

**MEETING OF  
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS  
FEBRUARY 20, 2018**

**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 MEETINGS OF FEBRUARY 6 & 8, 2018.**

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meetings of February 6 & 8, 2018. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2018.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for February 20, 2018, in the amount of \$555,635.37. 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**

**POLICY AGENDA:**

Add Item "D" – *Discuss/Approve request to accept the lowest bid for demolition of properties.*

Add Item "E" – *Discuss/Approve request for three members of the Fire & Rescue Department to attend the 2018 Excellence Conference.*

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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 a unanimous vote.

The motion carried.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve request to refund two (2) citizens, Jo Fuller, in the amount of \$200.00 and Joshua Jones in the amount of \$1,000.00 for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center rental.
- B. Approve request for COO David Armstrong to attend the "MS Airports Association 2018 Annual Conference" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$200.00 for registration, \$300.00 for lodging, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Administrative Assistant, Tabitha Barham, to attend the "ESAP Meeting" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighters: Brett Thompson, Madison Guyton, and Tommy Massey, to attend the "Mississippi Fire Investigators Association 2018 Spring Seminar" to be held in Oxford, MS, and approve payment of \$525.00 for registration, \$1,071.00 for lodging, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- E. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Training Chief, Michael Chandler, to attend a "MS Department of Health Meeting" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- F. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Deputy Fire Marshal, Madison Guyton, to attend "Water Based Fire Protection System Plans Review (N0137)" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- G. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighters, Michael Chandler and Tyler Moore, to attend 'CPAT' to be held in Jackson, MS and approve payment of \$40.00 for registration, \$96.00 for lodging, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.

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- H. Approve request for the Mayor and City Planner, George Irby, to attend the “2018 Affordable Housing Program Workshop: Opening Doors” to be held in New Orleans, LA, and approve payment of \$209.00 each for lodging, \$98.84 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- I. Approve request to send CPD Officer, Aaron Andres and CPD Training Officer, Liz Patrick, to attend the “Criminal Justice Student Association Career Fair” to be held in Memphis, TN, and approve payment of \$116.00 for lodging, travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- J. Ratify request for payment of lodging in the amount of \$450.00 for instructors conducting “Motorcycle Training” scheduled for February 19-23, 2018 in Columbus, MS.
- K. Ratify request for CPD Officer, Christian Benton, to attend the “Active Shooter – Train the Trainer Training” to be held in Pearl, MS, at no cost to City.
- L. Approve request for the Chief of Police and the CPD Training Officer to attend the “Recruit Officers Graduation” to be held NMLETA in Tupelo, MS, at no cost to City.

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, 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**

There were no comments from the Mayor and Council Members.

**B. Promotion of two (2) CPD Corporals to Sergeant**

) Timothy Jenkins  
) Christopher Smith

Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. read an oath of office and Chief Fred Shelton pinned on badges for two Police Corporals that were promoted to Sergeant. These officers were Timothy Jenkins and Christopher Smith.

**C. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for January 2018**

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The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for January 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

**D. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for January 2018**

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for January 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

**E. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for January 2018**

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for January 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

**F. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for January 2018**

The Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for January 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

**G. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for January 2018**

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for January 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

**H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for January 2018**

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for January 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

**I. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for January 2018**

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for January 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

**J. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for January 2018**

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for January 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

**K. Monthly Financial Report**

Milton Rawle, Jr. distributed the Monthly Financial Report and remarked that sales taxes were down by \$25,299.45 compared to the same time last year.

**L. Board Vacancies**

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various Boards and remarked that only one appointment can be made tonight.

**Historic Preservation Commission**

- ) 1 Vacancy to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Jim Borsig who Resigned January 31, 2018.
- ) 3-Year Term will expire 05/19/2019.
- ) Appointment can be made immediately.
- ) No applicants at this time

**Columbus Municipal School District (2 Vacancies)**

- ) 1 Vacancy to fill Angela Verdell's 5-Year Term which will expire 03/02/2018.
- ) Appointment will be made February 20, 2018.
- ) 1 Vacancy to fill the unexpired 5-Year term of Currie Fisher who resigned 02/09/2018.
- ) Currie Fisher's 5-Year Term expires 03/03/2020.
- ) Appointment to fill the unexpired term will be made 03/20/2018.

