

**MEETING OF  
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS  
MARCH 21, 2017**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 21, 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 Council Member Box to offer the Invocation.

**II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2017.**

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of March 7, 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 MARCH 21, 2017.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for March 21, 2017, in the amount of \$563,407.83. Council Member Mickens 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 "P" – *Approve exchange of three (3) parcels of property for one (1) Kohler Diesel Generator from Lowndes County E911 and add to City Inventory List.*

**CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:**

Add Julie Parker and Bart Lawrence – Princess Theater to the Citizens Input Agenda.

**POLICY AGENDA:**

Add Item "A" – *Discuss/Approve Ordinance Regulating Opening and Closing Times of Certain Businesses within the C-2 Business District.*

Add Item "G" – *Discuss/Approve request to hire one (1) Entry-Level Fire Fighter, contingent upon completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.*

Add Item "H" – *Discuss/Approve request from CCVB to block off 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Main Street to 4<sup>th</sup> and College Street and 5<sup>th</sup> and College street to 5<sup>th</sup> and Main Street, from 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 31, 2017 until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, 2017 for Catfish in the Alley.*

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion. Mayor Smith 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, Taylor Mitchell, to attend the "SC Rope Rescue Technician-I" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Personnel, Michael Miller, to attend "Structural Collapse Class" to be held in Olive Branch MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Notary Bond Renewal for Municipal Court Clerk, Linda Weaver.
- D. Approve request for Municipal Court Administrator, Wendy Blunt, to attend the "2017 Municipal Court Administrators Spring Conference" to be held in Biloxi, MS, at no cost to City.
- E. Approve request for Public Works Director Casey Bush and Landfill Supervisor, Roger Lewis, to attend the "Mississippi Class I Rubbish Site Operator Certification Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$182.00 each for lodging, \$60.91 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- F. Approve request for Victims Advocate Coordinator, Dorothy Givens, to attend the "Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Training" to be held in Southaven, MS, and approve payment for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- G. Ratify request for the Interim City Planner to attend the "CDBG Workshop" that was held in Flowood, MS, on March 9, 2014, and approve payment for lodging and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- H. Approve permit request from Councilman Stephen Jones on behalf of the family of Hayden Allen to host the "Hayden Allen Benefit" from 12:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. on March 26, 2017. He is requesting to block off 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North (Elbow Room) between 4<sup>th</sup> Street North and 5<sup>th</sup> Street North (Zachary's).

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- I. Approve permit request submitted by Kerry Blanton on behalf of the Animal Clinic to host the “Four (4) Paws for Cause 5K Fun Run and One (1) Mile Walk Fundraiser” to be held at the Riverwalk from 7:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on April 8, 2017.
- J. Approve request for CPD Captain Brent Swan to attend the “Cell Phone Mapping & Analysis Training” to be held in Corinth, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel expenses.
- K. Approve request for CPD Captain Brent Swan to attend the “Social Media & Technical Skills Training” to be held in Corinth, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel expense.
- L. Approve request for CPD Investigator Samuel Jackson to attend the “Leadership Skills Training” to be held in Birmingham, AL, and approve payment of \$325.00 for registration, \$192.00 for lodging and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- M. Approve request for CPD Investigator Samuel Jackson to attend the “Electronic Device Crime Scene Search and Evidence Recovery Training” to be held in Gonzales, LA, and approve payment of \$275.00 for registration, \$180.00 for lodging, travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- N. Approve request for CPD Investigator Tabertha Hardin to attend the “Decision Making Skills for the Supervisors Training” to be held in Birmingham, AL, and approve payment of \$325.00 for registration, \$384.00 for lodging and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- O. Approve request for CPD Officer Aaron Andrew to attend the “Field Training Officer II Training” to be held in Corinth, MS, and approve payment of \$240.00 for registration and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- P. Approve exchange of three (3) parcels of property for one (1) Kohler Diesel Generator from Lowndes County E11 and add to City Inventory List.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. Mayor Smith 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**

- American Red Cross Proclamation

Mayor Smith presented a Proclamation to local members of the American Red Cross in observation of American Red Cross Week. Carole Summerall thanked the Mayor and the City Council for the Proclamation.

Mayor Smith announced that the Annual Mayor’s Unity Picnic will be held April 1, 2017 at the Riverwalk and invited the public to attend.

### **B. Swearing in of two (2) Fire and Rescue Personnel**

- Jaquay Sherrod
- Wesley Gates

Mayor Smith, Fire Chief Martin Andrews and the Fire Department Command Staff came forward as Mayor Smith read the Oath of Office to Firefighters Jaquay Sherrod and Wesley Gates.

**C. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for February 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for February 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

**D. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for February 2017**

The Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for February 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

**E. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for February 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for February 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

**F. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for February 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for February 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

**G. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for February 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for February 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

**H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for February 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for February 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

**I. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for February 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for February 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

**J. Monthly Financial Report**

Milton Rawle, CFO, reported that the sales taxes for March decreased by \$13,418.63, compared to the same time last year.

**K. Board Vacancies**

**Tree Board**

- 1 Vacancy
- 3-Year Term
- Term expired for Christina Berry on 12/5/2016.
- Appointment can be made immediately.

- No applicants at this time

## **VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA**

- SHARON LEWIS – Potholes **(NO SHOW)**
- JULIE PARKER – The Princess Theater

Ms. Julie Parker came before the Mayor and Council on behalf of the Neighborhood Watch Committee and expressed concerns about the crime and recent shootings at the Princess Theater. Legal Counsel, Mark Jackson, came forward to discuss proposed measures to be implemented at the Princess Theater to help curtail crime. These measures include:

- Cutting hours of operation to 10:00 p.m. seven (7) days a week.
- Close the theatre section, which will reduce the occupancy level by 325 to 168 persons.

