

**MEETING OF  
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS  
DECEMBER 17, 2019**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Meeting on Tuesday, December 17, 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 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 Pastor Bennie Coleman, Pastor of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, to offer the Invocation.

**II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2019.**

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of December 3, 2019. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR DECEMBER 17, 2019.**

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for December 17, 2019 in the amount of \$392,863.95. Council Member Jones 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:**

Add Item "D" – *Ratify request for one (1) Fire and Rescue Firefighter to attend the "NREMT" that was held in Tupelo, MS, and approve use of City vehicle for travel.*

Add Item "E" – *Ratify request for two (2) Fire and Rescue Engineers to attend the "TF2 Exercise Planning Meeting" that was held in Hattiesburg, MS, and approve payment of fuel and meal expenses.*

Add Item "F" – *Accept letter of resignation from one (1) CPD Officer, effective December 11, 2019, and approve compensation for any unused vacation leave.*

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Add Item "G" – *Accept letter of retirement from one (1) Public Works Assistant Foreman, effective December 31, 2019.*

Add Item "H" – *Accept letter of retirement from one (1) Recreation Department Maintenance Technician, effective 1/17/2020 and approve compensation for unused vacation leave, transfer unused sick leave to PERS and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.*

Add Item "I" – *Ratify payment to Reeds Metals for Sim Scott roof and approve lowest and best quote.*

**REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:**

Add Item "H" – *Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department for November 2019.*

Add Item "I" – *Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for November 2019.*

Add Item "J" – *Monthly Report from the Planning and Community Development Department for November 2019.*

**POLICY AGENDA:**

Add Item "C" – *Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) Entry-Level Firefighter, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.*

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 same, with a unanimous vote.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve request to send (3) CPD Officers: Michaela Gill, Alexander Rucker and Mecca Shabazz to attend the "Mississippi Delta Community College Law Enforcement Training Academy" in Moorhead, MS, and approve tuition cost of \$3,600.00 each and clothing allowance of \$350.00 each, which will be reimbursed after graduation from the academy.
- B. Approve permit request submitted by Nancy Carpenter, on behalf of Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation, to host "Catfish in the Alley" on March 28, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., with streets being blocked on March 27, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on March 28, 2020. See attached map.
- C. Approve request for the Chief Financial officer, Deliah Vaughn, to attend the "Municipal Retirement System Annual Valuation" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$194.88 for travel expenses.

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- D. Ratify request for Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Onterrio Lowery, to attend the “NREMT Exam” that was held in Tupelo, MS, and approve use of City vehicle for travel.
- E. Ratify request for Fire and Rescue Engineers, Chris Carter and Marco Rodriguez to attend the “TF2 Exercise Planning Meeting” that was held in Hattiesburg, MS, and approve payment of \$25.00 for fuel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- F. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer Robin Conner, effective December 11, 2019, and approve compensation for any unused vacation leave.
- G. Accept letter of retirement from Public Works Assistant Foreman, Duane McCarter, effective December 31, 2019.
- H. Accept letter of retirement from Recreation Department Maintenance Technician, Murphy Jones, effective 1/17/2020, and approve compensation for unused vacation leave, transfer unused sick leave to PERS and authorize H. R. Director to begin the normal recruitment process.
- I. Ratify payment to Reeds Metals for Sim Scott roof, and approve lowest quote of \$49,999.99.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Consent 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 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 wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Mr. Eddie Mauck, dba as broker / agent for Galloway-Chandler-McKinney Insurance, came forward and discussed the City’s Property, Auto, General Liability, Law Enforcement Liability, Public Officials Management Liability and Employment Practices Liability insurance. The Insurance Committee recommends renewing this coverage, effective December 31, 2019, at an estimated annual cost of \$43,470.00. Council Member Gavin made a motion to renew the City’s Property, Auto, General Liability, Law Enforcement Liability, Public Officials Management Liability and Employment Practices Liability insurance with Galloway-Chandler-McKinney Insurance Company, with Eddie and Brad Mauck as Agents of Record, effective December 31, 2019. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

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The motion carried.

**B. Swearing in of three (3) CPD Officers: MICHAELA GILL, ALEXANDER RUCKER AND MECCA SHABAZZ.**

Mayor Smith swore in new Police Officers: Michaela Gill, Alexander Rucker and Mecca Shabazz as they recited the Oath of Office.

**C. Monthly Report from the Columbus Municipal Court Division for November 2019**

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

**D. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for November 2019**

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for November 2019 was presented. No action was taken.

**E. Monthly Report from the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department for November 2019**

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

**F. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for November 2019**

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

**G. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for November 2019**

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

**H. Monthly Report from the Fire and Rescue Department for November 2019**

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

**I. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for November 2019**

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

**J. Monthly Report from the Planning and Community Development Department for November 2019**

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

**K. Monthly Financial Report**

Deliah Vaughn, CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report and remarked that the City currently has \$5,982,824.41 in combined total General Fund and Special Revenue Funds, \$3,519,643.31 in the General Fund, \$2,463,184.10 in Special Funds, and \$926,439.77 in General Fund Operating cash. The sales Taxes for the month are \$788,697.23, which is an increase of \$14,780.96 compared to the same time last year.

