

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS

**DECEMBER 27, 2018
9:00 A.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met in a Special Called Meeting on Thursday, December 27, 2018 at 9:00 a.m., proper notice being posted, after having recessed from their last rescheduled meeting of December 18, 2018. The meeting was held in the City Hall Court Room. Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. presided over the meeting and all Council Members were present, with the exception of Council Members Mickens and Gavin, who were absent. Also present were the COO, the CFO, the General Counsel, the Police Chief, and all other Department Heads.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order and called upon Council Member Box to offer the Invocation.

II. CLARIFICATION OF CITY-WIDE SPENDING FREEZE

Mayor Smith began by stating that the purpose of this meeting is to gain clarification of a vote at the previous Regular Council Meeting regarding a City-wide Spending Freeze. We can't operate with a City-wide spending freeze; payroll and other operational expenses are necessary. A total spending freeze will shut the City down. The Mayor and Council engaged in a lengthy discussion of this matter. Council Member Box remarked that the intent was not a total spending freeze, but over spending on non-essential travel and purchases should be frozen. Council Member Jones remarked that he needed clarification on Credit Card usage. Department Heads were extended the opportunity to comment.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to rescind the Spending Freeze and appoint a committee to review all requests. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Council Member Jones made a substitute motion to rescind the Spending Freeze and table the matter for further discussion at the next regular Council Meeting. There was no second; therefore, action was taken on the original motion.

ORIGINAL MOTION:

Mayor Smith suggested that we accept the first motion and discuss further at the next meeting.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to appoint a Committee, to include Mayor Smith, the COO, the CFO, and Council Members Box and Jones. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion. (*Council Members Mickens and Gavin were not present*).

Legal Counsel Turnage remarked that this action is compliable at short notice. We can now create a set of guidelines.

III. RATIFICATION OF ALL CITY OPERATIONS EXPENSES BETWEEN DECEMBER 18 – 27, 2018.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to ratify all operational expenditures that occurred between December 18 – 27, 2018. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Council Member Box made a motion to table the approval of the Docket totaling \$41,000 that was incurred between December 18 – 27, 2018 until January 2, 2019. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Smith then asked if there was any other business to come before the Mayor and City Council. There being none, Council Member Box made a motion that the meeting adjourn. Upon second by Council Member Taylor and unanimous vote, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

APPROVED BY:

Robert E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

Milton Rawle, Jr.
CFO/Secretary-Treasurer