

**MEETING OF
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS
OCTOBER 1, 2019**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. presided over the meeting. The Ward 1 Council seat is vacant due to the passing of Councilman Gene Taylor. All other Council Members were present, with the exception of Council Member Stephen Jones, who participated via telephone. Also present were the COO, CFO, General Counsel, Police Chief, and all other Department Heads.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order and called upon Rev. Sarah Windham, Pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church, to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of September 17, 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 OCTOBER 1, 2019

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for October 1, 2019 in the amount of \$389,354.57. 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 Item "J" to read: *Approve request for the CFO to attend the "Certified Municipal Clerk Program" to be held in Oxford, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging and travel expenses.*

Add Item "K" – *Accept Letter of Resignation from Fire and Rescue Firefighter*

REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

Delete Mark Castleberry as an applicant from the Redevelopment Authority Board.

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "L" – *Discuss/Approve Proposed Agreement between Columbus Light and Water and City of Columbus.* **MOVED TO CITIZENS INPUT.**

Add Item "M" – *Consider /Discuss issues with the Fire Department.*

Council Member Mickens 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.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Ratify request for Fire and Rescue Chief of Training, Mike Chandler, to attend "MS State Fire Academy EFO Guest Instructor" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for fuel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- B. Ratify request for Fire and Rescue Engineer, Chris Carter, to attend "FUNSAR" to be held in Meridian, MS, and approve payment of \$100.00 for fuel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Ratify request for Fire and Rescue Captains: Wes Mims and Marco Rodriguez, to attend "HART – Refresher Hawkins Field" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of 50.00 for fuel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Code Enforcement Assistant, Sasha James, to attend "Keep MS/AL Beautiful Conference" to be held in Hattiesburg, MS, and approve payment of \$204.16 for travel expenses.
- E. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer Jared Booth, effective October 9, 2019
- F. Approve permit request submitted by Lynn Davis, on behalf of First United Methodist Church, Annunciation Catholic Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church to host a "Fall Festival Community Block Party" on October 27, 2019 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., beginning at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on College (Third Street South) and ending at Annunciation Catholic Church's Activity Building on Ninth Street South. See attached map.

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- G. Approve permit request submitted by John Brown, on behalf of J.B.'s House of Blues, to host a "Fun Fall Festival" to be held on October 5, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. outside J.B.'s House of Blues at 120 - 22nd Street South. See attached map.
- H. Ratify permit request submitted by Lula McCradic, on behalf of True Redemption Church, to host a "Church Outdoor Program" held on September 20 and 21, 2019 from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at True Redemption Church, 2126 College Street.
- I. Approve permit request submitted by Eric Collins and Belinda Morris on behalf of My Life Matters Ministries and Justice 35, 28 to host a "Kerr McGee March/Rally for Justice" to be held on October 11, 2019 from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., gathering in the open field across from Wells Cleaners and marching from Military Road to Waterworks Road.
- J. Approve request for the CFO to attend the "Certified Municipal Clerk Program" to be held in Oxford, MS, and approve payment of \$200.00 for registration, \$210.00 for lodging and \$108.96 for travel expenses.
- K. Accept Letter of Resignation from Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Dakota Chancery.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, all Council Members present voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Smith announced that each Council Member needs to appoint one (1) person in his Ward to be a part of the 2020 Complete Count Committee.

B. Board Vacancies

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various Boards and remarked that some appointments can be made tonight.

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD

- 1 Vacancy, Mark Castleberry's 5-Year Term Expired 9/1/2019.
- Appointment can be made immediately.

APPLICANT

- ~~Mark Castleberry~~

COLUMBUS-LOWNDES LIBRARY BOARD

- 1 Vacancy, Ralph Carter's 5-Year Term Expires 9/30/2019.
- Appointment will be made 10/1/2019.

