

# MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS OCTOBER 17, 2017

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at 5:00 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 Council Member Box to offer the Invocation.

## II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2017.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of October 3, 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 OCTOBER 17, 2017.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for October 3, 2017, in the amount of \$626,041.14. 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:

Add Item "M" – *Accept letter of resignation from one (1) Columbus Recreation Department employee, effective October 16, 2017.*

Add Item "N" – *Approve request for the Municipal Court Administrator to attend the "Mississippi Court Administrator Conference" to be held in Jackson, MS, at no cost to the City.*

Add Item "O" – *Approve request for one (1) CPD Investigator to attend the "Internal Affairs Investigations by Law Enforcement" to be held in Tupelo, MS, and approve payment of registration, travel and meal expenses.*

Add Item "P" – *Approve request for the Mayor's Youth Council Advisor and six (6) MYC Officers to attend the "2017 Mayor's Youth Council Leadership Retreat" to be held in Florence, MS, and approve payment of registration, travel and meal expenses.*

Add Item "Q" – *Accept letter of resignation from one (1) CPD Officer, effective October 16, 2017.*

Add Item "R" – *Approve request for the Human Resources Director to attend the "Half Day Human Resources Workshop" to be held in Tupelo, MS, at no cost to the City.*

**POLICY AGENDA:**

Delete Item "G" – *Discuss/Approve Lease Contract for Columbus Police Department and Robinson Real Estate, Inc. Property Management for a Substation, located at 306 Forest Boulevard, Unit 10.*

Add Item "N" – *Discuss/Approve request to apply for a Certified Local Government Grant.*

Add Item "O" – *Discuss/Approve College Street Box Culvert Replacement Bid.*

Council Member Jones 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, all Council Members voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote.

The motion carried.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve request to refund citizens, Nathan Mosher, the amount of \$1,500.00 for mechanical problems during use of Trotter Convention Center and Derrick Jones \$750.00 for cancellation of rental agreement of Trotter Convention Center.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighters, Murphy Buckner and Mike Chandler, to attend the CPAT" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$40.00 each for registration, \$99.00 for lodging, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.

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- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Personnel, Scott Swain, to attend the “Task Force Leader Meeting to be held in Meridian, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Personnel, Jim Robbins, to attend the “Basic Tactical Medic Course” to be held in Meridian, MS, and approve payment of \$150.00 for registration, \$30.00 for lodging, \$50.00 for travel, and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- E. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Personnel, Justin Cox and Steve Loden, to attend the “Firefighter Intervention Rescue Survival Techniques” course, to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$730.00 for registration, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- F. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Personnel, Deonate Jethroe and Corey Haynes, to attend “Firefighter 1001 – I & II” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$1,000.00 each for registration and \$350.00 for travel expenses.
- G. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Personnel, Jamie Adams and JaQuay Sherrod, to attend the “Smoke Diver Training” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$840.00 for registration, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- H. Approve request for four (4) Fire and Rescue Personnel to attend the “Smoke Diver Training and Graduation” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- I. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Personnel, Kirk Gayle, to attend the “Statewide Communications Interoperability Functional Exercise” to be held in Grenada, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- J. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Deputy Fire Marshal, Madison Guyton, to attend the “Mississippi Fire Officer Program” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$297.00 for lodging, \$50.00 for travel, and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- K. Accept letter of resignation from Fire and Rescue Engineer, Matt Jones, effective October 18, 2017.
- L. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Aaron Conley, effective October 23, 2017.

- M. Accept letter of resignation from Columbus Recreation Department employee, Benjamin Porter, effective October 16, 2017.
- N. Approve request for the Municipal Court Administrator, Wendy Blunt, to attend the "Mississippi Court Administrator Conference" to be held in Jackson, MS, at no cost to the City.
- O. Approve request for CPD Investigator, Samuel Jackson, to attend the "Internal Affairs Investigations by Law Enforcement" to be held in Tupelo, MS, and approve payment of \$650.00 for registration and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- P. Approve request for the Mayor's Youth Council Advisor, Brandy Gardner, and six (6) MYC Officers: Mallory Amos, Taylor Ellis, Zachary Wilson, Kalyn Abrams, Marian Turner, and Christina Clark to attend the "2017 Mayor's Youth Council Leadership Retreat" to be held in Florence, MS, and approve payment of registration, travel and meal expenses.
- Q. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Benjamin Porter, effective October 16, 2017.
- R. Approve request for Human Resources Director, Patricia Mitchell, to attend a "Half day Human Resources Workshop" to be held in Tupelo, MS, at no cost to the City.

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 their being none, All Council Members voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote.

The motion carried.

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

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

Council Member Bill Gavin announced that a Ward VI public meeting will be held on Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Brandon Central Office.

Council Member Joseph Mickens thanked the public for attending the Wards II and III public meeting that was held October 16, 2017.

Mayor Smith presented a proclamation to Ms. Dorothy Givens in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Mayor Smith presented a proclamation to Leonardo Dismukes in recognition of Red Ribbon Week.

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

- Jonathan Vergne
- Raymond Lee

Mayor Smith swore in two (2) Police Officers and the new officers recited the Oath of Office. The Police Chief and Assistant Police Chief were also present.

**C. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for September 2017**

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

**D. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for September 2017**

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

**E. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for September 2017**

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

**F. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for September 2017**

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

**G. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for September 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for September 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

**H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for September 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for September 2017 was presented. No action was taken.

**I. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for September 2017**

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for September 2017. No action was taken.

**J. Monthly Financial Report**

Milton Rawle, Jr. gave the Monthly Financial Report and remarked that sales taxes decreased by \$9,242.14 compared to the same time last year.

