

# MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS MAY 7, 2019

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 7, 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 and the Human Resources Director.

## **I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION**

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order and called upon Minister Tyson Cunningham, with FCA at Mississippi State University, to offer the Invocation.

## **II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF APRIL 16 & 23, 2019.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meetings of April 16 & 23, 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 MAY 7, 2019.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims in the amount of \$732,037.02. 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 "O" – *Approve request to refund one (1) citizen for Trotter Rental Fee.*

Add Item "P" – *Approve request for one (1) F & R Firefighter to attend the "MS Office of Homeland Security Task Force II Mass Casualty and Communications Exercise Pre-Meeting" to be held in Pearl, MS, and approve payment for travel and meal expenses.*

Add Item "Q" – *Approve request for the Mayor to attend the "North MS Mayors Association Meeting" to be held in Pontotoc, MS, at no cost to the City. The meeting was postponed last month due to inclement weather.*

**REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:**

Add Michael Tate as an applicant to the City Utilities Commission Board

**POLICY AGENDA:**

Delete Item "D".

Change the reading on Item "F" to read – *Consider/Approve advertising for proposals for professional services for design of the Sim Scott Community Center.*

Add Item "H" – *Discuss/Approve the Resolution request to make payment of the 2019 COLA at the end of 2019.*

Add Item "I" – *Discuss/Approve Engagement Letter.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Change Personnel Matters to four (4).

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the 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.

The motion carried.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Accept letters of resignation from Officer Cole Britt, effective April 16, 2019 and Eric Romans, effective April 23, 2019.
- B. Ratify permit request submitted by Rev. Germain McConnell, on behalf of Missionary Union Baptist Church to host a parade, "Jesus' Walk to Calvary" held on April 19, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. See attached map.
- C. Ratify permit request submitted by Johnathan West, on behalf of Carter's Funeral Services to host the "VPC Celebration of Life" held on May 4, 2019 from 4:00 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. at 602 – 14<sup>th</sup> Street North.

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF  
MAY 7, 2019

- D. Approve permit request submitted by Brad Adkins to host the "Possum Town Triathlon" to be held on August 17, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. See attached map.
- E. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Engineers Josh Boyer and Eric Minga to attend "Fire Department Safety Officer" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$800.00 for registration, \$75.00 for fuel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- F. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighters, Justin Martin and Dakota Chancery to attend "SARTECH II Evaluation" to be held in Meridian, MS, and approve payment for travel.
- G. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Chief of Training, Mike Chandler, to attend the "Mississippi Minimum Standards and Certification Board Meeting" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of travel.
- H. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Captains, Wes Mims and Marco Rodriguez, to attend "Task Force II HART-Harness Certification" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- I. Accept letter of resignation from Landfill employee, Taboris Harris, effective May 4, 2019.
- J. Accept letter of resignation from Public Works employee, Frankie Buckley, Sr., effective April 17, 2019.
- K. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Chief of Training, Mike Chandler, to attend "CPAT" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment for travel.
- L. Approve request to donate surplus fire hose to Noxubee County Fire Protection Association.
- M. Approve request to refund Alice Guice, Martha Leech, Laverne Jefferson, Katetria Harris, Kimberly Thompson, Patricia Barry, Kristie Sherrod and Lillian Richie the sum of \$150.00 each for clean-up deposits.
- N. Approve request to remit payment of \$135.00 to the International Code Council, Inc. for annual membership renewal.
- O. Approve request to refund a citizen for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center rental.

P. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighter to attend the “MS Office of Homeland Security Task Force II Mass Casualty and Communications Exercise Pre-Meeting” to be held in Pearl, MS, and approve payment for travel and meal expenses.

Q. Approve request for the Mayor to attend the “North MS Mayors Association Meeting” to be held in Pontotoc, MS, at no cost to the City.

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**

Mayor Smith offered condolences to Council Member Mickens during the loss of his sister.

Certain Department Heads were asked to come to the podium and discuss/give an explanation of overtime in their department.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Fire Chief Martin Andrews came forth and discussed overtime and how he was taking measures to minimize it.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

Police Chief Fred Shelton came forth and gave an explanation of his overtime and discussed measures he was taking to minimize it.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS:**

Public Works Department came forward and gave an explanation of overtime for his department.