APPLICANT

- Hillary A. H. Richardson

Council Member Gavin made a motion to appoint Ms. Hillary A. H. Richardson to the Columbus-Lowndes Library Board for a 5-Year Term, until 9/30/2024. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

- 3 Vacancies, 3-Year Terms for Larry Fuller, Chuck Bigelow and MacArthur Inge Expire 10/4/2019.
- Appointments will be made 10/1/2019.

APPLICANTS

- Chuck Bigelow
- MacArthur Inge

Council Member Mickens made a motion to reappoint Chuck Bigelow and MacArthur Inge to the City Planning Commission for a 3-Year Term, until 10/1/2022. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

Greg Davis – Presentation – MOVED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Columbus Light and Water Agreement

General Counsel Turnage presented an Agreement between Columbus Light and Water Department and the City of Columbus. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the Street and Parking Lot Lighting Contract between Columbus Light and Water Department and the City of Columbus. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

THE CONTRACT FOLLOWS:

THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

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STREET AND PARKING LOT LIGHTING CONTRACT

Between

CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI

AND

COLUMBUS LIGHT AND WATER DEPARTMENT

THIS CONTRACT, made and entered into as of the _____ day of _____ by and between **CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI** (hereinafter called "Customer"), a municipality existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Mississippi and its Charter and Ordinances and **COLUMBUS LIGHT AND WATER DEPARTMENT** (hereinafter called "Distributor"), a municipal corporation duly and acting by and through its Utilities Commission.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Customer currently pays for street lights under **Outdoor Lighting Rate Schedule** LS – Part A (hereinafter called "the account"), in the City of Columbus, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the CUSTOMER wishes to obtain ownership of certain assets, as hereafter described (the "Transferred Assets") associated with the accounts and documented in Distributor's plant account; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is the regulatory authority for the Distributor; and

WHEREAS, TVA required the Distributor's rate payers not subsidize the terms of the transaction with Customer; and

WHEREAS, the parties hereto intend to comply with TVA's requirement by selling the items for the Distributor's remaining undepreciated costs; and

WHEREAS, Distributor and Customer wish to agree upon the terms and conditions under which electric power and energy will continue to be made available by Distributor for Customer's street and public parking lot lighting systems (hereinafter called "street lights").

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants hereinafter set forth, the parties hereto covenant and agree as follows:

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1. The customer agrees to make a payment in the amount of \$838,835.22 and subsequently make payment for any undepreciated value for work in process at the time of the sale and to be established within 90 days after the sale. The initial payment will be equal to the undepreciated cost of the Transferred Assets located in Distributor's plant on the date this contract is signed. Ownership of assets will be considered transferred upon the execution of this contract and initial payment.

2. The Transferred Assets shall include, but not be limited to, all street light fixtures, street light arms on those poles being sold and wiring currently documented in the Distributor's plant account. The Transferred Assets shall also include all wiring that is dedicated to the sole purpose of wiring street lights regardless of whether or not it is currently documented in Distributor's account.
3. Upon transfer of the Transferred Assets from the Distributor to the Customer, it is the intention of the Customer to replace all street light fixtures using a Contractor.
4. Upon execution of this contract, the Distributor will bill the Customer under the **Outdoor Lighting Rate Schedule**. The monthly electric bill for the Customer's street lighting system will consist of the following charges.
 - a. An energy charge for all street lights on the Distributor's system derived by multiplying count (by size and type) by the rated kwh to determine the total energy usage. **A pro-forma of the monthly estimated charges are set forth in the attached anticipated Excel spreadsheet with current and anticipated reduced charges.**
 - b. The total energy usage determined in 4.a will be multiplied by the rates in the current Outdoor Lighting Rate Schedule and billed monthly.
5. Upon transfer of Transferred Assets from the Distributor to the Customer, the Distributor will operate and maintain the street lights in accordance with the wishes of the customer. The Customer will reimburse the Distributor for all material costs, including appropriate stores expenses, labor, including appropriate stores expenses labor including appropriate overheads, and transportation costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the street lights.
6. The Distributor will apply a fee sufficient to meet the requirements of TVA's Joint Cost Study for housing inventory, ordering inventory, and administration costs incurred by the Distributor. The

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Distributor reserves the right to adjust this fee at any time in order to remain in compliance with TVA's Joint Cost Study.

