

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS MAY 21, 2019

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 21, 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, CFO, General Counsel, Police Chief, Human Resources Director, and all Department Heads.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order and called upon Sarah Singly, 2019 Graduate of Columbus Christian School and Member of Fairview Baptist Church, to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 7, 2019

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of May 7, 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 MAY 21, 2019.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for May 21, 2019 in the amount of \$544,185.63. 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:

Council Member Gavin requested to move Item "K" to the Policy Agenda.

Add Item "J" – *Approve request to refund citizens for one (1) sports registration and six (6) clean-up deposits.*

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "F" – *Approve request for the Municipal Court Clerk to attend the "Municipal Court Clerk Summer Program" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment for lodging expenses.*

MINUTES
MAY 21, 2019

CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

Delete Gertrude Magby – City Purchase of Right-of-Way.

Council Member Box 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.

The motion carried.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Accept letter of resignation from one (1) Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Jamie Adams, effective May 20, 2019, and approve requests for compensation of unused vacation leave.
- B. Approve request for Mike Chandler, Chief of Training, to attend “Accreditation Site Visit” to be held in Beale AFB, CA, at no cost to the City of Columbus.
- C. Approve request for Edmund Brock, Fire and Rescue Engineer, Edmund Brock, to “Fire Investigator” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$640.00 for registration, \$75.00 for travel, and reimbursement of \$255.00 for meals.
- D. Approve request for Mayor Robert Smith, Fire Chief Andrews, and two (2) Fire and Rescue Personnel to attend the “Rosenbauer America Plant Tour” to be held in Minneapolis, MS, and approve payment of fuel expenses.
- E. Approve request for two (2) Fire and Rescue personnel: Scott Wes Mims and Marco Rodriguez, to attend “Task Force II HAART Exercise” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement of meals expenses.
- F. Accept letter of resignation from Demontrell Clayborn, effective May 8, 2019.
- G. Approve permit request submitted by Colin Krieger to host the “Northside Charity Boil” to be held on May 26, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the 500 block of 8th Street North.
- H. Ratify permit request submitted by Martha Gordon, on behalf of the Sandfield Horizon Committee, to host the “8th of May Festival” held May 11, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m., blocking 4th Avenue South between 23rd Street and 25th Street South.
- I. Approve permit request submitted by Leroy Brooks, on behalf of Juneteenth – Columbus, Inc., to host the “Juneteenth Festival” to be held on June 14, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and June 15, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. at 902 – 20th Street North.

MINUTES
MAY 21, 2019

- J. Approve request to refund Sandreika Mitchell \$25.00 for sports registration and Tate Vaughn, Ethel Sparks, Robert McCarter, Deletha Stevenson, Greta Gregory and Rhonda Williams \$150.00 each for rental clean-up fees.
- K. **MOVED TO POLICY** – *Approve request for the Municipal Court Clerk to attend the “Municipal Court Clerk Summer Program” to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment for lodging expenses.*

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. Council Member Taylor 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

Council Member Mickens thanked the Mayor, Council and public for their acts of kindness and prayers during the loss of his sister.

B. Swearing in of one (1) Fire and Rescue Firefighter

Mayor Robert Smith swore in Fire and Rescue Department employee, Brandon Wade while he recited the Oath of Office. The Fire and Rescue Department Command Staff was present.

C. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department for April 2019.

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

D. Monthly Report from the Columbus Municipal Court Division for April 2019.

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

E. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for April 2019

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

F. Monthly Report from the Office of Planning & Community Development for April 2019.

MINUTES
MAY 21, 2019

The Monthly Report from the Office of Planning & Community Development for April 2019 was presented. No action was taken.

G. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for April 2019.

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

H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for April 2019.

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

I. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for April 2019.

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

J. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for April 2019.

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

K. Monthly Financial Report

Deliah Vaughn, CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report and reported That the sales taxes decreased compared to the same period the previous year.

L. Board Vacancies

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that an appointment can be made on the Historic Preservation Commission Board.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS OF DEVELOPMENT CODES

- 1 Vacancy, Mickey Brislin's 3-Year Term Expires 5/17/2019.
- Mr. Brislin is not seeking reappointment.
- Appointment can be made immediately.
- No applicants at this time

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

- 1 Vacancy, 4-Year Term of Mark Ward expired 5/19/19
- Mr. Ward is not seeking reappointment.
- Appointment can be made immediately.
- No applicants at this time

**MINUTES
MAY 21, 2019**

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

- 2 Vacancies, 4-Year Terms of Kelsey Rickenbaker-Bigelow, Chance Laws and Barbara Bigelow expire 6/02/19
- Appointment can be made 5/21/19.

APPLICANT

- Barbara Bigelow

Council Member Taylor made a motion to reappoint Barbara Bigelow to the Historic Preservation Commission Board for a 4-Year Term, until 6/2/2023. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

CITY UTILITIES COMMISSION

- 1 Vacancy, 5-Year Term of Michael Tate expires 6/30/19
- Appointment can be made 6/18/19.

