

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

**AUGUST 18, 2020
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 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, with the exception of Council Member Mickens, who was absent. 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 Council Member Box to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF AUGUST 4, 2020

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

All Council Members present 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 August 18, in the amount of \$535,676.43. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

IV. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA:

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Change Item "E" to read: *Accept letter of resignation from one (1) Public Works employee, effective July 29, 2020, and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process.*

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "G" – *Consider/Approve request to remove an employee off Administrative Leave with pay and return him to normal work status.*

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 present voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve request for three (3) Fire and Rescue Firefighters: Michael Chandler, Kameron Pearson and Thomas Stone, to attend "Haz-Mat Orientation" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$500.00 for registration, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Chief of Training, Michael Chandler, to attend "MS Minimum Standards & Certification Board Meeting" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for three (3) Fire and Rescue personnel: Michael Chandler, Drew Williamson, and Clayton Aldridge to attend "CPAT-E" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$80.00 for registration, \$192.00 for lodging, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Accept letter of resignation from Fire and Rescue Administrative Assistant, Tabitha Barham, effective August 25, 2020, and approve compensation for any unused leave with the balance to be transferred to PERS, and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin normal recruitment process.
- E. Accept letter of resignation from Public Works Department employee, Tamaris White, and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process.
- F. Accept letters of resignation from CPD Officers: Jamarco Harris and John Compton effective August 15, 2020 for Harris and August 17, 2020 for Compton, and approve compensation for any unused vacation leave and submit unused sick leave to PERS.

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- G. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow and Jan Miller, on behalf of Main Street Columbus and Columbus Arts Council, to host a “Downtown Art Walk” to be held on September 24, 2020 from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. See *attached map*.
- H. Ratify Homeland Security Grant submitted August 6, 2020. There are no matching funds required for this grant.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with the above amendment. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, all Council Members present 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 announced that there will be a community-wide Clean-Up day on Saturday, September 5, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. This event will take place in each Ward. Lunch will be provided by J5.

B. Swearing-In of five (5) new Police Officers

Mayor Smith swore in five (5) new Police Officers as they recited the Oath of Office. The CPD Command Staff was present and Chief Shelton presented each employee with the Oath of Office. The officers are:

- JARRED BELL
- PATRICK GHOSTON
- SHALONDA HILL
- BRYAN K. MOORE
- LAKETA WILLIAMS

C. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department for June 2020

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

D. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for July 2020

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

E. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for July 2020

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

F. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for July 2020

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

G. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for July 2020

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

H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for July 2020

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

I. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for July 2020

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

J. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for July 2020

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

K. Monthly Financial Report

Deliah Vaughn, CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report for July and remarked that the City currently has a combined total of \$9,037,258.09 with the General Fund having \$6,329,030.24 and Special Revenue Funds totaling \$2,708,227.85. The General Fund Operating Cash for the month of June was \$2,731,845.92; prior year was \$1,389,424.87, which is a \$1,342,421.05 difference from July 2019. The Sales Tax collections for the month were \$884,536.11, which is a n increase of \$72,482.17 compared to the same time last year..

L. BOARD VACANCIES

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that no Board appointment can be made tonight.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

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

APPLICANT

- Maj. General Thomas Moore (Retired)

Council Member Gavin made a motion to reappoint Maj. General Thomas Moore (Retired) to the Civil Service Commission for a 4-Year Term, until 8/16/2024. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

VIII. POLICY AGENDA

A. Discuss/Approve HVAC Service Agreement for City Hall.

David Armstrong, COO, came forward and requested approval of renewal of the HVAC Service Agreement for City Hall, which includes four (4) standard maintenance appointments in the amount of \$660.00 each and is effective from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the HVAC Service Agreement for City Hall pursuant to the information mentioned above. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

B. Discuss/Approve request to advertise and fill vacant position of Recreation Department Clerk and approve for the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the advertising of the vacant position of Recreation Department Clerk. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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C. Discuss/Approve request to re-hire one (1) CPD Officer, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment drug screen and medical exam.