7. This Contract shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the respective successors, legal representatives and assigns of the parties hereto.
8. The parties intend to comply with any applicable regulations on this transaction imposed by TVA or other regulatory authorities. In the event a regulatory agency requires any changes to this agreement, the parties agree to negotiate and enter an appropriate amendment for such purposes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Contract to be executed by their duly authorized representatives as of the day and year first above written.

WITNESS:

Signature

Print

CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI

Signature

Print

WITNESS:

Signature

Print

COLUMBUS LIGHT AND WATER

Signature

Print

SEE ATTACHMENT ON NEXT PAGE.

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Sign CLW Existing Streetlight Plant Buyout Contract

Current Rates Approved by TVA
 \$
 0.06373 per kWh usage
 14% of plant value

Variables (Current)

313,124 kWh usage per month
 \$
 1,972,811.31 current plant value

Monthly Bill
 \$
 19,955.39 energy charge
 \$
 23,016.13 investment charge

 \$
 42,971.52 total monthly bill

Yearly Bill
 \$
 515,658.26 total annual streetlight bill

Current Rates Approved by TVA
 \$
 0.06373 per kWh usage
 14% of plant value

Variables (After Signing CLW Contract)

313,124 kWh usage per month
 \$ - current plant value

Monthly Bill
 \$
 19,955.39 energy charge
 \$ - investment charge

 \$
 19,955.39 total monthly bill

Yearly Bill
 \$
 239,464.68 total annual streetlight bill

After Path Citywide LED Installation

Current Rates Approved by TVA
 \$
 0.06373 per kWh usage
 14% of plant value

Variables (After Path Installation)

155,666 kWh usage per month
 \$ - current plant value

Monthly Bill
 \$
 9,920.59 energy charge
 \$ - investment charge

 \$
 9,920.59 total monthly bill

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Yearly Bill

\$	
119,047.12	total annual streetlight bill

DEDICATING/NAME OF STREETS:

Mayor Smith requested consideration and approval of Resolution dedicating streets in honor of specific individuals in the community. The dedications are as follows:

There came on for consideration the matter of the City of Columbus, Mississippi passing the proposed resolution and Council Member **MICKENS** offered and moved that the following resolution be adopted by the Mayor and City Council:

**RESOLUTION DEDICATING THE CITY BLOCK BETWEEN 18TH STREET SOUTH, 19TH STREET SOUTH, SHORT MAIN, AND COLLEGE STREET
IN COLUMBUS, LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI AS
“BISHOP FREDDIE B. EDWARDS, SR. SQUARE”**

WHEREAS, Freddie B. Edwards, Sr., a lifelong Citizen of Columbus, is the pastor of Shiloh Full Gospel M. B. Church and has served for 29 years; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Edwards is the 6th pastor of a ministry that has been in existence for 198 years with the ministry being documented as the oldest African American ministry in the City of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Edwards served along with his late wife, Mrs. Willie Mae Jones Edwards, as the presiding pastor of an ever growing ministry that serves to positively impact the lives of the members and the citizens of the community; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, several organizations are active: Bible Study, the Women’s Ministry, Men’s Ministry, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Food and Clothing Ministry, and Harvest Outreach; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Edwards’ love for God began at an early age and ministered through music as a member of the gospel group known as The Golden Voices years ago; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Edwards’ mission is to impact people with God’s Word through teaching and preaching the gospel so that they may build a relationship with God. His vision is “Souls, souls,

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and more souls.” He is committed to show love to all people as he labors to help build God’s Kingdom; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, via passage of this resolution, dedicates **the City Block at the Intersection of 19th Street South to 18th Street South to College Street to Short Main and back to 19th Street South**, in Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi being the City of Bishop Freddie B. Edwards, Sr., birth as:

