

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 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. The Ward 4 Council seat is vacant pending a special election, following the resignation of Fredrick Jackson. 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 Pastor Kelvin Jenkins, Pastor of Woodlawn Baptist Church, to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF AUGUST 20, 22, & 29, 2019.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meetings of August 20, 22, & 29, 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 SEPTEMBER 3, 2019.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for September 3, 2019 in the amount of \$761,332.06. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

IV. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA:

There are no changes to the Consent Agenda.

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POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "H" – *Discuss/Approve Sale of Beer at Riverwalk Air Force Concert on September 27, 2019.*

Add Item "I" – *Discuss/Approve Proposed Agreement with Local Government Services.*

Add Item "J" – Award Bids on BEP Demolition

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Change Personnel Matters from one (1) to two (2).

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. 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.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Onterio Lowery, to attend "NREMT Exam" to be held in Tuscaloosa, AL, and approve payment of \$25.50 for travel.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Joshua Connors, to attend "Firefighter 1001 – I & II" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$500.00 for registration, \$175.00 for travel, and \$717.00 for reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Engineer, Chris Carter, to attend "Patriot South 2020 Planning Meeting" to be held in Gulfport, MS, and approve payment Fuel and meal expenses.
- D. Approve request to issue check in the amount of \$80.00 for payment to the MS State Department of Health for registration of two (2) EMT-Basic personnel: Robert Dinsmore and Joshua Connors.
- E. Approve request to renew Notary Commission for the Community Outreach Director and purchase necessary supplies.
- F. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Reserve Officer, Matthew Schober, effective August 22, 2019.
- G. Ratify request to send two (2) CPD Officers: Landon George and Kimberly

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Hayes, to the “Mississippi Delta Community College Law Enforcement Training Academy” in Moorhead, MS, and approve cost of \$3,600.00 each for tuition and clothing required by the academy. The clothing allowance is not to exceed \$350.00 per Officer and will be reimbursed upon completion of the academy.

- H. Ratify permit request submitted by Kevin Stafford and Elizabeth Swartz, on behalf of the First United Methodist Church, to host a “Back to School Bash” held August 21, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., blocking College Street from 6th Street Southeast past overpass, 6th Street South from College Street to 3rd Avenue South.
- I. Approve permit request submitted by Hattie Petty and Doran Johnson, on behalf of Columbus High School to host the “Homecoming Parade” to be held on September 20, 2019 from 4:15 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. See attached map.
- J. Approve permit request submitted by Ryan Rickert, on behalf of The Assembly to host the “Christopher’s Hope 5K” to be held on September 7, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. at the Columbus Soccer Complex and Riverwalk. See attached map.
- K. Approve permit request submitted by Johnny Johnson on behalf of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity to host a “Roadblock” to raise funds for Rust College to be held on October 5, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at Highway 45 & 18th Avenue North.
- L. Ratify travel request of the Registrar to travel to Jackson, MS, to pick up ballots for the “Ward 4 Runoff Special Election” and approve payment of travel expenses.

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

There were no comments from the Mayor or Council Members.

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

Mayor Smith sworn in Fire and Rescue Firefighter Caleb West, while he recited the Oath of Office. The Fire and Rescue Department’s Command Staff were also present.

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C. Board Vacancies

David Armstrong announced vacancies on various Boards and remarked that no action is required tonight.

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD

- 1 Vacancy, Mark Castleberry's 5-Year Term Expires 9/01/19.
- Appointment can be made 9/03/2019.
- No applicants at this time.

COLUMBUS-LOWNDES LIBRARY BOARD

- 1 Vacancy, Ralph Carter's 5-Year Term Expires 9/30/19.
- Appointment can be made 10/1/2019.
- No applicants at this time.

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

- 3 Vacancies, 4-Year Terms for Larry Fuller, Chuck Bigelow and MacArthur Inge, Expire 10/04/19.
- Appointment can be made 10/1/19.

APPLICANT

- **Chuck Bigelow**

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve Renewal of UniFirst Uniform Contract.

David Armstrong, COO, remarked that the City has utilized the services of UniFirst for three (3) years with an option to renew and requested to renew the contract for another 36 months. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve a Contract with UniFirst Uniform Company for uniform rental services for a period thirty-six (36) months. Council member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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B. Discuss FEMA/MEMA update.

Joe Dillion, the City's Public Information Officer, came before the Mayor and Council and Updated them on FEMA/MEMA. He also stated that the City received the Grant for eleven (11) Storm Shelters, which cost \$1,200.00 each, costing the City \$13,200.00. Kevin Stafford updated the Mayor and Council on the rebuilding of Sim Scott Community Center, which is Underway.

C. Discuss Community Recovery of Lowndes County update.

Nicole Clinkscales, with Community Recovery of Lowndes County, thanked the Council for supporting their efforts. They have 43 Open Cases and 18 Closed Cases. In October, they will be repairing (10) roofs. The Mennonites Disaster Rebuild Team will perform one (1) total rebuild, beginning November 1, 2019.

Lynn Snead, Amanda Shelton, and Hannah Brady, students at Heritage Academy Senior Project, came forward and stated that they will be working on some Senior Projects for school. They will begin their first Project on September 10; they will be removing mold and debris from properties.

D. Discuss/Approve hiring two (2) Police Officers, pending successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the hiring of Tavares Jennings and Bobby Walker as Police Officers, 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.

E. Discuss/Approve hiring of one (1) Animal Control Officer, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.

Council Member Jones made a motion to hire Brandy Johnson as an Animal Control 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.

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F. Discuss/Approve request to pay three (3) CPD Officers the pay rate that goes with the rank they obtained when promoted.

