

**MEETING OF  
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS  
March 3, 2020**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Vice-Mayor Bill Gavin presided over the meeting until Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. arrived. 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 Rev. Alisha Coop, member of First United Methodist Church, to offer the Invocation. Ms. Coop began by thanking everyone for the participation in Day-to-Care services held on March 22, 2020.

**II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2020.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of February 18, 2020. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS.**

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for March 3, 2020, in the amount of \$345,478.55. Council Member Mickens 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 "L" – *Accept letter of resignation from the Work Program Supervisor, effective March 12, 2020.*

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**CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:**

DELETE Paul Swain – Old Train Update

**POLICY AGENDA:**

Change wording in Item “G” - *Discuss/Approve request to advertise for two (2) Seasonal Grounds Maintenance Laborers.*

Add Item “J” – *Discuss/Approve request to advertise for one (1) Work Program Supervisor.*

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. Council Member Box 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 send a Fire and Rescue Engineer to the “2020 NNCDS Canine Detection Services Seminar and Testing” to be held in Holly Springs, MS, and approve payment of \$460.00 for registration, \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- B. Approve request to send Firefighters Mark Stone, Kameron Pearson, and Patrick Ghoston to “NFPA 1001-I & II Firefighter Certification to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$1500.00 each for registration, \$150.00 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Chief of Training to attend the “MS EMT License Certification/CEU Updates” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of fuel.
- D. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer Joshua Vandiver, effective February 27, 2020, and approve request to compensate him for unused vacation leave up to 240 hours and send unused sick leave to PERS.
- E. Approve request for Municipal Court Clerk, Wendy Blunt, to attend the “Planning Meeting of The Mississippi Municipal Court Clerks 2020 Summer Conference” to be held in Biloxi, MS at no cost to the City.
- F. Approve request to refund Kezia Adams the sum of \$375.00 for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center rental.

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- G. Accept letter of resignation from Public Works employee, Melvin Smith, effective March 3, 2020, and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process.
- H. Approve request for the Director of Training and a CPD Sergeant to attend the “East Mississippi Community College Job Fair” to be held at Mayhew, MS, at no cost to the City.
- I. Approve request for CPD Officer, Jervarcus Gooch, to attend the “Patrol Officers Response to Street Drugs” to be held in Meridian, MS, at no cost to the City.
- J. Approve permit request submitted by Nancy Carpenter, on behalf of Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation to host “The W/Pilgrimage 5K Run” to be held on April 4, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. *See attached map.*
- K. Approve permit request submitted by Glenn Lautzenhiser, on behalf of Christian Community in Prayer, to host the “National Day of Prayer” to be held on May 7, 2020 from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. in front of the Lowndes County Courthouse, blocking second Avenue North in front of the Courthouse from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
- L. Accept letter of resignation from the Work Program Supervisor, effective March 12, 2020.

Council Member Jones 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**

Vice-Mayor requested that everyone keep Nashville, Tennessee in their prayers as they recover from a tornado.

**B. Presentation of Commendation to CPD Officer Kevin McCrary**

Chief Shelton presented a Letter of Commendation to CPD Officer Kevin McCrary for exhibiting professionalism in finding the mentally challenged son of Rev. Burt Richardson and watching him until his parents arrived.

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*Mayor Smith arrived and presided over the remainder of the meeting.*

**C. Presentation of Awards to two (2) Columbus Recreation Department Participants**

Greg Lewis, Recreation Department Director presented a plaque and flowers to Ms. Sallie Gray and Ms. Annie Barry.

**D. BOARD VACANCIES**

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various Boards and remarked that only one appointment can be made tonight.

**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS**

- 2 Vacancies, 3-Year Terms for Chris Chain and Rob Graham expire 2/21/2020.
- Appointment will be made March 3, 2020.

**APPLICANTS**

- Chris Chain
- Rob Graham

Council Member Gavin made a motion to reappoint Chris Chain and Rob Graham to the Zoning Board of Adjustment & Appeals for 3-Year Terms, until March 3, 2023. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**

- 2 Vacancies, 3-Year Terms for Whirlie Byrd and Nadia Colom Expire 3/01/2020.
- Appointments for the 3-Year Terms will be made March 03, 2020.
- 1 Vacancy to fill the remainder of the 4-Year Unexpired Term of Maj. General Thomas Moore. This term will expire 10/1/2022.
- Maj. General Moore resigned 1/27/2020 as the CVB Joint Appointee by the Mayor and president of the Board of Supervisors.

**APPLICANT**

- Whirlie Byrd

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- Quinn Brislin
- Melodie Cunningham
- Richard “Sonic” Johnson

Council Member Gavin made a motion to reappoint Whirlie Byrd and appoint Quinn Brislin to the Convention & Visitors Bureau for a 3-Year Term, until March 3, 2023. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion, but thought the Council would appoint a third applicant, and withdrew her second. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:**

Council Member Mickens made a substitute motion to reappoint Whirlie Byrd and appoint Melodie Cunningham for a 3-Year Term, until March 3, 2023.