“Bishop Freddie B. Edwards, Sr. Square”

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was seconded by Council Member **JONES** and after deliberation the Mayor called for the votes recorded the votes to adopt the Resolution as follows:

<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Ward 1 – Vacant	
Ward 2 – Joseph Mickens	Yes
Ward 3 – Charlie Box	Yes
Ward 4 – Pierre D. Beard	Yes
Ward 5 – Stephen Jones	Yes
Ward 6 – Bill Gavin	Yes

The Mayor then announced that the above and foregoing resolution passed upon a vote of five to zero and that the above and foregoing Resolution was: **ADOPTED**, on this the **1st** day of October, 2019.

ROBERT E. SMITH, SR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

DELIAH VAUGHN
SECRETARY -TREASURER /CITY CLERK

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There came on for consideration the matter of the City of Columbus, Mississippi passing the proposed resolution and Council Member MICKENS offered and moved that the following resolution be adopted by the Mayor and City Council:

**RESOLUTION DEDICATING 9TH AVENUE NORTH
FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH RAILROAD STREET
TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH MILITARY ROAD
IN COLUMBUS, LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI AS
“REVEREND R. L. GREENLAW AVENUE”**

WHEREAS, Robert L. Greenlaw, a lifelong Citizen of Columbus was born on September 26, 1929 in Columbus, Mississippi, and was the son of Mr. William Henry Greenlaw and Mrs. Hattie Greenlaw; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Greenlaw was a true example of love for his fellowman and always taught Christian love and respect for others; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Greenlaw came to serve as pastor of Northside M. B. Church in Columbus, Mississippi in 1956 and served for forty-eight years before his retirement on March 7, 2004; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, twelve members were called into the ministry, nine deacons were ordained, precedents were set for church services, a church bus and van were purchased, and a new building with a steeple was erected ; and

WHEREAS, during his long ministry, he served as a former President of the Northeast Mississippi Baptist State Convention, the Prayer Fellowship Hour and was active in the Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, Reverend R. L. Greenlaw was active in many other organizations, with his ministry extending throughout Columbus and Lowndes County, ensuring that he always helped those in need; and

WHEREAS, this one quote from his numerous words of wisdom, “Little Prayer, little power. Much Prayer, much power, no Prayer, no power,” was always behind his Christian leadership, hard work, and determination to carry out his calling to serve God; and

WHEREAS, even after his retirement, Reverend Greenlaw continued to look out for those in need and offer a helping hand whenever he could until his passing on September 24, 2005;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, via passage of this resolution, dedicates **9th Avenue North, from its intersection with**

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Railroad Street to the intersection with Military Road, in Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi being the City of Reverend R. L. Greenlaw’s birth as:

“Reverend R. L. Greenlaw Avenue”

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was seconded by Council Member **JONES** and after deliberation the Mayor called for the votes recorded the votes to adopt the Resolution as follows:

<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Ward 1 – Vacant	
Ward 2 – Joseph Mickens	Yes
Ward 3 – Charlie Box	Yes
Ward 4 – Pierre D. Beard	Yes
Ward 5 – Stephen Jones	Yes
Ward 6 – Bill Gavin	Yes

The Mayor then announced that the above and foregoing resolution passed upon a vote of five to zero and that the above and foregoing Resolution was: **ADOPTED**, on this the **1ST** day of October, 2019.

ROBERT E. SMITH, SR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

DELIAH VAUGHN
SECRETARY - TREASURER /CITY CLERK

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

- A. Discuss/Approve Resolutions for Street Dedications. SEE CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA**
- B. Discuss/Approve Annual Municipal Compliance Questionnaire required for Audit.**

Ms. Deliah Vaughn, CFO, presented the Annual Municipal Compliance Questionnaire that is required for the Audit for approval. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the Annual Municipal Compliance Questionnaire. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

THE MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE FOLLOWS:

Municipal Compliance Questionnaire

As part of the municipality's audit, the governing authorities of the municipality must make certain assertions with regard to legal compliance. The municipal compliance questionnaire was developed for this purpose.

