

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS JUNE 19, 2018

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 19, 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. 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 MEETINGS (SPECIAL & REGULAR) OF JUNE 5, 2018.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes for both Meetings (Special Called meeting at 9:00 a.m. and Regular meeting at 5:00 p.m.) of June 5, 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 JUNE 19, 2018.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for June 19, 2018 in the amount of \$347,377.42. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

IV. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

CONSENT:

Change Item "A" to read – *Approve request to refund two (2) citizens for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center Rental.*

POLICY AGENDA:

Change Item "A" to read – *Discuss/Approve request to hire two (2) Entry-Level Firefighters, contingent upon successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.*

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 to refund citizens: Jasmine Gibbs the sum of \$270.00 and Bolan McMillian the sum of \$280.00 for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center rentals.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighters: Jacob Faulkner and Jamie Adams, to attend "Rope Rescue Awareness and Operations" 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 Engineer, Josh Westbrook, to attend the "Fire Service Instructor Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$600.00 for registration, \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Accept letter of resignation from Fire and Rescue Deputy Fire Marshall, Madison Guyton, effective June 21, 2018, and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruiting process. He also requests compensation for unused leave time and any remaining time submitted to PERS.
- E. Approve request for Victims Advocate Coordinator, Dorothy Givens, to attend a "Mandatory Grant Meeting" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$168.51 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- F. Approve request for Interim City Planner, George Irby, to attend the "MML 87th Annual Conference" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$235.00 for registration, \$169.00 for lodging, \$279.91 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- G. Approve request for Interim City Planner, George Irby, to attend the "HPC Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$100.44 for lodging, \$40.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- H. Approve request for CPD Director of Training, Elizabeth Patrick, to attend "Excelling as a Manager" to be held in Columbus, MS, and approve payment of \$99.00 for registration expenses.

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- I. Approve request for CPD Director of Training, Elizabeth Patrick, Investigator Aaron Andrew and Officer Kevin McCrary to attend the “North Mississippi Law Enforcement Training Academy Graduation” to be held in Tupelo, MS.
- J. Approve request for CPD Police Chief, Frederick Shelton, to attend the “International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference” to be held in Orlando, Florida, and approve payment of \$525.00 for registration, \$590.00 for lodging, \$340.00 for travel, and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- K. Ratify permit request submitted by Francisco Brock on behalf of the True Vine Life Center, to host a Father’s Day Explosion Community Development” that was held on June 17, 2018 at 324 Fifth Street South from 10:30 a. m. until 12:30 p.m. at 324 Fifth Street South.
- L. Approve permit request submitted by Betty Kelly to host a “Birthday Party” to be held June 23, 2018 from 5:00 p. m. until 12:00 midnight at 405 26th Street North.
- M. Approve permit request submitted by Sanfo Morris to host a “Vietnam Celebration” to be held June 28, 2018 from 1:00 p. m. until 7:00 p. m. at the 500 Block (1 block of the 500 Block on 11th Street North).
- N. Approve permit request submitted by Patricia Hubbard to host the “Southside Heritage” to be held June 29-30, 2018 from 5:00 p. m. until 12:00 midnight, both days at Hank Aaron Park, 11th Avenue South.
- O. Approve permit request submitted by Jerry Johnson on behalf of the Southside Heritage Committee to host the “13th Annual Southside Reunion and Classic Car Show Parade to be held June 30, 2018 from 4:00 p. m. until 5:00 p.m. See attached map.
- P. Approve request for Captain of Investigations, Stacey Deans, to attend the “Mississippi Chiefs of Police Summer Conference” to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$425.00 for registration fees, \$490.00 for lodging, travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- Q. Approve permit request submitted by Leon Williams on behalf of the Northside M. B. Church to host “Shannon Reed’s Day, Youth Worship and School Supply Drive” to be held July 28, 2018 from 10:00 a. m. until 2:00 p. m. at Northside M. B. Church.
- R. Approve permit request submitted by Sharon Watson to host an “80th Birthday Party” to be held August 11, 2018 from 2:00 p. m. until 8:00 p. m. at 1517 Fifth Avenue South.
- S. Approve recommendation to refund a rezoning fee of \$250.00 to Thomas G. Doughty, who decided not to pursue a rezoning of his property at 424 – 6th Avenue South.

