

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS FEBRUARY 18, 2020

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 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 Robert E. Smith, Sr. called the meeting to order and called upon Pastor Steve Blaylock, Pastor of First Pentecostal Church, to offer the Invocation. Prior to the Invocation, Pastor Blaylock offered opening remarks about the February 23, 2019 tornado and thanked the Mayor, City Council and all others involved in the support offered to his congregation during the loss of the church as a result of the tornado. He then announced that the congregation will be having a ground-breaking ceremony on February 23, 2020 to commemorate the rebuilding project. Pastor Blaylock then offered the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4, 2020

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of February 4, 2020. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2020.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for February 18, 2020, in the amount of \$1,735,653.84. 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.

POLICY AGENDA:

Change the wording on Items “F” and “G” to read “*advertise for.*”

Add Item “M” – *Discuss/Approve Awarding bid for New Street Sweeper by method of Reverse Auction.*

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. Councilwoman Stewart 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. Approve request to refund Jennifer Broyles the sum of \$420.00 for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center rental.
- B. Accept letter of Retirement from Public Works Department employee, Earnest Thomas, effective February 20, 2020 and authorize the HR Director to begin advertising to fill the vacant position.
- C. Ratify approval to send CPD Officer Lance Luckey and Investigator Aaron Andrew out of town to pick up a fugitive with a warrant for aggravated assault, and approve payment of lodging, travel and meal expenses.
- D. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Reserve Officer Brian Locke, effective February 10, 2020.
- E. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Jonathan Vergne, effective February 13, 2020.
- F. Approve request for CPD Investigator Katelyn Hicks to attend the “Criminal Investigative Certification Course” to be held in Tupelo, MS, and approve payment of \$900.00 for registration.
- G. Approve request to advertise for Notice of Intent of the City of Columbus, Mississippi to accept sealed bids for the Publication in a qualified newspaper of Proceedings, Ordinances, Resolutions, Announcements, Legal Advertisements, and other required Notices of the City of Columbus, Mississippi, pursuant to Section 21-39-3 of The Mississippi Code of 1972, As Annotated.

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- H. Accept letter of retirement from Fire Battalion Chief Michael S. Swain, effective February 17, 2020, and approve compensation for 240 hours of accrued vacation, as well authorize the purchase of his service weapon for the customary sum of ten dollars (\$10.00).
- I. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Engineer, Roderick Dillard, to attend "Fire Department "Safety Officer" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$400.00 for registration, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- J. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Fire Marshal, Alan Lewis, to attend "Fire Investigator" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$640.00 for registration, \$100.00 for travel, and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- K. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Engineer, Justin Garza, to attend "Large Animal Rescue" to be held in Starkville, MS, and approve payment of meal expenses.
- L. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Administrative Assistant to attend "Emergency Services Administrative Professionals 2020 Conference" to be Held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$125.00 for registration, \$160.00 For lodging, \$263.16 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.

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

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

David Armstrong reminded Council Members that he needed the name of the person he/she selected to serve on the Complete Count/Census 2020.

B. PROCLAMATIONS:

- **RARE DISEASES DAY - FEBRUARY 29, 2020**
Mayor Smith was prepared to present a Proclamation in Recognition of Rare Diseases Day, February 29, 2020; however, the recipient was not present.

- **KIDS TO PARKS DAY – MAY 16, 2020**
City Recreation Department Director, Greg Lewis, came forward and read the proclamation in Recognition of Kids to Parks Day, which is May 16, 2020.

C. PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATION TO TWO (2) CPD OFFICERS

- **RODREIUZ PORTER** – Officer Porter was recognized for helping a Citizen that had a flat tire by changing the tire and staying with her until her spouse arrived. Chief Shelton presented a Certificate of Recognition and a Chief's coin to Officer Porter.
- **LANDON GEORGE** – Officer George was recognized by Michael Brock of Shelter Insurance Company for completing a very detailed and precise Driver's Exchange Form. Chief Shelton presented Officer George a Certificate of Recognition and a Chief's coin.

D. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department for January 2020

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department for January 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

E. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for January 2020

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for January 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

F. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for January 2020

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for January 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

G. Monthly Report from the Planning and Community Development Department for January 2020

The Monthly Report from the Planning and Community Development Department for January 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

H. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for January 2020

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for January 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

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I. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for December 2019

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for January 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

J. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for January 2020

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for January 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

K. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for January 2020

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for January 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

L. Monthly Financial Report

Deliah Vaughn, CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report and remarked that the City currently has a combined total of \$6,912,523.81 with the General Fund having \$3,167,626.14 and Special Revenue Funds totaling \$3,744,897.67. The General Fund Operating Cash for the month of November was \$883,549.86; prior year was (\$497,164.45), which is \$1,380,714.31 difference from January 2019. The sales Tax collections for the month were \$924,962.87, which is an decrease of \$51,532.13 compared to the same time last year.

M. Board Vacancies

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various Boards and remarked that no appointments will be made tonight.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS

- 2 Vacancies, 3-Year Terms for Chris Chain and Rob Graham Expire 2/21/2020.
- Appointments can be made March 3, 2020.

APPLICANT:

- Chris Chain

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

- 2 Vacancies, 3-Year Terms for Whirlie Byrd and Nadia Colom Expire 3/01/2020.
- Appointment for the 3-Year Terms will be made March 03, 2020.
- 1 Vacancy to fill the remainder of the 4-Year Unexpired Term for Maj. General Thomas Moore. This Term will expire 10/01/2022.
- Appointments can be made March 03, 2020

APPLICANT

- Whirlie Byrd
- Quinn Brislin
- Melodie Cunningham

COLUMBUS MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

- 1 Vacancy, 5 Year Term for Telisa Clay Young Expires 3/03/2020.
- Appointment can be made March 3, 2020.

