

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

**JULY 21, 2020
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 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 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 Assistant Police Chief Doran Johnson, Pastor of Greater Mt. Zion M. B. Church, to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF JULY 7 & 8, 2020

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meetings of July 7 & 8, 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 Jones made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for June 2, 2020, in the amount of \$1,383,502.88. Council Member Gavin 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:

Change Item "C" to August 5, 2020.

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Add Item "D" – *Approve permit request submitted by Anthony Walker to hold a "Unity/Chalk Walk" on Saturday, July 25, 2020 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. The event will begin at the Columbus Police Department and go to 19th Street, left onto Bell Avenue, and left to Bell Avenue and 23rd Street South.*

Add Item "E" – *Approve permit request submitted by Leroy Brooks to hold a "March/Rally" on August 1, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Please see the attached route.*

REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

Add under Item "A" – *Recognition of Kylin Hill by Mayor Smith and District Attorney Scott Colom*

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "I" – *Consider/Approve deed to County for alternate location for placement of Confederate monument.*

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.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Accept letter of resignation from Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Christion Davis, effective July 28, 2020, and approve compensation of any unused vacation leave.
- B. Review and accept the Columbus Fire and Rescue "2020 Annual Compliance Report and Statement of Findings."
- C. Approve request for six (6) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "Public Safety Diver Class" to be held in Columbus, MS and Pelham, AL, and approve payment of registration, travel and meal expenses, all totaling \$6,300.00.
- D. Approve permit request submitted by Anthony Walker to hold a "Unity/Chalk Walk" on Saturday, July 25, 2020 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. The event will begin at the Columbus Police Department and go to 19th Street, left onto Bell Avenue, and left to Bell Avenue and 23rd Street South.
- E. Approve permit request submitted by Leroy Brooks to hold a "March/Rally" on August 1, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Please see the attached route.

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

Recognition of Kylin Hill by Mayor Robert Smith and District Attorney Scott Colom

Mayor Smith invited the following individuals to come to the podium and offer remarks in recognition of local athlete and Running Back for MSU, Kylin Hill: District Attorney Scott Colom; Marcus Hunter, Reporter for ESPN; John Cohen, Athletic Director at MSU; and Hill's mother, Karenda Hill. Kylin Hill threatened to boycott and not play football for MSU if the state of Mississippi doesn't change the flag. This outcry resonated to the state Capitol, prompting college presidents and coaches to support his efforts, which proved to be a positive move. Mayor Smith presented a proclamation and "key" to the City to Kylin Hill and District Attorney Scott Colom presented Hill with a plaque.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

F. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for June 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for June 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 \$10,010,306.44 with the General Fund having \$7,004,104.23 and Special Revenue Funds totaling \$3,006,202.21 The General Fund Operating Cash for the month of June was \$2,953,005.86; prior year was \$1,479,296.51, which is a \$1,473,709.35 difference from June 2019. The Sales Tax collections for the month were \$892,395.40 which is a decrease of \$4,076.74 compared to the same time last year, but a \$189,252.34 increase from last month.

K. BOARD VACANCIES

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

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

- 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)

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

VIII. POLICY AGENDA

A. Discuss/Approve amendments to Budget for FY beginning 10/1/2019 and ending 09/30/2020

Deliah Vaughn, CFO, came forward and requested approval of amendments to the Budget for FY beginning 10/1/2019 and ending 09/30/2019 in the amount of \$400,192.81, which affects Revenue. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment for FY beginning 10/1/2019 and ending 09/30/2019 in the amount of \$400,192.81. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

B. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) entry-level Firefighter, pending successful completion of a pre-employment physical exam and drug screen.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the request to hire **LESTER J. SANDIFER** as an Entry-Level Firefighter, 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.

C. Discuss/Approve hiring two (2) CPD Officers, contingent upon a successful drug screen and pre-employment medical exam.

Council Member Beard made a motion to hire **LAKETA WILLIAMS** and **JARRED BELL** as Police Officers, contingent on successful completion of a medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve Installation of two (2) Speed Humps on Hemlock Street

Kevin Stafford, City Engineer with Neel-Schaffer, Inc., came forward and remarked that the Traffic Calming Committee has received a petition for traffic calming devices in the residential section of Hemlock Street in order to calm cut-through

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traffic from North McCrary Road and Catalpa Street and recommend the installation of two (2) speed humps, one between Cypress and Dogwood Streets, and one (1) between Remunda Drive and Catalpa Street. The location of these speed humps are where 60% or more of the owners along this street have agreed to this request, and these additions will slow traffic down through the neighborhood. This action will also likely reduce the volume of cut-through traffic in the long run. Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the request to install two (2) Speed Humps on Hemlock Street at the recommendation of the City Engineer. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve Acceptance of FAA's 2020 AIP Grant offer for the CLCA North & South Apron Pavement Rehabilitation project.

Kevin Stafford reported that the FAA's 2020 AIP Grant offer for the Columbus Lowndes County Airport North & South Apron Pavement Rehabilitation project totaled \$446,564.00. This is normally a 90% grant, but FAA is funding the grant 100%; therefore, the City will not have to use budget matching funds. Council Member Beard made a motion to accept the FAA's 2020 AIP Grant offer for the Columbus Lowndes County Airport North & South Apron Pavement Rehabilitation project in the amount of \$446,564.00. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Discuss/Approve permission to award the CLCA North & South Apron Pavement Rehabilitation project to the lowest bidder, contingent upon the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport Board/s approval.

