

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 5, 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 Pastor Jason Delgado, Pastor of Vibrant Church, to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 17, & 22 2017.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meetings of August 15, 17, and 22, 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 SEPTEMBER 5, 2017.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for September 5, 2017 in the amount of \$882,445.70. Council Member Gavin 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 Item "F" to read – *Accept letter of retirement from one (1) Columbus Fire and Rescue Department Captain, effective October 7, 2017, and approve request to use ten (10) shifts of vacation, from September 10 – October 7, 2017.*

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Add Item "U" - *Ratify permit request submitted by Marty Turner to host a wedding that was held on September 3, 2017 from 8:00 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. with the intersection of 23rd St. North between 15th Ave. North and 16th Ave. North blocked off.*

CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

Add Jan Miller to the Citizens Input Agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Delete Personnel Matter

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. Council Member Taylor 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 for Fire and Rescue Chief of Training, Mike Chandler, to attend the "NFPA 1001-I-II Challenge" 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 Chief of Training, Mike Chandler, to attend "CPAT-E" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for four (4) Fire and Rescue Personnel: Eric Grant, Richard McBride, Eric Minga, and Shannon Murphy, to attend the "Investigator 1033" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$2,560.00 for registration, \$75.00 travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Personnel, Roderick Dillard and Brent Younger, to attend "EC Driver/Operator NFPA 1002" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$1,350.00 for registration, \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- E. Ratify request for Fire and Rescue Administrative Assistant, Tabitha Barham, to attend an "ESAP Meeting" held in Flowood, MS, and approve payment of \$25.50 for meal expenses.
- F. Accept letter of retirement from Columbus Fire & Rescue Captain, Charles K. McKellar, effective October 7, 2017, and approve his request to use his shifts from September 10 – October 7, 2017 as paid leave.
- G. Accept letter of retirement from Public Works Laborer, Alfrazier Jones, effective September 14, 2017.
- H. Approve condemnation of Blighted Properties.

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- I. Approve request for Code Enforcement Officer, Tomarris Jones and Code Enforcement Administrative Assistant, Jarion Jones, to attend the "Mississippi Association of Code Enforcement Membership Meeting" to be held in Tunica, MS, and approve payment of \$75.00 each for registration, \$136.00 each for lodging, \$217.60 for travel for the Assistant, and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- J. Accept resignation letter from CPD Officer, Christian Garcia, effective August 24, 2017.
- K. Accept resignation letter from CPD Officer, Hugh McCarty, effective August 25, 2017.
- L. Approve request to purchase one (1) undercover tag.
- M. Approve request for the Chief of Police to attend the "Mississippi Crime Stoppers Annual Training Conference" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel expenses.
- N. Approve request for CPD Investigators Sam Jackson and Timothy Jenkins to attend the "Criminal Investigative Certification Course" to be held in Tupelo, MS, and approve payment of \$850.00 each for registration, travel expenses.
- O. Approve request for Training Director Liz Patrick to attend the "Managing the Training Function" to be held in Plano, TX, and approve payment of \$750.00 for tuition, \$500.00 for lodging, \$400.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- P. Approve permit request submitted by Ryan Rickert on behalf of First Assembly of God, to host a "5K/10K/Walk" as a fundraiser for Contact Helpline. The event will be held on September 9, 2017 from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Please see attached route map.
- Q. Ratify permit request submitted by Martha Gordon to host the "Family & Friends Get Together" that was held on September 2, 2017 from 12:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. with streets between 24th St. South and MLK at 2412 4th Avenue South (Sandfield Pavilion) blocked off.
- R. Approve request for HR Director, Pat Mitchell, to attend the "Fall Certified Municipal Clerk (CMO) Program" to be held in Oxford, MS, and approve payment Of \$200.00 for registration, \$375.00 for lodging, \$123.05 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- S. Approve request for Mayor Smith to attend the "MML Fall Board of Directors Meeting" to be held in Tunica, MS, and approve payment of \$59.00 for lodging and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- T. Approve request for Mayor Smith to attend the "2017 AL-MS-TN Rural Tourism Conference" to be held in Pickwick, TN, and approve payment of \$95.00 for

registration, \$185.50 for lodging and reimbursement for meal expenses.

- U. Ratify permit request submitted by Marty Turner to host a wedding that was held on September 3, 2017 from 8:00 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. with the intersection of 23rd St. North between 15th Ave. North and 16th Ave. North blocked off.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. Council Member Taylor 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. Swearing in of four (4) Fire and Rescue Personnel

Mayor Smith swore in the following Fire and Rescue Personnel and they recited the Oath of Office. The Fire Chief and the Command Staff were also present.

**Jamie Adams
Joseph Faulkner
Andrew McDonald
Eric Summerall**

C. Swearing in of two (2) CPD Officers

Mayor Smith swore in the following Police Officers and they recited the Oath of Office.

- **Kenneth Davis**
- **Tommie Stinson**

D. Board Vacancies

Historic Preservation Commission

- 1 Vacancy
- 4-Year Term for Fred McCaleb ended 5/16/2017.
- Appointment can be made immediately.

Applicant

- William "Bart" Lawrence, Jr.
- Cliff Schlothauer

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Council Member Gavin made a motion to appoint William “Bart” Lawrence, Jr. to the Historic Preservation Commission for a 4-Year Term, until 5/16/21. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Redevelopment Authority Board

- 1 Vacancy
- 3-Year Term for Tommy Lott will end 9/1/2017.
- Appointment can be made 9/5/2017.

