

**MEETING OF
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS
November 05, 2019**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 05, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. presided over the meeting, and all Council Members, with the exception of Council Member Mickens, who was absent. 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 at approximately 5:01pm and called upon Chaplain Earl McAnally, from Trinity Health Services, to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2019

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of October 15, 2019. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR November 05, 2019

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for November 05, 2019 in the amount of \$673,712.07. 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:

Change Item "C" to read: *Accept letter of retirement from one (1) Fire and Rescue Public Relations and Education Officer, effective November 29, 2019, and approve compensation for any unused vacation and sick leave.*

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 5, 2019

Add Item “Q” – *Approve request for the Public Works Director to attend the “Mississippi 811 Damage Prevention Summit” to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment for lodging, travel and meal expense.*

Add Item “R” – *Approve request for the Public Works Office Manager to attend the “Mississippi 811 Damage Prevention Summit” to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment for lodging, travel and meal expense.*

Add Item “S” – *Accept letter of resignation from one (1) Public Works employee, effective November 05, 2019.*

Add Item “T” – *Accept letter of resignation from one (1) CPD Officer, effective November 12, 2019, and approve request for compensation of any unused vacation time and also approve submission of any unused sick leave to PERS.*

BOARD VACANCIES:

No action taken.

REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

Add Item “D” – *Recognition of First Responders*

Lowndes County E-911 Dispatcher

- Angelisha Lanford
- Jacqueline Brown

Columbus Police Department

- Amanda Burrell
- Raymond Lee

Columbus Fire and Rescue

- Robert Kain
- Dale Ballard
- Billy Clark
- Jason Pool
- Joe Bessant
- Deonate Jethroe

CITIZEN INPUT AGENDA:

~~DELETED Brindle Ashford—Magnolia Tree~~

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item “F” – *Award low bids to BEP Demolition Project.*

Add Item “G” – *Consider/Approve lease purchase financing bids for LED street-light installation.*

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. Council Member Beard seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, all Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Accept letter of resignation from Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Deonate Jethroe, effective October 26, 2019, and approve compensation for any unused vacation and sick leave.
- B. Ratify request for Fire and Rescue Engineer, Chris Carter, to attend the "ACU Update" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$141.00 for travel and meal expenses.
- C. Accept letter of resignation from Fire and Rescue Public Relations and Education Officer, Anthony Colom, effective November 29, 2019, and approve compensation for any unused vacation and sick leave.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Patrick Ghoston, to attend "EMT Class" to be held in Mayhew, MS, and approve payment of \$1840.00 for registration and reimbursement for bloodwork.
- E. Approve request for the purchase of thirty two (32) vouchers for certification and recertification through National Registry of EMT's.
- F. Approve request for the Municipal Court Clerk, Wendy Blunt, to attend the "Annual Fall Board Meeting of the Municipal Court Clerks Association" to be held in Southaven, MS, at no cost to the City,
- G. Approve request to refund for MARP the sum of \$900 and Queneisha Clark the sum of \$300 for rental cancellation of the Convention Center Rental.
- H. Ratify request for the Landfill supervisor, Roger Lewis, to attend the "Mississippi Recycling Coalition Conference" held in Oxford, MS, and ratify payment for registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses.
- I. Approve request to send five (5) CPD Officers to the "Mississippi Delta Community College Law Enforcement Training Academy" in Moorhead, MS, and approve cost of tuition and clothing required by the academy. The clothing allowance is not to exceed \$350 per officer and will be reimbursed upon completion of the academy.

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 5, 2019

- J. Ratify permit request submitted by Alecia Ferguson, on behalf of St. Paul's Episcopal School, to host a "Boo Parade," held on October 31, 2019 at 10:00a.m. See attached map.
- K. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow on behalf of Main Street Columbus, Inc., to host a "Columbus Christmas Parade" to be held on December 2, 2019 from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. See attached map.
- L. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow on behalf of Main Street Columbus, Inc., to host a "Wassail Fest" to be held on December 6, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in Downtown Columbus. See attached.
- M. Ratify permit request submitted by Councilman Stephen Jones to host the "Ward 5 Trunk or Treat" held October 31, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Sim Scott Park Pavilion parking lot block off 18th Street North from 7th Avenue North to 9th Avenue North and 8th Avenue North from 18th Street North to 19th Street North.
- N. Ratify permit request submitted by Laisha O'Neal to host a "Repast" held November 1, 2019 at 1322 Second Avenue North from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., blocking Second Avenue North at 13th Street North and 14th Street North.
- O. Approve request for the Mayor, Council, COO, and CFO to attend the "MML 2020 Mid-Winter Conference" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel, and meal expenses.
- P. Approve for CFO, Deliah Vaughn, to attend the "2019 Annual Mississippi Municipal Clerks and Collectors Association Winter Workshop" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses.
- Q. Approve request for Public Works Director, Casey Bush, to attend the "Mississippi 811 Damage Prevention Summit" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment for lodging, travel, and meal expenses.
- R. Approve request for Public Works Office Manager, Tabitha Kyser, to attend the "MS 811 Portal and Mobile App Workshop" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment for lodging, travel, and meal expenses.
- S. Accept letter of resignation from Public Works employee, Anthony Sanders, effective November 5, 2019.
- T. Accept letter of resignation from CPD officer, John Bishop, effective November 12, 2019, and approve request for compensation of any unused vacation time and also approve submission of any unused sick leave to PERS.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve resuming concrete work for sidewalks, speed humps, and valley curbs.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve request to resume the concrete work for sidewalks, speed humps, and valley curbs. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

B. Discuss FEMA Update.

Joe Dillion came forth and discussed the information regarding FEMA Grants.

No action was taken on this matter.

C. Discuss opening of new website to allow citizens to report issues to City.

Joe Dillion discussed the soft opening of the new website See Click Fix. This website allows citizens of Columbus to report any issues that address needs or concerns in the city.

No action taken on this matter.

D. Discuss Community Recovery of Lowndes County Update.

Joe Dillion discussed information regarding Lowndes County Update.

No action was taken on this matter.

E. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

Kimberly D Porter
1106 16th Street
CASE NUMBER 19-0433 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0433**. No one appeared. 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** 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 present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Brandon and Heather Banks
923 11th Street
CASE NUMBER 19-0347 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0347**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer 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 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 the 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 present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Ida Harris c/o Demeir Jones
325 24th Street
CASE NUMBER 19-0431 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0431**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer 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 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 the 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 present voted in favor of the motion..

The motion carried

Flisha Holt
4th Avenue South
CASE NUMBER 19-0330 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0330**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer 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 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 the 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 present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried

F. Award low bid to BEP Demolition Project.

George Irby came forth and requested the Council accept the lowest bid for the BEP Demolition project that was tabled at the October 23rd meeting. Council Member Gavin motioned to remove the item from the table and Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Council Member Gavin motioned to accept the lowest bid and award it to JMorgan Company LLC for the BEP Demolition Project. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

G. Consider/Approve lease purchase financing bids for LED street-light installation.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the 15 year lease purchase financing. Council Member Beard seconded the motion

All Council Members present 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 Jones moved that the meeting be adjourned. Upon second by Council Member Gavin a unanimous vote from council members present, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

Approved by: _____

Robert E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

Deliah Vaughn
CFO/Secretary-Treasurer

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 5, 2019