The following questionnaire and related certification must be completed at the end of the municipality's fiscal year and entered into the official minutes of the governing authorities at their next regular meeting.

The governing authorities should take care to answer these questions accurately. Incorrect answers could reduce the auditor's reliance on the questionnaire responses, resulting in the need to perform additional audit procedures at added cost.

Information

Note: Due to the size of some municipalities, some of the questions may not be applicable. If so, mark N/A in answer blanks. Answers to other questions may require more than "yes" or "no," and, as a result, more information on this questionnaire may be required and/or separate work papers may be needed.

1. Name and address of municipality:
City of Columbus, P.O. Box 1408 Columbus, MS 39703
2. List the date and population of the latest official U.S. Census or most recent official census:
2010 23,640
3. Names, addresses and telephone numbers of officials (include elected officials, chief administrative officer, and attorney).
See Attachments
4. Period of time covered by this questionnaire:
From: Oct. 01, 2018 To: Sept. 30, 2019
5. Expiration date of current elected officials' term: June 30, 2021

MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE
Year Ended September 30, 20__

Answer All Questions: Y - YES, N - NO, N/A - NOT APPLICABLE

PART I - General

1. Have all ordinances been entered into the ordinance book and included in the minutes? (Section 21-13-13) Y
2. Do all municipal vehicles have public license plates and proper markings? (Sections 25-1-87 and 27-19-27) Y
3. Are municipal records open to the public? (Section 25-61-5) Y
4. Are meetings of the board open to the public? (Section 25-41-5) Y
5. Are notices of special or recess meetings posted? (Section 25-41-13) Y
5. Are all required personnel covered by appropriate surety bonds?
 - Board or council members (Sec. 21-17-5) Y
 - Appointed officers and those handling money, see statutes governing the form of government (i.e., Section 21-3-5 for Code Charter) Y
 - Municipal clerk (Section 21-15-38) Y
 - Deputy clerk (Section 21-15-23) Y
 - Chief of police (Section 21-21-1) Y
 - Deputy police (Section 45-5-9) (if hired under this law) Y
7. Are minutes of board meetings prepared to properly reflect the actions of the board? (Sections 21-15-17 and 21-15-19) Y
8. Are minutes of board meetings signed by the mayor or majority of the board within 30 days of the meeting? (Section 21-15-33) Y
9. Has the municipality complied with the nepotism law in its employment practices? (Section 25-1-53) Y
10. Did all officers, employees of the municipality, or their relatives avoid any personal interest in any contracts with the municipality during their term or within one year after their terms of office or employment? (Section 25-4-105) Y
11. Does the municipality contract with a Certified Public Accountant or an auditor approved by the State Auditor for its annual audit within twelve months of the end of each fiscal year? (Section 21-35-31) Y

12. Has the municipality published a synopsis or notice of the annual audit within 30 days of acceptance?
(Section 21-35-31 or 21-17-19)

Y

PART II - Cash and Related Records

1. Where required, is a claims docket maintained?
(Section 21-39-7)

Y

2. Are all claims paid in the order of their entry in the claims docket? (Section 21-39-9)

Y

3. Does the claims docket identify the claimant, claim number, amount and fund from which each warrant will be issued?
(Section 21-39-7)

Y

4. Are all warrants approved by the board, signed by the mayor or majority of the board, attested to by the clerk, and bearing the municipal seal? (Section 21-39-13)

Y

5. Are warrants for approved claims held until sufficient cash is available in the fund from which it is drawn?
(Section 21-39-13)

Y

6. Has the municipality adopted and entered on its minutes a budget in the format prescribed by the Office of the State Auditor? (Sections 21-35-5, 21-35-7 and 21-35-9)

Y

7. Does the municipality operate on a cash basis budget, except for expenditures paid within 30 days of fiscal year end or for construction in progress? (Section 21-35-23)

