

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

**AUGUST 4, 2020  
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 4, 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. Antwan Colvin, pastor of Missionary Union Baptist Church, to offer the Invocation.

## **II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF JULY 21 & 28, 2020**

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meetings of July 21 & 28, 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 Gavin made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for August 4, 2020, in the amount of \$309,427.36. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

## **IV. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

### **POLICY AGENDA:**

Add Item "E" – *Discuss/Approve request to rehire two (2) former Public Works Department employees on a part-time basis while adhering to PERS requirements.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Delete Personnel Matter.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, with the above amendment. 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. Approve request for four (4) Fire & Rescue personnel to attend “HazMat Field Delivery” to be held in Amory, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for fuel and reimbursement of \$460.00 for meal expenses.
- B. Approve request for two (2) Fire & Rescue Firefighters: Clayton Aldridge and Thomas Williamson to attend the “EMT Certification Training” to be held in Mayhew, MS, and approve pay e t for registration/training fees.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. 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.

**VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA**

**A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members**

There were no general comments from the Mayor and Council Members.

Chief Fred Shelton, Information Technology Director, Greg Drake and Director of Forensics, Austin Shepherd were invited into the Council Chambers. Chief Shelton presented an Accommodation Plaque to the Forensics Department commemorating the anniversary of its existence since August 14, 2008. Austin Shepherd remarked that the department is staffed with four (4) personnel and they currently service 24 clients. He remarked that his main piece of equipment, a Gas chromatography–mass spectrometry (GC-MS), which is used to identify different substances within a test sample, is aging and slow in terms of identifying different drugs. No action was taken.

**PROMOTION OF POLICE CORPORAL TO SERGEANT:**

Chief Shelton requested approval of promotion of Police Corporal, Roman Sones, to the position of Sergeant. Council Member Jones made a motion to promote Cpl. Sones to the position of Sergeant. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Chief Shelton and Sones' wife pinned insignia on him.

## **B. BOARD VACANCIES**

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that no positions are scheduled to be filled tonight.

### **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.

### **CITY PLANNING COMMISSION**

- 1 Vacancy, Remainder of Quincy Harris' 3-Year Term, Expires 11/19/2022.
- Mr. Harris resigned July 15, 2020 due to Military Assignment.
- Appointment will be made September 1, 2020.

### **APPLICANT:**

- Jermaine Shanklin

## **VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA**

- **ZAVIOUS JONES** – Permitted Use Request  
*Council Member Jones recused himself and exited the Council Chambers.*

Zavious Jones participated in the meeting via teleconference. He requested a Temporary Permitted Use to open a beauty salon in his house. The Council asked the Building Official his opinion and he remarked that he is in agreement with the Planning Commission

Council Member Mickens made a motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to **deny** the Permitted Use Request to allow the owner to open a beauty salon at his house. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

*Council Member Jones returned to the meeting.*

▪ **TIFFANY LUCIOUS** – Vicious Bulldog

Tiffany Lucious, who lives at 529 Cypress St., came forward with a complaint about vicious dogs next door to her that have bitten neighbors and has her and neighbors afraid to come outside. Ms. Lucious stated that she has reported the matter to the Police Department and has been to Municipal Court before a judge, but nothing has happened. She also had pictures of individual's bite marks. She has had to endure this for two (2) years. Ms. Lucious also reported that the neighbors has been stealing electricity and water and she has reported this to Columbus Light and Water. The General Counsel stated that he will research the Ordinance, section 21-19-9 to determine what can be done. No further action taken.

## VIII. POLICY AGENDA

**A. Discuss/Approve hiring two (2) CPD Officers and re-hiring one (1) CPD Officer, contingent on successfully completing a drug screen and pre-employment physical.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to hire **JUSTIN ROBINSON and CODY SMITH** and rehiring **ZACHARY O'CALLAGHAN** as police officer, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**B. Discuss/Approved promoting one (1) CPD Corporal to Sergeant.**

**APPROVED UNDER VI.**

**C. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) entry-level Firefighter, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment drug screen and physical.**

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to hire **JOHN M. MCRIGHT** as an entry-level Firefighter, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment drug screen and medical exam. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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

**TOMMY REYNOLDS**

**118 Mill Street**

**CASE NUMBER 20-0004      Burned Structure**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0004**. The property owner, Candace Adams, came forward and remarked that she was the new property owner and was not aware that there was a lien on the property. The Council asked her questions about the purchase and asked the Code Enforcement Officer what her recommendation was. Sasha James, Code Enforcement Officer, recommended **Immediate Abatement**. Council Member Jones made a motion to give the new property owner a **30-day** extension to remediate the property, and if it is not remediated when the 30 days is expired, he requested the Code Enforcement Officer to come back before the Council and that an Order be issued for the property in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, 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.

**SAMUEL B. PLATT, III**

**803 – 9<sup>th</sup> Street South**

**CASE NUMBER 20-0018      Accumulation of Rubbish and Garbage**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0018**. Samuel B. Platt, III, Executor for the property came forward and remarked that he authorize Operation Ukraine to use the property for a donation site to pack boxes and have them shipped to needy children in third world countries. Mr. Platt stated that the property will be vacated in the next two (2) months and his intention is to sell the property. Council Member Box made a motion to table this matter for two (2) month. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion. the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**SANDERS E. WEATHERBY, SR. AND  
VIOLET L. WEATHERBY  
706 WARPATH ROAD  
CASE NUMBER 20-0087**

**VEGETATION**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0087**. 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 Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**CECIL D. MEEKS, JR.  
112 – 13<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Case Number 20-0121 Vegetation and Abandoned Structure**

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0121**. 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 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.

**E. Discuss/Approve request to rehire two (2) former Public Works Department employees on a part-time basis while adhering to PERS requirements.**

Council Member Beard made a motion to rehire two (2) former Public Works Department employees on a part-time basis, 20 hours per week: **Charlie Drake** at \$14.27 per hour and **Floyd Lash** at \$14.85 per hour. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There were no Executive Session matters to come before the Council tonight.

**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 Jones 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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