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

The motion carried 5/1.

**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

Council Member Jones made a motion to reappoint Telisa Clay Young to the Columbus Municipal School District Board for a 5-Year Term, until March 3, 2025. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEAL OF DEVELOPMENT  
CODES**

- 1 Vacancy, 1-Year Term for Kevin Stafford, expires 3/06/2020.
- Appointment will be made March 3, 2020.

**APPLICANT:**

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- Kevin Stafford

Council Member Jones made a motion to reappoint Kevin Stafford to the Board of Adjustment & Appeal of Development Codes for a 1-Year Term, until March 3, 2021. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

## VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

PAUL SWAIN – Renovation of Old Train **DELETED**

## VIII. POLICY AGENDA

### A. Discuss FEMA and Good News Update

Joe Dillon, City FEMA Coordinator, came forward and updated the Mayor and City Council on projects. He began by stating progress is being made at the Playground at the East Columbus Gym. He then updated the Mayor and Council on the new LED lights, nearly finished installation in East Columbus and will go to another part of town.

### B. Discuss SeeClicFix Update

Joe Dillon updated the Mayor and Council on the progress being made with SeeClicFix and read statistical data about completion of complaints.

### C. Discuss/Approve permission request from Colin Krieger, on behalf of Zachary's and the Columbus/Lowndes Humane Society, to serve beer at the St. Patty's Pawty from 12:00 noon until 7:00 p.m. at the blocked portion of the street next to the event at Zachary's. The St. Patty's Pawty was previously approved by the Council on February 4, 2020.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to permit Zachary's to serve beer at the St. Patty's Pawty from 12:00 noon until 7:00 p.m. at the blocked portion of the street next to the event at Zachary's. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

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The motion carried.

**D. Discuss/Approve request to accept the lowest lump-sum bid for the BEP Program**

George Irby, City Planner, came forward and requested that the Council award the lowest lump-sum bid for the BEP Program. Council Member Jones Made a motion to award the lowest lump-sum bid for the BEP Program to Joe Morgan in the amount of \$9,820.00 for three (3) properties. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**E. Discuss/Approve promotion of one (1) Fire and Rescue Captain to Battalion Chief.**

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the request to promote Robert "Chip" Kain to the position of Battalion Chief at \$53,440.19 annually. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**F. Discuss/Approve Advertising for one (1) Concrete Finisher, contingent upon successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.**

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the request to advertise for one (1) Concrete Finisher, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. 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 two (2) Seasonal Grounds Maintenance Laborers.**

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the request to advertise for two (2) Seasonal Grounds Maintenance Laborers at \$10.00 per hour. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

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All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**H. Discuss/Approve request to advertise for seven (7) Seasonal workers.**

Council Member Mickens seconded the motion to advertise for seven (7) Seasonal workers for the Recreation Department for the summer program at \$8.00 per hour. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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

**JOHN THOMPSON**  
**301 – 21<sup>st</sup> Street North**  
**CASE NUMBER 20-0005 BURNED STRUCTURE**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0005**. 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** on the structure, 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 voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**CHRISTY D. WILSON**

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**702 – 17<sup>th</sup> Street North**  
**CASE NUMBER 20-001    Maintenance Code Violation**  
**Abandoned Structure/Building**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0001**. Mr. Wade Wilson appeared. Mr. Wilson remarked that his daughter is the property owner and he appeared on her behalf to request an extension. The Council asked Mr. Wilson a series of questions pertaining to the structure and the length of time it has been dilapidated, and then asked the Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, for a recommendation. Ms. James stated that 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. Council Member Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, ordered Mr. Wilson to apply for a Building permit immediately, board up the windows within seven (7) days and give the property owner a **45-day extension** to remediate the property 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.

**JANET L. MORRIS**  
**1709 – 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South**  
**CASE NUMBER 20-0006    Abandoned Structure/Building**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0006**. 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

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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.

**MARTHA SUE THOMPSON**  
**1335 – 5<sup>th</sup> Street South**  
**CASE NUMBER 19-0470 Dilapidated Building**

The General Counsel called cause number **19-0470**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is her 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 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 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 Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**Daniel Williams, Jr. and Mary A. Williams**  
**710 – 19<sup>th</sup> Street North**  
**CASE NUMBER 20-0003 Dilapidated Building**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0003**. Carrie Cunningham, daughter of the property owner, appeared and requested an extension. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the a family member of the property owner has requested an extension of time to remediate the property. Council Member Jones made a motion to give the property owner a **45-day extension** 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

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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 Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**J. Discuss/Approve request to advertise for one (1) Work Program Supervisor.**

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the request to advertise for the vacant position of Work Program Supervisor. Council Member Beard 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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