Y

8. Has the municipality held a public hearing and published its adopted budget? (Sections 21-35-5, 27-39-203, & 27-39-205)

Y

9. Has the municipality complied with legal publication requirements when budgetary changes of 10% or more are made to a department's budget? (Section 21-35-25)

Y

10. If revenues are less than estimated and a deficit is anticipated, did the board revise the budget by its regular July meeting? (Section 21-35-25)

N/A

- 11. Have financial records been maintained in accordance with the chart of accounts prescribed by the State Auditor? (Section 21-35-11) Y
 - 12. Does the municipal clerk submit to the board a monthly report of expenditures against each budget item for the preceding month and fiscal year to date and the unexpended balances of each budget item? (Section 21-35-13) Y
 - 13. Does the board avoid approving claims and the city clerk not issue any warrants which would be in excess of budgeted amounts, except for court-ordered or emergency expenditures? (Section 21-35-17) Y
 - 14. Has the municipality commissioned municipal depositories? (Sections 27-105-353 and 27-105-363) Y
 - 15. Have investments of funds been restricted to those instruments authorized by law? (Section 21-33-323) Y
 - 16. Are donations restricted to those specifically authorized by law? [Section 21-17-5 (Section 66, Miss. Constitution) -- Sections 21-19-45 through 21-19-59, etc.] Y
 - 17. Are fixed assets properly tagged and accounted for? (Section II - Municipal Audit and Accounting Guide) Y
 - 18. Is all travel authorized in advance and reimbursements made in accordance with Section 25-3-41? Y
 - 19. Are all travel advances made in accordance with the State Auditor's regulations? (Section 25-3-41) Y
- PART III - Purchasing and Receiving**
- 1. Are bids solicited for purchases, when required by law (written bids and advertising)? [Section 31-7-13(b) and (c)] Y
 - 2. Are all lowest and best bid decisions properly documented? [Section 31-7-13(d)] Y
 - 3. Are all one-source item and emergency purchases documented on the board's minutes? [Section 31-7-13(m) and (k)] Y
 - 4. Do all officers and employees understand and refrain from accepting gifts or kickbacks from suppliers? (Section 31-7-23) Y

PART IV - Bonds and Other Debt

1. Has the municipality complied with the percentage of taxable property limitation on bonds and other debt issued during the year? (Section 21-33-303)
2. Has the municipality levied and collected taxes, in a sufficient amount for the retirement of general obligation debt principal and interest? (Section 21-33-87)
3. Have the required trust funds been established for utility revenue bonds? (Section 21-27-65)
4. Have expenditures of bond proceeds been strictly limited to the purposes for which the bonds were issued? (Section 21-33-317)
5. Has the municipality refrained from borrowing, except where it had specific authority? (Section 21-17-5)

Y
Y
N/A
Y
Y

PART V - Taxes and Other Receipts

1. Has the municipality adopted the county ad valorem tax rolls? (Section 27-35-167)
2. Are interest and penalties being collected on delinquent ad valorem taxes? (Section 21-33-53)
3. Has the municipality conducted an annual land sale for delinquent ad valorem taxes? (Section 21-33-63)
4. Have the various ad valorem tax collections been deposited into the appropriate funds? (Separate Funds for Each Tax Levy) (Section 21-33-53)
5. Has the increase in ad valorem taxes, if any, been limited to amounts allowed by law? (Sections 27-39-320 and 27-39-321)
6. Are local privilege taxes collected from all businesses located within the municipality, except those exempted? (Section 27-17-5)
7. Are transient vendor taxes collected from all transient vendors within the municipality, except those exempted? (Section 75-85-1)
8. Is money received from the state's "Municipal Fire Protection Fund" spent only to improve municipal fire departments? (Section 83-1-37)

