

# MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS JUNE 20, 2017

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 20, 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, with the exception of Council Member Turner, who was absent. Also present were the COO, CFO, General Counsel, Police Chief, and the Human Resources Director.

## I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Robert Smith called the meeting to order and called on Council Member Charlie Box to offer the Invocation.

## II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 6, 2017.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of June 6, 2017. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

## III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR JUNE 20, 2017.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for June 20, 2017 in the amount of \$412,418.87. 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

### **BOARD VACANCIES:**

Add Willie Harris as an applicant to the Municipal Election Commission Board.

### **POLICY AGENDA:**

Add Item "C" – *Discuss/Approve Purchase of new narcotics vehicle.*

Add Item "D" – *Discuss/Approve transfer of one (1) CPD Officer to the Narcotics Task Force, effective July 3, 2017.*

Add Item "E" – *Discuss/Approve Council's salary for the next term.*

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.

The motion carried.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve request to refund Tiffany Lockett the sum of \$270.00 for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center Rental.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Personnel Joseph Denton to attend "Rope Rescue Technician-I" and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Accreditation Manager Alan Lewis and Captain Steve Loden to attend the "Fire Inspector Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$885.00 each for registration, \$75.00 each for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Engineer Dale Ballard to attend the "Fire Department Safety Officer Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$360.00 for registration, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- E. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Engineer Joshua Boyer 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.
- F. Approve request for City of Columbus Personnel Glenn White, Chief Martin Andrews, Asst. Duane Hughes, and Shannon Murphy to travel to Union Grove, AL to retrieve a fire apparatus from Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus, and approve payment of \$150.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- G. Ratify permit request submitted by Barbara Dodd to host a "50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party" that was held on June 9, 2017 from 3:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at 1725 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and from 18<sup>th</sup> Street North to 19<sup>th</sup> Street North.
- H. Approve permit request submitted by Brad Atkins to host the "Possum Town Triathlon" to be held on August 19, 2017 from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. The event will begin at the Wilkins-Wise Road boat ramp area. Please see the attached route map.
- I. Approve request submitted by Annie Barry to host a "National Night Out Against Crime Block Party" to be held on August 1, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., and approve request to block off the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> Street South and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> Street South and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.
- J. Approve request for CPD Officer Kevin Burdine to attend "Roadside Interviews in Drug Investigations" to be held in Corinth, MS, and approve payment of \$25.00 for travel expenses.
- K. Approve request for Human Resources Director Pat Mitchell to attend the "40<sup>th</sup> Labor and Employment Law Conference" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$400.00 for registration, \$230.00 for lodging, \$274.78 for travel and reimbursement for meals.

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- L. Approve request for the Mayor and Council to attend the "MS Policy Conference" to be held in Tunica, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses.
- M. Approve request to refund a permit fee in the amount of \$20.00 to Winnie Wilson.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Consent 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.

## **VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:**

### **A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members**

There were no comments from the Mayor and Council Members.

### **B. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for May 2017**

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

### **C. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for May 2017**

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

### **D. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for May 2017**

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

### **E. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for May 2017**

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

### **F. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for May 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Code Division for May 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

### **G. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for May 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for May 2017 was presented. Council Member Jones asked Chief Lewis to send the Council an e-mail notifying them of a street closure. No action was taken.

### **H. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for May 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for May 2017 was

presented. No action was taken.

**I. Monthly Financial Report**

Milton Rawle, Jr., CFO, distributed Monthly Financial Statements and reported that sales taxes decreased for the Month of May by \$45,690.20, compared to the same time last year. No action was taken.

**J. Board Vacancies**

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various Boards and remarked that some appointments can be made tonight.

**Historic Preservation Commission**

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

**Golden Triangle Regional Airport Board**

- 1 Vacancy
- 5-Year Term for Johnny Fisher will end 6/19/2017.
- Appointment can be made June 20, 2017.

**Applicant**

- Johnny Fisher

Council Member Taylor made a motion to reappoint Johnny Fisher to the Golden Triangle Regional Airport Board for a five (5) Year Term, until June 20, 2022. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**City Utilities Commission**

- 1 Vacancy
- 5-Year Term for James Graham will end 6/30/2017.
- Appointment can be made June 20, 2017.

**Applicant**

- James D. "Jimmy" Graham

Council Member Taylor made a motion to reappoint Jimmy D. Graham to the Utilities Commission for a five year term, until June 20, 2022. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members Voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**Municipal Election Commission**

- 5 Vacancies

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- 4-Year Terms for Penesha McDowell Harrison, Leon Speck, Diane Sloan, Roy Milton Hicks and Josie S. Shumake will end 6/30/2017.
- Appointments can be made June 20, 2017.

**Applicants**

- Diane Sloan
- Roy Milton Hicks
- Penesha McDowell-Harrison
- Tommy Jackson
- Josie S. Shumake
- Willie Harris

Council Member Taylor made a motion to appoint Diane Sloan to the Election Commission. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

The Council Members voted 4-1 in favor of the appointment, with Council Member Box voting “no”.

The motion carried.

Council Member Jones made a motion to reappoint Roy Milton Hicks to the Election Commission. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

The Council Members voted unanimously in favor of the appointment.

