

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

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 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, Financial Consultant, 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 Rev. Steven James, Pastor of United Christian M. B. Church to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF MARCH 5 and MARCH 14, 2019.

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

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR MARCH 19, 2019.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for March 19, 2019 in the amount of \$421,641.44. Council Member Box 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:

Council Member Gavin made a motion to move Items B, E, I and M to the Policy Agenda for discussion. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2019

Change Item “E” to read “recertification expenses for twenty-nine firefighters.”

Change Item “G” to read: Approve request to refund citizens for twelve (12) sports registrations and one (1) clean-up deposit.

CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

Delete Royce Chatman – Claim for Damages Tire and Rim.

POLICY AGENDA:

Award Bid for Tornado Debris Removal Services.

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.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Accept letter of resignation from Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief, Tommy Massey, effective March 29, 2019, and approve compensation for 240 hours unused vacation leave and submit the remaining unused leave to PERS. He is also requesting to purchase his service weapon for ten dollars (\$10.00).
- B. **MOVED TO POLICY AGENDA.**
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Dakota Chancery, attend the “NFPA 1002: Pumper Apparatus Training” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$675.00 for registration, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighters, Wes Mims and Marco Rodriguez, to attend “HART Training-Field Army Aviation” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- E. **MOVED TO POLICY AGENDA.**
- F. Approve request for the Municipal Court Administrator to attend the “Court Administrators Spring Conference” to be held in Biloxi, MS, at no cost to City.
- G. Approve request to refund citizens for twelve (12) sports registrations and one (1) one (1) cleanup deposit.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2019

- H. Approve permit request submitted by Nancy Carpenter on behalf of the Columbus-Lowndes Convention & Visitors Bureau to host the "Pilgrimage 5K Run" to be held on March 30, 2019 from 7:15 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. See attached route map.
- I. **MOVED TO POLICY AGENDA.**
- J. Approve permit request submitted by James Blakney, Jr. on behalf of Miles Per Hour of Columbus, MS, to host a "Blessing of the Bike Charity Ride" to be held on March 30, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. See the attached map.
- K. Approve permit request submitted by Nancy Carpenter on behalf of the Columbus-Lowndes Convention & Visitors Bureau to host "Catfish in the Alley" to be held on March 29-30, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on March 30th with streets being blocked from 2:00 p.m. on March 29th until 6:00 p.m. March 30th. See attached map.
- L. Approve permit request submitted by Eddie C. Newman on behalf of the Event Organization Group to host the "4th Avenue Annual Neighborhood Picnic" to be held on May 25, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and blocking access to 4th Avenue North at the 15th and 16th blocks.
- M. **MOVED TO POLICY AGENDA.**
- N. Approve request to purchase a tag for an unmarked Police vehicle.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the Consent 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.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

There were no comments from the Mayor and Council Members.

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

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

C. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for February 2019

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2019**

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

D. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for February 2019

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

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

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

F. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for February 2019

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

G. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for February 2019

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

H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for February 2019

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

I. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for February 2019

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

J. Monthly Financial Report

Mike Crowder, CPA and City Financial Consultant, distributed the Monthly Financial Report, discussed the City's cash flow and reported that the sales taxes increased by \$16,500.00 compared to the same time the previous year. No action was taken.

L. Board Vacancies

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2019

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various Boards and remarked that no appointments will be made tonight.

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:

- **Caroline Hearnberger – Retail Coach Update**

Caroline Hearnberger, with Retail Coach, came before the Mayor and Council and updated them on retail strategies for Columbus. She began by stating that improvements have been made to the Leigh Mall property, to include roofing, flooring and lighting. A cell phone data and density study has been conducted to determine the volume of shoppers in Columbus by time and location. The report was taken under advisement. No action was taken.

- ~~**ROYCE CHATMAN – CLAIM FOR DAMAGED TIRE AND RIM**~~

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve Friendship Cemetery Grounds Maintenance Agreement.

