

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS APRIL 16, 2019

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 16, 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. Gloria Jamison to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF APRIL 2 & 9, 2019.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meetings of April 2 & 9, 2019. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR APRIL 16, 2019.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims in the amount of \$422,034.31. Council Member Mickens 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 "H" – *Approve request to refund citizens for four (4) clean-up deposits, one (1) sports refund and two (2) full rental cancellations.*

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "A1" – *Consider Promotion Policy*

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the 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.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve permit request submitted by LaChunda Sparks, on behalf of CAFB, DHS and Stokes Beard Elementary School to host a "Child Abuse Prevention Parade" to be held on April 26, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m., starting at Stokes Beard Elementary School, 311 South Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.
- B. Approve permit request submitted by Dr. Stanley McCrary, on behalf of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church to host a "Community Health Fair with 5K Walk/Run" to be held on April 27, 2019 from 2:00 p.m., starting at 1102 – 12th Avenue South.
- C. Approve request for JTB Furniture Manufacturing Company to donate seventy (70) wardrobes and seventy-two (72) chests to the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Captain, Ryan Thompson, to attend "Fire Inspector 1031-1" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$885.00 for registration, \$75.00 for travel, and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- E. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Jacob Faulkner, to attend "Driver/Operator NFPA 1002: Pumper Apparatus" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$675.00 for registration, \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- F. Approve request to pay membership dues totaling \$175.00 to the American Chemical Society for a CPD Forensic Scientist.
- G. Approve request for Mayor Smith to attend the "North Mississippi Mayors Association Meeting" to be held in Pontotoc, MS, at no cost to the City.
- H. Approve request to refund citizens: Shina Owens, Reggilond Taylor, Lorey Salter, and Maurice Williams the sum of \$150.00 each for clean-up deposits, Brenda David \$55.00 for sports refund and Rosie Gardner and Malinda Williams \$300.00 each for full rental cancellations.

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 invited the public to attend the 12th Annual Mayor's Unity Picnic, which is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

PROCLAMATION: LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. Rashell Hopkins and supporters came before the Mayor and Council to discuss Lupus Awareness Month. Mayor Smith presented a Proclamation to the group and proclaimed May 2019 as Lupus Awareness Month in Columbus, Mississippi.

PROCLAMATION: NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2019

Mayor Smith presented a Proclamation to Chief Frederick Shelton, recognizing May 12 – 18, 2019 as National Police Week in Columbus, Mississippi.

PROCLAMATION: NATHANIEL BLEVINS / MDOC

Mayor Smith presented a Proclamation to Nathaniel Blevins and the Noxubee County Work Center / MDOC for bringing water to Lowndes County following the February 23, 2019 tornado.

Joe Dillion, City Public Information Officer, gave a comprehensive report on clean-up efforts following the February 23, 2019 tornado. No action was taken.

B. SWEARING IN OF FOUR (4) COLUMBUS POLICE OFFICERS

Mayor Smith swore in four (4) CPD Officers: Robin Conner, Lorenzo Burns, Rachel McCord and Rodreiuz Porter, as they recited the Oath of Office. The Police Chief and CPD Command Staff were present.

C. SWEARING IN OF TWO (2) COLUMBUS FIRE & RESCUE FIREFIGHTERS

Mayor Smith swore in two (2) Columbus Fire & Rescue Firefighters: David Tousley and William Besant, as they recited the Oath of Office. The Fire Chief and the CFR Command Staff were present.

D. MONTHLY REPORT FROM COLUMBUS FIRE AND RESCUE FOR MARCH 2019

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

E. MONTHLY REPORT FROM COLUMBUS MUNICIPAL COURT DIVISION FOR MARCH 2019

The Monthly Report for the Columbus Municipal Court Division for March 2019 was presented. No action was taken.

F. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR MARCH 2019.

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

G. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR MARCH 2019.

The Monthly Report for the Office of Planning and Community Development for March 2019 was presented. No action was taken.

H. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT FOR MARCH 2019.