Council Member Mickens 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

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Smith recognized Ethan Box, grandson of Council Member Charlie Box. Ethan is a member of the Boy Scouts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for May 2018 was presented. No action was taken.

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

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

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

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

I. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for May 2018

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

J. Monthly Financial Report

compared Milton Rawle, Jr., CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report and remarked that the sales taxes for June increased by \$59,934.33, to the same time the previous year.

K. Board Vacancies

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various Boards and remarked that an appointment can be made for the City Utilities Commission Board.

City Utilities Commission

- 1 Vacancy, 5-Year Term
- Tiffany Sturdivant Turner's term will expire 6/30/2018.
- Appointment will be made June 19, 2018.

Applicants

- Jabari O. Edwards, Sr.
- Jerome Edwards
- Donald R. Pope

Council Member Taylor made a motion to appoint Jabari O. Edwards, Sr. to the City Utilities Commission Board for a 5-Year Term, until June 30, 2023. Council Member Mickens 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.

Columbus Housing Authority

- 1 Vacancy, 5-Year Term
- Greg Lewis' term will expire 7/13/2018.

- Appointment will be made July 3, 2018.

Applicants

- Greg Lewis
- Donna Hankee

Convention & Visitors Bureau

- 1 Vacancy, 3-Year Term
- Restaurant Owner or Employee Nominee
- Elizabeth "Liz" Terry's term will expire 7/7/2018.
- Appointment will be made July 3, 2018.

Applicant

- Elizabeth "Liz" Terry

Civil Service Commission

- 1 Vacancy, 4-Year Term
- Rita Felton's term will expire 8/5/2018.
- Appointment will be made July 31, 2018.

Applicant

- Rita Felton

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

- A. Discuss/Approve to hire two (2) Entry Level Firefighters, contingent upon a successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to hire Kyle White and James Hays as Entry-Level Firefighters, 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.

- B. Discuss/Approve promotion of two (2) Fire & Rescue Engineers to Captain.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to promote Fire Engineers Dale Ballard and Ryan Thompson to the vacant position of Fire Captains, effective immediately. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Discuss/Approve promotion of one (1) Firefighter to Engineer.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the promotion of Brent Younger to the position of Fire Engineer, effective immediately. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve appeal of a Certificate of Appropriateness Application denied by the Historic Preservation Commission.

Kenny Wiegel, Building Official, brought before the Mayor and Council an Appeal of a Certificate of Appropriateness Application that was denied by the Historic Preservation Commission. Kenny Frye, Contractor for Tommy Howard, came forward and remarked that he was improving Mr. Howard's property downtown to make the investment worthwhile; however, the Historic Preservation Commission voted against the window replacement at 208 – 5th Street South, where the same windows are already in other businesses on the same street. The Historic Preservation Commission members were not all present when this matter came before them. Mr. Wiegel stated he had heard from some who were not present and they indicated they would have voted to approve the windows. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the windows at CHPC Case No. 18-06 (6), 208 – 5th Street South. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket.

**MS STATE OF TAX SALE
431 – 15th Street South
Case Number 18-0102 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **18-0102**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated the property was in such a state of uncleanness 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 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.

CHRISTOPHER L. CLINTON
214 – 9th Street South
Case Number 18-0090 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **18-0090**. 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 Taylor 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 Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

MS STATE OF TAX SALE
1626 Washington Avenue
Case Number 18-0082 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **18-0082**. 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 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 Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

SHERRY HARPER
422 Wynhurst Court
Case Number 18-0080 Vegetation, Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **18-0080**. 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** on the structure and give the property owner a **45-day extension** on the vegetative portion, and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Mickens 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) Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

HATCHER INVESTMENT PROPERTIES, LLC
510 – 27th Street North
Case Number 18-0066 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **18-0066**. 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 Jackson 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 Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

U. W. LONG
502 Peach Street
Case Number 18-0063 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **18-0063**. 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 Jackson 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 Jones seconded the motion.

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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 City 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 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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