

**MEETING OF
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS
DECEMBER 20, 2016**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Vice-Mayor Gene Taylor called the meeting to order and called upon Council Member Box to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 6, 2016.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of December 6, 2016. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR DECEMBER 20, 2016.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for December 20, 2016 in the amount of \$1,447,165.63. Council Member Turner 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 changes in the Consent Agenda.

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "E" – *Discuss/Approve Funding for Asbestos Removal at City Hall.*

Add Item "F" – *Discuss/Approve Baptist Medical Group Clinic Proposal and Authorize Mayor to Negotiate Agreement.*

Add Item "G" – *Consider/Approve Municipal Resolution and Guidelines for the Offering of Monetary Rewards for Information Leading to the Arrest and Conviction of Certain Criminals.*

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

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request to refund Jasmine Harris the sum of \$380.00 for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center Rental.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Michael Chandler and Tabitha Barham to attend “NAFECO Vendor Expo” to be held in Decatur, AL, and approve payment of \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr., City Attorney Jeff Turnage, Public Works Director, Casey Bush and City Engineer Kevin Stafford to meet with MDEQ in Jackson, MS, and approve payment for travel and meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for the Mayor’s Youth Council and Advisor to attend the “MML Statewide Youth Leadership Summit” to be held at Delta State University in Cleveland, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel, and meal expenses.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. Vice-Mayor Taylor 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

Vice-Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for their participation in the Toy Drive and wished residents of the City of Columbus and Lowndes County a Merry Christmas.

B. Mayor’s Youth Council Presentation

Ms. Brandy Gardner, Mayor’s Youth Council Coordinator, along with the entire Mayor’s Youth Council, came forward and updated the Council on activities and events that they participated in for 2016 and thanked the City Council for their support.

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

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for

November 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

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

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

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

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

F. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for November 2016

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

G. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for November 2016

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

H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for November 2016

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

I. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for November 2016

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

J. Monthly Financial Report

Milton Rawle, Jr., CFO, gave the Monthly Financial Report and remarked that sales taxes decreased by \$26,819.26 for the month, compared to the same time last year.

K. Board Vacancies

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.

Applicants

- Lesia T. Jackson
- Kathy Goodwin

Council Member Gavin made a motion to reappoint Lesia T. Jackson and Kathy Goodwin to the Golden Triangle Waste Management Authority Board for 4-Year Terms, until December 31, 2020. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

- **Kate Spitz – Community Garden and Green Space**

Ms. Kate Spitz came forward and thanked the Council for allowing her to come and speak. Ms. Spitz remarked that she was applying for a Grant through MUW for a Community Garden and Green Space and stated that she need a location/space to beautify with herbs and a garden and requested support from the Council. Council Member Gavin made a motion to table this matter until a later date. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

- A. Discuss/Approve Environmental Assessment of Columbus Brick Property for potential detention pond.**

Kevin Stafford, with Neel-Schaffer Engineering, came forward and requested approval to conduct an Environmental Assessment of the Columbus Brick property for a potential detention pond. The property is 6.65 acres. Stafford remarked that he would also research to determine if Bond money can be used for this project. Council Member Gavin recused himself and exited the Council Chambers.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the request from the City's Engineer, Kevin Stafford, to conduct an Environmental Assessment of the Columbus Brick property, which is 6.65 acres, for a potential detention pond. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Council Member Gavin returned to the meeting.

B. DELETED

C. Discuss/Approve recommendation to renew Property, Casualty and Professional Liability Insurance with Travelers Insurance Company, with Eddie Mauck and Hopkins Insurance Company, LLC, as the agent of record.

Patricia Mitchell presented a quote for Property, Casualty, and Professional Liability Insurance from Eddie Mauck, Agent of Record for Hopkins Insurance Company, to renew insurance for the City with Travelers Insurance Company in the amount of \$317,372.00. Council Member Box made a motion to renew Property, Casualty, and Professional Liability Insurance with Travelers Insurance Company for 2017 in the amount of \$317,372.00 and approve Eddie Mauck, with Hopkins Insurance Company, LLC, as agent of record. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve recommendations from the Planning Commission Meeting of December 12, 2016.

DOCKET NO. 16-01

**MARY M. PANNELL
554 Wilkins-Wise Road**

The Planning Commission recommends approval to request to rezone from A-1 (General Agricultural) District to C-3 (Highway Commercial) District. The Planning Commission's findings of facts: A-1 (General Agricultural) District denoted a holding pattern. There have been changes in the character of the district – an adjoining property has been rezoned C-3 (Highway Commercial) District, and, a public need is provided.

Council Member Turner moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to rezone from A-1 (General Agricultural) District to C-3 (Highway Commercial) District be approved. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The Vice-Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the rezoning application. No one answered. There followed discussion, consideration, and review by the Council of the issues and facts presented by this request and the action taken by the City of Columbus Planning Commission.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve Funding for Asbestos Removal at City Hall.

Robyn Eastman, Project Manager with J-5, came forward and updated the Council about the City Hall Renovations and remarked that asbestos was found in the floor and requested approval of a Change Order in the amount of \$3,125.00 to remediate. Council Member Turner made a motion to approve the cost of \$3,125.00 for removal and disposal of asbestos from City Hall. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Discuss/Approve Baptist Medical Group Clinic Proposal and Authorize the Mayor to Negotiate Agreement.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to authorize Mayor Robert Smith, Sr. to negotiate an agreement with the Baptist Medical Group Clinic. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

G. Consider/Approve Municipal Resolution and Guidelines for the Offering of Monetary Rewards for Information Leading to the Arrest and Conviction of Certain Criminals.