#### **MUNICIPAL COURT DIVISION:**

Ms. Wendy Blunt came forth and discussed changes that were made in the Municipal Court Division to take in more revenue. The Court Division is now open for business and acceptance of payments for fines, Monday – Friday. Some of the Clerks work Monday – Thursday and some Clerks work Tuesday – Friday.

**B. SWEARING IN OF TWO POLICE OFFICERS:**

Mayor Smith Swore in two new Police Officers: Lorenzo Burns and Jamarcus Jones, as they recited the Oath of Officer. Chief Shelton affixed PD pins on their garments.

**C. BOARD VACANCIES**

David Armstrong announced vacancies on various Boards.

**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

Council Member Jones made a motion to reappoint Ann Davis and Joseph Boggess for four (4) Year Terms, until May 19, 2023. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**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.

**APPLICANT:**

Michael Tate

**VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:**

**CARL A. LEE – Trotter Convention Center**

Mr. Carl A. Lee came before the Mayor and Council and remarked that citizens of Columbus have approached him to request the use of the Trotter Convention Center for a mass meeting to discuss Tronox Claims. Legal Counsel Jeff Turnage remarked that he is not aware of anything in the Law that permits one group to use the Trotter free ant that the rentals should be handled on a uniform basis. No action was taken.

**VIII. POLICY AGENDA**

**A. Discuss/Approve Promotion of three (3) CPD Officers**

Chief Fred Shelton came before the Mayor and Council and remarked that promotion exams were given at the Police Department and the scores have been certified by the Civil Service Commission. Three (3) members of the Police Department passed. These officers have requested to be promoted in Rank only, understanding that, due to budgetary reasons, they cannot receive pay for serving in their promoted positions and will not be entitled to back-pay when the City can afford to increase their pay.

Sgt. John Bishop	promoted to Lieutenant
Cpl. Amanda Burrell	promoted to Sergeant
Cpl. Joshua Vandiver	promoted to Sergeant

Council Member Taylor made a motion to promote the above-mentioned Police Department personnel in rank only. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. (The Police Department Command Staff affixed new rank pins on each officer).

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**B. Discuss/Approve hiring six (6) seasonal workers for summer program.**

Greg Lewis, Recreation Department Director, came before the Mayor and Council and requested permission to hire six (6) seasonal workers for the summer program. They are needed to work at the community centers to supervise. The fee for each child to participate in the summer program is \$75.00 and it is a nine (9) week program. These workers will work 25

hours per week, be paid \$8.00 per hour and will not be entitled to benefits. Council Member made a motion to approve the request to hire six (6) seasonal workers for the Recreation Department for 25 hours per week at \$8.00 per hour and no benefits. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried 5/1.

**C. Consider/Approve Application of City to FEMA for a Public Assistance Grant for reimbursement of storm debris removal and monitoring.**

Joe Dillon, Public Information Officer, reported on the Federal Disaster Declaration DR-4429 and requested Council approval to apply for the Federal Assistance Grant Program for Public Assistance for the FEMA DR-4429. Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to apply for the Federal Assistance Grant for Public Assistance for the FEMA DR-4429. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**D. DELETED**

**E. Consider/Approve appointment of a Hazard Mitigation Manager to represent the City in furtherance of FEMA Grant Applications.**

Council Member Box made a motion to establish the position of Hazard Mitigation Manager to represent the City in furtherance of FEMA Grant Application. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Council Jones made a motion to appoint Joe Dillon to the position of Hazard Mitigation Manager to represent the City in furtherance of FEMA Grant Application. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**F. Consider/Approve advertising for proposals for professional services for design of the Sim Scott Community Center**

Council Member Jones made a motion to advertise for proposals for professional services for design of the Sim Scott Community Center. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**G. Discuss/Approve cost of property clean-up on cases previously heard by Council and for which remediation has been completed.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to adjudicate property previously heard by Council and for which remediation has been completed. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**THE LIST OF ADJUDICATED PROPERTIES FOLLOWS:**

(THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY)



**City of Columbus**  
POST OFFICE BOX 1408  
COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI 39703

**Invoice**

PORTER KIMBERLY D  
1106 16TH ST N  
COLUMBUS, MS 39701

Invoice #: 17-0234-0502  
Date: May 2, 2019

Address:	1106 16TH ST N
APN:	56W18-02-13300
Case No:	CE-17-0234
Violation:	Property Maintenance

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, THE CITY HAS INCURRED THE EXPENSES NOTED BELOW IN REMEDIATING THE UNACCEPTABLE CONDITION OF YOUR PROPERTY. A LIEN HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST THE PROPERTY IN THE OFFICE OF THE LOWNDES COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK.

