

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Vice-Mayor Bill Gavin 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

Vice-Mayor Gavin called the meeting to order and called upon Council Member Box to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF SEPTEMBER 4, & SEPTEMBER 11, 2018.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meetings of September 4 and 11, 2018. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR SEPTEMBER 18, 2018.

Council Member Jackson made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for September 18, 2018 in the amount of \$473,512.83. 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

POLICY AGENDA:

Delete Item "D."

Add Item "H" – *Discuss/Approve a Non-Compensated Special Contract Investigator Contract.*

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Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. Council Member Box seconded the motion. The Vice-Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request for City Property Manager, Mike Anderson, to attend the "Mississippi Society of Association Executives Meeting" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$170.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- B. Ratify request for six (6) Fire and Rescue Personnel: Scott Swain, Wes Mims, Todd Graham, Marco Rodriguez, Chip Kain, and Dale Ballard, to deploy to Gulfport, MS to aid in Hurricane Gordon rescue efforts, and approve payment for overtime, \$411.29 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Accept letter of resignation from Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Kyle White, effective September 13, 2018, and approve request for compensation for any unused vacation leave.
- D. Accept letter of resignation from Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Justin Cox, effective September 23, 2018, and approve request for compensation for any unused vacation leave.
- E. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Fire Marshal, Brett Thompson, to attend the "MFIA 2018 Fall Seminar" to be held in Pearl, MS, and approve payment of \$175.00 for registration, \$366.00 for lodging, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- F. Approve request to refund nine (9) citizens: Gail Wilson, Princella Jackson, Maurice Riley, Lutricia Bradley, Angel Thomas, Joe Johnson, Annie Payne, Denise Richardson, and Detric Bush the sum of \$150.00 each for cleanup deposits.
- G. Accept letter of retirement from CPD Works Program Supervisor, Dean Outlaw, effective September 26, 2018, and approve his request to purchase his service weapon at the cost of \$10.00.
- H. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Ra'Heem D. Clemons, effective September 19, 2018.
- I. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Samuel Luke Werner, effective September 20, 2018, and approve his request to be compensated for any unused vacation leave.

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- J. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Administrative Assistant, Angela Johnson, effective September 21, 2018, and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.
- K. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Animal Control Officer, Joshua Sharp, effective September 21, 2018, and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.
- L. Approve request for CPD Investigator, Aaron Andrew, to attend the “Advanced Interview & Interrogation Seminar” to be held in Hattiesburg, MS, at no cost to City.
- M. Approve request for CPD Captain, Stacey Deans, to attend the “Investigating Citizen Complaints & Officer Misconduct for Supervisors Seminar” to be held in Birmingham, AL, and approve payment of \$325.00 for registration, \$303.00 for lodging, travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- N. Approve request for CPD Investigator, Reginald Adams, to attend the “Criminal Investigation Seminar” to be held in Birmingham, AL, and approve payment of \$450.00 for registration, \$505.00 for lodging, travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- O. Approve request to renew the Notary Commission for CPD Payroll Clerk, Alice Byars and Records Clerk, Elizabeth Chetham, and approve purchase of necessary notary supplies.
- P. Ratify permit request submitted by Kenneth Burns on behalf of Burns Dirt Construction for demolition of the Lipscomb House located at 223 6th Street North on September 10-12, 2018 from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. each day with 6th Street North blocked off between Second and Third Avenue North.
- Q. Approve permit request submitted by Meg Blaylock on behalf of Pines and Cady Hill Recovery Center to host a “No One Walks Alone – National Recovery Month Parade” to be held September 28, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. beginning at the Pines and Cady Hill parking lot at 1011 Main Street, down Main Street to Harvey’s, taking a left and proceeding to the Riverwalk.
- R. Approve permit request submitted by Eric Collins on behalf of the Kerr McGee Plaintiffs for Justice to host a “Silent March for Kerr McGee Plaintiffs” to be held October 4, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on 14th Avenue North, blocking 14th Avenue North between Waterworks Road and Military Road.
- S. Approve permit request submitted by Katie Fenstermacher on behalf of Annunciation Catholic School to host an “In Our Nation Day Parade” to be held January 29, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. at 223 North Browder Street. Turning right onto Browder, right onto Alabama Street, right onto Gardner Blvd., right onto Maxwell Lane, and right onto Annunciation Catholic School parking lot.
- T. Approve request for the Mayor to attend the “North Mississippi Mayors Association Meeting” to be held in Tupelo, MS, at no cost to City.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

Vice-Mayor Gavin announced that Mayor Smith is in Washington, DC, trying to secure some Grants.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

J. Monthly Financial Report

Milton Rawle, Jr., CFO, distributed Monthly Financial Reports and remarked that the Sales Taxes decreased by \$32,886.76, compared to the same time last year.