**Applicants (Angela Verdell's Position)**

- ) Yvonne Cox
- ) James E. Samuel
- ) June Leigh

**Applicants (Currie Fisher's Position)**

- ) Willie J. Petty, Sr.
- ) Cedric Vance

*Council Member Gene Taylor recused himself and exited the meeting.* Council Member Mickens made a motion to appoint Ms. Yvonne Cox to the Columbus Municipal School District for a five 5-Year term, until March 2, 2023. Council Member Jackson seconded The motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

*Council Member Taylor returned to the meeting.*

**Board of Adjustment & Appeals of Development Codes**

- ) 1 Vacancy
- ) 1-Year Term for Kevin Stafford will expire 03/15/2018.
- ) Appointment will be made March 06, 2018

**Applicant**

- ) Kevin Stafford

**VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA**

**VIII. POLICY AGENDA:**

- A. Discuss/Approve donation of \$750.00 to the Lowndes County Chapter of the MUW Alumni Association's Welcome Home Reception.**

Council Member Gavin moved to approve the expenditure of **\$750.00** 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 Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

- B. Discuss/Approve Resolution of Support for Additional Funds from the Legislature for the Terry Brown Amphitheater.**

Council Member Mickens made a motion to adopt the Resolution of Support for Additional Funds from Legislature for the Terry Brown Amphitheater and that the Mayor be authorized to publish same to the local delegation of the Mississippi Legislature. Said motion was seconded by Council Member Gavin.

The Mayor then recorded the votes as follows:

Council Member Taylor	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Mickens	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Box	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Jackson	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Jones	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Gavin	voted: <u>YES</u>

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The Mayor then announced the motion passed and was a duly adopted Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi, with a copy of same to be spread on the minutes of the Meeting of the Mayor and City Council, and to be forwarded by the Mayor to the local legislative delegation.

**THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:**

**RESOLUTION**

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

**COUNTY OF LOWNDES**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi, did meet for a regularly scheduled meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018 with the following Resolution being offered:

**WHEREAS**, The Senator Terry Brown Amphitheater in Columbus, Mississippi has been partially constructed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature of the State of Mississippi has provided substantial funding for this project, and

**WHEREAS**, approximately \$1,500,000.00 is needed to complete this project;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, respectfully requests additional funding in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 be approved by the Mississippi Legislature for distribution to the City of Columbus, Mississippi for completion of the Senator Terry Brown Amphitheater, in Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to adopt the Resolution and that the Mayor be authorized to publish same to the local delegation of the Mississippi Legislature. Said motion was seconded by Council Member Gavin and after reading the Resolution in whole and in part and after careful deliberation, the Mayor asked for a vote on same. The Mayor then recorded the votes as follows:

Council Members then and there voting (yes/no):

Council Member Taylor voted Yes

Council Member Mickens voted Yes

Council Member Box voted Yes  
Council Member Jackson voted Yes  
Council Member Jones voted Yes  
Council Member Gavin voted Yes

The Mayor then announced the motion passed and was a duly adopted Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi, with a copy of same to be spread on the minutes of the meeting of the Mayor and City Council, and to be forwarded by the Mayor to the local legislative delegation.

**WITNESS THE SIGNATURE OF THE UNDERSIGNED OFFICERS**, on this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ROBERT E. SMITH, SR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
MILTON RAWLE, SECRETARY/TREASURER

(S E A L)

**C. Discuss/Approve hiring of Facility Supervisor for Columbus Recreation Department, contingent upon a successful drug screen and pre-employment medical exam.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire Humphries Kelly to fill the vacant position of Facility Supervisor for the Columbus Recreation Department, contingent on successful completion of a drug screen and pre-employment medical exam. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**D. Discuss/Approve request to accept the lowest bid for demolition of properties.**

George Irby, City Planner, reported that he advertised sealed bids for the demolition of properties at 1337 – 5<sup>th</sup> Street South and 1219 Shady Street and received two bids, one from Granderson Trucking, LLC/Dirt and Demolition and one from Phillips Contracting. Mr. Irby requested that the lowest bid be awarded to Granderson Trucking LLC/Dirt & Demolition at \$3,750.00 per structure. Council Member Taylor made a motion to award the lowest bid for the Demolition of two (2) dilapidated structure to Granderson Trucking LLC/Dirt & Demolition at \$3,750.00 per structure. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**E. Discuss/Approve request for three members of the Fire & Rescue Department to attend the 2018 Excellence Conference.**

Chief Martin Andrews and Training Chief Mike Chandler came before the Mayor and City to explain the necessity of attending the 2018 Excellence Conference, which is a requirement to maintain National and International Accreditation. After answering questions from the Mayor and Council regarding this matter. Council Member Box made a motion to approve the request for three (3) members of the Fire & Rescue Department, Chief Andrews, Training Chief Mike Chandler, and Accreditation Manager, Alan Lewis to attend the 2018 Excellence Conference and authorize the payment of \$2,265.00 for registration, \$2,446.88 for lodging, and \$1,034.88 for travel, \$424.91 for car rental and reimbursement for meal

expenses.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**CLOSED DETERMINATION:**

Council Member Jones made a motion to go into closed session to determine whether it is necessary to go into Executive Session. Council Member Jackson 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 CFO, the Police Chief, and the HR Director, exited the Council Chambers.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**OPEN SESSION:**

Council Member Jones made a motion to end the discussion of the matter and return to Open Session. Council Member Box 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 two (2) personnel matters in Executive Session and voted to extend Family Medical Leave up to twelve (12) weeks for one employee in the Public Works Department and to support the Chief in the decision to reassign an employee in the Police Department.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

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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 Taylor 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**