The Monthly Report for the Code Enforcement Department for March 2019 was presented. No action was taken.

I. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE COLUMBUS RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR MARCH 2019.

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

J. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR MARCH 2019.

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

K. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT FOR MARCH 2019.

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

L. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT FOR MARCH 2019.

M. BOARD VACANCIES

David Armstrong announced vacancies on various Boards.

TREE BOARD:

1 vacancy, Reid Nevins' 3-year Term expires 4/19/2019.
Appointment can be made April 16, 2019.

APPLICANT

Reid Nevin

Council Member Taylor made a motion to appoint Reid Nevins to the Tree Board for a 3-Year Term, until 4/19/2023. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS OF DEVELOPMENT CODES

1 vacancy, Mickey Brislin's 3-Year term expires 5/17/2019.
Appointment will be made May 7, 2019.
No applicants at this time.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

3 vacancies, 4-Year Terms of Ann Davis, Mark Ward, and Joseph Boggess expire 5/19/2019.
Appointments will be made 5/7/2019.

APPLICANTS

Ann Davis
Joseph Boggess

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

3 vacancies, 4-Year Terms of Kelsey Rickenbaker-Bigelow, Chance Laws and Barbara Bigelow expire 6/2/2019.
Appointments will be made 5/21/2019.

APPLICANT

Barbara Bigelow

CITY UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 vacancy, 5-Year Term of Michael Tate expires 6/30/2019.
Appointment will be made 6/18/2019.

No applicants at this time.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

GLENN LAUTZENHISER – National Day of Prayer

Ms. Nell Bateman and Ms. Gertie Lagrone came before the Mayor and Council and invite them, along with the public, to the National Day of Prayer, which will be held Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 12:00 noon in front of the Lowndes County Courthouse.

HELEN PRIDMORE: Trash at 5th and Main and at the Princess Theater

Ms. Helen Pridmore came before the Mayor and Council to discuss the problem of trash left on the downtown street and asked for a solution. Ms. Pridmore remarked that she runs in the mornings and, while doing so, she sees trash everywhere. Business Owners Bill Strauss and Mr. William Bart Lawrence came forward and made remarks in their defense.

YOLANDA PRUITT – MS Tobacco-Free Coalition

Ms. Yolanda Pruitt, along with other supporters, came forth, distributed pamphlets and discussed the goals of the MS Tobacco-Free Coalition.

THOMAS M. GILLON – Long Term Recovery Team

Mr. Thomas Gillon came before the Mayor and Council to discuss Long-Term Storm Recovery goals. Mr. Gillon encouraged the City and County to work together in clean-up efforts. He works with a voluntary organization that is Active in Disaster Relief.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA

A. Discuss/Approve Salary Freeze Policy.

The General Counsel presented a draft of a policy for City employees that are eligible for promotion, stating that employee(s) will not receive and increase during the current Salary Freeze. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the Salary Freeze Policy. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

B. Discuss/Approve promotion of three (3) CPD Officers.

Chief Fred Shelton came before the Mayor and Council and stated that several officers had taken the CPD promotional exams. The exams have been graded and three (3) officers have been certified by the Civil Service Commission as passing, one (1) for Lieutenant and two (2) for Sergeant. In light of the recent budget constraints, these officers have requested to be promoted with the rank, not asking for the appropriate pay increase at this time.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the request to promote officers in the Police Department in rank only, one (1) to the rank of Lieutenant and two (2) to Sergeant. Council Member Box seconded the motion. (Chief Shelton will have the officers come to the next Council Meeting).

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Discuss/Approve Acquisition of Real Property for the 14th Avenue North to Waterworks Road Ditch Improvement Project.

Kevin Stafford, with Neel-Schaffer, Inc., came forth with information regarding Real Property for the 14th avenue North to Waterworks Road Ditch Improvement Project, stating that the owner, Mark Frady, has agreed to issue a warranty deed in the amount of \$1500.00 for .89 acres. Council Member Jackson made a motion to approve. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve adoption of revisions and updates to the CPD Standard Operation Procedures.