Mayor Smith requested that Chief Lewis, the Neighborhood Watch Committee and Council Members meet and discuss this matter further.

Council Member Box made a motion to accept Mayor Smith's recommendation, set up a committee to meet with Mr. Lawrence and revisit the matter in two (2) weeks. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

## **VIII. POLICY AGENDA:**

### **A1. Discuss/Approve Ordinance Regulating Opening and Closing Times of Certain Businesses Within The C-2 Business District.**

The Mayor announced that this matter was moot as a result of the above discussion.

### **A. Discuss/Approve request to hire one (1) Laborer for the Public Works Department, contingent upon a successful pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire Eddie Isaac, Jr. as a Laborer in the Public Works Department at an hourly rate of \$10.00, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam 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 hire one (1) Equipment Operator for the Rubbish Pit Landfill, contingent upon a successful pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.**

Council Member Turner made a motion to hire Taboris Harris as an Equipment Operator at the Landfill at an hourly rate of \$14.00, 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 request for the City Engineer to determine ADA Compliance of Existing Elevator in City Hall.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to authorize the City Engineer, Kevin Stafford, to determine ADA Compliance of the existing Elevator in City Hall. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**D. Discuss/Approve request to apply for the CDBG Public Facilities Grant.**

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the request for George Irby, Interim Planner, to apply for the CDBG Public Facilities Grant for the purpose of upgrading the elevator in City Hall. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**E. Discuss/Approve Proposed Changes to Wrecker Ordinance Rates and Charges.**

David Armstrong, COO, came forward and apprised the Mayor and Council on proposed changes to the Wrecker Ordinance Rates and Charges for Wrecker companies in the Wrecker Rotation, which have not been adjusted in some time. Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the proposed Rate changes and charges. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE WRECKER ORDINANCE FOLLOWS:**

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**Sec. 33-6. Rates and charges.**

(1) **Rates to be Reasonable.** The rates and charges which may be charged and collected by the owner or operator of any wrecker within the city shall be reasonable, in accordance with generally accepted local rates, and if any such rates or charges should be found excessive or unreasonable by the Mayor and City Council upon appeal to it, the City Council may permanently revoke the permit of such owner or operator.

(2) **Backup and Hookup.** After the effective date of this Chapter, the maximum allowable rate for backup and hookup shall be \$195.00.

(3) **Storage.** The storage fees charged for storing towed vehicles shall be \$40.00 per day.

(4) **Removal and Delivery.** The charges to the vehicle owner for hooking up and pulling out of a vehicle from storage when delivering the vehicle back to the owner or the owner's agent, employee, insurer, or contractor shall be as follows:

(a) During the hours of 8:00 o'clock AM to 5:00 o'clock PM:

(i) For a vehicle that is drivable, \$10.00; and

(ii) For a vehicle that is not drivable, \$25.00; and

(b) During all hours other than as stated in subparagraph (a) of this Section, \$35.00, whether such vehicle is drivable or not.

(5) **Additional Charges.** Additional charges for expenses shall be reasonable and are subject to review, upon complaint, by the Wrecker Service Administrative Committee. Such additional charges may include reasonable costs of cleanup of the wreckage, winching, extra vehicles that might be required, and the necessary labor, supplies, materials and equipment to accomplish same as well as reasonable administrative fees.

(6) **Rates not Applicable to Heavy Wreckers.** Heavy Wreckers, when heavy wrecker use is required, shall not be subject to this wrecker ordinance.

(7) **Annual Meetings.** The Wrecker Service Administrative Committee shall meet annually and determine the maximum allowable rates, charges and fees. Said meeting shall be held at least one week in advance of the second meeting of the Mayor and City Council in June, so that the Mayor and Council can consider whether to approve changes to the maximum allowable backup and hookup rates and maximum storage rates for the next year upcoming, beginning July 1 of each year. In the event the Committee fails to meet or modify the rates described in this Section 33-6, then said rates shall remain the same as the year prior.

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\***Editor's note** - An ordinance enacted Sept. 14, 1982, did not specifically amend this Code; hence, codification of §§ 1 – 19 of said ordinance as Ch. 33 is at the discretion of the editor.

**Cross references** - Streets and sidewalks, Ch. 28; taxicabs, Ch. 30; traffic, Ch. 31.

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**F. Discuss/Approve recommendations from the Planning Commission Meeting of March 21, 2017.**

**Permitted Use Request – P/U 17-04**

**Mark G. Alexander**  
**Dynahealth, Inc.**  
**115 – 5<sup>th</sup> Street North**

The Planning Commission recommends approval to request to allow a (rear) portion of the ground floor as accessory to the second-level apartment, located in the C-2 (Community Commercial / Downtown General Business) District.

Council Member Taylor 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 allow a (rear) portion of the ground floor as accessory to the second-level apartment, located in the C-2 (Community Commercial /Downtown General Business) District be approved. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the Planning Commission's request. 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.

**G. Discuss/Approve request to hire one (1) Entry Level Fire Fighter, contingent upon a successful pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.**

Council Member Turner made a motion to hire Billy Ray Cunningham as an Entry-Level Firefighter, contingent on 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.

**H. Discuss/Approve request from CCVB to block off 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Main to 4<sup>th</sup> and College and 5<sup>th</sup> and College to 5<sup>th</sup> & Main from 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 31, 2017 until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, 2017 for Catfish in the Alley.**

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Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request from the CCVB to block off 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Main to 4<sup>th</sup> and College and 5<sup>th</sup> and College to 5<sup>th</sup> & Main from 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 31, 2017 until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, 2017 for "Catfish in the Alley". Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of 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 Mickens 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**

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