

# MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS FEBRUARY 19, 2019

The Mayor and City Council met in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 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, 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 Pastor Charlie Whitney to offer the Invocation.

## **II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF FEBRUARY 5 & 14 2019.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meetings of February 5 & 14, 2019. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

## **III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR FEBRUARY 19, 2019.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for February 19, 2019 in the amount of \$402,876.24. 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 "D" –

Add Item "N" – *Approve request for Recreation Department Employee to attend the*

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*“Grand Slam State Baseball Meeting” to be held in Louisville, MS and approve payment of travel expense.*

Add Item “O” -

Council Member Gavin requested to move Items “J” and “K” to the Policy Agenda for discussion. Mayor Smith announced that those items would be moved to the Policy Agenda.

Council Member Taylor then moved that the Agenda for the meeting be adopted according to the above amendments. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion. All Council Members voted in favor of adopting the agenda according to the amendments.

The motion passed.

### **REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:**

#### **V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighters: David Tousley, Onterio Lowery, and Harrison Branch to attend the “Firefighter 1001-I-II” to be held in Pearl, MS, and approve payment of \$1500.00 for registration, \$150.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- B. Approve request for Columbus Fire and Rescue to surplus two (2) 2006 Yamaha Rhino 660 and donate them to Task Force I in Amory MS. See attachments.
- C. Approve request to host “Hazmat I Training” and approve request to pay overtime salaries for off-duty personnel. Cost will be \$7,370.16.
- D. Approve request for the Interim City Planner to attend the “2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application Workshop” to be held in Flowood, MS, and approve payment for travel and meal expenses. **DELETED**
- E. Approve request to refund citizens: Lakendra Montgomery, Charlotte Verdell, Barbara Thomas, and Tiana Nicholson \$150.00 each for clean-up deposits, Christina ball \$30.00 and Jonathan Parnell \$60.00 for sports registrations.
- F. Approve request to advertise for Legal Publications & Advertising Bid.
- G. Approve permit request submitted by Colin Krieger on behalf of Zachary’s to host a “St. Patty’s Party” to be held on March 17, 2019 from 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. with a parade from the Farmer’s Market to Zachary’s from 1:00 p.m.

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to 1:30 p.m., blocking the 400 block of Second Avenue North.

- H. Approve permit request submitted by David Howell on behalf of the American Cancer Society – Relay for Life to host the “Relay for Life” to be held on April 27, 2019 from 12:00 Noon until 11:00 p.m. See attached map.
- I. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Investigator, Kelvin Burdine, effective February 28, 2019 and approve compensation for any unused vacation leave.
- J. Approve tabled request for the Mayor, Mayor’s Youth Council Advisor and members to attend the “12<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Youth Leadership Summit” to be held at the University of MS in Oxford, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses. **MOVED TO POLICY.**
- K. Approve tabled request for the Mayor, Council, COO and CFO to attend the “MML 88<sup>th</sup> Summer Conference to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses. **MOVED TO POLICY.**
- L. Approve request to pay the 2019 Building Officials Association of Mississippi (BOAM) membership fee.
- M. Approve request for the Building Inspection Director, Kenney Wiegel, to attend the “FEMA’s Discovery Meeting” to be held in Amory MS, at no cost to City.
- N. Approve request for Recreation Department employee, Billy Craig, to attend the “Grand Slam State Baseball Meeting” to be held in Louisville, MS and approve payment of \$70.00 and \$20.00 for meals.
- O. Approve request to refund \$270.00 to Tiera Trimuel for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center Rental.

Council Member Jones 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**

There were no General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members.

**B. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for January 2019**

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The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for January 2019 was presented. No action was taken.

**C. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for January 2019**

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for January 2019 was presented. No action was taken.

**D. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for January 2019**

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for January 2019 was presented. No action was taken.

**E. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for January 2019**

The Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for January 2019 was presented. No action was taken.

**F. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for January 2019**

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for January 2019 was presented. No action was taken.

**G. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for January 2019**

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for January 2019 was presented. No action was taken.

**H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for January 2019**

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for January 2019 was presented. No action was taken.

**I. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for January 2019**

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for January 2019 was presented. No action was taken.

**J. Monthly Financial Report**

The Monthly Financial Report was distributed. There was no discussion regarding this report.

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K. Board Vacancies

**CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**

- 1 Vacancy, Dewitt Hicks' 3-Year Term Expires 3/1/2019.
- Appointment will be made on 3/5/2019.

**APPLICANT**

- Dewitt Hicks

**COLUMBUS MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD**

- 1 Vacancy, Fredrick Sparks' 5-Year Term Expires 3/2/2019.
- Fredrick Sparks was appointed to fill the remainder of Stephen Jones' term.
- Appointment will be made on 3/5/2019.

