

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS MARCH 7, 2017

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 7, 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 Smith called the meeting to order and called on Council Member Box to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2017.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of February 21, 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 MARCH 7, 2017.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for March 7, 2017, in the amount of \$1,114,776.34. Council Member Box 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:

Change the wording on Item "M" to read: *Approve request for the CPD to fundraise and solicit donation for "National Night Out On Crime," to be held August 1, 2017 and additional fundraisers, which include the "Haunted House," "Black & White Ball," and the Toy Drive.*

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Add Item "P" – *Accept letter of resignation from one (1) Public Works Department Laborer, effective March 9, 2017, and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process.*

POLICY AGENDA:

Change the wording on Item "B" to read: *Discuss/Approve request to hire one (1) certified Police Officer and three (3) Entry-Level Police Officers, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.*

Add two (2) Laborers to Item "N".

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 their being none, the Council voted unanimously in favor of the same.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Accept letter of resignation from Firefighter William L. Boren, effective March 14, 2017, and approve request for compensation for unused vacation leave.
- B. Accept letter of resignation from Firefighter William McReynolds, effective March 11, 2017, and approve request for compensation of up to 240 hours of unused vacation leave.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Fire Marshal, Brett Thompson, to attend the "Mississippi Fire Investigators Association 2017 Spring Seminar" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$125.00 for registration, \$90.00 for lodging, \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Assistant Chief, Duane Hughes, to attend "CC-201: Creating Your Own Brand" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$109.00 for lodging, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- E. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Deputy Fire Marshall, Madison Guyton, to attend "R0206: Fire Investigation: Essentials" to be held in Emmitsburg, MD, and approve reimbursement of meal expenses.
- F. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Captain, Melvin Junkin, to attend "Swift Water Training" to be held in Picayune, MS, and approve payment of \$100.00 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- G. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Shannon Murphy, Steve Loden, Marco Rodriguez, and Dale Ballard to attend the "Swift Water Training" to be held in Picayune, MS, and approve payment of \$100.00 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.

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- H. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief, Scott Swain, to attend the "Swift Water Training" to be held in Picayune, MS for Task Force II, and approve payment of \$100.00 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses. All costs will be reimbursed by the Department of Homeland Security.
- I. Approve request for the CPD to fundraise for Reserve Officer Kenneth Brewer's daughter who is battling cancer.
- J. Approve request for Forensic Chemist, Claudette Gilman, to attend the "13 Critical Tasks Training" to be held in Pearl, MS, at no cost to City.
- K. Approve request for CPD Captain, Brent Swan, to attend the "Firearm Crime Reduction Workshop" to be held in Pearl, MS, and approve payment of \$25.00 for travel expense.
- L. Approve permit request submitted by Johnny Peters to host the "Uncle Bunky 10K Run Walk and 1 Mile Kid Fun Run" to be held on March 25, 2017, from 7:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. See attached route map.
- M. Approve request for the CPD to fundraise and solicit donation for "National Night Out On Crime," to be held August 1, 2017 and additional fundraisers, which include the "Haunted House," "Black & White Ball," and the Toy Drive.
- N. Accept request to purchase undercover tags.
- O. Accept letter of retirement from CPD Patrol Division Captain, Donald Elkin, effective April 20, 2017, and approve request for compensation for 240 hours vacation time and that his sick leave be applied to his retirement. He also requests to purchase his service weapon for \$10.00, according to City policy.
- P. Accept letter of resignation from Public Works Department Laborer, Eldon Bontrager, effective March 9, 2017, and authorize HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.

Council Member Jones 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 the same.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

Ms. Cindy Lawrence, representing the Juneteenth Festival, submitted a letter requesting approval to sell beer on June 16 & 17, 2017 in Sim Scott Park during the Festival.

Mr. Greg Lewis, Director of the Park and Recreation Authority, came forth and announced Spring Break events and remarked that flyers will be circulated.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to authorize the sale of beer in Sim Scott Park, June 16 & 17, 2017 during the Juneteenth Festival. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

Council Members Taylor, Jones, and Gavin voted in favor of the motion. Council Members Mickens, Box and Turner opposed the motion, which resulted in a tie vote.

Mayor Smith voted in favor of the request; therefore, the motion carried.

Mayor Smith reported that Lowndes County Sheriff Chief Deputy, Marc Miley, has requested permission to use one of the City-owned motorcycles for public relations purposes. Council Member Gavin made a motion to grant Lowndes County Sheriff Department the use of one of the City-owned motorcycles for public relations purposes. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

B. 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

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 3/7/2017.

Applicant

- Kevin Stafford

Council Member Mickens made a motion to reappoint Kevin Stafford to the Board of Adjustment & Appeal of Development Codes for a one (1) year term, until March 15, 2018. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.,

The motion carried.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

DIANE FORD – Columbus Suzuki Strings Advanced Ensemble

Ms. Diane Ford came before the Mayor and Council, introduced Ms. Trudy Gildea, founder of the Suzuki Strings Advanced Ensemble, and the members. The Ensemble played three (3) musical pieces. Ms. Ford announced that the Suzuki Strings will be traveling to New York and performing at Carnegie Hall and are raising fund for the cause. She requested financial support from the City.

Council Member Turner moved to ratify the expenditure of \$1,500.00 from 001-004-793 (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 Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Council Member Stephen Jones remarked that he would donate \$250.00 to the cause.

TOMMIE ROSS – Police Harassment

Mr. Tommie Ross approached the podium with a complaint of alleged harassment by the Columbus Police Department. Following his statement, Mayor Smith asked that he schedule an appointment with the Police Chief regarding his allegations.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

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

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire DeAnthony Summerville as an Entry-Level Firefighter, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.

- B Discuss/Approve to hire one (1) certified Police Officer and three (3) Entry-Level Police Officers, contingent upon a successful pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.**

Council Member Turner made a motion to hire Christian Benton as a Certified Police Officer and Emily Konior, Haley Lucas, and Judias Neal as Entry-Level Police Officers, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Approve Resolution requesting to apply for a Recreational Trails Program Grant through Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

Council Member Taylor made a motion to accept the request made by Interim Planner, George Irby, to approve a Resolution requesting for a Recreational Trails Program Grant through Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

The foregoing Resolution as moved by Council Member TAYLOR , seconded by Council Member GAVIN , and the vote to adopt was as follows:

<u>COUNCIL MEMBER:</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Council Member Gene Taylor	<u>X</u>	
Council Member Charlie Box	<u>X</u>	
Council Member Joseph Mickens	<u>X</u>	
Council Member Marty Turner	<u>X</u>	
Council Member Stephen Jones	<u>X</u>	
Council Member Bill Gavin	<u>X</u>	

THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the United States of America, acting through the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, can make monies available to cities and counties for recreational trails; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi has been authorized to implement the RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, Mississippi is eligible to apply for these funds.

THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council for the City of Columbus, Mississippi that an application to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks for a \$120,000 Recreational Trails Program Grant be and is hereby is, APPROVED.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION as moved by Council Member TAYLOR , seconded by Council Member GAVIN , and the vote to adopt was as follows:

<u>COUNCIL MEMBER:</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
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OPEN SESSION:

Council Member Taylor made a motion to end the discussion of this matter and return to Open Session. 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 back in Open Session.

The General Counsel reported that the Mayor and Council discussed three (3) personnel matters, one (1) involving the health condition of a Fire and Rescue Department employee and voted to grant him up to twelve (12) additional weeks of medical leave, and suspended two (2) Public Works Department employees for sixty (60) days without pay and placed them on a one (1) year probation.

ADJOURNMENT:

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 that the 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