Rogena Bonner, Convention Center & Friendship Cemetery Manager, presented the Contract for Grounds Maintenance for Friendship Cemetery. The former contractor requested an increase to continue the contract. A new Contractor, Seth Laster, dba WSL Services, LLC., submitted a proposal for \$3,200.00 per cut. Council Member Taylor made a motion to contract with Seth Laster, dba WSL Services, LLC at \$3,200.00 per cut. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

B. Discuss/Approve recommendations from the March 11, 2019 Planning Commission meeting.

P/C DOCKET NO. 19-04

Vernon Rentals, LLC
112 Idlewild Road

The Planning Commission recommended approval of request to allow use of property in a C-3 Highway Commercial District as a single-family residence.

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 approve the request to allow use of property in a C-3 Highway Commercial District as a single-family residence be approved. Council Member Gavin 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.

C. Award Bid for Tornado Debris Removal Services.

Jabari Edwards, with J5 GBL and the City's Project Manager, came before the Mayor and Council and made a recommendation to award the proposal for Tornado Debris Removal Services. Six (6) Proposals were received. Based on the Selection Committee's evaluations, he recommended entering into negotiations of a contract with Looks Great Services. Council Member Taylor made a motion to award the Tornado Debris Removal Services to Looks Great Services. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Award Bid for HVAC for New Fire Station.

Kevin Stafford, with Neel-Schaffer, Inc., came before the Mayor and Council and reported that he advertised for bids for HVAC for new Fire Station.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to award the HVAC bid for the New Fire Station to Advanced Air in the amount of \$99,705.00. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2019**

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Award Bid for Electrical Contract for New Fire Station.

Kevin Stafford, with Neel-Schaffer, Inc., came before the Mayor and Council and reported that he advertised for bids for Electrical Contract for New Fire Station. Only received one (1) bid and recommended awarding bid to Malone Electric Services.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to award the Electrical bid for the New Fire Station to Malone Electric in the amount of \$162,500.00. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Renew Proclamation and Resolution declaring Columbus as a State of Emergency

Renew Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency and Resolution to Proclaim a State of Emergency.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency and the Resolution to Proclaim a State of Emergency. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. The vote was recorded as follows:

COUNCILMAN GENE TAYLOR	voted: <u>YES</u>
COUNCILMAN JOSEPH MICKENS	voted: <u>YES</u>
COUNCILMAN CHARLIE BOX	voted: <u>YES</u>
COUNCILMAN FREDRICK JACKSON	voted: <u>YES</u>
COUNCILMAN STEPHEN JONES	voted: <u>YES</u>
COUNCILMAN BILL GAVIN	voted: <u>YES</u>

The Mayor then announced that the above and foregoing Resolution was thereby adopted on this the 19th day of March, 2019.

THE PROCLAMATION AND RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2019**

ITEMS MOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION:

- B. Approve payment request for the Peer Assessment Team to come to the City of Columbus for re-accreditation purposes, and approve payment of \$2,544.00 for air travel, \$424.00 for lodging, \$320.79 for car rental, \$2,200.00 per diem and meal expenses. Council Member Taylor moved for approval. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion. After discussion, Mayor Smith called for a vote on the subject and the motion passed on a vote of 4-2 with Council Members Mickens and Box voting against.

- E. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Chief of Training, Mike Chandler, to attend "Mississippi EMS Certification" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$25.00 for travel and \$1,185.00 for recertification expenses for twenty-nine firefighters. Council Member Jackson moved for approval. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion. After a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of the expenditure, the Council voted unanimously to approve the expenditure.

- I. Approve request for the CPD Chief to attend the "Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police Summer Educational Conference" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$325.00 for registration, \$436.00 for lodging, and \$50.00 for travel expenses. Council Member Box moved for approval. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion. The Chief reminded the Council that Section 45-6-11 requires annual training. The Council voted unanimously to approve.

- M. Approve request to send six (6) CPD Officers to the "Southern Regional Public Safety Institute Law Enforcement Training Academy" in Camp Shelby, MS, and approve cost of tuition, \$3600.00 each and clothing expenses required by the academy. The clothing allowance is not to exceed \$350.00 per officer and will be reimbursed upon completion of the academy. Council Member Jones moved for approval. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion. The Police Chief informed the Council that the training was police academy training for new officers. The Council voted unanimously to approve.

The Mayor asked if there was any other business to come before the Mayor and Council. There being none, Council member Jones moved that the meeting be adjourned. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. All Council members voted in favor and the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

Approved by: _____
Robert E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

**Patricia Mitchell
Deputy Clerk**

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2019