questionnaire that is required for the Audit. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOLLOWS:

Municipal Compliance Questionnaire

As part of the municipality's audit, the governing authorities of the municipality must make certain assertions with regard to legal compliance. The municipal compliance questionnaire was developed for this purpose.

The following questionnaire and related certification must be completed at the end of the municipality's fiscal year and entered into the official minutes of the governing authorities at their next regular meeting.

The governing authorities should take care to answer these questions accurately. Incorrect answers could reduce the auditor's reliance on the questionnaire responses, resulting in the need to perform additional audit procedures at added cost.

Information

Note: Due to the size of some municipalities, some of the questions may not be applicable. If so, mark N/A in answer blanks. Answers to other questions may require more than "yes" or "no," and, as a result, more information on this questionnaire may be required and/or separate work papers may be needed.

1. Name and address of municipality:
CITY OF COLUMBUS PO BOX 1408 COLUMBUS, MS 39703

2. List the date and population of the latest official U.S. Census or most recent official census:
2010 23,640

3. Names, addresses and telephone numbers of officials (include elected officials, chief administrative officer, and attorney).
SEE ATTACHED

4. Period of time covered by this questionnaire:
From: OCT, 2015 To: SEPT³⁰ 2016

5. Expiration date of current elected officials' term: JUNE 30, 2017

MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE
Year Ended September 30, 20__

Answer All Questions: Y - YES, N - NO, N/A - NOT APPLICABLE

PART I - General

1. Have all ordinances been entered into the ordinance book and included in the minutes? (Section 21-13-13) Y
2. Do all municipal vehicles have public license plates and proper markings? (Sections 25-1-87 and 27-19-27) Y
3. Are municipal records open to the public? (Section 25-61-5) Y
4. Are meetings of the board open to the public? (Section 25-41-5) Y
5. Are notices of special or recess meetings posted? (Section 25-41-13) Y
5. Are all required personnel covered by appropriate surety bonds?
 - Board or council members (Sec. 21-17-5)
 - Appointed officers and those handling money, see statutes governing the form of government (i.e., Section 21-3-5 for Code Charter)
 - Municipal clerk (Section 21-15-38)
 - Deputy clerk (Section 21-15-23)
 - Chief of police (Section 21-21-1)
 - Deputy police (Section 45-5-9) (if hired under this law)Y
7. Are minutes of board meetings prepared to properly reflect the actions of the board? (Sections 21-15-17 and 21-15-19) Y
8. Are minutes of board meetings signed by the mayor or majority of the board within 30 days of the meeting? (Section 21-15-33) Y
9. Has the municipality complied with the nepotism law in its employment practices? (Section 25-1-53) Y
10. Did all officers, employees of the municipality, or their relatives avoid any personal interest in any contracts with the municipality during their term or within one year after their terms of office or employment? (Section 25-4-105) Y
11. Does the municipality contract with a Certified Public Accountant or an auditor approved by the State Auditor for its annual audit within twelve months of the end of each fiscal year? (Section 21-35-31) Y

12. Has the municipality published a synopsis or notice of the annual audit within 30 days of acceptance?
(Section 21-35-31 or 21-17-19)

Y

PART II - Cash and Related Records

1. Where required, is a claims docket maintained? **FINANCE OFFICE**
(Section 21-39-7)

Y

2. Are all claims paid in the order of their entry in the claims docket? (Section 21-39-9)

Y

3. Does the claims docket identify the claimant, claim number, amount and fund from which each warrant will be issued?
(Section 21-39-7)

Y

4. Are all warrants approved by the board, signed by the mayor or majority of the board, attested to by the clerk, and bearing the municipal seal? (Section 21-39-13)

Y

5. Are warrants for approved claims held until sufficient cash is available in the fund from which it is drawn?
(Section 21-39-13)

Y

6. Has the municipality adopted and entered on its minutes a budget in the format prescribed by the Office of the State Auditor? (Sections 21-35-5, 21-35-7 and 21-35-9)

Y

7. Does the municipality operate on a cash basis budget, except for expenditures paid within 30 days of fiscal year end or for construction in progress? (Section 21-35-23)

Y

8. Has the municipality held a public hearing and published its adopted budget? (Sections 21-35-5, 27-39-203, & 27-39-205)

Y

9. Has the municipality complied with legal publication requirements when budgetary changes of 10% or more are made to a department's budget? (Section 21-35-25)

Y

10. If revenues are less than estimated and a deficit is anticipated, did the board revise the budget by its regular July meeting? (Section 21-35-25)

N/A

11. Have financial records been maintained in accordance with the chart of accounts prescribed by the State Auditor? (Section 21-35-11)

