

**MEETING OF  
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS  
AUGUST 1, 2017  
3:00 p.m.**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 1, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Robert Smith, Sr. 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 upon Pastor Steven James, pastor of United Christian M. B. Church, to offer the Invocation.

**II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 18, 2017.**

Council Member Jackson made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of July 18, 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 AUGUST 1, 2017.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for August 1, 2017, in the amount of \$628,965.50. 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 "G" – Approve request for one (1) Councilman to attend the "47<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Conference" to be held in Washington, D.C., and approve payment of registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses.*

**BOARD VACANCIES:**

Add Devian Harris as an applicant for the City Planning Commission Board.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, all Council Members voted in favor of same, with the exception of Council Member Gavin, who opposed.

The motion carried.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Deputy Fire Marshall, Madison Guyton, to attend the "Mississippi Fire Officer Program" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$318.00 for lodging, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Engineer, Chris Carter, to attend "Rope Rescue II Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Personnel, Michael Miller and Chris Carter to attend the "MLPI/VSP Refresher Class" to be held in Meridian, MS, and approve payment of \$75.00 for travel expenses.
- D. Approve permit request submitted by Donna Hankee on behalf of Eastside #1 Neighborhood Watch to host National Night Out on August 1, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and approve to block off the streets at Eastside Gym on Lawrence Street from Maple Street past the gym.
- E. Approve request for one CPD Captain, Brent Swan, to attend the "Homicide Conference" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$125.00 for registration, \$356.00 for lodging, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- F. Ratify approval of Temporary Easement for ditch cleaning at the Columbus Light & Water Department Waste Water Treatment Plant by Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District.
- G. Approve request for Councilman Mickens to attend the "47<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Conference" to be held in Washington, DC, and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to move Item "G" to the Policy Agenda. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

The Council Members voted 2-4 in favor of the motion, with Council Members Taylor, Mickens, Jackson and Jones voting "no."

The motion failed.

Council Member Taylor 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, Council Members Taylor, Mickens, Jackson and Jones voted in favor of the motion. Council Members Box and Gavin opposed.

The motion carried.

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

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

- **Proclamation – National Night Out On Crime**

Mayor Smith presented a Proclamation to Chief Oscar Lewis in recognition of National Night Out On Crime, which is today, August 1, 2017 and announced all of the sites where events will be held.

- **Budget Hearing in City Hall Courtroom, Wednesday, 8/2/2017 at 2:30 p.m.**

David Armstrong, COO, announced that the City will hold a Budget Hearing in the City Hall Courtroom, Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.

### **B. Swearing in of two (2) CPD Officers**

Mayor Smith swore in CPD Officers, Edgar Lemus and Hugh McCarty as they recited the Oath of Office.

- Edgar Lemus
- Hugh McCarty

### **C. Board Vacancies**

#### **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

#### **City Planning Commission**

- 1 Vacancy to fill the unexpired 3-Year Term ending 12/1/2018
- William Bluitt resigned 6/19/2017.
- Appointment can be made immediately.

#### **Applicants**

- Jason Bigelow
- Devian Harris

Council Member Gavin made a motion to appoint Jason Bigelow to the City Planning Commission for a three (3)-year term, until June 19, 2020.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion

The motion carried.

## **VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA**

## **VIII. POLICY AGENDA:**

### **A. Discuss/Approve Golden Triangle Waste Services Agreement.**

David Armstrong, COO, came before the Mayor and Council and requested approval of the Golden Triangle Waste Services Agreement with Golden Triangle Cooperative Service District. The current contract expires August 31, 2017 and, if approved, the new contract will commence September 1, 2017 thru August 31, 2023.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Golden Triangle Services Agreement, which will extend from September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2023. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

### **B. Discuss/Approve acceptance of STOP Grant and matching amount of \$55,560.00.**

Dorothy Given, Victims Advocate Coordinator, came before the Mayor and Council and requested approval of the STOP Grant in the amount of \$55,560.00. Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the STOP Grant in the amount of \$55,560.00, with the City's match being \$13,890.00. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

### **C. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket.**

**GREATER LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH  
c/o J. K. Williams  
711 – 7<sup>th</sup> Street South  
Case Number 17-0080 Vegetation**

MINUTES  
AUGUST 1, 2017

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0080**. 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 Taylor 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 Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**MS STATE OF TAX SALE**  
**2211 – 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**  
**Case Number 17-0137 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0137**. 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 Taylor 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 Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**ARTHUR H. AND LINDA HARPER R-TR**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**  
**Case Number 17-0160 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0160**. 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

MINUTES  
AUGUST 1, 2017

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 Taylor 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 Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**DEMOVILLE / 1420 SCHOOLHOUSE AVE., LLC**  
**1420 & 1422 SCHOOLHOUSE AVENUE**  
**Case Number 17-0172 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0172**. 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 Taylor 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 Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**MS STATE TAX SALE**  
**1212 – 6<sup>th</sup> Street South**  
**Case Number 17-0200 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0200**. 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 Taylor 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

MINUTES  
AUGUST 1, 2017

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.