Chief Shelton distributed the revised copies of CPD Standard Operation Procedures. Following a brief discussion, Council Member Jones made a motion to table this matter until the next regular meeting. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve Changes to the Blight Elimination Program (BEP).

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the removal of five parcels of properties on the current 2017 Blight Elimination Program (BEP) and condemn five additional properties so that they can be added to the list. The properties are listed below:

REMOVE	ADD
1812 – 3 rd Avenue South	433 18 th Street South
315 19 th Street South	435 19 th Street South
1815 3 rd Avenue South	439 18 th Street South
2015 Washington Avenue	1808 College Street
320 12 th Avenue South	1510 10 th Avenue North

Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Renew Proclamation and Resolution Regarding Local 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 _____16th day of April, 2019.

THE PROCLAMATION and RESOLUTION FOLLOWS ON THE NEXT TWO (2) PAGES:

PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY
(by City Council or County Board of Supervisors)

WHEREAS, Columbus the City Council / ~~or Board of Supervisors~~ does hereby find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within said City / ~~County~~, caused by

(Severe storm (tornado), damaging winds, flash flooding, river flooding

drought, wildland fire, structural fire, hail, hazardous material incident, epidemic, hurricane, earthquake, other)

commencing on or about 5:10 AM / PM on the 23rd day of Feb., 2019; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid conditions of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency in order to provide for the health and safety of the citizens and the protection of their property within the affected jurisdiction;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that in accordance with Section 33-15-17(d), Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, a local emergency now exists throughout said City / ~~County~~; and shall be reviewed every thirty (30) days until such local emergency is no longer in effect and proclaimed terminated by the City Council / ~~Board of Supervisors~~ of the City / ~~County~~ of Columbus, State of Mississippi.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that all City / ~~County~~ agencies and departments shall render all possible assistance and discharge their emergency responsibilities as set forth in the City / ~~County~~ Emergency Operations Plan.

DATE: 4/16/19

[Signature]
Mayor / President of Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Clerk of City / ~~Chancery~~
Clerk for Board of Supervisors

[Signature]
Councilperson / Supervisor

[Signature]
Councilperson / Supervisor

Chase E. Box
Councilperson / Supervisor

[Signature]
Councilperson / Supervisor

Columbus
City / or County, State of MS

[Signature]
Councilperson
[Signature]
Councilperson

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM
A STATE OF EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, on Feb. 23, 2019, the ~~Board of Supervisors~~ (City Council) of the County of Columbus found that due to the impact (or imminent threat) of a tornado a condition of extreme peril (earthquake, flood, hazmat, hurricane, severe storm, other) to life and property did exist in Columbus County; and

WHEREAS, on Feb. 23, 2019, in accordance with State Law 33-15-17(d) the ~~Board of Supervisors~~ City Council declared that an emergency does exist throughout said ~~county~~ City; 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 David Armstrong, COO (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: 4/16/19 Robert E. Smith
Mayor (Board President)

ATTEST: [Signature]
Board Member

Patricia Mitchell
Board Member

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors (or City), [Signature]
Board Member

County of: Columbus Charles S. By
Board Member

State of Mississippi Fred Jackson
Board Member

MEMA DR-4 (Rev. 12/01) Ju Milienisik
Board Member

[Signature]
Board Member

G. Discuss/Approve Advertising City Resources.

Council Member Jackson moved to approve the expenditure of \$ 9,500.00 from 001-004-695 (Advertising City Resources) for the Mayor's Unity Picnic, and find that said amount is a legitimate expense that will advertise and bring into favorable notice the opportunities, possibilities and resources of the City of Columbus. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Mayor Smith recognized Lowndes County Supervisor Leroy Brooks and invited him to come forward and speak. Mr. Brooks requested recognized his Leadership Team.

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 Gavin and unanimous vote, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

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

Patricia Mitchell
Deputy Clerk/ Secretary-Treasurer