Y

12. Does the municipal clerk submit to the board a monthly report of expenditures against each budget item for the preceding month and fiscal year to date and the unexpended balances of each budget item? (Section 21-35-13)

Y

13. Does the board avoid approving claims and the city clerk not issue any warrants which would be in excess of budgeted amounts, except for court-ordered or emergency expenditures? (Section 21-35-17)

Y

14. Has the municipality commissioned municipal depositories? (Sections 27-105-353 and 27-105-363)

Y

15. Have investments of funds been restricted to those instruments authorized by law? (Section 21-33-323)

Y

16. Are donations restricted to those specifically authorized by law? [Section 21-17-5 (Section 66, Miss. Constitution) -- Sections 21-19-45 through 21-19-59, etc.]

Y

17. Are fixed assets properly tagged and accounted for? (Section II - Municipal Audit and Accounting Guide)

N

18. Is all travel authorized in advance and reimbursements made in accordance with Section 25-3-41?

Y

19. Are all travel advances made in accordance with the State Auditor's regulations? (Section 25-3-41)

Y

PART III - Purchasing and Receiving

1. Are bids solicited for purchases, when required by law (written bids and advertising)? [Section 31-7-13(b) and (c)]

Y

2. Are all lowest and best bid decisions properly documented? [Section 31-7-13(d)]

Y

3. Are all one-source item and emergency purchases documented on the board's minutes? [Section 31-7-13(m) and (k)]

Y

4. Do all officers and employees understand and refrain from accepting gifts or kickbacks from suppliers? (Section 31-7-23)

Y

PART IV - Bonds and Other Debt

- 1. Has the municipality complied with the percentage of taxable property limitation on bonds and other debt issued during the year? (Section 21-33-303) Y
- 2. Has the municipality levied and collected taxes, in a sufficient amount for the retirement of general obligation debt principal and interest? (Section 21-33-87) Y
- 3. Have the required trust funds been established for utility revenue bonds? (Section 21-27-65) N/A
- 4. Have expenditures of bond proceeds been strictly limited to the purposes for which the bonds were issued? (Section 21-33-317) Y
- 5. Has the municipality refrained from borrowing, except where it had specific authority? (Section 21-17-5) Y

PART V - Taxes and Other Receipts

- 1. Has the municipality adopted the county ad valorem tax rolls? (Section 27-35-167) Y
- 2. Are interest and penalties being collected on delinquent ad valorem taxes? (Section 21-33-53) Y
- 3. Has the municipality conducted an annual land sale for delinquent ad valorem taxes? (Section 21-33-63) Y
- 4. Have the various ad valorem tax collections been deposited into the appropriate funds? (Separate Funds for Each Tax Levy) (Section 21-33-53) Y
- 5. Has the increase in ad valorem taxes, if any, been limited to amounts allowed by law? (Sections 27-39-320 and 27-39-321) Y
- 6. Are local privilege taxes collected from all businesses located within the municipality, except those exempted? (Section 27-17-5) Y
- 7. Are transient vendor taxes collected from all transient vendors within the municipality, except those exempted? (Section 75-85-1) Y
- 8. Is money received from the state's "Municipal Fire Protection Fund" spent only to improve municipal fire departments? (Section 83-1-37) Y
- 9. Has the municipality levied or appropriated not less than 1/4.

mill for fire protection and certified to the county it provides its own fire protection or allowed the county to levy such tax? (Sections 83-1-37 and 83-1-39)

Y

10. Are state-imposed court assessments collected and settled monthly? (Section 99-19-73, 83-39-31, etc.)

Y

11. Are all fines and forfeitures collected when due and settled immediately to the municipal treasury? (Section 21-15-21)

Y

12. Are bids solicited by advertisement or, under special circumstances, three appraisals obtained when real property is sold? (Section 21-17-1)

Y

13. Has the municipality determined the full and complete cost for solid waste for the previous fiscal year? (Section 17-17-347)

Y

14. Has the municipality published an itemized report of all revenues, costs and expenses incurred by the municipality during the immediately preceding fiscal year in operating the garbage or rubbish collection or disposal system? (Section 17-17-348)

Y

15. Has the municipality conducted an annual inventory of its assets in accordance with guidelines established by the Office of the State Auditor? (MMAAG)

N

(MUNICIPAL NAME)

Certification to Municipal Compliance Questionnaire

Year Ended September 30, 20 16

We have reviewed all questions and responses as contained in this Municipal Compliance Questionnaire for the Municipality of COLUMBUS, MS, and, to the best of our knowledge and belief, all responses are accurate.

