

# MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS JANUARY 7, 2020

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 7, 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 Smith called the meeting to order and called Deacon D. R. Macahan, from Fairview Baptist Church to offer the Invocation.

## II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR PREVIOUS MEETING.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Meeting of December 17, 2019. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried

## III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for January 7, 2020, in the amount of \$1,461,655.26. 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 "M" – Approve request for the CPD Chief to attend the "New Police Chief Orientation" to be held in Ridgeland, MS, and approve payment of lodging and reimbursement of meal expenses.*

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Add Item "N" – *Approve request for one (1) CPD Investigator to travel to the Crime Lab in Jackson, MS to deliver and pick up evidence, and approve payment of travel and meal expenses.*

Add Item "O" – *Approve request for the CPD Chief and Director of Training to attend the "Board of Law Enforcement Standards and Training Meeting" in Ridgeland, MS, and approve payment of travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.*

**REPORTS, PROCLAMATION, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:**

Add Item "C" – *Add Board of Adjustment and Appeal of Development Codes to Board Vacancies.*

**CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:**

Delete Patricia Douglas – *Discuss activities at Genesis Church.*

**POLICY AGENDA:**

Add Item "Q" - *Discuss/Approve Fair Labor Standards Change.*

Add Item "R" – *Discuss/Approve Amphitheater Phase 2 Bids.*

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the 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.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve request for CPD Officer, Kevin McCrary, to attend the "Controlled F.O.R.C.E. Training" to be held in Vicksburg, MS, and approve payment of \$570.00 for registration, \$300.00 for lodging, and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- B. Approve request for Pat Mitchell, Human Resources Director to advertise for the vacant position of Animal Control Officer.
- C. Approve request for Columbus Recreation Department employees, Greg Lewis and Chanda Williams, to attend the "MSA Annual Conference and Registrar Summit" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$25.00 each for registration, \$218.00 each for lodging, \$194.88 each for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Thomas Watkins, effective January 9, 2020, and approve compensation for 240 hours of vacation

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leave and any remaining unused vacation leave and sick leave be certified into PERS.

- E. Accept letter of resignation from Fire and Rescue Captain, Stephen Loden, effective December 31, 2019, and approve compensation for any unused vacation leave.
- F. Approve request for six (6) Fire and Rescue personnel: Chief Martin Andrews, Todd Graham, Alan Walker, Shannon Murphy, Mike Gibson, and Billy R. Clark, to attend "Truck Approval" to be held in Fairhope, AL, and approve payment of fuel expenses.
- G. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Chief of Training, Mike Chandler, to attend the "2020 Excellence Conference" to be held in Orlando, FL, and approve payment of \$725.00 for registration, \$866.55 for lodging, \$280.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- H. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Captain, Wes Mims, to attend the "HSART Refresher" to be held in Hattiesburg, MS, and approve payment for fuel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- I. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Fire Chief, Martin Andrews, to attend the "Mid-Winter Fire Chiefs Conference" to be held in Ridgeland, MS, and approve payment of \$85.00 for registration, \$470.88 for lodging, travel, and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- J. Approve request to refund two (2) citizens for Trotter Rental fees: Whirlie L. Byrd the sum of \$420.00 and Columbus Arts Council the sum of \$375.00.
- K. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Christion Davis, to attend "Firefighter Intervention Rescue Survival Techniques" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$365.00 for registration, travel, fuel, and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- L. Approve request for three (3) Fire and Rescue Firefighters: Thomas Stone, Shawn Shaw, and Kameron Pearson to attend the "NREMT Exam" to be held in Tuscaloosa, AL, and approve payment of \$240.00 for registration, travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- M. Approve request for CPD Chief, Fred Shelton, to attend the "New Police Chief Orientation" to be held in Ridgeland, MS, and approve payment for lodging and meal expenses.

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- N. Approve request for one (1) CID Investigator to travel to the Crime Lab in Jackson, MS to deliver and pick up evidence, and approve payment for travel and meal expenses.
- O. Approve request for CPD Chief, Fred Shelton and Director of Training, Liz Patrick, to attend the "Board of Law Enforcement Standards and Training Meeting" in Ridgeland, MS, and approve payment for travel and meal expenses.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Consent 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 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 in attendance a Happy and Prosperous New Year and then introduced and welcomed the Commercial Dispatch's new City/County Government reporter, Ms. Stella Yu.

