

**MEETING OF
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS
JUNE 18, 2019**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 18, 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 Pastor Ron Delgado, pastor of Vibrant Church, to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF JUNE 4, 2019

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of June 4, 2019. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR JUNE 18, 2019.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for June 18, 2019 in the amount of \$288,238.46. 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:

Change "N" to seven (7) clean-up deposits.

Council Member Gavin requested to move item "F" thru "J" from the Consent Agenda to the Policy Agenda for discussion.

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "D" – *Discuss/Approve Cemetery Grounds Maintenance Contract.*

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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.

The motion carried.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Accept letters of retirement from two (2) Public Works Department employees: Otis Johnson and Floyd Lash, effective June 20, 2019, and approve request to be compensated for 240 hours of unused vacation leave.
- B. Accept letter of retirement from one Public Works Department employee, Charlie Drake, Jr., effective June 27, 2019, and approve request to be compensated for 240 hours of unused vacation leave.
- C. Ratify permit request submitted by Eddie Jones, on behalf of Street Jumpers Motorcycle Club Columbus, MS to host a "Cancer Ride for Lashala Coleman" held on June 1, 2019 with a Police escort from Highway 69 South to Highway 82 East Bypass at 10:00 a.m. until 10:15 a.m.
- D. Approve permit request submitted by Betty Kelly to host a "Family Union and Birthdays" to be held on June 22, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at 405 – 26th Street North, blocking 4th Avenue North and 5th Avenue North of 26th Street North.
- E. Approve permit request submitted by Patrick Holmes on behalf of the Southside Activity Committee to host the "Southside Blues Festival" to be held on July 6, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 a.m., blocking 9th Avenue South at the East corner of Oak Manor Apartments, corner of 10th Avenue South and 9th Avenue South.
- F. **MOVED TO POLICY AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION**
- G. **MOVED TO POLICY AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION**
- H. **MOVED TO POLICY AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION**
- I. **MOVED TO POLICY AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION**
- J. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Harrison Branch, to attend "NREMT Exam" to be held in Tuscaloosa, AL, and approve payment of \$80.00 for registration, \$25.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expense.
- K. Accept letter of resignation from Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Joseph Cook, Effective June 17, 2019.

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- L. Accept letter of retirement from Fire and Rescue Engineer, Wayne Doug Cox, Effective June 27, 2019 and approve donation of unused leave.
- M. Accept letter of retirement from Fire and Rescue Captain Kevin Brown, effective June 27, 2019, and approve request for compensation of 240 hours of unused vacation leave.
- N. Approve request to refund citizens for seven (7) clean-up deposits totaling \$150.00 each.
- O. Accept letter of retirement from Building & Inspection department Office Manager, Georgia Harrison, effective June 27, 2019, and approve request to be compensated for 240 hours of unused vacation leave. Also request approval to authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process.

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

There were no comments from the Mayor and Council Members.

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

- Brady Holcomb

Mayor Smith swore in Fire and Rescue Firefighter Brady Holcomb as he recited the Oath of Office. The Fire Chief and the Fire and Rescue Command staff were present.

C. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for May 2019

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

D. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for May 2019.

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

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E. Monthly Report from the City Planning & Community Development Department for May 2019.

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

F. Monthly Report from Columbus Fire and Rescue for May 2019.

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

G. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for May 2019.

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for May 2019 was presented. Some Council Members had questions for Chief Shelton, but no action was taken.

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

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

I. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for May 2019.

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

J. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for May 2019.

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

K. Monthly Financial Report

Deliah Vaughn, CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report and remarked that the City has \$1.829M in the General Fund. She also reported that the sales taxes for the month was \$821,146.03, which is a \$29,345.10 decrease compared to the same time last year. No action was taken.

C. Board Vacancies

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

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS OF DEVELOPMENT CODES

- 1 Vacancy, Mickey Brislin's 3-Year Term Expired 5/17/19
- Mr. Brislin is not seeking reappointment.

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- Appointment can be made immediately.
- No applicants at this time.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

- 2 Vacancies, 4-Year Terms
- Mark Wart's term expired 5/19/19 and Kelsey Rickenbaker-Bigelow's term expires 6/2/19.
- Appointments can be made immediately.

APPLICANT:

- Amber Brislin

Council Member Taylor made a motion to Amber Brislin to the Historic Preservation Commission Board for a 4-Year Term, until 5/19/2023. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

City Utilities Commission

- 1 Vacancy, Micheal Tate's 5-Year Term Expires 6/30/19.
- Appointment will be made June 18, 2019.