**ROBERT L. WRIGHT**

**211 Sylvan Road**

**Case Number 17-0021 Rubbish, garbage, property maintenance violation,  
accessory structure**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0021**. 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 Jones 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 Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**THOMAS MORGAN**

**6<sup>th</sup> Street South**

**Case Number 17-0151 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0151**. 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 Taylor 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 Jones seconded the motion.

MINUTES  
AUGUST 1, 2017

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**MS STATE OF TAX SALE**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**  
**Case Number 17-0161 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0161**. 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 Jones 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 Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**MARY F. WELLS**  
**2606 McArthur Drive**  
**Case Number 17-0165 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0165**. 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 Jones 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 Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**MARK S. AND KELLY B. FRADY**  
**315 – 19<sup>th</sup> Street South**  
**Case Number 17-0169 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0169**. 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 Jones 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 Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**CROSS REGIONAL FUNDING, LP**  
**503 – 11<sup>th</sup> Street North & 1019 – 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**  
**Case Number 17-0175 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0175**. 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 Jones 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 Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**BELL PROPERTY DESIGN GROUP, LLC**  
**1018 Waterworks Road**  
**1019 Waterworks Road**  
**Case Number 17-0194 & 17-0195 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause numbers **17-0194 & 17-0195**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated the property was in

such a state of uncleanness 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 Jones 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 Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**D. Discuss/Approve CPD Consultant's Final Review and Report.**

Dr. K. B. Turner, Columbus Police Department's Consultant, came before the Mayor and Council to discuss his final Review and Report that has taken place the last six (6) months. Dr. Turner began by stating that a copy of the entire Evaluation should be distributed to the media, the Library, Post Office, City Hall, and any other public place deemed necessary. *"My primary task was to address staffing issues. Employee turnover occurs in most, if not all organizations. A police department is not immune from employee turnover. The experience in officer turnover at the Columbus Police Department however, is highly atypical. The precipitous drop to 46 officers from 67 represented a serious dilemma for this community."* Dr. Turner then listed some of the tasks:

**RANDOM INTERACTION WITH STAKEHOLDERS**

During the period of the evaluation, the Consultant:

- Met with officers of the Columbus Police Department in a mandatory general assembly meeting for introductions.
- Hosted separate Public Safety Forums in each of the six city council wards for an introduction and to engage citizens.
- Completed more than 60 interviews and meetings with members of CPD command staff, department personnel, city officials, elected officials, City department heads, City employees, community members and other stakeholders.
- Facilitated two effective Career Day recruiting events at the CPD resulting in approximately 70 applications submitted for consideration.
- Aided and closely monitored the application and hiring process that led to the hiring of 30 new police officers.

MINUTES  
AUGUST 1, 2017

- Appeared before the City Council to provide a verbal progress report on the evaluation.
- Met with the Chief and Assistant Chief to share limited information regarding some of the initial preliminary findings from the evaluation.
- Reviewed organizational chart, rank structure, officer assignments, and training needs.
- Met and communicated on a regular basis with all police recruits to monitor their progress through their state required basic academy training.
- Facilitated the hiring of civilian volunteers to work at the CPD in a non-law enforcement capacity.
- Visited with newly hired civilian volunteers to welcome and express gratitude for their service to the Department and help to develop their orientation and training program.
- Discussed with the IT representative various technological advances that the Department should consider obtaining.
- Consulted with the Human Resources Director regarding the creation of a seamless real-time application process.
- Met with the Police Advisory Board to provide an update and to listen to their concerns.
- Attended a meeting to visit with members of neighborhood watch groups.
- Assisted in developing a training program for Field Training Officers (FTO) to insure quality control during the training of new recruits.

**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.,

MINUTES  
AUGUST 1, 2017

**CFO- Secretary-Treasurer**

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