**B. Presentation of Commendation to Officer Jemarco Harris**

Chief Shelton presented a Chief's coin and Certificate of Commendation to Officer Jemarco Harris for demonstrating professionalism in performing police work that resulted in solving a crime.

**C. BOARD VACANCIES:**

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that one (1) appointment can be made tonight.

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

- 1 Vacancy, 1 Year Term for Mike Gibson Expired 1/2/2020.
- Appointment can be made immediately.

**APPLICANTS**

- Alan Lewis
- Jermaine Shanklin **DELETE**, Applicant does not meet requirements.

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Council Member Mickens made a motion to appoint Alan Lewis to the Board of Adjustment and Appeal of Development Codes for a one (1) Year Term, until January 1, 2021. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA**

**ROGER LARSEN – Purchase of City Property**

Legal Counsel, Jeff Turnage, began by apprising the Mayor and Council of the process of selling municipal property and requested approval of Resolution and Order in doing so. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Resolution approving the Sale of Surplus Municipal Property via Licensed Real Estate Broker, with the property being an un-opened portion of what is shown on the City's road map as 3<sup>rd</sup> Street South, beginning at the southern Border of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and ending at the Northern most edge of the railroad line immediately to the south thereof, at the appraised amount of \$3,500.00. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. The vote was recorded as follows:

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART	voted: <u>YES</u>
COUNCIL MEMBER MICKENS	voted: <u>YES</u>
COUNCIL MEMBER BOX	voted: <u>YES</u>
COUNCIL MEMBER BEARD	voted: <u>YES</u>
COUNCIL MEMBER JONES	voted: <u>YES</u>
COUNCIL MEMBER GAVIN	voted: <u>YES</u>

The Mayor then announced that the above and foregoing Resolution was thereby adopted on this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020

**THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:**

**ORDER:**

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Order approving the sale of municipal property, pursuant to the language mentioned above. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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**VIII. POLICY AGENDA:**

**A. Discuss/Approve promotion of one (1) CPD Lieutenant to Captain of Patrol.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the promotion of CPD Lieutenant, Anthony Nelson, to Captain of Patrol, at an annual salary of \$59,037.45, effective immediately. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**B. Discuss/Approve re-hiring one (1) CPD Officer, contingent upon a successful pre-employment physical and drug screen.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to re-hire **SHERMAN MOSELY**, as a Police Officer, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**C. Discuss/Approve Acceptance of Brickerton/Columbus Brick Road Right-of-Way and Drainage Easements**

Kevin Stafford, City Engineer with Neel-Schaffer, came forward and requested approval of Part I and Part II of Drainage Easements requested by Brunini Attorney at Law for Brickyard Properties, Ltd. Upon review by the General Counsel. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve Acceptance of Brickerton/Columbus Brick Road Right-of-Way and Drainage Easements. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOLLOWS:**

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**D. Discuss/Approve Amendments to the 2019 Final Budget.**

Deliah Vaughn, CFO, presented the final 2018-2019 Budget Amendments for approval in the amount of \$ 25,000.00. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the final 2018-2019 Budget with Amendments in the amount of \$25,554,680.05. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**E. Discuss/Approve Amendments to the 2020 Budget.**

Deliah Vaughn, CFO, discussed 2020 Budget Amendments and requested approval. Council Member Box made a motion to approve the 2020 Budget Amendments for 2020 in the amount of \$ 299,079.00. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**F. Discuss/Approve promotion and pay rate increase of one (1) Public Works Sweeper Truck Operator to Assistant Public Works Director.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the promotion and pay rate increase Public Works Sweeper Truck Operator to Assistant Public Works Director, at \$17.51 an hour/\$36,420.80 annually. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**G. Discuss/Approve promotion and pay rate increase of (1) Public Works Laborer to Assistant Grass Crew Foreman.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the promotion and pay rate increase of Public Works Laborer, Lannie Walker, to Assistant Grass Crew Foreman at an hourly rate of \$12.50/\$26,000.00 annually. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

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The motion carried.