**K. Board Vacancies**

There were no board vacancies to appoint this year.

**VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA**

Joe Higgins & Nancy Carpenter – LINK/CVB Economic Development

Joe Higgins, with the LINK & Nancy Carpenter, with the CVB, came before the Mayor and City Council to discuss the 2% restaurant tax. Mayor Smith remarked that the request will be taken under advisement.

Mr. Tony Hunt, former CPD Reserve Police Officer, came before the Mayor and Council and asked them to consider a waiver to the Nepotism Police and permit him to serve as a Reserve Officer. Mayor Smith remarked that the request will be taken under advisement.

**VIII. POLICY AGENDA:**

**A. Discuss/Approve renaming Columbus-Lowndes Parks and Recreation to Columbus Recreation Department**

Council Member Jones made a motion to rename Columbus-Lowndes Parks and Recreation to Columbus Recreation Department. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion. hir

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**B. Discuss/Approve matching reward funds with the Lowndes County Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$3,000.00**

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve matching reward funds with the Lowndes County Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the purpose of capturing an inmate. Council Member Box seconded the motion. the Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**C. Discuss/Approve hiring a part-time Maintenance Technician for the Convention Center at \$11.00 per hour, contingent on successful pre-employment testing.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to hire Roosevelt Dismuke as a part-time Maintenance Technician for the Convention Center at \$11.00 per hour, contingent on successful pre-employment testing. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**D. Discuss/Approve promotion of a Firefighter to an Engineer**

Council Member Gavin made a motion to promote a Firefighter to the position of Engineer. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**E. Discuss/Approve Columbus Recreation Department Labor Contracts**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to renew the contract between Columbus Recreation Department and Bonnie Partridge as a Zumba Dance Instructor. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**F. Discuss/Approve Advertising City Resources**

Greg Lewis, Director of the Columbus Recreation Department, remarked that he had omitted some activities that the Recreation Department normally sponsors and added them.

Council Member Box moved to ratify the expenditure of \$22,000.00 from 001-004-703 (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.

**G. Discuss/Approve Lease Contract for Columbus Police Department and Robinson Real Estate, Inc. Property Management for a Substation located at 306 Forest Boulevard, Unit #10.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Lease Contract for the Columbus Police Department and Robinson Real Estate, Inc. Property Management for a Substation, located at 306 Forest Boulevard, Unit #10. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**H. Discuss/Approve request to substitute Confederate Memorial Day as a holiday, which is the last Monday in April, with Columbus Day, which is the second Monday in October, beginning in 2018.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to substitute Confederate Memorial Day as a holiday, which is the last Monday in April, with Columbus Day, which is the second Monday in October, beginning in 2018. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion, with the exception of Council Member Box, who opposed.

The motion carried, 5/1.

**J. Discuss/Approve City Traffic Signal Improvements**

Kevin Stafford, with Neel-Schaffer, Inc. came before the Mayor and Council and requested approval to make traffic signal improvements throughout the City. A study has been conducted, and based on the results of the study, traffic Signals will be removed and replaced with 4-Way Stop Signs. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the City Traffic Signal Improvements. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**J. Discuss/Approve Arrington Park Traffic Calming Improvements**

Kevin Stafford, with Neel-Schaffer, recommended, based on petitions received and studies conducted, to install three (3) speed humps in Arrington Park to hopefully reduce the speed limit to 20 MPH. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the recommendation to install three (3) speed humps in Arrington Park to hopefully reduce the speed limit to 20 MPH. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**K. Discuss/Approve EPA Brownfield Grant Application**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to authorize the Interim Planner, George Irby, to apply for the EPA Brownfield Grant. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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

**SELENE FINANCE, LP**  
**1203 – 7<sup>th</sup> Street North**  
**Case Number 17-0228 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0228**. 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 Gavin 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.

**NINA KING PANNELL**  
**1922 – 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, B & C and**  
**1922 – 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, A**  
**Case Number 17-0231 and 17-0232 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0231 and 17-0232**. 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 Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**FRED WILLIAMSON**  
**C/O HENRY WILLIAMSON**  
**Court Street**  
**Case Number 17-0260 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0260**. 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 Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**LABEAUSHA HOLT**  
**14<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**  
**Case Number 17-0281 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0281**. 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 Jackson seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**JOE ROBERTSON/VAPOR  
C/O WILLIE H. ROBINSON – Office Mgr.  
14<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Case Number 17-0292 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0292**. 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 Jackson seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**M. Discuss/Approve Recommendations from the October 9, 2017 Planning Commission Meeting**

**PLANNING COMMISSION – P/C 17-02**

**On Behalf of Ken Smith**

The Planning Commission recommended approval of request to name a private road as “Fording Parkway Drive.”

Council Member Taylor moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to name a private road as "Fording Parkway Drive" be approved. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the Planning Commission request. No one answered. There followed discussion, consideration, and review by the Council of the issues and facts presented by this request and the action taken by the City of Columbus Planning Commission.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**N. Discuss/Approve request to apply for a Certified Local Government Grant**

George Irby came forward and requested permission to apply for a Certified Local Government Grant through the Department of Archives and History, for the purpose of restoring a Historic Sign Downtown. Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to apply for a Certified Local Government Grant for the purpose of restoring a Historic Sign Downtown. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**O. Discuss/Approve College Street Box Culvert Replacement Bid**

Kevin Stafford came forward and reported that four (4) bids were received for the College Street Box Culvert Replacement Project. He recommends that the bid be awarded to Weathers Construction Co., in the amount of \$214,445.00. Council Member Taylor made a motion to award the Bid for the College Street Box Culvert Replacement Project to Weathers Construction Co., in the amount of \$214,445.00. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**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 Jackson and unanimous vote, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

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

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

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