**L. Board Vacancies:**

David Armstrong announced that the Golden Triangle Regional Waste Management Authority Board has one (1) vacancy that can be filled tonight.

**GTR WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD**

- 1 Vacancy, James Wamble III 4-Year Term Expired 12/15/19.
- Appointment can be made December 17, 2019.

**APPLICANT**

- **TOMMY JACKSON**
- **ROGER A. BURLINGAME**

Council Member Gavin made a motion to appoint Robert Roger A. Burlingame to the GTR Waste Management Authority Board for a 4-Year Term, until December 15, 2023. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion, with the exception of Council Woman Stewart, who opposed.

The motion carried 5/1.

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

- 1 Vacancy, 1-Year Term, Mike Gibson's Term Expires 1/02/2020.
- Appointment can be made 1/07/2020.
- No applicants at this time.

**VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:**

**WADE WILSON – RE: Abatement of Property**

Mr. Wade Wilson, owner of dilapidated property, came before the Mayor and Council and requested permission to extend the abatement period so he can remediate the dilapidated structure for sale. Sasha James, Code Enforcement Officer, came forward

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and recommended immediate abatement, based on pictures that were presented. Kenny Wiegel, Building Official, remarked that the property has a conventional foundation, a portion of the roof had collapsed prior to the February 23, 2019 tornado and it would cost more to remediate the property than to demolish it. Mr. Wilson then asked how much time the City could extend to him to allow him to remediate the property. The general extension period of 45 days was discussed. Mr. Wilson stated he needed more time than that. Following discussion, Council Member Mickens made a motion to give Mr. Wilson seven (7) months to remediate the property. Council Member Box seconded the motion, stating at least it will be back on the tax rolls.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:**

Council Member Jones made a substitute motion to give Mr. Wilson seven (7) months to remediate the property, but he must take out a Building Permit and begin work by January 15, 2020, and should he fail to take action on both a permit and begin work, the City should proceed to abate the property as requested by the Code Enforcement Official and that a copy of the minutes of the meeting be forwarded to Mr. Wilson once approved by the Mayor and Council. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**JEROME STEPHENSON - RE: Purchase of City Property**

Mr. Jerome Stephenson came before the Mayor and Council to request to purchase a small parcel of municipal property located on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, parcel number: 61W120014200 for \$400.00. The property is blighted and is located in a blighted area; it is not needed for governmental or related purposes and is not used in the operation of the municipality; that the sale of the property in the manner otherwise provided by Law is not necessary or desirable for the municipality; that the use of the property for the purpose for which it is to be conveyed will promote and foster the development and improvement of the community in which it is located; that the purchaser will keep the property mowed and clean and the property's grass will be cut when needed and property shall be well maintained by the recipients; and in any such deed or instrument of conveyance, the municipality shall retain all mineral rights that it owns, together with the right of ingress and egress to remove the same.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to sell municipal property located on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, parcel number: 61W120014200 for \$400.00, according to State requirements mentioned above. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**Brandy Gardner – Mayor's Youth Council Presentation**

Brandy Gardner, Mayor's Youth Council Coordinator, came forward and presented

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the 2019-2020 Mayor's Youth Council. Each member made an introduction and apprised the Mayor and Council of events they participated in during the year with display of a Power Point presentation. The Mayor's Youth Council, made up of 50 area high students, ended their presentation by stating how the organization has impacted their lives and thanked the Mayor and City Council for the opportunity to serve.

**VIII. POLICY AGENDA:**

**A. Discuss/Approve rehiring of one (1) CPD Officer, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to rehire CPD Officer Jemarco Harris, 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.

**B. Discuss/Approve recommendations from the Planning Commission.**

**On Behalf of America's Car Mart, Inc.  
3933 Highway 45 North**

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request to allow a modular-built office.

Council Member Gavin moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to allow a modular-built office be approved as a Permitted Use. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the permitted use application. No one answered. There followed discussion, consideration, and review by the Council of the issues and facts presented by this request and the action taken by the City of Columbus Planning Commission.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**B. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) entry-level Firefighter, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to hire one (1) entry-level Firefighter,

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**Thomas Williamson**, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**C. Consider / Approve the award of written competitive bids for electrical work at Sim Scott Community Center.**

Derrell Winters of J5, the City's Project Manager, informed the Mayor and Council that he had obtained written competitive bids for the electrical work at the Sim Scott Community Center as follows:

Malone Electric of Columbus, LLC - \$39,655.00  
Advanced Electrical Contractors - \$41,000.00  
EDC Doss Electric, LLC - \$85,356.00

Mr. Winters recommended accepting the bid from Malone, pursuant to Section 31-7-13(b) of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Box moved to accept the bid from Malone Electric of Columbus, LLC as the lowest and best written competitive bid. Council Member Jones 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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