PAYMENT IS DUE UPON RECEIPT AND IF NOT PAID IN FULL BEFORE 06/30/2020 IT WILL BE ADDED TO YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILL AS A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT. SUBSEQUENTLY, IF PAYMENT TO THE TAX COLLECTOR BECOMES DELINQUENT, YOUR PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD IN THE ANNUAL TAX SALE TO SATISFY THE CITY'S LIEN.

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
	Attorney Fees		48.00
	Attorney Fees		11.00
	Admin Fee		12.50
	Public Works		369.00
	Admin Fee		12.50
	Public Works		123.00
<b>DATE HEARD BY CITY COUNCIL</b>		09/05/2017	

**TERMS:** Due on receipt

SUBTOTAL	576.00
TAX RATE	
SALES TAX	
SHIPPING & HANDLING	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>576.00</b>

Make all checks payable to **City of Columbus**  
If you have any questions concerning this invoice, contact the Code Enforcement Dept. (662) 244-3500, ext 4005.



**City of Columbus**  
POST OFFICE BOX 1408  
COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI 39703

### Invoice

Occupant  
2421 6TH AVE N  
COLUMBUS, MS

Address:	2421 6TH AVE N
APN:	61W05-02-00600
Case No:	CE-18-0259
Violation:	Property Maintenance

Invoice #: 18-0259-0502  
Date: May 2, 2019

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, THE CITY HAS INCURRED THE EXPENSES NOTED BELOW IN REMEDIATING THE UNACCEPTABLE CONDITION OF YOUR PROPERTY. A LIEN HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST THE PROPERTY IN THE OFFICE OF THE LOWNDES COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK.

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QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
	Attorney Fees		11.00
	Admin Fee		12.50
	Public Works		106.00
	Admin Fee		12.50
	Public Works		49.00
<b>DATE HEARD BY CITY COUNCIL</b>		<b>10/02/2018</b>	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>191.00</b>
<b>TAX RATE</b>			
<b>SALES TAX</b>			
<b>SHIPPING &amp; HANDLING</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>191.00</b>

**TERMS: Due on receipt**

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**City of Columbus**  
POST OFFICE BOX 1408  
COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI 39703

### Invoice

PTP LLC C/O ROBERT BAILEY  
P O BOX 867  
NEW ALBANY, MS 38652

Invoice #: 18-0027-0502  
Date: May 2, 2019

Address:	1424 13TH AVE N
APN:	56W18-02-08800
Case No:	CE-18-0027
Violation:	Property Maintenance

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, THE CITY HAS INCURRED THE EXPENSES NOTED BELOW IN REMEDIATING THE UNACCEPTABLE CONDITION OF YOUR PROPERTY. A LIEN HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST THE PROPERTY IN THE OFFICE OF THE LOWNDES COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK.

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QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
	Attorney Fees		60.00
	Admin Fee		12.50
	Public Works		65.00
	Admin Fee		12.50
	Public Works		32.50
	Admin Fee		12.50
	Public Works		98.00
<b>DATE HEARD BY CITY COUNCIL</b>		05/15/2018	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			293.00
<b>TAX RATE</b>			
<b>SALES TAX</b>			
<b>SHIPPING &amp; HANDLING</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>			293.00

**TERMS: Due on receipt**

Make all checks payable to **City of Columbus**

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**City of Columbus**  
POST OFFICE BOX 1408  
COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI 39703

### Invoice

WRIGHT JAMES B / EDNA B  
1913 N ROBERSON ST  
COLUMBUS, MS 39701

Address:	1913 N ROBERSON ST
APN:	56W15-02-01300
Case No:	CE-17-0255
Violation:	Property Maintenance

Invoice #: 17-0255-0502  
Date: May 2, 2019

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, THE CITY HAS INCURRED THE EXPENSES NOTED BELOW IN REMEDIATING THE UNACCEPTABLE CONDITION OF YOUR PROPERTY. A LIEN HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST THE PROPERTY IN THE OFFICE OF THE LOWNDES COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK.

