

**MEETING OF
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS
APRIL 3, 2018**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. presided over the meeting, and all Council Members were present. Council Member Mickens participate via telephone. 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 MARCH 20, 2018.

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

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR APRIL 3, 2018.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for April 3, 2018 in the amount of \$618,111.79. 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:

Delete Item "G".

Change Item "I" to read: *Approve request to refund citizens for five (5) clean up deposits and two (2) sports registrations.*

REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

Add "Fair Housing Month" Proclamation.

Add the following applicants to the list for Historic Preservation Commission:

- Quincy Harris
- Anne Christopher
- Harold (Hal) Bullock
- Nathan J. Miller

Add Craig Shannon – Columbus Municipal School District

Council Member Taylor 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 for Fire and Rescue Captain, Richard McBride, to attend "Vehicle Extrication & Rescue Levels I-II" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$400.00 for registration, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Chief Martin Andrews, Assistant Chief Duane Hughes, Anthony Colom, and Training Chief Mike Chandler, to attend the "Firefighter 1001 Graduation" 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 Chief Martin Andrews and Training Chief Mike Chandler to attend the "TFT Fly-In" to be held in Valparaiso, IN, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighter personnel, Eric Minga and Tyler Jones, to attend "Mantrailing Training" to be held in Holly Springs, MS, and approve payment of \$820.00 for registration, \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.

MINUTES
APRIL 3, 2018

- E. Approve request from the Lowndes County District 2 Volunteer Fire Department to receive donations of surplus items from Columbus Fire and Rescue.
- F. Approve request for Mayor Robert Smith, F& R Chief Martin Andrews, Training Chief Mike Chandler and Captain Todd Graham to attend the "Fire Rescue International" to be held in Dallas, TX, and approve payment Of \$2,700.00 for registration, \$876.00 each for lodging, \$1,877.60 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- G. **DELETE**
- H. Accept letter of resignation from Fire & Rescue Firefighter, Matthew Jaynes, effective April 5, 2018 and approve the request to compensate him for any unused vacation time.
- I. Approve request to refund five (5) citizens: Bridget Beamon, Jacqueline Abrams, Josie Porter, and Demarkis Ashford clean-up deposits of \$150.00 each and two (2) citizens, Presley Banks and Heather Cummings the sum of \$60.00 each for sports registrations.
- J. Approve permit request submitted by Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. to host a "Victory Celebration Parade" to be held on April 5, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. to honor Columbus High School and Heritage Academy basketball teams. See attached route map.
- K. Approve permit request submitted by Kerry Blanton on behalf of the Animal Clinic of Columbus to host "4 Paws Mississippi 5K Run/1 Mile Walk & Celebration" to be held on April 21, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the Columbus Riverwalk.
- L. Approve request for Chief of Police, Fred Shelton, to attend the "Summer Educational Conference and Tradeshow" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$350.00 for registration fees, \$590.00 for lodging, travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- M. Approve request for CPD Investigator, Reginald Adams, to attend a "Crime Scene Investigation Training" to be held in Brandon, MS at no cost to City.
- N. Approve request to pay three (3) former CPD Officers: Donald Elkin, Christopher Vanhouten, and Mark Whitaker for Lowndes County Circuit Court appearances.
- O. Approve request for CPD Officer Toni Howard to solicit donations, per City Policy, for the "Annual First Responders Softball Tournament."

- P. Approve request for Code Enforcement Officer, Tomarris Jones, to attend the “Mississippi Association of Code Enforcement Board of Directors Meeting” to be held in Hattiesburg, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. Council Member Jackson 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

- Safe Digging Month Proclamation
- Basketball Team Proclamations- Heritage Academy & Columbus High
- Mayor’s 11th Annual Unity Picnic
- CL&W and TVA Energy Efficiency Program
- CAF Red Tail Squadron “Rise Above” Traveling Exhibit
- Fair Housing Month Proclamation

Mayor Smith read a Proclamation recognizing April as Safe Digging Month.

Mayor Smith recognized two (2) outstanding local School Basketball Teams: Heritage Academy and Columbus High School, and presented proclamations honoring both teams. Heritage Academy will host a Parade on April 12, 2018 and Columbus High School will host a Parade on April 16, 2018.

Mayor Smith reminded the public of the Mayor’s 11th Annual Unity Picnic, which will be held Saturday, April 7, 2018 at the Riverwalk.

B. Board Vacancies

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.

Applicants

- Robert J. Raymond
- Kelsy Rickenbaker-Bigelow
- Maureen Lipscomb
- Rusty Greene
- Quincy Harris
- Anne Christopher
- Harold (Hal) Bullock
- Nathan J. Miller

Council Member Taylor made a motion to appoint Harold (Hal) Bullock to the Historic Preservation Commission Board to fill the remainder Mr. Jim Borsig's term, until May 19, 2018. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Council Member Jones made a substitute motion to appoint Maureen Lipscomb to the Historic Preservation Commission Board. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried with a 4/2 vote.

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

CHRISTY SHORT – PREMIER LOUNGE

Mrs. Christy Short came forward and remarked that she has complied with the Mayor and Council's request and has fulfilled all obligations as a business owner of the Premier Lounge. Council Member Jones made a motion to permit Mrs. Short to reopen the establishment this weekend

with regular hours of operation. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

CRAIG SHANNON – Interim Municipal School Superintendent

Mr. Craig Shannon approached the podium and thanked the Mayor and City Council for all they do for the City of Columbus and the Columbus Municipal School District and presented certificates of appreciation to Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. and Chief Frederick Shelton.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve request to internally fill the positions of one (1) Equipment Operator and one (1) Truck Driver for the Public Works Department.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to promote Kinwannis Cunningham to the position of Equipment Operator with an increase to \$14.00 per hour and Rhonda Bailey to the position of Truck Driver with an increase to \$10.80 per hour. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

B. Discuss/Approve request to hire two (2) Laborers, contingent upon successful completion of a pre-employment drug screen and medical exam.

Council Member Jones made a motion to hire Kantos Coleman and Stephen Wilkerson as Laborers at \$10.30 per hour, 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.

C. Discuss/Approve request to fill the vacant position of Heavy Equipment Operator at the Landfill, contingent upon a successful drug screen and pre-employment medical exam.

Council Member Jones made a motion to hire Freddie B. Brown as a

Heavy Equipment Operator for the Landfill at \$14.00 per hour, 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.

D. Award Bid for Legal Advertising Publications and Notices.

Pat Mitchell remarked that she readvertised for Legal Advertising Publication and Notices and received different bid results. The results are as follows:

THE COLUMBUS PACKET:

1 st Run	0.9 cents per word
2 nd Run	0.8 cents per word

THE COMMERCIAL DISPATCH:

1 st Run	0.008 (0.8) cents per word
2 nd Run	0.008 (0.8) cents per word

Council Member Taylor made a motion to award the Legal Advertising Publication and Notices to the Commercial Dispatch. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire Sasha James as Code Enforcement Assistant at \$13.00 per hour, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Discuss/Approve request to disburse funds from the FHLB Program.

George Irby, Interim Planner, requested approval to disburse funds from the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) Program for Ora Dankins in the

amount of \$2,143.00 and for Collier and Lorine Swanigan in the amount of \$3,000.00. Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to disburse funds as mentioned above from the FHLB Program. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

G. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) Entry Level Firefighter, contingent upon a successful drug screen and pre-employment medical exam.

Council Member Box made a motion to hire William Besant as an Entry-Level Firefighter, 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.

H. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) Seasonal Contract Worker for Columbus Recreation Department.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire one (1) seasonal Contract Worker for Columbus Recreation Department.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel Matters (4)