

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS APRIL 21, 2020

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 21, 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, Assistant Police Chief and the Human Resources Director. All Department Heads participated via teleconference.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order and called upon Minister Tyson Cunningham, Director of the Colden Triangle FCA, to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 7, 2020.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of April 7, 2020. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR APRIL 7, 2020.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims in the amount of \$752,149.85. Council Member Box 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:

Delete Item "A" – *Approve request to refund four (4) citizens for cancellations of Trotter Convention Center Rentals.*

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "F" – *Discuss/Approve renewal of Proclamation of a Natural Disaster.*

Add Item "G" – *Consider/Approve lowest bid for Main Street at 2nd Street Mini-Round-About Project.*

Add Item "H" – *Discuss/Approve Public Works Department Weekly Schedule to change from four (4) days a week to five (5) days a week, with new hours being 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, effective April 27, 2020.*

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the 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 voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote.

The motion carried.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. DELETE
- B. Approve request to purchase tags for two (2) unmarked CPD vehicles.
- C. Accept letter of resignation from one (1) part-time CPD Officer, effective April 10, 2020.

Council Member Box 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 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 offered explanation about the Boom Trucks—two (2) are currently in need of repair and one is operating fine. Mayor Smith suggested running the trucks April 24 & 25, 2020 to catch up.

Mayor Smith remarked that Sales Taxes will decrease throughout the State and asked the Council to be thinking of suggestions to consider when the Governor lift the Shelter-in-Place Order.

B. MONTHLY REPORT FROM COLUMBUS FIRE AND RESCUE FOR MARCH 2020

The Monthly Report for the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for March 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

C. MONTHLY REPORT FROM COLUMBUS MUNICIPAL COURT DIVISION FOR MARCH 2020

The Monthly Report for the Columbus Municipal Court Division for March 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

D. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR MARCH 2020.

The Monthly Report for the Public Works Department for March 2020 was presented. Ward II Council Member asked the Department Head questions about drainage issues in East Columbus. The Department Head responded that he will have crews cleaning out ditches next week, as it is scheduled to rain again this week. No action was taken.

E. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR MARCH 2020

The Monthly Report for the Office of Planning and Community Development for March 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

F. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT FOR MARCH 2020

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

G. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE COLUMBUS RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR MARCH 2020

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

H. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR MARCH 2020

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

I. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT FOR MARCH 2020.

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

J. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Deliah Vaughn, CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report and remarked that the City currently has a combined total of \$11,590,149.16 with the General Fund having \$8,027,524.53 and Special Revenue Funds totaling \$3,484,440.27. The General Fund Operating Cash for the month of March was \$4,168,108.31; prior year was \$1,720,517.92, which is a \$2,447,590.39 difference from March 2019. The Sales Tax collections for the month were \$734,546.24, which is an increase of \$872.58 compared to the same time last year.

K. BOARD VACANCIES

David Armstrong announced vacancies on various Boards.

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD

1 vacancy, Remainder of John Acker's unexpired 5-Year term expires 9/15/2020. John Acker passed away on Tuesday, March 31, 2020. Appointment will be made May 19, 2020. No applicants at this time

CITY UTILITIES COMMISSION BOARD

1 vacancy, Brandy Gardner's 5-Year Term Expires 6/16/2020. Appointments will be made 6/16/2020. No applicants at this time

COLUMBUS HOUSING AUTHORITY

1 vacancy, Vivian Irby's 5-Year Term Expires 7/7/2020. Appointment will be made July 7, 2020. No applicants at this time

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

1 vacancy, Major General Thomas Moore's 4-Year Term Expires 8/16/2020. Appointment will be made August 18, 2020. No applicants at this time

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

VIII. POLICY AGENDA

A. Discuss/Approve request to apply for Justice Assistance Grant.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the request to apply for the Justice Assistance Grant for the Columbus Police Department with no City match required. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Council Member Mickens asked City Planner, George Irby, if there are any Grants for COVID-19 Testing. Mr. Irby responded, "He is not aware of any but has a conference call on April 22, 2020 and will ask.

B. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) Animal Control Officer, contingent upon successful completion of a drug screen and pre-employment medical exam.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to hire **COURTNEY ROSS** as full-time Animal Control Officer for the Police Department at \$12.68 hourly, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment drug screen and medical exam. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Discuss/Approve hiring three (3) CPD Officers, contingent on successful completion of a drug screen and medical exam.

Council Member Beard made a motion to hire **JOSHUA D. BIRCHFIELD, BENTLEY R. HOLCOMBE AND LEXUS D. WARE** as Police Officers, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment drug screen and medical exam. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve promotion of one (1) CPD Officer to Corporal and one (1) CPD Corporal to Sergeant.

Chief Fred Shelton came before the Mayor and Council and stated that several officers had taken the CPD promotional exams. The exams have been graded and three (3) officers have been certified by the Civil Service Commission as passing, one (1) for Corporal and one (1) for Sergeant. Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to promote **Samuel Jackson**, Police Officer, to the position of Corporal and **Eric D. Lewis**, Police Corporal, to the

position of Sergeant. The Chief and Assistant Chief pinned insignia on both officers and presented them with a Certificate of Promotion. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve Street Paving Projects

Kevin Stafford, dba as Neel-Schaffer, Inc. came forward and discussed Street Paving Projects. He remarked that maps of the streets in each Ward were previously distributed for feedback. The projected paving cost is \$6.5 million dollars and include milling and striping. Council Members offered input. Following discussion, Council Member Jones made a motion to agree with the majority and pave the worst streets throughout the City of Columbus after meeting with the City's Bond Council for more information. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion, with the exception of Council Member Mickens, who opposed.