Applicants

- Micheal Tate

Council Member Taylor made a motion to reappoint Micheal Tate to The City Utilities Commission Board for a 5-Year Term, until June 30, 2023. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

- A. Discuss/Approve hiring of two (2) CPD Officers, contingent upon successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the hire of **Kimberly F. Hayes and Landon George** as an Entry-Level Police Officers, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

- B. Discuss/Approve Resolution directing issuance of taxable General Obligation Note not to exceed \$5,000,000 for purposes of financing Emergency costs incurred from the February 23, 2019 tornado and Related flooding, Awarding sale of said Note, and other purposes specified therein.**

There came on for consideration the matter of issuing a General Obligation Note of the City of Columbus, Mississippi and, after a discussion of the subject matter, Council Member **Taylor** offered and moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

The Mayor and Council discussed the Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi directing the issuance of a Taxable General Obligation Note of the City in a Principal Amount of not to exceed Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) Pursuant to Section 21-35-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended and supplemented from time to time, for the Purpose of Providing Financing for the Costs Incurred in Connection with a Tornado and the Resulting Flooding that Struck the City, including, but not limited to (A) Debris Removal necessitated by Damaged and Destroyed Residential, Commercial and other Structures and Uprooted, Blown Down and Broken Trees and other Vegetative Debris which are Creating Public Hazards to the Citizens of the City, Including the Reimbursement of Overtime Costs incurred by the City, (B) Damage caused to Streets, Culverts, Roadways, Sidewalks, Bridges and Street Signs, and (C) Damage caused to Public Buildings, Parks and Recreational Facilities, Including, But Not Limited To, The City's Amphitheater, Sim Scott Park and The Columbus Riverwalk; Awarding the Sale of Said Note; Prescribing the Form and Details of said Note; Providing Certain Covenants of Said City in Connection with Said Note and Directing the Preparation, Execution and Delivery Thereof; ratifying the Publication of a Notice of Note Sale in Connection with Said Note and The Distribution of Materials Related to the Sale and Issuance of Said Note; and

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For Related Purposes. Legal Counsel Jeff Turnage remarked that the City of Columbus advertised for bids for G.O. Bonds and received two (2) responses: one from Trustmark National Bank at an interest rate of \$3.340000% and one from Renasant Bank at an interest rate of \$4.48%. Ms. Vaughn recommended that the bid be awarded to Trustmark National Bank. Council Member **Jones** seconded the motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution and the question being put to a roll call vote, the result was as follows.

Council Member Gene Taylor	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Joseph Mickens, Sr.	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Charlie Box	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Fredrick Jackson	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Stephen Jones	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Bill Gavin	voted: <u>YES</u>

The motion having received the affirmative vote of all of the members of the Governing Body present, being a quorum of said Governing Body, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted this the 18th day of June, 2019.

THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

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VIII. B.

There came on for consideration the matter of issuing a general obligation note of the City of Columbus, Mississippi and, after a discussion of the subject matter, Council Member _____ offered and moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI DIRECTING THE ISSUANCE OF A TAXABLE GENERAL OBLIGATION NOTE OF THE CITY IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$5,000,000) PURSUANT TO SECTION 21-35-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED FROM TIME TO TIME, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FINANCING FOR THE COSTS INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH A TORNADO AND THE RESULTING FLOODING THAT STRUCK THE CITY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO (A) DEBRIS REMOVAL NECESSITATED BY DAMAGED AND DESTROYED RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND OTHER STRUCTURES AND UPROOTED, BLOWN DOWN AND BROKEN TREES AND OTHER VEGETATIVE DEBRIS WHICH ARE CREATING PUBLIC HAZARDS TO THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY, INCLUDING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF OVERTIME COSTS INCURRED BY THE CITY, (B) DAMAGE CAUSED TO STREETS, CULVERTS, ROADWAYS, SIDEWALKS, BRIDGES AND STREET SIGNS, AND (C) DAMAGE CAUSED TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE CITY'S AMPHITHEATER, SIM SCOTT PARK AND THE COLUMBUS RIVERWALK; AWARDED THE SALE OF SAID NOTE; PRESCRIBING THE FORM AND DETAILS OF SAID NOTE; PROVIDING CERTAIN COVENANTS OF SAID CITY IN CONNECTION WITH SAID NOTE AND DIRECTING THE PREPARATION, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY THEREOF; RATIFYING THE PUBLICATION OF A NOTICE OF NOTE SALE IN CONNECTION WITH SAID NOTE AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS RELATED TO THE SALE AND ISSUANCE OF SAID NOTE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi (the "Governing Body"), acting for and on behalf of the City of Columbus, Mississippi (the "City") are authorized by Section 21-35-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended and supplemented from time to time (the "Act") to, with the unanimous vote of the Governing Body acting and present, borrow money upon the happening of any emergency caused by fire, flood, explosion, storm, earthquake, epidemic, riot or insurrection, or caused by any inherent defect due to defective construction, or when the immediate preservation of order or of public health is necessary, or when the restoration of a condition of usefulness of any public building which has been destroyed by accident appears advisable or in order to settle lawful claims for personal injuries or property damage where such municipality is liable therefor under law, exclusive of claims arising from the operation of any public utility owned by the municipality, or in order to meet mandatory expenditures required by law; and