Y
Y
Y
Y
Y
Y
Y
Y

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9. Has the municipality levied or appropriated not less than 1/4 mill for fire protection and certified to the county it provides its own fire protection or allowed the county to levy such tax? (Sections 83-1-37 and 83-1-39)
10. Are state-imposed court assessments collected and settled monthly? (Section 99-19-73, 83-39-31, etc.)
11. Are all fines and forfeitures collected when due and settled immediately to the municipal treasury? (Section 21-15-21)
12. Are bids solicited by advertisement or, under special circumstances, three appraisals obtained when real property is sold? (Section 21-17-1)
13. Has the municipality determined the full and complete cost for solid waste for the previous fiscal year? (Section 17-17-347)
14. Has the municipality published an itemized report of all revenues, costs and expenses incurred by the municipality during the immediately preceding fiscal year in operating the garbage or rubbish collection or disposal system? (Section 17-17-348)
15. Has the municipality conducted an annual inventory of its assets in accordance with guidelines established by the Office of the State Auditor? (MMAAG)

N

Y

Y

Y

Y

N/A

Y

(MUNICIPAL NAME)

Certification to Municipal Compliance Questionnaire

Year Ended September 30, 2019

We have reviewed all questions and responses as contained in this Municipal Compliance Questionnaire for the Municipality of Columbus, MS, and, to the best of our knowledge and belief, all responses are accurate.


(City Clerk's Signature)


(Mayor's Signature)

9/23/2019
(Date)

10-1-2019
(Date)

Minute Book References:

Book Number _____

Page _____

(Clerk is to enter minute book references when questionnaire is accepted by board.)

C. Discuss FEMA/MEMA Update.

Joe Dillon, FEMA/MEMA Coordinator made the following report:

- *FEMA submissions are 75% complete for public assistance. All Inspections are complete.*
- *The City is still accepting bids on the Amphitheater and Sim Scott.*
- *Individual assistance help is going well. FEMA and MEMA are in town and are set up at the East Columbus Gym. Representatives are going door to door.*
- *The City was approved for the second step of three (3) storm shelters applications.*

D. Discuss Community Recovery of Lowndes County Committee Update.

Jo Shumake, Committee Member with Community Recovery of Lowndes County came forward and updated the Mayor and Council on clean-up efforts. They demolished a structure on September 24, 2019. She thanked Heritage Seniors and Public Works for assistance in clearing up debris. Since May 1, we have worked with 175 citizens, including those who need assistance. We are looking forward to working with FEMA volunteers at East Columbus Gym. We like to thank Cindy Lawrence for inviting us to come out to East Columbus Gym. We encourage anyone out there still in need of relief to go to East Columbus Gym. The Mennonite Disaster Service will come in three weeks to work on homes and continue on the rebuild on the house we demolished.

E. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) Police Officer pending successful completion of a pre-employment physical exam and drug screen.

Council Member Box made a motion to hire John Johnson as an Entry-Level Police Officer, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Discuss/Approve rehiring one (1) Police Officer pending successful completion of a pre-employment physical exam and drug screen.

Council Member Jones made a motion to rehire Jonathan Vergne as a Police Officer, 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.

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The motion carried.

G. Discuss/Approve Converting 20th Street to One-Way from 6th to 5th Avenue North.

Kevin Stafford, with Neel-Schaffer, Inc. came forward and remarked that the area has been studied and determined that this street is narrow with a blind curve at the corner, and the minimal impact a one-way street would make to traffic flow, would provide a better level of operation and safety to the residents of this area, and therefore, recommends making the street one way.

No action will be taken at this time. The Councilman wants to talk to the residents that will be impacted by this request.

H. Discuss/Approve Converting 8th Avenue North to One-Way from 7th to 6th Street.

Kevin Stafford remarked that the widest section of this street is 20 feet, however, a majority is only 15 feet wide with very little to no shoulder, therefore, making it too narrow for two (2) cars to safely pass each other. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to convert 8th Avenue North to a One-Way Street from 7th to 6th Street. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

I. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket.

