

**MEETING OF
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS
OCTOBER 15, 2019**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 15, 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. 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. Charles Sylvest, from Fairview Baptist Church, to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 1, 2019

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of October 1, 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 OCTOBER 15, 2019

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for October 15, 2019 in the amount of \$775,593.76. Council Member Mickens 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 "M" to read: *Approve request to swear in three (3) CPD Officers as Ex Officio Deputy Court Clerks.*

Add Item "N" – Accept Letter of Resignation from Fire and Rescue Firefighter effective October 13, 2019 and approve compensation for any unused vacation time.

BOARD VACANCIES:

Add Dennis Erby as an applicant for the Re-Development Authority Board.

Add Michael Foster and Mildred Monroe as applicants to the Tree Board

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "G" – *Discuss/Approve request to fill the vacant position of Maintenance Technician/Clerk, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Delete Economic Development Project

Council Member Jones 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. Accept letter of resignation from Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Dakota Chancery, effective October 18, 2019, and approve compensation for any unused vacation leave..
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Captains, Wes Mims and Marco Rodriguez to attend "HSART Training" to be held in Grenada, MS and approve payment of \$75.00 for fuel and reimbursement of meals.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Captain: Damon Estes, to attend "Fire Investigator" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$885.00 for registration, \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Engineer, Chris Carter, to attend "Patriot South Planning Meeting" to be held in Gulfport, MS, and approve payment of \$100.00 for travel expenses and reimbursement for meals.
- E. Approve request for the Municipal Court Administrator, Wendy Blunt, to attend the "Annual Court Administrator Fall Conference" to be held in Jackson, MS, at no cost to the City.

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

October 15, 2019

- F. Approve request for the Chief of Police, Fred Shelton, Director of Training, Liz Patrick, and a Patrolman to attend the "Mississippi Delta Community College Law Enforcement Training Academy Graduation, held in Moorhead, MS.
- G. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Eugene Betts, effective October 17, 2019, compensate him for unused vacation leave and transfer balance of sick leave to PERS.
- H. Approve permit request submitted by James Richardson, on behalf of Veterans' Day Parade Committee, to host the "Lowndes County Veterans' Day Parade" to be held on November 9, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., beginning at the Municipal Complex, 1501 Main Street to 6th Street North to Second Avenue North to the Lowndes County Courthouse.
- I. Ratify permit request submitted by Renee Sanders and Scott Ferguson, on behalf of the United Way of Lowndes County, to host "Little Hands Big Trucks 2019" held on October 5, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Champions Loop of the Columbus Soccer Park, blocking Third Street North from Fourth Avenue North to Sixth Avenue North.
- J. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Reserve Captain, James Bush, effective October 28, 2019.
- K. Approve request for the CFO to attend the "MML Debt Training Session" to be held in Tupelo, MS, and approve payment of travel expenses.
- L. Ratify request for the City Registrar to travel to Jackson, MS to pick up ballots for the "Ward 1 Special Election Runoff," and approve payment for travel expenses.
- M. Approve request to swear in three (3) CPD Officers as Ex Officio Deputy Court Clerks.
- N. Accept letter of resignation from Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Caleb West, effective October 13, 2019, and approve compensation for unused vacation leave.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Council Member Gavin 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

There were no general comments from the Mayor and Council Members.

B. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department for September 2019.

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

C. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for September 2019.

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

D. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for September 2019.

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

E. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for September 2019.

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

F. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for September 2019.

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for September 2019 was presented. No action was taken.

G. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for September 2019.

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

H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for September 2019.

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

I. Monthly Report from the Building & Inspection Department for September 2019.

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

J. Monthly Financial Report

Deliah Vaughn, CFO, distributed Monthly Financial Reports and remarked that the City has \$5,897,853.12 in the General Fund, and \$953,304.04 Operating Cash in the General Fund. The Sales Tax numbers have not come in.

K. 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

- Dennis Erby

Council Member Mickens made a motion to appoint Dennis Erby to the Redevelopment Authority Board for a five (5) Year Term, until 9/1/2024. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

- 1 Vacancy, Larry Fuller's 3-Year Term Expired 10/04/2019.
- Appointment will be made immediately.
- No applicants at this time.

TREE BOARD

- 2 vacancies, 3-Year Terms for Mildred Monroe and Michael Foster expires 12/06/2019.
- Appointment will be paid December 3, 2019.

APPLICANTS:

- Michael Foster
- Mildred Monroe

GOLDEN TRIANGLE WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD

- 1 Vacancy, 4-Year Term for James Wamble III, Expires 12/15/19.
- Appointment will be made December 17, 2019.
- No Applicants at this time.