Applicants

- T. E. Lott, Jr.
- Russell “Rusty” Greene

Council Member Taylor made a motion to reappoint T. E. Lott, Jr. to the Redevelopment Authority Board for a 3-Year Term, until 9/1/20. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Columbus-Lowndes Library Board

- 1 Vacancy
- 5-Year Term for Eulalie Hazard Davis will end 9/30/2017.
- Appointment can be made 9/19/2017.
- No applicants at this time

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

Linda Keys – Coats4Kidz – NO SHOW

Quincy Mukoro- Clearwater Solutions

Mr. Quincy Mukoro, with Clearwater Solutions, along with other representatives from Clearwater Solutions, approached the Mayor and Council regarding the possibility of privatizing the Public Works Department. They requested permission to access the Department and gather some needed information. Council Member Mickens made a motion to authorize Clearwater Solutions to conduct a study of Public Works. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

Council Members Mickens, Box, Jones and Gavin voted in favor of the motion.

Council Members Taylor and Jackson voted no.

The motion carried 4/2.

JAN MILLER – RE: MISS GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Ms. Jan Miller approached the Mayor and Council regarding financial support of the Miss Golden Triangle Pageant, which will be held January 13, 2018, by purchasing a \$2,000 sponsorship page in the catalogue.

Council Member Taylor moved to approve the expenditure of \$1,500.00 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 Jackson Seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Mayor Smith recognized Boy Scouts Troop 1, who were present and working on their Community Merit Badge.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Open Public Hearing on 2017-2018 Proposed Budget and Tax Levies.

Mayor Smith opened the Public Hearing on the 2017 -2018 Proposed Budget and Tax Levies for public comment. No one came forward with comments.

B. Close Public Hearing

Council Member Mickens made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Approve 2017-2018 Proposed Tax Levies.

David Armstrong, COO, discussed the 2017 – 2018 Proposed Tax Levies and announced that a Special Meeting has been scheduled for September 12, 2017 to adopt the millage, from 105.8 to 108.0. The meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Court Room.

Council Member Jackson moved that we adopt the 2017 – 2018 Fiscal Year Budget as presented, in the total amount of \$24,315,782.00, and that same be published and made a part of the official minutes. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve request to promote two (2) Public Works Laborers to Crew Leader.

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Council Member Taylor made a motion to promote Ontario Nicholson and Eddie Bluitt, Jr. to Crew Leader and increase their pay to \$10.50 per hour. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve request to rehire a former Public Works employee in compliance with PERS regulations.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to rehire Sammy Porter, in the Public Works Department according to PERS requirements. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Discuss/Approve to hire two (2) Certified Police Officers, contingent upon a successful pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.

Council Member Jones made a motion to hire Devin Strong and Isaiah Smith as Certified Police Officers, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All council members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

G. Discuss/Approve College Street Box Culvert Replacement – Reject Bid and approve to Advertise for Bids.

Kevin Stafford came before the Mayor and Council and discussed the College Street Box Culvert Replacement Project. Council Member Jackson made a motion to reject the current bid from Phillips Contracting for the College Street Box Culvert Replacement Project. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Council Member Jones made a motion to re-advertise for bids for the College Street Box Culvert Replacement Project (Rebid). Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

H. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket.

GEORGE AND EDNA SMITH
127 Hemlock street
Case Number 17-0015 Rubbish/Garbage

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0015**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated the property owner has submitted a letter of Intent from GoBox. Removal of the rubbish/garbage will begin on September 18, 2017 and should take approximately one (1) week to complete. Council Member Box made a motion to accept the Code Enforcement's request to allow GoBox to remove rubbish/garbage. Council Member Jones seconded the motion, conditioned upon the property being immediately abated by the City if work had not begun by September 18, 2017.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

JEFFERY WARREN
626 – 11th Street North
Case Number 17-0205 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0205**. 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 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.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

MS State of Tax Sale
c/o Sec. of State/Public Lands
1617 – 7th Avenue North
Case Number 17-0237 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0237**. 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

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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.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

BELL PROPERTIES DESIGN, LLC
111 Beach Street
Case Number 17-0239 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0239**. 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.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

KIMBERLY D. PORTER
1106 – 16th Street North
Case Number 17-0234 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0234**. 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.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

HATCHER INVESTMENT PROPERTIES, LLC.
2603 – 5th Avenue North
Case Number 17-0190 Structure/Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0190**. 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 uncleanness 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 Jones 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.

CLARENCE JONES
417 Woolbright Street
Case Number 17-0207 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0207**. 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 uncleanness 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 Jones 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.

JOHN AND LAURA MAE GRANDERSON
21st Street North
Case Number 17-0245 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0245**. 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 Jones 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.

JODI J. NAPIER
71 Pandora Drive
Case Number 17-0179 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0179**. 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 Jones 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.

TANYA WALKER
504 – 6th Street North
Case Number 17-0186 Vegetation

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The General Counsel called cause number **17-0186**. 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 Jones 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.

CHARLIE JOHNSON
1316 – 7TH Avenue North
Case Number 17-0236 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0236**. 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 Jones 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.

I. Discuss/Approve request to apply for the 2017 JAG Grant.

George Irby, Interim Planner, came before the Mayor and Council with a request to apply for the 2017 JAG Grant. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the request for the Interim Planner to apply for the 2017 JAG Grant. 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 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 Mickens moved that the meeting be adjourned. Upon second by Council Member Jackson 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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