

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS JULY 6, 2017

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Thursday, July 6, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Robert Smith presided over the meeting. 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 Smith called the meeting to order and called upon Council Member Box to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 20, 2017.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of June 20, 2017. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR JULY 6, 2017.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for July 6, 2017, in the amount of \$818,689.92. 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 "K" – *Approve Victims' Advocate Grant.*

Add Item "L" – *Accept Letter of resignation from one (1) CPD Officer, effective July 9, 2017.*

Add Item "M" – *Approve purchase of one (1) full-page ad for the Mississippi Policy souvenir booklet.*

REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITION AGENDA:

Add Leon Speck as an applicant to the Municipal Election Commission Board.

CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

Add Eli Box – Eagle Scout Project – Statute of Liberty.

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "A1" – *Selection of Vice-Mayor*

Add Item "A2" – *Consider/Approve renewal on the same terms and conditions as presently engaged of the following:*

- *City Engineer*
- *Project Manager*
- *City Judges*
- *City Prosecuting Attorney*
- *City Public Defender*
- *City Attorney*

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.

The motion carried.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Ratify request for Fire and Rescue Personnel to travel to Hamilton, AL to retrieve the rescue ATV that is grant funded by Firehouse Subs and approve payment of \$30.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Personnel Mike Chandler and Derek Montanio to attend the "MS Minimum Standards and Certification Board" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Personnel Marquon Evans to attend the "Fire Service Instructor Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$380.00 for registration, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.

MINUTES
JULY 6, 2017

- D. Ratify request for the Class of 1967 "Reunion Parade" that was held on July 1, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and to block off streets beginning at the corner of 15th Street North and 7th Avenue North, with the parade ending on 20th Street North in front of the R. E. Hunt Museum.
- E. Ratify permit request for the "July 4th Homecoming for Southside" that was held on July 3 - 4, 2017 at the Hank Aaron Park from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and to block off 5th Street South to 7th Street South.
- F. Approve request to surplus one (1) Crown Victoria and donate it to the Columbus Municipal School District for the sum of one dollar (\$1.00).
- G. Approve request for CPD Captain, Brent Swan, to attend the "Mississippi 2017 Legal Update and Current Investigative Techniques Training" to be held in Corinth, MS, and approve payment of \$25.00 for travel expenses.
- H. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Judias Neal, effective June 20, 2017.
- I. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Thomas Pearson, III, effective July 10, 2017.
- J. Approve request for Interim City Planner, George Irby, to attend the "MS Policy Conference" to be held in Tunica, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- K. Approve Victims' Advocate Grant in the amount of \$41,670.00, with 25% match of \$13,890.00.
- L. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Greg Finney, effective July 9, 2017.
- M. Approve purchase of one (1) full-page ad for the Mississippi Policy souvenir booklet in the amount of \$550.00.

Council Member Taylor 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.

The motion carried.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Smith welcomed new Council Member, Fredrick Jackson, along with

returning Council Members.

B Board Vacancies

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that no appointments will be made tonight.

Historic Preservation Commission

- 1 Vacancy
- 4-Year Term for Fred McCaleb ended 5/16/2017.
- Appointment can be made immediately.
- No applicants at this time

Municipal Election Commission

- 2 Vacancies
- 4-Year Terms for Leon Speck, Josie S. Shumake ended 6/30/2017.
- Appointments can be made immediately.

Applicants

- Josie S. Shumake
- Willie Harris
- Tommy Jackson
- Berry Hinds
- Leon Speck

City Planning Commission

- 1 Vacancy to fill the unexpired 3-Year Term ending 12/1/2018
- William Bluit resigned 6/19/2017.
- Appointment can be made immediately.
- No applicants at this time

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

Kenny D. Frye– Rescind Derelict Property Abatement Order

Kenny D. Frye came before the Mayor and Council regarding a house at 1096 South Down Parkway. He recently purchased the property and requested that the Council rescind the order of immediate abatement and allow him to remediate the property. The case was previously heard by the Council February 3, 2016 and unanimously voted for immediate abatement. It was then placed on the list for demolition by the Public Works Department. The Public Works Department was behind in demolitions due to clearing property at the Rubbish Landfill, mandated by D.E.Q. Tomarris Jones, Code Enforcement Officer, was

invited to come to the podium and was asked what his recommendation was. Mr. Jones remarked that his recommendation is to grant Mr. Frye a **45-day** extension to remediate the property. Mayor Smith asked if there were members in the audience that objected. Two (2) neighbors that live on South Down Parkway came forward and expressed their concerns.

