

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS

**JUNE 16, 2020
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 16, 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 HR Director. All other Department Heads participated via teleconference.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order and called upon Rev. Darren Leach to offer the Invocation via teleconference.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 2, 2020

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of June 2, 2020. Council Member Beard 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 June 2, 2020, in the amount of \$4241,894.43. Council Member Beard 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 "B" – *Accept letter of resignation from one (1) CPD Officer, effective June 19, 2020.*

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Add Item "C" – *Approve permit request submitted by Tony Phinisey and Vanita Mattix to host a "Drive Thru Processional and Horse & Carriage Ride" to be held on June 21, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at Missionary Union Baptist Church, located at 1207 Fifth Avenue North. The processional will take place at 14th Street North and 5th Avenue North. The carriage ride begins at 1207 Fifth Avenue North, left onto 12th Street North, right onto Main Street to the Riverwalk and back to 1207 Fifth Avenue North.*

Add Item "D" – *Approve request to hold a parade on June 20, 2020 commemorating Juneteenth.*

POLICY AGENDA:

Delete Item "C" – *Discuss/Approve Drug Task Force Interlocal Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding.*

Add Item "D" – *Discuss Public Works Department.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Add Item "A" – Pending Litigation Matter

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 voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Accept letter of resignation from Columbus Recreation Department Maintenance Supervisor, Tony Stewart, effective June 11, 2020, and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process. Also approve request for compensation of unused vacation leave and submit unused sick leave to PERS.
- B. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Joshua Kitchens, effective June 19, 2020 and submit unused leave to PERS.
- C. Approve permit request submitted by Tony Phinisey and Vanita Mattix to host a "Drive Thru Processional and Horse & Carriage Ride" to be held on June 21, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at Missionary Union Baptist Church, located at 1207 Fifth Avenue North. The processional will take place at 14th Street North and 5th Avenue North. The carriage ride begins at 1207 Fifth Avenue North, left onto 12th Street North, right onto Main Street to the Riverwalk and back to 1207 Fifth Avenue North. request to swear in Samuel Jackson as an Ex-Officio Deputy Court Clerk.
- D. Approve request to hold a parade on June 20, 2020 commemorating Juneteenth.

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Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with the above amendment. 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

There were no comments from the Mayor or Council Members.

B. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department for May 2020

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

C. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for May 2020

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

D. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for May 2020

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

E. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for May 2020

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

F. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for May 2020

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

G. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for May 2020

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

H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for May 2020

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

I. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for May 2020

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

J. Monthly Financial Report

Deliah Vaughn, CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report for June and remarked that the City currently has a combined total of \$10,088,200.45 with the General Fund having \$6,957,908.95.16 and Special Revenue Funds totaling \$3,130,291.50 The General Fund Operating Cash for the month of May was \$3,941,716.20; prior year was \$1,829,073.95, which is a \$2,112,642.25 difference from May 2019. The Sales Tax collections for the month were \$703,143.06 which is a decrease of \$118,002.97 compared to the same time last year.

K. BOARD VACANCIES

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that an appointment can be made on the City Utilities Board tonight.

CITY UTILITIES

- 1 Vacancy, Brandy Gardner's 5-Year Term Expires 6/16/2020.
- Appointment will be made June 16, 2020.

APPLICANT

- Brandy Gardner

Council Member Gavin made a motion to reappoint Brandy Gardner to the City Utilities Board for a 5-Year Term, until June 16, 2025. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

COLUMBUS HOUSING AUTHORITY

1 Vacancy, Vivian Irby's 5-Year Term Expires 7/07/2020.

- Appointment will be made July 7, 2020.

APPLICANT

- Vivian Irby

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

- 1 Vacancy, Maj. General (Retired) Thomas Moore's 4-Year Term Expires 8/16/2020.
- Appointment will be made August 18, 2020.

APPLICANT

- Maj. General Thomas L. Moore, Jr.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

David Horton II & Jermaine Shanklin – YOUNG CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Jermaine Shanklin came before the Mayor and Council and requested approval to form a Young Citizens Advisory Board. The members on this board will serve as a liaison between the Community and the city officials to discuss new ideas for each Ward. Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Young Citizens Advisory Board. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA

A. Consider/Adopt Resolution on the State Flag of Mississippi

General Counsel Jeff Turnage apprised the Council of the Resolution of Support for retiring the 1894 Mississippi Flag and for Approval of a Unifying Mississippi Flag. The Mayor and Council engaged in a discussion of the matter after which Council Member Jones made a motion to adopt the Resolution of Support for retiring the 1894 Mississippi Flag and for Approval of a Unifying Mississippi Flag. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion. Said Resolution having been introduced in writing at a Regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi, held on June 16, 2020, which was read, considered, debated and ultimately adopted by a majority of the governing body, paragraph by paragraph, section by section, then as a whole, and the question being put to a vote, the Mayor recorded the votes as follows:

	YES	OR	NO
Council Member Ethel Taylor-Stewart	<u>YES</u>		_____
Council Member Joseph Mickens, Sr.	<u>YES</u>		_____
Council Member Charlie Box	<u>YES</u>		_____
Council Member Pierre Beard, Sr.	<u>YES</u>		_____
Council Member Stephen Jones	<u>YES</u>		_____
Council Member Bill Gavin	_____		<u>NO</u>

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THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR
RETIRING THE 1894 MISSISSIPPI FLAG
AND FOR APPROVAL OF A UNIFYING MISSISSIPPI FLAG**

WHEREAS, on January 9, 1861, by a majority vote of the Mississippi Legislature, Mississippi was the second State that seceded from the United States of America and later joined the fight on behalf of the Confederacy against the United States; and

WHEREAS, the principal basis for withdrawal from the United States, as clearly set forth in the Mississippi Secession Declaration was to protect the rights of Mississippians to own “negro” slaves, who were said in said papers to be the “greatest material interest in the world”; and

WHEREAS, that same Secession Declaration opposed equality in Mississippi of the “negro” both socially and politically and objected to the abolition of the Fugitive Slave Law, and otherwise objected to the Constitutional mandate that all men were created equal; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi fought under the Confederate Flag to defend its alleged right to enslave members of the African American Race; and

WHEREAS, in 1894, almost thirty years after the end of the Civil War, Mississippi began use of what has been widely accepted as the official State flag of the State of Mississippi, which flag contains the Confederate battle flag in its canton; and

WHEREAS, long after the adoption of the 1894 Mississippi flag, the State of Mississippi upheld discriminatory practices, sanctioned segregation of schools, deprived African American citizens of equality in all aspects of life, including the passage of Jim Crow laws, deprivation of fundamental liberties, the provision of unequal educational opportunities, squashing the rights to vote in elections, and denial of equal access to public facilities and many other practices that were calculated to hold back African Americans in Mississippi from successes that would otherwise have been available in the absence of such invidious discrimination and inequitable practices; and

WHEREAS, while some Mississippians might find the Mississippi flag of 1894 to be a proud reminder of their culture and heritage, for other citizens of this State, the Mississippi flag, with its Confederate Battle emblem, is an awful reminder to all African American citizens of the State of Mississippi of a bitter time of, slavery, discrimination, hatred and inequality in Mississippi that signifies approval and condonation of the illicit causes that prompted the State of Mississippi to withdraw from this Country and fight for the Confederacy in the Civil War;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus hereby call upon the Mississippi Legislature to immediately retire the 1894 Mississippi Flag with its Confederate symbol in the canton and to substitute in its place the Stennis Mississippi Flag or some other flag that does not promote or celebrate the cause of slavery, the Civil War which the Confederacy lost, or the era of Jim Crowe legislation.

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The above resolution, having been read aloud and considered at length was moved for passage on the motion of Council Member Jones. Upon Second by Council Member Stewart, the Mayor called for discussion on the motion and the members of Council, after due and careful deliberation and contemplation, voted on the Resolution as follows:

	For	Against
Council Member Stewart	<u>✓</u>	_____
Council Member Mickens	<u>✓</u>	_____
Council, Member Box	<u>✓</u>	_____
Council Member Beard	<u>✓</u>	_____
Council Member Jones	<u>✓</u>	_____
Council Member Gavin	_____	<u>✓</u>

The Mayor then announced that the Resolution was ADOPTED, on this the _____ day of June, 2020.

Robert E. Smith, Sr.

Attested:

Municipal Clerk

B. Discuss/Approve request to adopt revisions and updates to the CPD Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) for Use of Force, Duty to Intervene and Body Cam Policy.

Chief Fred Shelton presented revisions and updates to the Columbus Police Department Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) for Use of Force, Duty to Intervene and Body Cam Policy for adoption and verbally apprised the Council of the changes. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the revisions to the Columbus Police Department Standard Operation Procedures (SOP), effective immediately. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

THE REVISIONS FOLLOWS:

C. DELETED

D. Discuss the Public Works Department

Council Member Mickens asked the Mayor/Council to consider allowing the Boom Truck Operators to work on Fridays for approximately three (3) weeks to remove trash and debris in Wards. After discussion of this matter, it was agreed for the Boom Truck Operators to work on Fridays for approximately three (3) weeks to remove trash and debris in neighborhoods in each Ward. No action was taken.

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

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

**Deliah T. Vaughn
CFO- Secretary-Treasurer**

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