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QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
	Attorney Fees		83.00
	Admin Fee		12.50
	Public Works		106.50
	Public Works		65.00
	Admin Fee		12.50
	Public Works		238.00
	Admin Fee		12.50
	Public Works		131.00
<b>DATE HEARD BY CITY COUNCIL</b>		<b>09/19/2017</b>	

**TERMS: Due on receipt**

SUBTOTAL	661.00
TAX RATE	
SALES TAX	
SHIPPING & HANDLING	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>661.00</b>

Make all checks payable to **City of Columbus**

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**City of Columbus**  
POST OFFICE BOX 1408  
COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI 39703

**Invoice**

BROWN MARGIE P/WILL C/O J NANCE  
133 W 109TH STREET  
CHICAGO, IL 60628

Invoice #: 18-0110-0502  
Date: May 2, 2019

Address: 200 BLOCK 11TH AVENUE  
SOUTH  
APN: 61W16-02-10000  
Case No: CE-18-0110  
Violation: Property Maintenance

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, THE CITY HAS INCURRED THE EXPENSES NOTED BELOW IN REMEDIATING THE UNACCEPTABLE CONDITION OF YOUR PROPERTY. A LIEN HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST THE PROPERTY IN THE OFFICE OF THE LOWNDES COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK.

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QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
	Attorney Fees		48.00
	Admin Fee		12.50
	Public Works		32.50
	Admin Fee		12.50
	Public Works		98.00
<b>DATE HEARD BY CITY COUNCIL</b>		07/03/2018	

**TERMS:** Due on receipt

SUBTOTAL	203.50
TAX RATE	
SALES TAX	
SHIPPING & HANDLING	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>203.50</b>

Make all checks payable to **City of Columbus**

If you have any questions concerning this invoice, contact the Code Enforcement Dept. (662) 244-3500, ext 4005.

**H. Discuss/Approve the Resolution request to make payment of the  
2019 COLA at the end of 2019**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Resolution of the City of Columbus, Mississippi requesting the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi to make Payment of the 2019 COLA. Council Member Jackson 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

**The Resolution Follows:**

(THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY)

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI  
REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT  
SYSTEM OF MISSISSIPPI TO MAKE PAYMENT  
OF THE 2019 COLA**

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus is required to fund the necessary payment for the City of Columbus Police and Fire Disability and Relief Fund and the 2019 payment will become due at the end of 2019 and the funds are available to make such payment;

IT IS THEREFORE, Resolved and Ordered that the City of Columbus does hereby adopt the Resolution request that the 2019 COLA payment be timely made.

THE ABOVE RESOLUTION, having been first reduced to writing, was introduced by Council Member Taylor, who moved for its adoption. It was seconded by Council Member Jackson.

The foregoing Resolution was read, considered and voted upon section by section and as a whole, the vote of each and all of the sections, and upon the Resolution as an entirety, was taken by "yea" and "nay" vote with the following results:

Council Member Gene Taylor	voted:	yes
Council Member Joseph Mickens	voted:	yes
Council Member Charlie Box	voted:	yes
Council Member Fredrick Jackson	voted:	yes
Council Member Stephen Jones	voted:	yes
Council Member Bill Gavin	voted:	yes

This motion having received the affirmative vote of all Council members present, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted.

ADOPTED, APPROVED AND PASSED this the 7th day of May, 2019.

Robert E. Smith, Sr.  
Robert E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Deliah Vaughn  
Deliah Vaughn, CFO/Secretary-Treasurer

**I. Discuss/Approve Engagement Letter**

Mayor Smith presented a proposal from Watkins, Ward and Stafford to enter into an agreement to provide certain services for the Administration and Council Members of the City of Columbus. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the Engagement Letter for Watkins, Ward and Stafford to provide agreed-upon procedures to assist in developing a budgeting process in accordance with the guidelines established by the Office of the State Auditor of Mississippi. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

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 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
DELIAH VAUGHN  
CFO/Secretary-Treasurer

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF  
MAY 7, 2019