

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

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 20, 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, the Human Resources Director and all Department Heads.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. called the meeting to order and called upon Council Member Charlie Box to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2018.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of November 6, 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 NOVEMBER 20, 2018.

Council member Box made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for November 20, 2018 in the amount of \$592,914.08. 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:

Add Item "J" – Accept Letter of Resignation from Fire and Rescue Personnel Derek Montanio.

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Add Item "K" – Approve request for Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. to attend the North Mississippi mayors Association and Planning and Development District Members Thanksgiving / Christmas Dinner Meeting, to be held in Tupelo, MS.

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 to refund Regina Yarbrough the sum of \$380.00 for Trotter Convention Center fees.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Fire Chief, Martin Andrews, to attend the 2018 Mid-Winter Chiefs Conference to be held in Oxford, MS, and approve payment of \$95.00 for registration, \$328.00 for lodging, \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Chief of Training, Mike Chandler, to attend the "MSFA" 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 Administrative Assistant, Tabitha Barham, to attend the "Emergency Services Administrative Professionals Committee Meeting" to be held in Flowood, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- E. Approve request for seven (7) Fire & Rescue Personnel: Michael Miller, Deonate Jethroe, Eric Minga, Dakota Chancery, Tyler Jones, Justin Martin, and Wesley Gates, to attend the "NASAR SAR TECH II" to be held in Meridian, MS, and approve payment of \$75.00 for travel expenses.
- F. Accept letter of resignation from Public Works employee, Nicholas Turner, effective November 14, 2018, and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.
- G. Ratify permit request submitted by Anthony Billups to host a "Seafood Boil Celebration" held on November 3, 2018 from 3:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at 1625 23rd Street North.

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- H. Approve request for the Mayor, Council, COO, CFO and Interim City Planner to attend the “MML 2019 Mid-Winter Conference” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment for lodging, travel and meal expenses.
- I Approve request to renew the Notary Commission for the Administrative Assistant and approve payment for necessary notary supplies.
- J. Accept letter of resignation from Fire & Rescue Firefighter, Derek Montanio, effective November 20, 2018, and approve compensation for any unused vacation leave.
- K. Approve request for the Mayor to attend the North MS Mayors Association “Thanksgiving/Christmas Dinner Meeting” to be held 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 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 wished the public a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving.

Vice-Mayor Gavin commended the Police Department and Fire Department for Volunteering at Loaves and Fishes.

B. Swearing in of one (1) Fire and Rescue Firefighter

- Dakota Chancery

Mayor Smith swore in Firefighter Dakota Chancery as he recited the Oath of Office. Fire Chief Martin Andrews and the Fire Department Command Staff, came forward and presented Firefighter Chancery his helmet and pins.

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

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

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D. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for October 2018

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

E. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for October 2018

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

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

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

G. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for October 2018

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

H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for October 2018

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

I. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for October 2018

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

J. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for October 2018

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

K. Monthly Financial Report

L. Board Vacancies

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

- 3 Vacancies, 3-Year Term, Expires 12/1/2018.
- Appointment will be made 12/4/2018.

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APPLICANT

- Melissa Suzanne Smith

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS OF DEVELOPMENT CODES

- 1 Vacancy 4-Year Term, Expires 12/16/2018 (Registered Design Professional w/Architectural or Structural Experience).
- 1 Vacancy, 1-Year Term, Expires 12/19/2018 (Fire Protection Engineer or Contractor).
- Appointments will be made December 18, 2018.
- No applicants at this time

TREE BOARD

- 2 Vacancies, 3-Year Term, Expires 12/15/2018.
- Appointment will be made December 18, 2018.

APPLICANT

- **Barbara Bigelow**

GT REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 1 Vacancy, 4-Year Term, Expires 12/31/2018.
- Appointment will be made December 18, 2018.
- No applicants at this time

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS & APPEALS

- 1 Vacancy, 3-Year Term, Expires 12/1/2018.
- Appointment will be made 12/4/2018.
- No applicants at this time

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

Rashell Hopkins – Lupus Awareness

Ms. Rashell Hopkins came before the Mayor and Council and distributed literature regarding Lupus and announced that she will host a Lupus Awareness Workshop in the Baptist Memorial Hospital on May 10 of each year and asked Mayor and Council to help spread the word.

Greg Lewis – Recognition of Peewee Football Champions & Mr. Billy White

Greg Lewis, Recreation Department Director, and Chanda Williams, came forth and recognized the Grid Iron Super Bowl Champions Football Team, along with the coach, Billy White. The team came forth and introduced themselves and told what position they play, along with the coaching staff. Mr. Lewis presented a plaque to Mr. Billy White for his dedicated service, since 1988.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve budget amendments for FY 2018.

Milton Rawle, Jr. came forward and read the budget amendments for FY 2018, totaling \$880,709.00. The Council engaged in a discussion about this subject and questioned the CFO why these have not been brought to them prior to now. Following the discussion, Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the FY 2018 Budget amendments in the amount of \$880,709.00. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

THE BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOLLOWS:

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B. Discuss/Approve Zoning Board of Adjustments & Appeals recommendation to amend the Variance Ordinance.

Kenny Wiegel, Building Official, came before the Mayor and Council and requested that they approve the Zoning Board of Adjustments & Appeals recommendation to amend the Variance Ordinance. Legal Counsel, Jeff Turnage, apprised the Council of the changes. Council Member Gavin made a motion to adopt the amended Variance Ordinance. Council Member Jones seconded the motion followed by a voice vote:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 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> |

THE VARIANCE AMENDMENT FOLLOWS:

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APPENDIX A - ZONING

Art. VIII, §5

Sec. 5. Powers.

The board of adjustments shall have the following powers:

- (1) Power to hear and decide appeals.
- (2) Powers relative to variances: Where, by reason of exceptional narrowness, shallowness or shape of a specific piece of property at the time of the original adoption of the regulations, or by reason of exceptional topographical conditions or other extraordinary or exceptional situation or condition of a specific piece of property, which condition is not generally prevalent in the area, the strict application of these regulations would result in peculiar and exceptional practical difficulties to, or exceptional and undue hardship upon, the owner of such property, the board of adjustment is hereby empowered to authorize upon an appeal relating to such property a variance from such strict application so as to relieve such difficulties or hardship, but may establish such requirements relative to such property as would carry out the purpose and intent of these regulations.

(a) Even where the property in questions is not shallow or narrow in shape and/or does not have exceptional topographical conditions that might justify a variance, the board of adjustments may grant a setback variance when all the following facts are determined by the board to exist:

(i) The requirement sought to be waived has been waived or is grandfathered, and is prevalent in the immediate neighborhood of the property in question;

(ii) No issues would result that would endanger the owner, the public, or the neighbors' property as a result of the requested waiver; and

(iii) The granting of the waiver would not detract from the general appearance prevalent in the neighborhood.

In addition to the factors set forth in this Section 5(2) (a) and its subparagraphs, the board of adjustments may consider whether there exists substantial public support or opposition to the requested variance in determining whether to grant or deny the request.

- (3) Powers relative to exception: Upon appeal, the board of adjustments.....

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- C. Discuss/Approve recommendations from the November 19, 2018 Planning Commission meeting.**

THESE ITEMS WERE TABLED.

- D. Discuss/Approve promotion of one (1) Columbus Recreation Department part-time employee to full-time.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to promote Monique Wells to the position of Townsend Center Supervisor, 30 hours per week at \$10.00 per hour and entitled to benefits, effective immediately. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted on the motion.

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 Box 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