**APPLICANT:**

- Fredrick Sparks

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS OF DEVELOPMENT CODES**

- 1 Vacancy, Kevin Stafford's 1-Year Term Expires 3/6/2019.
- Appointment will be made on 3/5/2019.

**APPLICANT**

- Kevin Stafford

**TREE BOARD**

- 1 Vacancy, Reid Nevins' 3-Year Term Expires 4/19/2019.
- Appointment will be made on 4/16/2019.
- No applicants at this time

**VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:**

- **Amanda Palmertree** – Discuss Kratom Ban Ordinance

Amanda Palmertree could not be present. Ms. Bethany Hook from Hernando, MS, came before the Mayor and Council in objection of the Ordinance supporting the Ban on Kratom. No action was taken.

**VIII. POLICY AGENDA:**

- A. **Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) Entry Level Firefighter, contingent upon a successful drug screen and pre-employment physical.**

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Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire Mason Wise 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.

**B. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) CPD Reserve Officer, contingent upon a successful drug screen and pre-employment physical.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to hire Dean Outlaw as a Reserve Police Officer, 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.

**C. Discuss/Approve recommendations from the February 11, 2019 Planning Commission meeting.**

**Permitted Use Request P/U 19-03**

**The Property Holders**  
**On Behalf of Kasa Properties, LLC**  
**618 College Street**  
*(Tax Map & Parcel No. 61W46-00-04000)*

*The request is to allow conversion of a commercial building into apartments. The property is located in a C-2 Community Commercial District.*

The Planning Commission recommends approval of permitted use request to allow use of the subject property as apartments.

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 conversion of a commercial building into apartments be approved. The property is located in a C-2 Community Commercial District. 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.

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All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**D. Approve request to fill the Trotter Center Director's position pending successful drug screen, pre-employment physical and background check.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the hire of Mrs. Rogena Bonner to fill the vacant position of Trotter Convention Center Director/ Friendship Cemetery Manager/City Property Manager at an annual salary of \$56,435.39, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**E. Consider/Approve hiring one (1) Seasonal Contract Worker for Columbus Recreation Department.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire Wendell Hamilton as a Contract Worker for Columbus Recreation Department at \$8.50 per hour. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**F. Discuss/Approve final summary change order for the CLCA's Airfield Drainage Improvements project.**

Kevin Stafford, with Neel-Schaffer, Inc., came forward and requested that the Council approve a deductive Change Order in the amount of \$4,348.00. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the deductive Changer Order for the CLCA's Airfield Drainage Improvement Project in the amount of -\$4,348.00. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**G. Discuss/Approve Bigbee Valley Civil Final payment request for the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport Airfield Drainage Improvement Project.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve Bigbee Valley's Civil

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Final payment request for the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport Airfield Drainage Improvement Project in the amount of \$5,205.57. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

### **H. Consider/Approve Demolition Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Redevelopment Authority.**

The City's General Counsel reported that the Department of Archives & History have cleared the Factory Hill, Burns Bottom, Frog Bottom district for demolition, with the exception of the Taylor Burns House and stated that the Redevelopment Authority has found that four (4) houses are cleared for asbestos removal and demolition. The Redevelopment Authority has committed to pay the City \$2,000 per dwelling to demolish the listed properties. Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Demolition Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Redevelopment Authority to clear four (4) houses. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

### **ITEMS MOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION:**

### **J. Approve tabled request for the Mayor, Mayor's Youth Council Advisor and members to attend the "12<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Youth Leadership Summit" to be held at the University of MS in Oxford, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses.**

This previously tabled item was moved to the Policy Agenda for further discussion. Mayor Smith discussed the cost involved in participating in this function. Afterwards, Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request for the Mayor, the Mayor's Youth Council Advisor and members, to attend the "12<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Youth Leadership Summit" to be held at the University of MS in Oxford, MS, and approve payment of \$950.00 for registration, \$1,544.53 for lodging, travel and \$2,494.53 for meal expenses. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Smith broke the tie and voted in favor of the motion.

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The motion carried.

- K. Approve tabled request for the Mayor, Council, COO and CFO to attend the “MML 88<sup>th</sup> Summer Conference to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses.**

This previously tabled was moved to the Policy Agenda for discussion. Council Member Gavin made a motion to only send the Mayor to this conference and pay expenses involved with the attendance. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:**

Council Member Jackson made a substitute motion to permit the elected officials that are seeking certification, which include Council Members Jackson and Jones, and the Mayor to this conference. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

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

Council Members Mickens and Box opposed.

The motion carried 4/2.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

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Patricia Mitchell  
Deputy Clerk

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