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEAL OF DEVELOPMENT
CODES**

- 1 Vacancy, 1 Year Term for Mike Gibson, Expires 1/02/2020.
- Appointment will be made January 7, 2020.
- No Applicants at this time.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

MARY GIPSON – Small Business Administration/

Ms. Mary Gipson came forth and informed the Mayor, Council and General Public about Disaster Assistance as a result of the February 23, 2019 Tornado. SBA will make Disaster Loans for homeowners and small businesses that received structural damage as a result of the storm. The deadline is November 2019. Contact information is 800-659-2955 or disasterloans.sba.gov

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve Resolution Authorizing Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with the Municipal Intercept Company to Collect City Debt.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with the Municipal Intercept Company to Collect City Debt. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The vote was recorded as follows:

Ward 1 Council Seat	VACANT
COUNCILMAN JOSEPH MICKENS	voted: <u>YES</u>
COUNCILMAN CHARLIE BOX	voted: <u>YES</u>
COUNCILMAN PIERRE BEARD, SR.	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 15th day of October, 2019.

THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

B. Discuss/Approve Request to Accept Bids and Award Contracts for BEP Program

George Irby came forth and remarked that the BEP Program was extended until 2021. He requested demolition of six (6) properties; however, the Council did not have copies. Council Member Jones made a motion to table this matter until they can receive additional information. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Discuss/Approve rehiring the Building Inspection Department Office Manager on a part-time basis, up to twenty (20) hours.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the rehire of Ms. Georgia Harrison as Building Inspection Department Office Manager on a part-time basis, up to twenty (20) hours per week. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Ratify Submission of USDOT FLAP Grant Application for Wilkins-Wise Road Overlay.

Kevin Stafford, with Neel-Schaffer, Inc. came forward and discussed the US DOT FLAP Grant to Repave Wilkins-Wise Road. The FLAP funds are 80/20 reimbursement program through USDOT that can only be used for a roadway that provides access to federal lands, and the Columbus Lock & Dam is a federal USACE maintained facility. The Match is \$92,000.00 and can be budgeted in FY 2021. Council Member Gavin made a motion to apply for the Grant. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve Selection of Construction Engineering and Inspection Consultant for the Main Street Roundabout Project. completion of a pre-employment physical exam and drug screen.

Council Member Jones made a motion to hire an Engineer and negotiate a contract with Neel-Schaffer, Inc. for this project. 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.

The motion carried.

G. Consider/Approve Request to hire Maintenance Technician/Clerk for the Convention Center

Council Member Jones made a motion to hire Ms. Bernice Turner as Maintenance Technician/Clerk for the Convention Center at \$11.75 per hour. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

H. Discuss/Approve the Derelict Property Docket

JULIET PORTER
1013 – 11th Avenue South
CASE NUMBER 19-0355 VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0355**. 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 Jones 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.

ROOSEVELT & DARCIE LATHAM/WINDHAM
117 Beech Street
CASE NUMBER 19-0317 VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0317**. 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 Jones 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.

BETHANY MCKISSICK
1303 – 4th Avenue North
CASE NUMBER 19-0363 VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0363**. 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 Jones 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.

INDIAN SANDERS

156 Pandora Drive

CASE NUMBER 19-0352

VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0352**. 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 Jones 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.

TONEY L. HILL

135 Popular Street

CASE NUMBER 19-0315

VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0315**. 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 Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11,

October 15, 2019

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.

NATASHA WILSON

2413 – 5th Avenue South

CASE NUMBER 19-0368

VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **19-036**. 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 Jones 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.

EARNEST J. DAVIS, III

5th Avenue South

CASE NUMBER 19-0355

VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0355**. 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 Jones 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.

KATHERINE BROWN

8th Street South

CASE NUMBER 19-0310

VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0310**. 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 Jones 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.

MARTHA STEWART

1014 – 5th Avenue South

CASE NUMBER 19-0387

VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0387**. 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 Jones 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

October 15, 2019

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.

**LULA R. WILLIAMS
C/O MORRIS HENDERSON
823 Railroad St.**

CASE NUMBER 19-0371

**Property Maintenance Code Violation
Roofs and Drainage**

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0371**. 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 Mickens 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 Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**LINDA LEECH
2405 – 11th Avenue North
CASE NUMBER 19-0370**

Dilapidated Building

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0370**. 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 Mickens 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 Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

DARION CONNER, Etal
11th Avenue North
CASE NUMBER 19-0357 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0357**. 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 Mickens 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 Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

JOHN MOORE
508 Apple Street
CASE NUMBER 19-0027 Property Maintenance Code Violation

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0371**. 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 Mickens 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 Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no Executive Session Matters to come before the Council.

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 Jones and unanimous vote, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.