FRANKIE JEAN/ANNETTE NICOLE JOHNSON
809 – 17th Street North
CALE NUMBER 19-0276 Dilapidated Building

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0276**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Assistant Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing

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rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**MARK S. FRADY
2304 Marvin Street
CALE NUMBER 19-0261 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0261**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Assistant Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**SAMUEL D. JR. AND DEBORAH GIVHAN
1409 – 3rd Avenue North
Case Number 19-0348 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0348**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Assistant Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing

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rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**ROBERTSON D C PROPERTIES, LLC
1911 North Robertson Street
CASE NUMBER 19-0253 Property Maintenance Code Violation
Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0253**. Christine Robertson came forward and requested a **45-day extension** to remediate the property. Assistant Code Enforcement Assistant Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** on the structure and give the property owner a **45-day extension** on the vegetative portion, and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Box made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**JANEL L. MORRIS
1709 – 5th Avenue South
Case Number 19-0323 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0323**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Assistant Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member

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Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**WILLIAM T. SR. AND MARTHA D. RAY
315 Cecil Street
Case Number 19-0268 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0268**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Assistant Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**GERALD KENDAL BLUNT
24 Dean Acres Blvd.
Case Number 19-0332 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0332**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Assistant Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of

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uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**NETTIE H. CLAY – LIFE ESTATE
c/o BRENDA T. BULKHALTER
808 – 17th Street North
Case Number 19-0348 Dilapidated Building**

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0348**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Assistant Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**WALTER MUNSON c/o IRENE PRATT
721 – 17th Street North
CASE NUMBER 19-0346 VEGETATION**

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The General Counsel called cause number **19-0346**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Assistant Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is his recommendation to enter the proposed Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council Member Mickens made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may remediate the property with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

ANNIE DENT
713 Spruce Street
CASE NUMBER 19-0359 **VEGETATION**

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0359**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Assistant Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is his recommendation to enter the proposed Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council Member Mickens made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may remediate the property with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

ANGELA HOBBS
809 Fir Street
CASE NUMBER 19-0297 **VEGETATION**

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The General Counsel called cause number **19-0297**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Assistant Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is his recommendation to enter the proposed Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council Member Mickens made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may remediate the property with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**LAMARRIS MAYS
6th Avenue North
CASE NUMBER 19-0344 VEGETATION**

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0344**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Assistant Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is his recommendation to enter the proposed Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council Member Mickens made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may remediate the property with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**STEVE MCKISSACK
221 College Street
CASE NUMBER 19-0338 VEGETATION**

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The General Counsel called cause number **19-0338**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Assistant Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is his recommendation to enter the proposed Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council Member Mickens made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may remediate the property with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

J. Discuss/Approve to fill vacant position of Code Enforcement Officer and authorize the Human Resource Director to begin the normal recruitment process to fill vacated position due to promotion.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to promote Sasha James to the position of Code Enforcement Officer at \$40,319.97 annually and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process to fill vacated position due to promotion. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

K. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) Landfill Equipment Operator.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the rehire of Louis Blackwell as Landfill Equipment Operator at \$14.00 per hour, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Beard seconded the motion

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

L. Discuss/Approve Proposed Agreement between Columbus Light & Water and City of Columbus. **MOVED TO CITIZENS INPUT.**

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M. Discuss Issues with the Fire Department.

Council Member Box remarked that he is concerned about employees at the Fire Department that are working in position for ten (10) months and six (6) months and are not being compensated. Mayor Smith remarked that when he met with the Fire Chief and Public Works Director about personnel, he asked them to hold off until January 2020 to fill vacant positions and recommend promotions. Council Member Box made a motion to promote the two (2) Firefighters that have been working in a position for ten (10) months and not being compensated. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Council Member Beard made a substitute motion to hold off on this request until he has had the opportunity to find out more about the matter. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried 4-1.

**Council Member Mickens asked if we could have a Special Meeting to address this issue.*

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

Deliah T. Vaughn
CFO-Secretary-Treasurer