Milton Rowle Jr
(City Clerk's Signature)

12/6/16
(Date)

[Signature]
(Mayor's Signature)

December 8 2016
(Date)

Minute Book References:

Book Number _____

Page _____

(Clerk is to enter minute book references when questionnaire is accepted by board.)

MAAYOR, COUNCIL, CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER, CFO

EMAIL ADDRESSES 2016					
NAME	WARD	ADDRESS	EMAIL	Phone	
Mayor					
Smith		39 Burgandy Drive, Columbus MS 39702	smith@columbusms.org	662-364-0433	
Gene		918 9th Ave S, Columbus MS 39701	gtaylor@columbusms.org	662-425-1833	
Joseph		146 Maple Street, Columbus MS 39702	floorspecialist146@gmail.com	662-251-0724	
Charlie		200 Lakewood Rd, Columbus MS 39705	boxcharles2002@yahoo.com	662-889-2165 or 662-327-1270	
Marty		1504 23rd St N, Columbus MS 39701	martturner3989@gmail.com	662-242-8682	
Stephen		1804 8th Ave N, Columbus MS 39701	wards@columbusms.org	662-386-5022	
Bill		203 Jones Circle, Columbus MS 39702	bgavin@cableone.net	662-574-0295 or 662-327-3323	
David		714 3rd Ave S, Columbus MS 39701	damstrong@columbusms.org	662-329-5119 or 662-251-5119	
Milton		74 Crenshaw Dr, Columbus MS 39702	milton.rawle@columbusms.org	662-329-5120	
Jeff		Turnage	Attorney	215 Fifth Street N, Columbus MS 39703	662-328-2316

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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 Taylor 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) personnel matters involving the job performance of City employees in the Police Department and remarked that these matters warrant 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 (2) personnel matters.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

PERSONNEL MATTER (1):

The first matter of personnel involves the job performance of Employee, I. D. Number 379. This employee was asked to exit the Council Chambers. Mayor Robert Smith began by stating that he is concerned about the homicides that have occurred in the City the past year; he is concerned about this employee's resistance to work with others, talk to the media and asked the Council for solutions. This employee was invited back in the Council Chambers. He was questioned about his working relationship with his assistant. Employee, I. D. Number 379 responded that he did not have a problem with his assistant and remarked that his assistant applied for the position that he has and believes that he still wants the position. Mayor Robert Smith then asked the employee why he placed an applicant on the agenda to be hired when he was asked not to. The employee responded that the applicant was experienced and he needs seasoned officers. He further stated that he respects the Mayor and that he feels like he is fighting with his hands behind his back. Employee, I. D. Number 581 was invited in the Council Chambers and remarked that he does not have a problem working with his Department Head. He further stated that it is his goal to work for the greater good of this department. The Council recommended that Employee, I. D. Number 379 develop a

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more cohesive working relationship with his assistant and subordinates in the department. Employee, I. D. Number 581 exited the Council Chambers.

PERSONNEL MATTER (2):

The second matter of personnel involves the job performance of Employee, I. D. 248. He was invited in the Council Chambers. Council Member Taylor recused himself. This employee was served a Written Notice of Intent to suspend without pay for the following reasons: *During an investigation into the death of Roderick Davis, you made comments that caused family members concern that tended to undermine the Columbus Police Department in conducting a thorough investigation into the homicide. Your statements and implications referenced above constituted acts of omission or commission that tended to injure the public service of the Columbus Police Department and violated GO #303.3, which prohibits any act of omission or commission tending to injure the public service. If the Mayor and Council decide to discipline you, in that case, you shall have the right to file with the Civil Service Commission a written demand for an investigation all in accordance with the Civil Service Rules of the City, which must be filed with the Commission within ten (10) days after the decision of the Mayor and City Council. After listening to testimony from this employee, the Mayor and Council asked him to exit the Council Chambers for deliberation. Following deliberation, Council Member Jones made a motion to suspend Employee, I. D. Number 248 for one (1) day without pay for failure to follow procedures. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. The Department Head has transferred this employee to the Patrol Division.*

All Council Members, with the exception of Council Member Taylor, who recused himself, voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Council Member Taylor returned to the meeting.

OPEN SESSION:

Council Member Gavin made a motion to return to Open 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 back in Open Session.

The General Counsel reported that the Mayor and Council considered two (2) matters of personnel involving the job performance of City employees in Executive Session, and offered advice to one of the employees and voted to suspend another employee for one (1) day without pay for failure to follow procedures.

MINUTES
December 6, 2016

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 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**

(THIS SPACE WAS LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY)