

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS MARCH 5, 2019

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 5, 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 Rev. Steve Blaylock, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF FEBRUARY 19 AND MARCH 4, 2019.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meetings of February 19, 2019 and March 4, 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 MARCH 5, 2019.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for March 5, 2019 in the amount of \$361,148.08. 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:

Add Item "L" – Approve request for the Drug Court Coordinator to attend the "Mississippi Association of Drug Court Professionals Training" and approve payment for travel and meal expenses.

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "A" – *Consider/Approve Project Development Agreement for energy savings between City and Path Company.*

Add Item "B" – *Discuss/Approve Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency and a Resolution Requesting the Governor to Proclaim a State of Emergency.*

Add Item "C" – *Discuss/Approve request to solicit proposals for debris removal, monitoring and disaster contracting.*

Add Item "D" – *Discuss/Approve request to award debris chipping contract.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Change Personnel Matters from two (2) to three (3).

Councilmember Taylor moved that the agenda be approved as amended. Council member Jackson seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion on the motion. There being none the Mayor called for a vote on the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request to refund Sherrina Walker the sum of \$750.00 for cancellation of Convention Center rental.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Chief of Training, Mike Chandler, to attend the "Peer Assessor Meeting" to be held in Hampton Roads, VA, at no cost to City.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief, Scott Swain, to be an instructor for the "Swift Water Refresher Class" to be held in Picayune, MS, and approve payment of \$75.00 for fuel and reimbursement for meals. All costs will be reimbursed to the City.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Engineer, Michael Miller, to assist with an "OSAR Course" to be held in Calhoun County, MS, and approve payment of \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- E. Accept letter of retirement from Fire and Rescue Engineer, Michael Miller, effective March 29, 2019, and approve payment of 240 hours of accrued vacation leave.
- F. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Captain, Marco Rodriguez, to attend "Virtual Search Planning – Invitation Only" to be held in Meridian, MS, and

MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2019

approve payment of \$50.00 for fuel and reimbursement for meal expenses.

- G. Ratify request for COO David Armstrong to travel to Oxford, MS in place of Mayor Smith to attend the "12th Annual MYC Statewide Youth Leadership Summit" that was held in Oxford, MS on March 1-2, 2019 and approve payment of \$129.00 for lodging, travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- H. Approve request to refund Mt. Olive M. B. Church and Alma Wells the sum of \$300.00 each for cancellation of rentals due to the structure being destroyed by the recent storm, refund \$150.00 each to Mary Coleman, Tiffany Davis, and Robbie Miller for clean-up deposits and Monzell Smith the sum of \$100.00 for sports registration.
- I. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow on behalf of Main Street Columbus to host the "Annual Market Street Festival" to be held on May 3-4, 2019 from 5:00 a.m., May 3, 2019 until 12:00 p.m. and May 5, 2019 in Downtown Columbus and Riverwalk Park, Stage and Bridge.
- J. Approve request for the Director of Training, Liz Patrick, Patrolman Kevin McCrary, and Chief Shelton to attend the "Mississippi Delta Community College Law Enforcement Training Academy Graduation" to be held in Moorehead, MS, at no cost to City.
- K. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Matthew Lasker, effective March 6, 2019.
- L. Approve request for Drug Court Coordinator, Leonardo Dismukes, to attend the "Mississippi Association of Drug Court Professionals Training" and approve payment of for travel and meal expenses.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. Council Member Jackson 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 thanked all citizens, volunteers, businesses and churches for assisting citizens that are affected by the recent storm.

B. Presentation of Commendations to several CPD Officers

Chief Shelton awarded certificates of Commendation to CPD Officers, Corporal Roman Sones Eric Romans and Roger Tate, who distinguished themselves on February 23, 2019 in rendering what may have been lifesaving aid to a victim of a shooting incident and later in rescuing a citizen that was trapped in a building and unable to help himself due to injuries received as a result of a tornado. Their dedication to duty, selfless service, training and outstanding professional ability contributed to the successful aiding and rescuing of two (2) citizens of the City of Columbus.

