

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS JANUARY 17, 2017

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, 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, Sr. called the meeting to order and called upon Pastor Ed Maurer, Pastor of First Christian Church, to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 3, 2017.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of January 3, 2017. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR JANUARY 17, 2017.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for January 17, 2017 in the amount of \$1,145,719.01. 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:

Add Item "L" - *Accept letter of resignation from one (1) CPD Officer, effective January 20, 2017.*

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "G" – *Discuss/Approve Speed Hump on Conway Drive.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Add one (1) Prospective Litigation matter and one (1) Personnel Matter. 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.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request to refund citizens Latasha Straughter the sum of \$375.00 and Wilbert Spates the sum of \$270.00 for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center Rental.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Edmond Brock to attend "Fire Officer 1021-II" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$615.00 for registration, \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Wes Mims, Michael Miller, Marco Rodriguez, Dale Ballard, Taylor Mitchell and Chris Carter to attend "Joint Training Exercise" to be held Camp Shelby, and approve payment of \$150.00 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Justin Cox to attend "Hazardous Materials Technician - I" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment for registration, travel and meal expenses.
- E. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Tommy Massey to attend "R0312: Command and Control of Incident Operations" to be held in Emmitsburg, MD, and approve payment of \$300.00 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- F. Ratify request for Fire and Rescue personnel Matt Jaynes to attend "National Registry of EMT Exam" to be held in Tupelo, MS, and approve payment of \$70.00 for the exam fee and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- G. Approve request for three (3) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "Grain Bin Simulator and Rescue Training" to be held in West Point, MS, at no cost to City.
- H. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Kirk Gayle to attend "Joint Training Exercise" to be held Camp Shelby, and approve payment of \$109.00 for lodging, \$150.00 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- I. Approve request to advertise internally for the full-time Collection Clerk position in the Municipal Court Division.
- J. Approve request to advertise for "NOTICE OF INTENT OF THE CITY OF

COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI TO ACCEPT SEALED BIDS FOR THE PUBLICATION IN A QUALIFIED NEWSPAPER OF PROCEEDINGS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS, AND OTHER REQUIRED NOTICES OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, PURSUANT TO SECTION 21-39-3 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS ANNOTATED”.

- K. Approve request for HR Director, Pat Mitchell, to attend the “Spring Session of the Mississippi Certified Municipal/Deputy Clerk Training” to be held in Oxford, MS, and approve payment of \$200.00 for registration, \$375.00 for lodging, \$123.05 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- L. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Benny Bush, effective January 20, 2017.

Council Member Box 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 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 from the Mayor and Council.

B. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for December 2016

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

C. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for December 2016

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

D. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for December 2016

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

E. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for December 2016

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for December

2016 was presented. No action was taken.

F. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for December 2016

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

G. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for December 2016

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

H. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for December 2016

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

I. Monthly Financial Report

Milton Rawle, Jr., CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report and remarked that sales taxes were down by \$5,133.14, compared to the same time last year.

J. Board Vacancies

David Armstrong, COO, remarked that no appointments to boards will be made tonight.

Tree Board

- 2 Vacancies
- 3-Year Terms
- Terms expired for Christina Berry and Fred Kinder on 12/5/2016
- Appointments can be made immediately.
- No applicants at this time

Zoning Board of Adjustment & Appeals

- 2 Vacancies
- 3-Year Terms
- Terms for Chris Chain and Rob Graham will expire 2/1/2017.
- Rob Graham was appointed on 10/4/2016 to fill remainder of Fred Kinder's unexpired term .
- Appointments can be made on 2/21/2017.
- No applicants at this time

Convention & Visitors Bureau

- Two Vacancies
- 3-Year Terms
- At-Large Appointments for Whirlie Byrd and Nadia Dale Colom will expire on 3/1/2017.
- Appointments can be made on 2/21/2017.
- No applicants at this time

Columbus Municipal School District

- One Vacancy
- 5-Year Term
- Jason Spears' term will expire on 3/1/2017.
- Appointments can be made on 2/21/2017.

Applicant

- Jason Spears

Board of Adjustment & Appeal of Development Codes

- One Vacancy
- 1-Year Term
- Kevin Stafford's term will expire on 3/15/2017.
- Appointments can be made on 3/14/2017.
- No applicants at this time

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

- Betty Collier – Car Auction/Columbus Livestock and Fairgrounds Moratorium
- Jane Jordan and Dodie Colvin – Columbus Livestock and Fairgrounds Moratorium

Attorney Mark Jackson came forward and remarked that he was representing Ms. Betty Collier, Ms. Jane Jordan and Mr. Dodie Colvin in the case involving the Columbus Livestock and Fairgrounds Moratorium. Attorney Jackson stated that he hoped to present a plan at the February 7th Council Meeting and wished to continue serving the public with a request to continue holding events at the Fairgrounds that does not require a permit.

Council Member Box made a motion to amend the Moratorium to allow non-permitted events to be held at the Fairgrounds. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

- A. Discuss/Approve request to fill vacant Laborer position in the Public Works Department, contingent upon successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire **Lannie Walker** as a Laborer in the Public Works Department at \$10.00 per hour, 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.

- B. Discuss/Approve request to fill vacant Laborer/Tractor Operator position in the Public Works Department, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire **Dustin Pitts** as a Laborer/Tractor Operator in the Public Works Department at \$10.50 per hour, 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.

- C. Discuss/Approve Design Fee for Neel-Schaffer and Utility Relocation by Columbus Light & Water for the 7th Avenue Ditch Project.**

Robyn Eastman, with J-5, came forward and presented two (2) checks from the Greenfield Environmental Trust Fund, one (1) in the amount of \$47,000 to the Engineers, Neel-Schaffer, Inc. for design work in the box culvert project and a check in the amount of \$55,000.00 to Columbus Light & Water Department for Utility Relocation for the 7th Avenue Ditch Project. No action was taken.

The Ribbon cutting ceremony will be held January 24, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. on 7th Avenue.

- D. Discuss/Approve the hiring of two (2) lateral transfers, one (1) Sergeant and one (1) Police Officer, contingent upon a successful pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire two (2) lateral transfers,

Sergeant John Bishop at \$19.78 per hour and Officer Greg Finney at \$15.75 per hour, 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.

E. Discuss/Approve the hiring of an Animal Control Officer, contingent upon a successful pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.

Council Member Box made a motion to hire Joshua Sharp as full-time Animal Control Officer at \$11.75 per hour, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Discuss/Approve Baptist Hospital Proposal for Medical Clinic.

Pat Mitchell, Human Resources Director, presented the proposal from Baptist Hospital for a Medical Clinic. The rate for the City of Columbus is \$359.38 per covered individual annually, which is \$169,627.36, based on 472 individuals. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the agreement between the City of Columbus and Baptist Hospital for a Medical Clinic to be utilized by the City of Columbus, Lowndes County, and Columbus Light and Water, with the City's annual cost being \$359.38 per covered individual (\$169,627.36). Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

G. Discuss/Approve speed hump on Conway Drive.

Council Member Turner made a motion to approve two (2) speed Humps/traffic calming devices on Conway Drive to calm cut-through traffic from Sand Road to Highway 50 E. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

CLOSED DETERMINATION:

Council Member Jones made a motion to go into closed session to determine whether it is necessary to go into Executive Session. Council Member Turner 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 CFO, the Police Chief, and the HR Director, exited the Council Chambers.

Mayor Smith apprised the Council of a Prospective Litigation matter and a Personnel matter, and remarked that these matters warrant being heard in Executive Session.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss one (1) Perspective Litigation matter and 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 to discuss one (1) Perspective Litigation matter and one (1) personnel matter.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

PROSPECTIVE LITIGATION MATTER (1)

Attorney Corky Smith approached the podium to discuss Plantation Pointe, Series A and Series B.

Mr. Smith reported that over the course of time since the special assessment bonds were issued, that the property owners where the project was completed had been paying their assessments and that the total sum of \$18,762.24 was overpaid by the property owners being assessed and that he had a tentative compromise with the owners of the bonds referenced for that sum.

PERSONNEL MATTER (1)

Council Member Taylor began by directing remarks to employee, I. D. Number 379, stating that he has comments about a recent article that appeared in the Commercial Dispatch. The employee responded by saying that the article did not reflect all that was said. Numerous other comments were made about the job performance of the employee and the problems existing in the Police

Department.

OPEN SESSION:

Council Member Box made a motion to end the discussion of the matter and return to Open Session. Council Member Taylor 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 prospective litigation and voted to pay \$18,762.24 for Special Assessment overpayments and one (1) matter of personnel involving the job performance of a City employee in Executive Session, and took no action.

Mayor Smith then informed the Council that he had a proposed contract with Dr. K.B. Turner and that Dr. Turner had offered to work with the Police Department to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of the City for a fee of \$19,000.00 for six (6) months, plus his reasonable costs incurred to perform the services offered. Council Member Mickens made a motion to hire Dr. K. B. Turner as a Consultant to the police department at \$19,000.00 for six (6) months. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

The 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

MINUTES
JANUARY 17, 2017

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**