Council Member Jones made a motion to rescind the previous action of the Council for immediate abatement and give Mr. Frye 45 days to show substantial progress, after which, if he has made substantial progress, he could seek an enlargement of time to complete renovations. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

B. Eli Box – Eagle Scout Project – Statue of Liberty

Council Member Box recused himself and left the Council chambers.

Eli Box came before the Council with a request to restore the Statute of Liberty and provided a cost estimate to complete this Eagle Scout Project.

Council Member Gavin moved to approve the expenditure of \$500.00 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 Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Council Member Box re-entered in the Court Chambers.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A1. Selection of Vice-Mayor

Council Member Box made a motion to appoint Council Member Bill Gavin as Vice-Mayor. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Council Member Mickens made a motion to re-appoint Council Member Gene Taylor as Vice-Mayor. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

Council Members Taylor, Mickens, and Jones voted in favor of the motion. Council Members Box, Jackson, and Gavin voted against the motion, which presented a tie vote. Mayor Smith remarked that he was leaving this matter up to the Council. Council Member Gene Taylor then remarked that he declined the position.

Mayor Smith called for the question for the original motion.

Council Members Box, Jackson, and Gavin voted in favor of the motion. Council Members Mickens and Jones voted against the motion. Council Member Taylor withdrew abstained from voting.

The motion carried with a 3/2 vote.

A2. Consider/Approve renewal on the same terms and conditions as presently engaged of the following:

- **City Attorney**
- **Project Manager**
- **City Prosecuting Attorney**
- **City Engineer**
- **City Judges**
- **City Public Defender**

Council Member Gavin recused himself.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve renewal on the same terms and conditions as presently engaged of the following:

- **City Attorney**
- **Project Manager**
- **City Prosecuting Attorney**
- **City Engineer**
- **City Judges**
- **City Public Defender**

Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Council Member Gavin re-entered in the Court Chambers.

B. Discuss/Approve cost of property clean up on cases previously heard by Council and for which remediation has been completed.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to adjudicate the cost of property clean-up on cases previously heard by Council and for which remediation has been completed. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

THE ADJUDICATED LIST FOLLOWS:

C. Discuss/Approve acceptance of FAA's 2017 AIP Grant offer for the Airfield Drainage Improvements Project for the CLCA.

Kevin Stafford, the City's Engineer, came before the Council and requested the Acceptance of FAA's 2017 AIP Grant offer for the Airfield Drainage Improvement Project in the amount of \$126,181.00, with FAA's cost being 90%, MDOT 5%, and the City and County 2.5% each. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the acceptance of FAA's 2017 AIP Grant offer for the Airfield Drainage Improvement Project in the amount of \$126,181.00, with FAA's cost being 90%, MDOT 5%, and the City and County 2.5% each. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve permission request to award the CLCA Airfield Drainage Improvements Project to the lowest bidder, contingent upon the award of State funding.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the request to award the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport the bid to the lowest bidder for the Airfield Drainage Improvements Project, in the amount of \$110,979.00, including Alternates 1 & 2, contingent on the award of State funding. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve permission request to reject all bids for the CLCA Runway Rehabilitation Project.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to reject all bids for the Columbus-Lowndes County Runway Rehabilitation Project. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Discuss/Approve request to hire an Inventory/Asset Management Clerk on a full-time temporary basis, not to exceed 120 days.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire L. Berry Hinds as Inventory/Asset Management Clerk on a full-time temporary basis, not to exceed 120 days at \$15.00 per hour, with no benefits. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There are no Executive Session matters to come before the Mayor and 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

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