Kevin Stafford remarked that they have received bids for the above referenced project and have attached a tabulation sheet. He recommends awarding the bid to the lowest responsive bidder, Gregory Companies, LLC DBA Murphree Paving, for the Base Bid, Additive Alternate 1, and Additive Alternate 2 in the amount of \$391,863.90, contingent upon the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport Board's approval. Council Member Gavin made a motion to award the bid for the CLCA North & South Apron Pavement Rehabilitation project to the lowest responsive bidder, Gregory Companies, LLC DBA Murphree Paving, for the Base Bid, Additive Alternate 1, and Additive Alternate 2 in the amount of \$391,863.90, contingent upon the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport Board's approval. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

G. Discuss/Approve recommendations from the July 13, 2020 Planning Commission meeting

Permitted Use Request P/U 20-09

On Behalf of Ashley Beard
248 Chubby Drive
Parcel #46W20-00-07302
C-3 Highway Commercial District

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request to extend permitted use granted to Southern Snow Shack for an additional year.

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 extend permitted use granted to Southern Snow Shack for an additional year 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 voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Permitted Use Request P/U 20-10

On Behalf of Shemeka Gipson
1920 – 14th Avenue North
Parcel #56W19-02-02900
C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request to extend permitted use originally granted to Cassandra Watford, and granted approval to new owner Ms. Shameka Gipson for one (1) year for a snow cone business.

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 extend permitted use originally granted to Cassandra Watford, and granted approval to new owner Ms. Shameka Gipson for one (1) year for a snow cone business be approved as a Permitted Use. Council Member Beard seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if

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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 voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Permitted Use Request P/U 20-11

On Behalf of Rhonda Henry
2407 Hwy. 45 North
Parcel #57W05-01-00600
C-3 Highway Commercial District

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request to extend permitted use granted to SNOW BIZ for an additional year.

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 extend permitted use granted to SNOW BIZ for an additional year be approved as a Permitted Use. Council Member Box 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 voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**Council Member Stephen Jones recused himself prior to discussing the next matter.*

Permitted Use Request P/U 20-12

On Behalf of Xavier Jones
616 Chestnut Street
Parcel #62W07-00-08200
R-1 Single Family Residential

With a seven to one vote, the Planning Commission recommended denial of a request to allow a one-chair beauty salon within a single family dwelling in the R-1 Zoning District. The Commission referenced the Chart of Uses Permitted adopted in 2008, which does not allow that type of use within the R-1 Zoning District.

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However, the Planning Commission wanted to make it known to the Mayor and City Council that they were sympathetic to the request, due to the pandemic.

Council Member Box 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 deny the request to allow a one-chair beauty salon within a single family dwelling in the R-1 Zoning District be approved. 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.

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

The motion failed

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Council Member Mickens made a motion to table the matter until the next regular Council Meeting. Council member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Council Member Jones re-entered the Council's Chambers.

Permitted Use Request P/U 20-13

On Behalf of Columbus Community Housing Development Organization
912 – 11th Avenue South
Parcel #61W18-00-01400
R-3 Multi Family Residential

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request to allow a Senior Residential Living Facility at the former Palmer Home for Children

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 allow a Senior Residential Living Facility at the former Palmer Home for Children 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

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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 voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Permitted Use Request P/U 20-14

On Behalf of Larry Ellefson
605 – 19th Street South
Parcel #61W14-00-01400
R-1 Single Family Residential

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request to rezone a portion of Tract 1 & 2 from R-1 Single Family Residential to I-2 Light Industrial. The Commission based their decision on a mistake in the most recent zoning.

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 rezone a portion of Tract 1 & 2 from R-1 Single Family Residential to I-2 Light Industrial be approved as a Permitted Use. The Commission based their decision on a mistake in the most recent zoning. Council Member Stewart 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 voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

H. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

JONES & DAUGHTERS ENTERPRIZE, LLC
1920 Washington Avenue
CASE NUMBER 20-0046 **VEGETATION**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0046**. 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 Gavin made a motion in accordance with

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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.

JONES & DAUGHTERS ENTERPRIZE, LLC
1919 & 1925 Washington Avenue
CASE NUMBER 20-0045 **VEGETATION**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0045**. 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 Gavin 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.

CHRISTY WILSON & NATASHA WILSON
135 Beech Street
CASE NUMBER 20-0083 **VEGETATION/Defacement of property**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0083**. 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 Gavin made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may remediate the

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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.

**JONES O. DORRIS c/o DEMEIR JONES
1610 Washington Avenue
CASE NUMBER 20-0101 VEGETATION**

This case was dismissed and no order is needed.

**BRITNEY M. HALL
1911 Short Main
CASE NUMBER 20-0097 VEGETATION**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0097**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanness 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 Mickens 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 Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**ROSELL HAIRSTON AND CHARLIE HAIRSTON
1014 – 4th Avenue North
CASE NUMBER 20-0099 VEGETATION**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0099**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanness 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**

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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 Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**BARRCO PROPERTIES, INC.
277 Barnes Circle
CASE NUMBER 19-0461 VEGETATION**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0461**. 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 Gavin 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 Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

I. Consider/Approve deed to County for alternate location for placement of Confederate monument.

At the July 7, 2020 Council Meeting, the Council voted to deed a parcel of property located in Friendship Cemetery to Lowndes County for the purpose of relocating the Confederate monument. Since then, it has been determined that this location may not be feasible; therefore, the General Counsel is prepared to offer another location, which could be deeded to the County. Council Member Jones made a motion to send both deeds to Lowndes County Supervisors and give them a choice of locations. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

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The motion carried.

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 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
CFO- Secretary-Treasurer

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