K. Board Vacancies

Redevelopment Authority Board

- 1 Vacancy, Unexpired 5-Year Term ending 9/5/2022
- Tommy Lott, Jr. passed away 8/23/2018.
- Appointment will be made October 2, 2018.
- No applicants at this time

Board of Adjustment & Appeals of Development Codes

- 1 Vacancy, 2-Year Term (Electrical Engineer or Contractor)
- Ralph McLain's term will expire 9/21/2018.
- Appointment can be made September 18, 2018.
- No applicants at this time

Columbus/Lowndes Library Board

- 1 Vacancy, 5-Year Term
- Michael James' term will expire 9/30/2018.
- Appointment will be made September 18, 2018.

Applicant

- Christian G. Heinkel

Council Member Taylor made a motion to appoint Christian G. Heinkel to the Columbus/Lowndes Library Board for a 5-Year Term, until 9/30/23. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

Glenn Baldwin – Appeal from Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals

Mr. Glenn Baldwin appeared before the Mayor and City Council and requested that they grant him a variance. He has appealed to the Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals and was denied. Mr. Baldwin remarked that it would cost him several thousands of dollars to move the building to meet the code set-back requirements. Following discussion of the request, Council Member Box made a motion to grant the variance. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

Council Members Box and Mickens voted in favor of the motion.
Council Members Taylor, Jackson, and Jones opposed the motion.
The motion failed with a majority vote in opposition of the motion.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve Annual Maintenance Agreement for City Hall HVAC systems with Brislin, Inc.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Annual Maintenance Agreement for City HVAC Systems with Brislin, Inc. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

B. Discuss/Approve repair/upgrade to City Hall elevator.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the repair/hydraulic upgrade to the City Hall elevator at a cost of \$41,000.00. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Discuss/Approve acceptance of Mississippi STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant for July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.

Council Member Jones made a motion to accept the Mississippi STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant for July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 in the amount of \$55,571.98, requiring a 25% City match in the amount of \$13,892.97. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve permission to award BEP contract. **DELETED**

E. Discuss/Approve request to renew the City's Medical, Dental, and Base Life Insurance for 2018-2019, and approve Agents of Record, Tim Cox and Russell Brown.

Patricia Mitchell, Human Resources Director, provided the Employee Benefits Renewal cost for Medical, Dental, and Base Life Insurance for 2018 – 2019. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the City's Employee Benefits Renewal cost for Medical, Dental, and Base Life Insurance for 2018 – 2019, and Approve Tim Cox (Cox Consulting Services, Inc.) and Russell Brown as

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Insurance Agents of Record. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Discuss/Approve to hire an applicant to fill the vacant Building Permit Technician position, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment drug screen and medical exam.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the hire of **CYNTHIA STEVENS** to fill the vacant position of Building Permit Technician at \$13.98 per hour/\$29,078.40 annually, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment drug screen and medical exam. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

G. Discuss/Approve recommendations from the September 10, 2018 Planning Commission meeting.

P/C DOCKET NO. 18-03

**Ogletree Properties, LLC
2401 – 5th Street North**

The Planning Commission recommended approval of request to rezone from R-3 (Multi-Family Residential) District to C-1 (R) (Neighborhood Commercial – Restricted) District.

Council Member Jones 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 approve the request to rezone from R-3 (Multi-Family Residential) District to C-1 (R) (Neighborhood Commercial – Restricted) District. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the Planning Commission application. 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.

Permitted Use Request P/U 18-09

**On Behalf of Hal Smith
2011 Main Street**

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request for allow a food concession.

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 allow a food concession be approved as a Permitted Use. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the permitted use application. 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.

H. Discuss/Approve a Non-Compensated Special Investigator Contract

Chief Fred Shelton presented a Non-Compensated Special Investigator Contract for Council Approval. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Non-Compensated Special Investigator Contract Pursuant to §41-29-112 *Miss. Code Ann.* Regarding Drug Task Force Officer Johnny Max Branch, contingent on General Counsel Turnage's review and approval of contract. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

I. Discuss Inter Governmental Relations Agreement

The Council discussed the Inter-Governmental Relations Agreement between the City of Columbus and Lowndes County. Council Member Jones made a motion to appoint Mayor Robert E. Smith Sr., Council Members Joseph Mickens, Sr. and Stephen Jones, COO David Armstrong, CFO Milton E. Rawle, Jr., and Public Relations Officer Joe Dillon. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

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

Approved by: _____
Bill Gavin, Vice-Mayor

Milton Rawle, Jr.,
CFO- Secretary-Treasurer

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