

MAYOR
ROBERT E. SMITH, SR

CITY COUNCIL
GENE A. TAYLOR
JOSEPH W. MICKENS, SR.
CHARLIE BOX
FREDRICK JACKSON
STEPHEN JONES
BILL GAVIN

CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER
DAVID ARMSTRONG

CITY OF COLUMBUS

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CFO/SECRETARY-TREASURER
DELIAH VAUGHN

POLICE CHIEF
FREDERICK SHELTON

FIRE CHIEF
MARTIN L. ANDREWS

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR
PATRICIA S. MITCHELL

**INTERIM DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
GEORGE IRBY

SPECIAL MEETING THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS

**AUGUST 14, 2019
9:00 A. M.**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus will have a special meeting.

The meeting will be held at 9:00 A.M., Wednesday, August 14, 2019, in the City Hall Upstairs Courtroom, located at 523 Main Street, Columbus, MS, as Ordered by the Mayor and City Council.

The following will be discussed:

- A. Consider/Approve Order and Resolution for Special Election in Ward 1.**
- B. Consider/Approve Change of Polling Place in Ward 1.**
- C. Consider/Approve Request to Remove Properties from the Blight Elimination Program.**
- D. Consider/Approve Request to Add Properties to the Blight Elimination Program.**

So Ordered, on this the 13th day of August 2019.

As Determined by the Mayor and City Council

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS**

**AUGUST 14, 2019
9:00 A.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met in a Special Called Meeting on Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., proper notice being posted, after having recessed from their last regular meeting of August 6, 2019. The meeting was held in the City Hall Court Room. Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. presided over the meeting and all Council Members were present. Also present were the COO, the General Counsel, the CFO, the Police Chief, and the HR Director.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order and called upon Council Member Box to offer the Invocation.

II. Consider/Approve Order Setting Special Election to fill vacancy in Office of Council member – Ward 1.

Mayor Smith stated that the purpose of the meeting is to announce the passing of Council Member Gene Taylor and approve the Resolution and Order for a Special Election to fill the vacancy in office of Council Member in Ward 1.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Resolution and Order for a Special Election in Ward 4. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

THE RESOLUTION AND ORDER FOLLOWS:

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION
TO FILL VACATED SEAT OF COUNCIL MEMBER
FOR WARD 1
OF CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI**
(for the unexpired term ending June 30, 2021)
Tuesday, the 24th day of September, 2019

1. Each candidate desiring to run shall qualify by petition filed with the municipal clerk by 5:00 P.M. (September 4, 2019) which is a date at least twenty (20) days before the date of the election (September 24, 2019) which shall be signed by not less than 50 qualified electors of Ward 1;

2. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be elected. If no candidate receives a majority vote at the election, the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall have their names placed on the ballot for the election to be held three (3) weeks thereafter (October 15, 2019). The candidate receiving the majority of the votes cast in said election shall be elected. However, if no candidate receives a majority and there is a tie in the election of those receiving the next highest vote, those receiving the next highest vote and the candidate receiving the highest vote shall have their names placed on the ballot for the election to be held three (3) weeks thereafter (October 15, 2019), and whoever receives the most votes cast in the election shall be elected.

3. The special election shall be held at the following polling places, which are the regular polling places in the City of Columbus, to wit:

- Precinct 1: Townsend Park: 826 15th Street South
- Precinct 2: William Washington Terrace: 2201 8th Avenue South; and
- Precinct 3: Southside Missionary Baptist Church: 100 Nashville Ferry Road East

4. The said polling places shall be open from the hours of 7 o'clock a.m. until the hour of 7 o'clock p.m. on the date of said election. All qualified electors of Ward 1 shall be entitled to vote at said election;

5. The special election shall, in all respects, be held, conducted and returned in the same manner as general elections, as provided by the said Section 23-15-857 and other applicable Sections of the Mississippi Code of 1972; and

6. The ballots will be counted by hand count as in the last special election for Council Member for Ward 1, because of the increased cost of machine counting, the small number of voters registered to vote in Ward 1, and the difficulties in timely programing the optical scanner for counting votes in time for the said special election.