Chief Shelton reported that in May 2019, three CPD Officers were promoted to the next rank, but their pay was not increased. Chief Shelton requested that they begin receiving the appropriate beginning October 1, 2019. The officers are:

John Bishop	Promoted to Lieutenant	\$52,454.01/22.03/hr.
Amanda Burrell	Promoted to Sergeant	\$47,081.16/19.78/hr.
Josh Vandiver	Promoted to Sergeant	\$47,081.16/19.78/hr.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to begin paying the aforementioned employees of the Columbus Police Department the appropriate pay according to the CPD Pay Scale. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

G. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

**Federal National Mortgage Association
113 – 13th Street North
CASE NUMBER: 19-0231 Vegetation**

Legal Representative came forward and remarked that the property was in bankruptcy. General Counsel Turnage recommended taking no action. Council Member Box made a motion to take no action in this Case. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**SHELIA HOOD
811 – 21st Street North
CALE NUMBER 19-0274 Dilapidated Building**

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0274**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones 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) Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

GRAND D. PROPERTIES, LLC
1504 – 22nd Street North
CASE NUMBER 19-0035 **Property Maintenance Code Violation**
Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0035**. Lashay Sherrod came forward and stated she purchased the property on Lease-to-Own terms. Assistant Code Enforcement Officer 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 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 Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

ROBIN CONNER
1513 – 21st Street North
CASE NUMBER: 19-0257 **Property Maintenance Code Violation**
Vegetation, Abandoned Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0257**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones 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

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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.

H. Discuss/Approve Sale of Beer at Riverwalk Air Force Concert on September 27, 2019.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Sale of Beer at the Riverwalk Air Force Concert (Top Flight Band). This is a free concert that will be held on September 27, 2019. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

I. Discuss/Approve Proposed Agreement and Resolution with Local Government Services.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the Agreement between The City of Columbus, Mississippi and Local Government Services, LLC for Cable Television and Telecommunication Franchise Management Services. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

THE AGREEMENT AND RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

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AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI
AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES, LLC
FOR CABLE TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATION FRANCHISE MANAGEMENT
SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus ("City") desires to provide regulation and oversight of cable television and Telecommunication services being provided to the citizens of the City;

WHEREAS, Local Government Services, LLC ("LGS") has available a cable television and telecommunication franchise management service; and,

WHEREAS, the City has a need for such cable television and telecommunication franchise management service.

THEREFORE, THE CITY AND LGS AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Service options provided to the City of Columbus _____

LGS agrees to provide, either directly or through its agents or subcontractors, the following service chosen by the City which is known as the LGS Cable Television and Telecommunication Franchise Management Service:

a) Cable Television/Telecommunications Franchise Agreement: Assist City in negotiating a cable television/Telecommunications franchise Agreement with Telepak Networks, Inc. d/b/a C Spire Fiber.

Section 2. Effective Date, Payment and Termination.

- a) This agreement shall become effective upon the signature by the parties.
- b) The total obligation of the City is \$5,000.00 for Section 1 (a) of the Agreement plus pre-approved out of pocket expenses if applicable. Out of pocket expenses shall include, but are not limited to postage, transportation, meals and must be approved by the City in advance. LGS shall provide to the City documentation sufficient to substantiate any out of pocket costs.
- c) The City shall pay LGS 50% of the total obligation for the service options listed in Section 1(a) within thirty (30) days from the date this Agreement is executed, and the remaining 50% of the total obligation when the service performed for the City pursuant to this Agreement is completed to the satisfaction of the City.

Section 3. Hold Harmless and Indemnification.

Each party shall bear the full responsibility for liability for the acts, errors, or omissions of its officers, agents, employees or subcontractors. The City shall not bear any responsibility for the liability for the acts, errors, or omissions of LGS, its officers, agents, employees or subcontractors.

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Section 4. Amendments.

This contract may only be amended by written agreement of both parties.

Section 5. Law Applicable.

This agreement shall be construed under the laws of the State of Mississippi and any action concerning this Agreement shall be brought in Lowndes County Mississippi state court.

EXECUTED ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 20__.

ATTEST:

Mayor: _____
City of Columbus

By _____

EXECUTED ON BEHALF OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT SERVICES, LLC

(SEAL)

By _____
Member

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A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS MISSISSIPPI THROUGH THE CITY COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OF SAID CITY TO EXECUTE A CABLE TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS FRANCHISE MANAGEMENT SERVICE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus desires to regulate and oversee the provision of cable television and telecommunication services;

WHEREAS, Local Government Services, LLC has available a cable television and telecommunication franchise management service to assist the City in such regulation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Columbus is hereby authorized to execute a cable television and telecommunications franchise management service agreement on behalf of the City, in substantially the same form as Appendix A which is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Columbus this _____ day of _____, 20____.

ATTEST:

By _____
City Clerk

Mayor: _____
City of Columbus

(SEAL)

J. Award Bids on BEP Demolition

George Irby, Interim Planner and Director of Community Development, came forward and remarked that he had advertised for the demolition of properties located at 1014 – 13th Street South, 911 Shady Street, 612 – 15th Street North, 1510 – 10th Avenue North, 1713 Bell Avenue, 416 – 17th Street South, and 409 – 13th Avenue South. The City received bids from DAVCO, LLC; Expansion, LLC; Dismuke Construction Company and Construction Risk Services. He recommends that the City accept the lowest bid and award the Demolition contracts to DAVCO, LLC and Expansion, LLC. Council Member Jones made a motion to accept the lowest bid for Demolition of properties on the BEP program and award the contracts to DAVCO, LLC and Expansion, LLC. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

Deliah T. Vaughn
CFO- Secretary-Treasurer

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