**H. Discuss/Approve promotion and pay rate increase of one (1) Public Works Assistant Foreman to Concrete Foreman.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the promotion and pay rate increase of Public Works Assistant Foreman, **Carl Robinson**, to Concrete Foreman at an hourly rate of \$14.85/ \$30,893.41 annually. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**I. Discuss/Approve promotion and pay rate increase of one (1) F & R Accreditation Manager to Fire Marshal.**

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the promotion and pay rate increase of Fire and Rescue Accreditation Manager, **Alan Lewis**, to Fire Marshal, at an hourly rate of \$23.27/\$48,401.60 annually. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**J. Discuss/Approve promotion and pay rate increase of one (1) F & R Captain to Battalion Chief.**

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the promotion and pay rate increase of Fire & Rescue Captain, **Todd Graham**, to Battalion Chief, at a rate of \$53,440.19 annually. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**K. Discuss/Approve promotion and pay rate increase of one (1) F & R Training Chief to Chief of Training/Accreditation Manager.**

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the promotion and pay rate increase of Fire & Rescue Chief of Training, **Michael Chandler**, to Chief of Training/Accreditation Manager, at an hourly rate of \$28.32 hourly/\$58,905.60 annually. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

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All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**L. Discuss/Approve promotion and pay rate increase of two (2) F & R Engineers to Captain.**

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the promotion and pay rate increase of Fire & Rescue Engineers, **Billy R. Clark** and **Josh Boyer**, to Captain, at an hourly rate of \$14.20/48,487.84 annually. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**M. Discuss/Approve promotion and pay rate increase of one (1) Parks and Recreation Grounds Supervisor to Maintenance Supervisor.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the promotion and pay rate increase of Parks and Recreation Grounds Supervisor, **Tony Stewart**, to Maintenance Supervisor at \$17.50 hourly/\$36,400.00 annually. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**N. Discuss/Approve promotion and pay rate increase of one (1) Parks and Recreation Facilities Technician to Assistant Maintenance Supervisor.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the promotion and pay rate increase of Parks and Recreation Facilities Technician, **Humphris Kelley** to Assistant Maintenance Supervisor at an hourly rate of \$17.00/\$35,360.00 annually. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**O. Discuss/Approve promotion and pay rate increase of one (1) Coordinator of Neighborhood Parks to Director of Programs.**

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Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the promotion and pay rate increase of Parks and Recreation Coordinator of Neighborhood Parks, **Chanda Williams**, to Director of Programs at an hourly rate of \$16.50/\$34,320.00 annually. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**P. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket.**

**ROBERT L. BROWN, JR., AND  
SHIRLEY BROWN  
381 Byrnes Circle  
CASE NUMBER 19-0459    VEGETATION**

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0459**. 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 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 Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**ROBERT WILLIAMS AND  
FLOYE WILLIAMS  
1124 Shady Street  
CASE NUMBER 19-0447    DILAPIDATED/VEGETATION**

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0447**. 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,

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requested **immediate abatement** 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 Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**CROSSCURRENT LLC  
1424 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North  
CASE NUMBER 19-0455 DILAPIDATED**

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0459**. 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 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 Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**Q. Fair Labor Standards Change**

Human Resources Director, Patricia Mitchell, apprised the Mayor and Council of the Department of Labor's New Overtime Rules, which states that exempt employees must be paid on a salary basis of at least \$684.00 per week or \$35,568.00 per year, effective January 2020. The City has one (1) exempt, salaried employee, **Glenda Buckhalter**, Community Outreach Coordinator, that currently makes \$32,489.60 per year and recommends

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that her salary be increased to the suggested \$35,568.00 annually, which is a \$3,078.40 increase annually. Council Member Box made a motion to approve the recommendation. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**R. Discuss/Approve Amphitheater Phase 2 Bids.**

Kevin Stafford, City Engineer, came forward and remarked that they had received bids for the Senator Terry Brown Amphitheater, Phase 2 – Bid Summary and stated that based on the available funding of \$500,000.00, all projects bid under this scope can be awarded. The bids are as follows:

**Contract A – Entry Gate Element – J Morgan Company, LLC -  
\$309,360.00**

**Contract B – Fence & Gates – Columbus Fence Company - \$86,300.00**

Council Member Jones made a motion to move forward with the fence with Columbus Fence Company at \$86,300.00. Council Member Gavin 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 Beard and unanimous vote, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deliah T. Vaughn

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**CFO- Secretary-Treasurer**

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