The motion carried.

Council Member Jones made a motion to reappoint Penesha McDowell-Harrison to the Election Commission. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

The Council members voted 4-1 in favor of the appointment, with Council Member Box voting “no”.

The motion carried.

Council Member Jones moved to appoint Tommy Jackson to the Election Commission. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:**

Council Member Mickens made a substitute motion to table the remaining appointments, pending more applicants from the respective Wards, including Ward 2.

The Mayor announced that the substitute motion takes priority over the original motion, so he called for a vote on the substitute motion.

The Council voted 4-1 to table the motion, with Council Member Jones voting “no”.

The motion to table carried.

**Columbus Housing Authority**

- 1 Vacancy
- 5-Year Term for Willie Byrd will end 7/13/2017.
- Appointment can be made June 20, 2017.

**Applicants**

- Willie Byrd
- Tommy Jackson

Council Member Gavin Moved to appoint Tommy Jackson to the Columbus Housing Authority for a five (5) year term. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

The Council Members voted 2-3 in favor of the motion, with Council Members Jones, Taylor and Mickens voting “no”.

The motion failed.

Council Member Jones then moved to reappoint Willie Byrd to the Columbus Housing Authority for a five year term, to expire on June 20, 2022. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

The Council Members voted 3-2 in favor of the motion, with Council Members Box and Gavin voting “no.”

The motion carried.

**VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA**

- **Beth Proffitt – Ad Request for New Publication**  
Beth Proffitt, came before the Mayor and Council regarding a new advertising feature in the Commercial Dispatch and requested approval for the City to advertise in the July 30, 2017. The Council took this request under advisement.
- **Jermaine Pruitt – Community Counseling Program**  
Jermaine Pruitt, with Community Counseling Program, came before the Mayor and Council requesting financial support for underprivileged children for school supplies. Council Member Box 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 Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**VIII. POLICY AGENDA:**

- A. **Discuss/Approve request for Assignment of Contractor to replace windows in Columbus-Lowndes Public Library.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to accept the lowest quote in the amount of \$49,450.00 from Morrow Construction Services to replace thirty-six (36) windows in the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library, with the County paying ½ of the total cost and the City paying the other ½ of the total cost. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**B. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket.**

**KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN RAILWAY  
800 Block of 5<sup>th</sup> Street South  
Case Number 17-0066 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0066**. 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 Mickens 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.

**JOSHUA JONES  
119 King Street  
Case Number 17-0054 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0054**. 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 Mickens 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.

**MS State of Tax Sale  
Bell Avenue  
Case Number 17-0083 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0083**. 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 Box made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may cut 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.

**FLISHA HOLT  
3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South  
Case Number 17-0061 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0061**. 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 Box made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City cut 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.

**TONYA QUINN  
2005 Washington Ave.  
Case Number 17-0082 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0082**. 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 Box made a motion in

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accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may cut 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.

**MARY COOLEY c/o R. HALL**  
**Washington Avenue**  
**Case Number 17-0085 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0085**. 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 Box made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may cut 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.

**LISAMARIE NORRIS**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Street South**  
**Case Number 17-0084 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0084**. 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 Box made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may cut 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.

**ANNIE SYKES**  
**905 – 17<sup>th</sup> Street North**  
**Case Number 17-0023 Structure**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0023**. 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 Box 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.

**JOHN AND ALETH E. MANSLEY**  
**Waverly Ferry Road**  
**Case Number 17-0039 Vegetation/Structure**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0039**. 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 Box 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.

**C. Discuss/Approve Purchase of new narcotics vehicle.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to purchase a new 2017 vehicle in the amount of \$24,489.00, to be used by the Narcotics Task Force. Council Member Jones

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seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**D. Discuss/Approve transfer of one (1) CPD Officer to the Narcotics Task Force, effective July 3, 2017.**

Council Member Box made a motion to transfer Officer Cole Britt to the Narcotics Task Force, effective July 3, 2017. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**E. Discuss/Approve Council's salary for next term.**

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve a pay increase for Council Members from \$17,500.00 to \$20,500.00, effective 7/1/2017. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

After discussion, the Council Members voted 2-3 with Council Members Box, Jones and Gavin opposing the motion.

The motion failed.

**CLOSED DETERMINATION:**

Council Member Gavin made a motion to go into closed session to determine whether it is necessary to go into Executive Session. Council Member Box 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 one (1) Personnel Matter, and remarked that this matter warrants being heard in Executive Session.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss one (1) personnel matter. Council Member Jones 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) personnel matter.

**OPEN SESSION:**

Council Member Box made a motion to end the discussion of this 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) personnel matter involving the job performance of a person in the Police Department in Executive Session and voted to adhere to the Department Head's recommendation to suspend a Police Department employee for twenty-eight (28) working days for violation of the City's Social Media Policy.

**RECESS:**

The Mayor then asked if there was any other business to come before the Mayor and City Council. There being none, Council Member Box moved recess until July 6, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.. Upon second by Council Member Gavin and unanimous vote, the Mayor announced that the meeting was RECESSED.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Milton Rawle, Jr.,  
CFO- Secretary-Treasurer

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