**RESOLUTION AND ORDER SETTING SPECIAL ELECTION
TO FILL VACANCY IN OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER - WARD 1**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi did meet at a Special Called Meeting of the Mayor and City Council meeting at 9:00 A.M. on the 14th day of August, 2019 at City Hall, Main Street, City of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, Gene A. Taylor, on the 5th day of August, 2019 passed away and his office as Council Member of Ward 1 was then vacated; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Section 18 of the Charter of said City, approved March 8, 1884, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 23-15-857 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 as amended, the City must order that an election be held to fill the vacancy not less than thirty (30) days nor more than forty-five (45) days after the order to hold such election is adopted; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have determined that the most suitable day for the election is on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, with a run-off, if needed, to be held on Tuesday, the 15th of October, 2019;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi that an election be and the same is hereby called and ordered as follows:

1. Because the Council Member for Ward 1 vacated his office on August 5th, 2019, an election will be held to fill the vacancy in the office of Council Member for Ward 1 on the 24th day of September, 2019 and that a run-off, if necessary, be held on the 15th day of October, 2019; and

2. The Election Commissioners shall give notice of said election by publication of notices in The Columbus Packet, a newspaper qualified under the laws of the State of Mississippi to publish legal notices in the manner prescribed by law, and also by posting notices of said election at City Hall, the Lowndes County Courthouse and the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library. The notice shall be substantially in the following form to wit:

3. The ballots to be used at said election shall be in substantially the following form:

**OFFICIAL BALLOT, SPECIAL ELECTION, COUNCIL MEMBER
FOR WARD 1, CITY OF COLUMBUS
(Unexpired Term Ending June 30, 2021)**

A ■ | CITY OF COLUMBUS B ■ | SPECIAL ELECTION C ■ | SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

**INSTRUCTIONS TO
VOTER**

- 1. To vote, you must blacken the oval () completely.**
- 2. Use only the pencil provided. Your ballot will be counted by hand.**
- 3. DO NOT CROSS OUT OR ERASE. If you change your mind, exchange your ballot for a new one.**
- 4. AFTER VOTING – insert your ballot in this ballot sleeve so that the initial box appears at the bottom. DO NOT FOLD THE BALLOT.**

FOR
COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD 1
Vote for One

() _____
(NAME OF CANDIDATE)

() _____
(NAME OF CANDIDATE)

Write-in Candidate's Name: _____

4. One of the commissioners, to wit: Penesha McDowell shall be and hereby is appointed to prepare the ballots for said election; and

5. The Election Commissioners shall also have printed on the ballot the name of any qualified elector who has qualified as a candidate for the office of Ward 1 City Council Member, Columbus, Mississippi, pursuant to Sections 23-15-857 and other applicable Sections of the Mississippi Code of 1972, at least twenty (20) days before the date of said election.

The above Resolution and Order having been first reduced to writing, was introduced by Council Member _____, who moved for its adoption. It was seconded by Council Member _____, and after thorough discussion and deliberation, the Mayor called for the vote, the following vote was registered:

Ward 1 - VACANT	
Ward 2 - Council Member Mickens voted	<u>Yes</u>
Ward 3 - Council Member Box voted	<u>Yes</u>
Ward 4 - VACANT	
Ward 5 - Council Member Jones voted	<u>Yes</u>
Ward 6 - Council Member Gavin voted	<u>Yes</u>

The Mayor announced the Resolution received the majority vote of the Council then and there present and voting, and it was declared to be a lawful Resolution and Order of the City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi.

WITNESS THE SIGNATURE OF THE UNDERSIGNED OFFICERS, on this the 14th day of August, 2019.


MAYOR

Attest:


SECRETARY / TREASURER / MUNICIPAL CLERK

III. Consider/Approve Change of Polling Place in Ward 1 from National Guard Armory to Southside Missionary Baptist Church

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Change of Polling Place in Ward 1 from the National Guard Armory to Southside Missionary Baptist Church. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

IV. Consider/Approve Request to Remove properties from the Blight Elimination Program

George Irby, Interim Planner and Director of Community Development, came forth and requested approval to remove three (3) properties from the Blight Elimination Program because the Owners did not want to sell at the appraised price. The properties are located at the addresses listed below:

433 – 18th Street North
435 – 18th Street North
439 – 18th Street North

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to remove the properties listed above from the Blight Elimination Program. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

V. Consider/Approve Request to Add properties to the Blight Elimination Program

Council Member Jones made a motion to Add four (4) properties to the Blight Elimination Program. The properties are located at the addresses listed below:

1615 – 8th Avenue North
2221 – 15th Avenue North
907 Shady Street
1021 Shady Street

Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

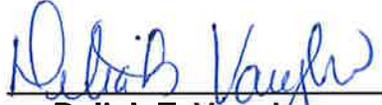
All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

VI. 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 T. Vaughn
CFO- Secretary-Treasurer

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