

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS APRIL 17, 2018

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fant Library on Mississippi University for Women campus. 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 Robert E. Smith Sr. called the meeting to order and called on Council Member Box to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 3, 2018.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of March 20, 2018. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR APRIL 17, 2018.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for April 17, 2018 in the amount of \$476,110.43. Council Member Jackson 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 "H" to read *Approve request to refund citizens for eleven (11) Clean-up deposits and three (3) sports registrations.*

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "I" – *Discuss/Approve installation of All-Way Stop at 4th Avenue North and 8th Street.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Change Personnel Matters to five (5).

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. Council Member Jones 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 for Deputy Fire Marshal, Madison Guyton, to attend "MSFIA Board Meeting" 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 personnel, Mike Gibson, Todd Graham, Shannon Murphy, Alan Walker and Billy Clark to attend E-One Truck Review, to be held in Montgomery, AL, and approve payment of \$100.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Brent Younger to attend the "Firefighter Intervention Rescue Survival Techniques FIRST" training to be held in Jackson, MS and approve payment of \$365.00 for registration, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request from Noxubee County Fire Protection to receive donation of surplus hose lengths from Columbus Fire and Rescue.
- E. Approve request from Monroe County Volunteer Search and Rescue to receive donation of one (1) surplus Cavalier Gulf Stream Travel Trailer from Columbus Fire and Rescue.
- F. Approve request from Municipal Court Judge Gary Goodwin and Drug Court Coordinator Leonardo Dismukes to attend the "Mississippi Associations of Drug Court Professional Training Conference" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$150.00 each for registration, \$209.97 each for lodging, \$279.91 each for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.

MINUTES
APRIL 17, 2018

- G. Approve request for Victims Advocate Coordinator, Dorothy Givens, to attend “Building the Bridge of Victim Advocacy: Proper Attitudes Toward Leadership Conference” to be held in Flowood, MS, and approve payment of \$168.61 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- H. Approve request to refund Ashanti Pippins, Anni Swanigan, Chasity Scott, Brittany Shields, Jabari Edwards, Mary Stewart, Curtistine Cotton, Tawanda Dukes, and Audrianna Wicks the sum of \$150.00 each for Clean-up deposits, Kelly Denton and Latitia Belton the sum \$30.00 each for sports registration.
- I. Approve permit request submitted by Colin Krieger to host a “Block Party Fundraiser – Burger Bash – Main Street Columbus” held on April 15, 2018 from 12:00 noon until 7:00 p.m. at the 500 block of 8th Street North.
- J. Approve permit request submitted by JoAnn Richardson on behalf of the Coleman Head Start Center to host “The Storybook Parade” to be held on April 20, 2018 from 9:45 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. The parade will start at 723 – 22nd Street South and through 8th Avenue South and back to Coleman Head Start Center.
- K. Approve permit request submitted by Johnny Peters on behalf of the Columbus Exchange Club to host “The Uncle Bunky 10K Run” to be held on May 19, 2018 from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. See the attached route map.
- L. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Bradley Peden, effective April 6, 2018.
- M. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Eli Shumaker, effective April 9, 2018.
- N. Ratify request for the Forensic Scientist Director and two (2) Trainees to attend the “FBI Crime Scene Training” held on April 16 – 20, 2018 in Starkville, MS, at no cost to the City.
- O. Approve request for the Mayor’s Youth Council Advisor and Members to attend the “MML 87th Annual Youth Track Conference” to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- P. Approve request for the Mayor, Councilmen, and Interim City Planner, George Irby, to attend the “2018 Mississippi Policy Conference” to be held in Tunica, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.

MINUTES
APRIL 17, 2018

- Q. Approve request for CFO, Milton Rawle, Jr. to attend the “Drug Court Coordinators Meeting” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment for travel expenses.

Council Member Taylor 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 same.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Smith called on Dr. Jim Borsig to offer opening remarks. Dr. Borsig began by welcoming City officials to MUW’s facilities and continued by stating that he is excited about the partnership between MUW and the City of Columbus. He then announced some events that will take place on campus the coming week.

B. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for March 2018

The Monthly report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for March 2018 was presented. Council Member Mickens asked Chief Andrews to give an update on the new Fire Station.

C. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for March 2018

The Month Report from the Municipal Court Division for March 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

D. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for March 2018

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

E. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for March 2018

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

F. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for March 2018

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for March 2018

was presented. No action was taken.

G. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for March 2018

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

H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for March 2018

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

I. Monthly Financial Report

Milton Rawle, Jr. distributed the Monthly Financial Reports and remarked that the sales taxes decreased by \$62,372.85 compared to the same time last year. No action was taken.

B. Board Vacancies

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that no appointments can be made tonight.

Municipal Election Commission

- 1 Vacancy
- Leon Speck resigned 03/01/2018 (letter received 03/15/18).
- Remainder of 4-Year Term will expire 07/18/2021.
- Appointment can be made May 1, 2018.

Applicants

- George T. Sumrall
- Pierre D. Beard, Sr.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

Supervisor Leroy Brooks – Crime Prevention Task Force

Lowndes County Supervisor Leroy Brooks approached the podium and requested approval from City leaders to form a Crime Prevention Task Force. Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the creation of

a Crime Prevention Task Force. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve request to hire one (1) Seasonal Contract Worker for Columbus Recreation Department.

Council Member Jones made a motion to hire **Gabriel O'Neal** as a Seasonal Contract Worker for Columbus Recreation Department at \$6,800.00. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

B. Discuss/Approve request to fill the vacant position of Townsend Community Center Supervisor, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire **Monica Petty** to fill the vacant position of Townsend Community Center Supervisor at \$10.00 per hour, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment drug screen and medical exam. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Discuss/Approve request to hire one (1) Forensic Scientist Trainee for the Crime Lab, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.

Council Member Jones made a motion to hire **Hunter Mooney** as full-time Forensic Scientist Trainee at \$14.43 per hour/\$30,000.00, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve request to hire three (3) CPD Officers, contingent upon successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to hire James C. Tubbs II, Jacob Rhodes, and Sherrod S. Bowens as Police Officers, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve purchase of one (1) full page ad for the 2018 MS Policy Conference Souvenir Booklet.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the request to purchase one (1) full page ad for the 2018 MS Policy Conference Souvenir Booklet. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Consider/Approve purchase of real property.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the purchase of real property at an appraised cost of \$77,000.00. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

G. Discuss/Approve request to fill the vacant position of Code Enforcement Assistant.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the hire of **Sasha James** as Code Enforcement Assistant at \$13.00 per hour/\$27,040.00 annually, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

H. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

**IDA HARRIS
C/O DEMEIR JONES
325 – 24th Street South
Case Number 17-0300 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0300**. Ms. Tamera Jones appeared, came before the Mayor and Council and requested a **45-day** extension. She stated that she lives in another state and is making progress. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones recommended that the Council enter the proposed Order, included in the Council packet, under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code finding that this property is in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should give the owner 45 days to remediate the property and provide for such re-entry as the statute allows. Council Member Taylor made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, that the Council give the owner 45 days to remediate the condition. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**JACKIE GREEN
2703 – 6th Avenue North
Case Number 17-0323 STRUCTURE**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0323**. 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.

MINUTES
APRIL 17, 2018

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.,
CFO- Secretary-Treasurer

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