C. Swearing In of two (2) CPD Officers

- **Shanquala Fulton**
- **Melvin Shirley**

Mayor Smith swore in new Police Officers Shanquala Fulton and Melvin J. Shirley, Jr. as they recited the Oath of Office.

D. 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

Council Member Taylor made a motion to reappoint Dewitt Hicks to The Convention & Visitors Bureau Board for a 3-Year Term, until March 1, 2022. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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

Council Member Mickens made a motion to reappoint Fredrick Sparks to The Columbus Municipal School District Board for a 5-Year Term, until

**MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2019**

March 2, 2024. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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

Council Member Taylor made a motion to reappoint Kevin Stafford to the Board of Adjustment & Appeals of Development Codes. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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:

- **Patrick Harris – Damage to Automobile**

Patrick Harris came before the Mayor and City Council to contest the decision from Travelers Insurance Company to deny his claim for damage to his automobile when debris flew off a City truck and hit his vehicle. The Council discussed the matter and Council Member Jackson made a motion to pay \$500.00 for Mr. Harris' deductible and asked him to file the damage with his automobile insurance. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All council members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Consider/Approve Project Development Agreement for energy savings between City and Path Company.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Project Development Agreement for energy savings between the City of Columbus and Path Company. The Project Development Study cost \$100,000.00. Council Member Jackson seconded the motion, which if the study is implemented, the cost would be rolled into Lease Purchase financing.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Council Member Box made a substitute motion to table this matter until Financial Consultant, Mike Crowder, presents Financial report. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

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

The motion failed.

ORIGINAL MOTION:

Action was taken on the original motion.

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

The motion carried with a 4/2 vote.

B. Discuss/Approve Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency and a Resolution Requesting the Governor to Proclaim a State of Emergency.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency and the Resolution Requesting the Governor to Proclaim a State of Emergency. Council Member Jones 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 5th day of March, 2019.

THE PROCLAMATION and RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2019

RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM
A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on Feb. 23, 2019, the Board of Supervisors (City Council)
of the County of Loundes found that due to the impact (or imminent threat)
of Tornado a condition of extreme peril
(earthquake, flood, hazmat, hurricane, severe storm, other)

to life and property did exist in Loundes County; and

WHEREAS, on Feb 23, 2019, in accordance with State Law 33-15-17(d) the
Board of Supervisors declared that an emergency does exist throughout said county; and

WHEREAS, it has now been found that local resources are unable to cope with the
effects of said emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DECLARED AND ORDERED that a copy of
this declaration be forwarded to the Governor of Mississippi with the request that he proclaim

the County (City) of Columbus to be in a State of Emergency; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that Robert Smith, Mayor
(Person) (Title)

is thereby designated as the authorized representative of the County (City) of
Columbus for the purpose of receipt, processing, and coordination of all inquiries

and requirements necessary to obtain available State and Federal assistance.

DATE: 2.23.19

ATTEST:

Patricia Mitchell
Clerk of the Board of
Supervisors (or City),
County of:
Columbus
State of Mississippi

Robert E. Smith
Mayor (Board President)

Step J
Board Member

Gene
Board Member

Dio
Board Member

Frank
Board Member

Charles
Board Member

W. M. Jenkins
Board Member

C. Discuss/Approve request to solicit proposals for debris removal, monitoring and disaster contracting.

Antwan Richardson, with J5, came before the Mayor and City Council and requested authorization to begin advertising for RFPs for Debris removal monitoring and disaster contracting. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the request to begin advertising for RFPs for Debris removal monitoring and disaster contracting. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve request to award debris chipping contract.

Casey Bush appeared before the Mayor and City Council and remarked that he received two (2) quotes for the debris chipping contract and asked the Council to award the lowest quote to GoBox. Council Member Mickens made a motion to award the Debris Chipping Contract to GoBox. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

OPEN SESSION:

Council Member Gavin made a motion to end the discussion of these matters and return to Open Session. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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

Patricia Mitchell
Deputy Clerk/ Secretary-Treasurer

MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2019