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

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve Adding a Towing Company to the Wrecker Rotation.

Council Member Box made a motion to add Magnolia Towing to the Wrecker Rotation. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve Recommendations from the August 10, 2020 Planning Commission meeting.

Permitted Use Request P/U 20-15

On Behalf of Jacqueline Easley
119 Florence Street
Parcel #62W11-01-03100
R-1 Single Family Residential District

The Planning Commission recommended approval of a request to allow a Child Daycare Center, contingent upon the installation of a circular drive being installed on the property in the interest of child safety.

Council Member Gavin moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to allow a Child Daycare Center, contingent upon the installation of a circular drive being installed on the property in the interest of child safety be approved as a Permitted Use. Council Member Beard seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the permitted use application. No one answered. There followed discussion, consideration, and review by the Council of the issues and facts presented by this request and the action taken by the City of Columbus Planning Commission.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

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The motion carried.

Permitted Use Request P/U 20-16

On Behalf of Chris Chain
1995 Waverly Ferry Road
Parcel #57W00-00-02200
R-1 Single Family Residential District

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request to rezone that portion of the above-referenced parcel from R-1 Single Family Residential to R-5 Mobile Homes & Mobile Home Parks.

Council Member Jones moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to rezone that portion of the above-referenced parcel from R-1 Single Family Residential to R-5 Mobile Homes & Mobile Home Parks be approved as a Permitted Use. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the permitted use application. No one answered. There followed discussion, consideration, and review by the Council of the issues and facts presented by this request and the action taken by the City of Columbus Planning Commission.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

The Planning Commission also recommended permitted use approval for the expansion of the existing adjacent RV park, currently zoned R-5, with the specified condition that no mobile homes be allowed to occupy any space therein.

Council Member Jones moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the expansion of the existing adjacent RV park, currently zoned R-5, with the specified condition that no mobile homes be allowed to occupy any space therein. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the permitted use application. No one answered. There followed discussion, consideration, and review by the Council of the issues and facts presented by this request and the action taken by the City of Columbus Planning Commission.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

**ESTATE ANNIE LOU HOPKINS
16th Street North
CASE NUMBER 20-0147 VEGETATION**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0147**. 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 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.

**COMMUNITY STABILIZATION GROUP
98 Luxapalila Drive
CASE NUMBER 20-0124 DILAPIDATED**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0124**. No one appeared. The General Counsel remarked that the company is defunct. 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 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 present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

CHARLIE JOHNSON
1316 – 7th Avenue North
CASE NUMBER 20-0149

VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0149**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is his 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 Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

PHILLIP H. BROWN, JR.
c/o Otis B. Davenport et al
1302 – 8th Avenue North
CASE NUMBER 20-0116

VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0116**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is his 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 Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

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The motion carried.

OSIE G. BROWN DAVENPORT, Et al
1301 – 8th Avenue North
CASE NUMBER 20-0115 **VEGETATION**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0115**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is his 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 Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

WILLARD T. WELLS, JR.
1222 – 14th Street North
1224 – 14th Street North
CASE NUMBER 20-0135 **VEGETATION & MAINTENANCE CODE**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0135** (1222 – 14th Street North). No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is his 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 Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

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The motion carried.

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0135** 1224 – 14th Street North) The Code Enforcement Officer was asked what her recommendation was. Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, stated the property was in such a state of 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 give the property owner a **10-day extension** to remediate the property and board the windows, and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones made a motion give the property owner a **10-day extension** to remediate the property, and that an Order be issued for the property 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 remove 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.

**PAVCO INDUSTRIES, INC.
502 – 18th Avenue North
CASE NUMBER 20-0137 VEGETATION**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0137**. 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 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 present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

G. Consider/Approve request to remove an employee off Administrative Leave with pay and return him to normal work status.

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Council Member Jones made a motion for Police Department Employee I. D. Number 1362 to be removed for Administrative Leave with pay and return to active work status. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members present 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 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 T. Vaughn
CFO- Secretary-Treasurer**

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