The motion carried 5/1.

F. Approve Proclamation and Resolution of Existence of a Local Emergency.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Proclamation and Resolution of Existence of a Local Emergency. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. The vote was recorded as follows:

COUNCILMAN ETHEL STEWART	voted: <u>YES</u>
COUNCILMAN JOSEPH MICKENS	voted: <u>YES</u>
COUNCILMAN CHARLIE BOX	voted: <u>YES</u>
COUNCILMAN PIERRE D. BEARD	voted: <u>YES</u>
COUNCILMAN STEPHEN JONES	voted: <u>YES</u>
COUNCILMAN BILL GAVIN	voted: <u>YES</u>

The Mayor then announced that the above and foregoing Resolution was thereby adopted on this the 20th day of April, 2020.

THE PROCLAMATION AND RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY
(by City Council or County Board of Supervisors)

WHEREAS, City of Columbus - the City Council ~~or Board of Supervisors~~ does hereby find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within said City/~~County~~, caused by Coronavirus (COVID-19)
(Severe storm, tornado, damaging winds, flash flooding, river flooding)

~~drought, wildland fire, structural fire, hail, hazardous material incident, epidemic, hurricane, earthquake, other)~~

commencing on or about 3:00 ~~AM~~ PM on the 14th day of March, 2020;
and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid conditions of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency in order to provide for the health and safety of the citizens and the protection of their property within the affected jurisdiction;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that in accordance with Section 33-15-17(d), Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, a local emergency now exists throughout said City/~~County~~; and shall be reviewed every seven (7) days until such local emergency is no longer in effect and proclaimed terminated by the City Council / ~~Board of Supervisors~~ of the City / ~~County~~ of Columbus, State of Mississippi.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that all City / ~~County~~ agencies and departments shall render all possible assistance and discharge their emergency responsibilities as set forth in the City / ~~County~~ Emergency Operations Plan.

DATE: 3/16/2020

Robert E. Dorman
Mayor / ~~President of Board of Supervisors~~

ATTEST:
Clerk of City / ~~Chancery~~
~~Clerk for Board of Supervisors~~

[Signature]
Councilperson / ~~Supervisor~~

Columbus
City / ~~County~~, State of MS

JW Mickens SR

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM
A STATE OF EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020 the ~~Board of Supervisors~~ (City Council) of the ~~County~~ of City Columbus found that due to the impact (or imminent threat) of Coronavirus (COVID-19) a condition of extreme peril (earthquake, flood, hazmat, hurricane, severe storm, other) to life and property did exist in Columbus ~~County~~; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, in accordance with State Law 33-15-17(d) the ~~Board of Supervisors~~ City Council declared that an emergency does exist throughout said ~~county~~ city and

WHEREAS, it has now been found that local resources are unable to cope with the effects of said emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DECLARED AND ORDERED that a copy of this declaration be forwarded to the Governor of Mississippi with the request that he proclaim the ~~County~~ (City) of Columbus to be in a State of Emergency; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that Joe Dillon, PSO (Person) (Title) is thereby designated as the authorized representative of the ~~County~~ (City) of Columbus for the purpose of receipt, processing, and coordination of all inquiries and requirements necessary to obtain available State and Federal assistance.

DATE: 3/17/2020 [Signature]
Mayor (Board President)

ATTEST:
[Signature] Council Board Member
Clerk of the ~~Board of~~ Council Board Member
~~Supervisors~~ (or City),
Council Board Member
City of: Columbus Board Member
State of Mississippi

[Signature] Council Member
[Signature] Council Member

G. Consider/Approve Lowest Bid for Main Street at 2nd Street Mini Round-About Project.

Kevin Stafford announced that the Bids were opened for the Main Street at 2nd Street Mini Round-About Project were opened on 4/21/2020. This is a 80/20 Grant. Three (3) bids were received: Phillips Contracting Company, Gregory Construction and a 3rd bid that did not meet requirements and was not opened. Council Member Box made a motion for the Main Street and 2nd Street Intersection Improvement Project, STP-0068-00 (17)LPA/107968-701000, to accept the lowest bid from Phillips Contracting Company in the Amount of \$761,077.95 for the Base Bid and Alternate No. 1, and to give the Chief LPA Official (Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr.) approval to execute the contract and all other necessary paperwork in order to satisfy MDOT LPA requirements. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

H. Discuss/Approve Public Works Department Weekly Schedule to change from four (4) days to five (5) days weekly (7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.), effective April 27, 2020.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve Public Works Department Weekly Schedule to change from four (4) days to five (5) days weekly (7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.), effective April 27, 2020 for the purpose of achieving more productivity. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Council Member Jones made a substitute motion to table this request until the next Council Meeting to give Council Members time to gain Pros and Cons from Department Heads. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion, with the exception of Council Member Beard, who opposed.

The motion carried 5/1.

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 Gavin and unanimous vote, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

Approved by: _____
Robert E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

Deliah Vaughn
Deputy Clerk/ Secretary-Treasurer