APPLICANT:

- Telisa Clay Young

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS OF DEVELOPMENT CODES

- 1 Vacancy, Kevin Stafford's 1-Year Term Expires 3/06/2020.
- Appointments can be made March 3, 2020.

APPLICANT:

- Kevin Stafford

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

MARY ETTA ERBY – STREET FLOODING

Ms. Mary Etta Erby came before the Mayor and Council with concerns about her home/Neighborhood flooding and showed pictures on her phone. Ms. Erby lives at 2202 – 22nd Street North. No action was taken.

DOROTHY M. LEWIS – WARD 4 DRAINAGE ISSUES

Ms. Dorothy M. Lewis came to the podium with similar complaints about drainage issues and plumbing problems in her home and throughout the neighborhood. She lives at 1515 – 27th Street North. Todd Gale, Director of Columbus Light and Water, came forward and remarked that there were pipe issues on 19th Street, 21st Street and 27th Street North. He “smoked” the pipes and found more than 100 breaks; 90 of which are on private property. Mr. Gale also remarked that he noticed quite a bit of infiltration from Morningside. No action was taken.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss Storm Update and Good News Columbus

Joe Dillon, City FEMA Coordinator, came forward and reported that FEMA approved the Storm Shelters. The City will receive eleven Storm Shelters at a cost of \$62,000.00. FEMA will be responsible for 75% and the City will be responsible for 25%. Mr. Dillon then requested permission to bid out. Council Member Jones made a motion to advertise for bids. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

B. Discuss/Approve Historic Survey Petition from Ward 4 Residents

Ward 4 Committee members met with some residents in Wards 1, 4 and 5. Judy Parke, spokesperson, came forward and remarked that the City's portion would be \$6,500.00. There are numerous steps before this comes to fruition. The survey will help property owners decide whether they wish to proceed. George Irby, City Planner, came forward and remarked that he believes the City would have to obligate \$10,000.00. Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the Historic Survey Petition. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

Council Members Stewart, Beard and Jones voted in favor of the motion. Council Members Mickens, Box and Gavin opposed the motion.

Mayor Smith broke the tie by voting in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Discuss/Approve allowing the Human Resources Director to advertise internally for the vacant position of Office Manager in the Building Inspection Department.

Council Member Box made a motion to authorize the Human Resources Director to advertise internally for the vacant position of Office Manager in the Building Inspection Department. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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- D. Discuss/Approve request to hire one (1) applicant to fill the vacant Truck Driver position, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.**

Council Member Beard made a motion to hire Fredrick J. Steele to fill the vacant position of Truck Driver. Mayor Smith asked for a second to the motion. No one seconded.

The motion failed.

- E. Discuss/Approve request to hire one (1) applicant to fill vacant Mechanic position in the Garage, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to hire **JOSHUA L. DENDY** to fill the vacant Mechanic position in the City Garage at \$16.22 per hour, 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 request to advertise for one (1) Grounds Maintenance Laborer.**

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the request to advertise for one (1) Grounds Maintenance Laborer for the Recreation Department. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

- G. Discuss/Approve request to advertise for one (1) Grounds Maintenance Facilitator.**

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the request to advertise for one (1) Grounds Maintenance Facilitator for the Recreation Department. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

H. Discuss/Approve Gaylane Drive Traffic Calming.

Kevin Stafford, City Engineer, came forward and remarked that a study has been conducted and requested to put two (2) speed humps/Traffic Calming devices on Gaylane Drive.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the request to erect two (2) Speed Humps/Traffic Calming devices on Gaylane Drive. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

I. Discuss/Approve request to reject all bids and rebid the CLCA Fuel Farm Tank Replacement Project.

Kevin Stafford remarked that the bids came in over budget and requested permission to reject all bids and readvertise. Council Member Jones made a motion to reject all bids and rebid the CLCA Fuel Farm Tank Replacement Project. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

J. Discuss/Approve Engineering Contract for CLCA's North & South Apron Pavement Rehabilitation Project.

Kevin Stafford remarked that FAA will fund 90% of the project and the City/County will fund 5%. Council Member Jones made a motion to award the Engineering Contract to Neel-Schaffer, Inc. and authorized them to proceed with the design. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

K. Discuss/Approve request to advertise for bids for the CLCA's North & South Apron Pavement Rehabilitation Project.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to advertise for

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bids for the CLCA's North & South Apron pavement Rehabilitation Project.
Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

L. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

AARON ANDERSON
1401 – 4th Avenue North
CASE NUMBER 19-0466 Accumulation of Rubbish and Garbage

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0466**. 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 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.

PAMELA RENEE LACY
623 – 12st Street North
Case Number 19-0391 Burned Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0391**. Leroy Lacy appeared before the Mayor and Council and requested an extension. He then questioned why he had to remediate the property for damage that the City caused. 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

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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 Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**ELDRICK D. HILL
2516 – 12th Avenue North
Case Number 19-0457 Burned Structure**

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0457**. Sammie Hill, property owner's father appeared before the Mayor and Council and requested an extension. 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 Beard 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 Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

L. Discuss/approve request to award bid for new street sweeper

Pat Mitchell reported that she has taken the necessary steps according to the State Purchasing requirements and received only one (1) qualified bidder for a new Street Sweeper and requested approval to award the bid to Vacuum Truck Sales & Service, LLC at a bid price of \$249,962.00. Council Member Mickens made a motion to award the bid/Reverse Auction for a new Street Sweeper to Vacuum Truck Sales & Service, LLC at a cost of \$249,962.00. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

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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 Mayor and 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 Beard moved that the meeting be adjourned. Upon second by Council Member Jones 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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