APPLICANT

Michael Tate

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

- DELETED

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve Airport MOU

David Armstrong, COO, requested approval to enter into an agreement/MOU with Mr. Rick Milburn to provide consulting and advisory services on matters that may come before the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport, at \$200.00 per month, not to exceed \$1,000 per year. Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to enter into an agreement/MOU with Mr. Rick Milburn to provide consulting and advisory services on matters that may come before the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport, at \$200.00 per month, not to exceed \$1,000 per year. Council Member Box seconded the motion, followed by discussion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion, with the exception of Council Member Gavin, who opposed.

The motion carried 5/1.

B. Discuss/Approve permission request from the 2019 Juneteenth Festival Committee to sell beer on June 14 – 15, 2019.

District 5 Supervisor Leroy Brooks came before the Mayor and Council and requested permission to sell beer on June 14 – 15, 2019 during the 2019 Juneteenth Festival. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request and authorize the sell beer at the 2019 Juneteenth Festival. 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.

C. Discuss/Approve submission of AIP Grant Application for the Runway Crack Seal Project for the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport.

Kevin Stafford with Neel-Schaffer, Inc. came forth and remarked that the AIP Grant Application for the Runway Crack Seal Project for the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport have been bid out and the lowest bid was awarded to Gregory Companies LLC DBA Murphee Paving in the amount of \$106,251.09, plus engineering cost of \$17,300.00 and Administrative cost of \$8,000.00, causing the total cost to be \$131,551.09. FAA's share is 90% or \$118,395.98, the State's share is 5%, \$6,577.55 and the local share is \$6,577.55 to be divided between City and Lowndes County with the City's final share being \$3,288.78. Council Member Taylor made a motion to grant permission for Neel-Schaffer, Inc. to submit the AIP Grant Application for the Runway Crack Seal Project for the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve decision of Columbus Historic Preservation Commission "Stay-of-Demolition."

Kenny Wiegel, Building Official, came before the Mayor and Council to discuss the decision of the Columbus Historic Preservation Commission to place a 180 day "Stay-of-Demolition" on Community Counseling Property located at 113 – 11th Street North, Columbus, MS. Council Member Jones made a motion to overrule the decision of the Columbus Historic Preservation Commission and waive the 180 day stay period so as to permit demolition of a structure in the Historic District contrary to the Ordinance. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

MINUTES
MAY 21, 2019

Mayor Smith then asked the City Attorney, City Engineer and Building Official to draft some proposed parameters for future appeals from an order from the Commission to stay demolition and that such be brought to the Mayor and Council as a proposed amendment to the Ordinance.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve Recommendations from the May 13, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting.

P/C Docket No. 19-01

WE Hungry, LLC
400 Forrest Boulevard

The Planning Commission recommended approval of request to rezone from R-1 (Single-Family Residential) District in R-3 (Multi-Family Residential) District; based on a mistake in the original zoning.

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 grant request to rezone from R-1 (Single-Family Residential) District in R-3 (Multi-Family Residential) District; based on a mistake in the original zoning. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion. Mayor Smith asked if anyone present objected to the approval. Two (2) property owners in the vicinity of the proposed location came forth with objections.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Council Member Jackson made a motion to table this matter until the applicant brought plans to the Mayor and Council to consider. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Permitted Use Request P/U 19-05

Irnell Jones
916 – 7th Street South

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request for allow a “Bed & Breakfast, subject to all (applicable) requirements.

MINUTES
MAY 21, 2019

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 a "Bed & Breakfast, subject to all (applicable) requirements be approved as a Permitted Use. Council Member Gavin 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.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Permitted Use Request P/U 19-06

On Behalf of Vincent and Rhonda Henry
2407 Highway 45 North

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request for allow a Portable Concession, with time limit of one (1) year.

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 a Portable Concession, with time limit of one (1) year be approved as a Permitted Use. Council Member Gavin 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.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Permitted Use Request P/U 19-07

On Behalf of Ashley Beard
248 Chubby Drive

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request for allow a Portable Concession, with time limit of one (1) year.

MINUTES
MAY 21, 2019

Council Member Gavin 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 a Portable Concession, with time limit of one (1) year be approved as a Permitted Use. 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.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. MOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: – *Approve request for the Municipal Court Clerk to attend the “Municipal Court Clerk Summer Program” to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment for lodging expenses.*

Ms. Wendy Blunt was asked to come forward and give an explanation of the request to attend the “Municipal Court Clerk Summer Program.” Ms. Blunt responded by stating that the need to attend this conference is obtain the updates and changing laws as it pertains to Municipal Court and remarked that she was only asking for lodging, not travel or meals reimbursement. Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to Wendy Blunt, Municipal Court Administrator to attend the “Municipal Court Clerk Summer Program” to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of lodging expenses. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion, with the exception of Council Member Gavin, who opposed.

The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Mayor then asked if there was any other business to come before the Mayor and City Council. There being none, Council Member Taylor moved that the meeting be adjourned. Upon second by Council Member Jones and unanimous vote, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

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

Deliah Vaughn
CFO/Secretary-Treasurer