General Counsel Turnage presented a Resolution and some Guidelines for the Offering of Monetary Rewards for Information Leading to the Apprehension and Conviction of Certain Criminals. Council Member Turner made a motion to Approve the Resolution Approving the Offering of Monetary Rewards, \$15,000.00, to persons allowed by statute to receive a reward for providing information that leads to the apprehension and conviction of murder and manslaughter committed within the Municipal limits of the City of Columbus, and \$5,000.00 rewards for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of armed robbery committed within the Municipal limits of the City of Columbus. The foregoing Resolution was seconded by Council Member Jones and the vote to adopt the Resolution was as follows:

Council Member Gene Taylor	voted:	<u>Acting as Mayor</u>
Council Member 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>

Council Member Taylor was acting as Mayor, but remarked that he was in favor of the Resolution.

There came on for consideration the matter of the City of Columbus, Mississippi passing the proposed Resolution and Council Member **TURNER** offered and moved that the following Resolution be adopted by the Mayor and City Council:

THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE OFFERING
OF MONETARY REWARDS FOR INFORMATION
LEADING TO THE APPREHENSION AND CONVICTION
OF CERTAIN CRIMINALS**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, pursuant to Section 99-3-39 of the Mississippi Code, are authorized, within their discretion, to offer monetary rewards, in amounts to be fixed by them, but not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) per case; and

WHEREAS, such monetary rewards may be offered for, among other things, information leading to the apprehension of any person convicted of any crime committed within this state and may be paid from the general fund of the City to persons allowed by statute to receive a reward for providing such information; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus has recently seen an increase in serious crimes, including murders, manslaughters and armed robberies and is anxious to see these cases solved and the perpetrators brought to justice; and

WHEREAS, in order help to solve some of these crimes, the City is in need of the cooperation and assistance of persons who might possess knowledge or information that would lead to a conviction; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council believe that a monetary reward might motivate and incentivize such persons to provide information that will lead to the apprehension and conviction of such perpetrators;

NOW THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus approve the offering of \$15,000.00 rewards to persons allowed by statute to receive a reward for providing information that leads to the apprehension and conviction of murder and manslaughter committed within the municipal limits of the City of Columbus and \$5,000.00 rewards for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of armed robbery committed within the municipal limits of the City of Columbus.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was seconded by Council Member **JONES** and the vote to adopt was as follows:

Council Member	Vote (Yes/No)
Council Member Gene Taylor	voted: <u>Acting as Mayor</u>
Council Member 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 Mayor then announced that the above and foregoing Resolution passed upon a vote of 5 to 0 and thereby announced that the above and foregoing Resolution was:

ADOPTED, THIS THE 20th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2016.

ROBERT E. SMITH, SR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

MILTON RAWLE, SECRETARY/TREASURER

GUIDELINES FOR CITY REWARD PROGRAM

The City will have two dedicated phone numbers, a primary and a secondary number for callers to call. These phones will initially be in the possession of Assistant Chief Fred Shelton and Captain Brent Swan or alternate members of the Police Department assigned by the Chief to receive tips. These phone numbers are 662 _____ - _____ and 662 _____ - _____. These phones will be on and answered 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to receive tip calls.

Upon receipt of the information, City Police Department will investigate the information provided.

In order for a person to be eligible for a reward, the person must execute a sworn statement and give it to the assigned investigator.

In determining eligibility for a reward, the following factors shall be considered:

Whether the information furnished directly leads to an arrest and conviction of the violator and was not already documented by the City Police Department.

Whether the information furnished included a name, physical description, or other information about the identity of the suspect sufficient to lead to arrest and conviction of the suspect.

Whether photographs or other documented evidence is provided by the citizen(s) making the report and leads law enforcement directly to the violator.

If a suspect is convicted from such information, the Assistant Chief will promptly report to the Chief and the Mayor that a person was apprehended and convicted based upon information provided by a citizen. The Mayor will then present the information to the Citizen's Police Oversight Committee for consideration and thereafter placed on the City's claims docket for consideration.

LIMITS ON ISSUANCE OF REWARDS

1. Recipients must be over the age of 21. In the event the witness is a minor, the reward shall be furnished to the minor's parents and/or legal guardian.
2. Only one reward is to be paid out per crime. The fact that the same person furnished two or more pieces of information that led to the arrest and conviction shall not result in the issuance of additional rewards.
3. In the event that one or more persons furnish identical information leading to the arrest and conviction of the violator, as determined by the Chief and the Citizens Police Oversight Committee, the reward shall be provided to the person who first provided a sworn statement.

PERSONS INELIGIBLE FOR REWARD

Those persons, including member of their families, who are determined by law enforcement to have in any way committed, participated, encouraged, allowed or facilitated the illegal conduct to occur;

- Any law enforcement personnel and their immediate families;
- City employees and their immediate families; and
- The victim of the crime in question and their immediate families.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no Executive Session matters.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Vice-Mayor then asked if there was any other business to come before the Mayor and City Council. There being none, Council Member Mickens moved that the meeting be adjourned. Upon second by Council Member Turner and unanimous vote, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

Approved by: _____
Gene Taylor, Vice-Mayor

**Milton Rawle, Jr.,
CFO- Secretary-Treasurer**

(THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY)