

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

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2020
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 1, 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 Council Member Box to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF AUGUST 18 & 21, 2020

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meetings of August 18 & 21, 2020. Council Member Jones 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 September 1, 2020, in the amount of \$588,165.32. Council Member Jones 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:

There were no changes to the Consent Agenda.

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item “D” – *Discuss/Approve Resolution for Hazard Mitigation Plan.*

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the 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.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve request for three (3) Fire & Rescue Firefighters to attend “Field Delivery: Confined Space” to be held in Amory, MS, and approve payment of reimbursement of \$736.00 for meal expenses.
- B. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, James Powell II, effective August 30, 2020, and approve request to compensate him for unused vacation leave and certify unused sick leave to PERS.
- C. Approve request to send six (6) CPD Officers to “Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers’ Training Academy” in Pearl, MS, and approve cost of tuition and clothing required by the academy. The clothing allowance is not to exceed \$350.00 per officer and will be reimbursed upon completion of the academy.
- D. Approve permit request submitted by Virginia Watt and Mildred Brooks, on behalf of Full Gospel Ministries, to host a “Drive Through 30th Year Pastoral Appreciation and 75th Birthday Celebration” to be held on September 13, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., starting at 1504 – 19th Street North to 1414 – 3rd Avenue North.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Council Member Mickens 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 reminded the public of Clean-Up Day on Saturday, September 5, 2020 in each Ward from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

Glenda Buckhalter came forward and wished Joe Dillon, Public Information Officer, a happy birthday and presented him with a cake.

B. Swearing In of four (4) CPD Officers

Mayor Smith swore in four (4) 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:

- JOSHUA BIRCHFIELD
- BENTLEY HOLCOMBE
- CODY SMITH
- LEXUS WARE

C. BOARD VACANCIES

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

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
- Jarvis Fenster

Council Member Stewart made a motion to appoint Jermaine Shanklin to the City Planning Commission Board for the remainder of Quincy Harris' 3-Year Term, until 11/19/2022. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

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

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Council Member Beard made a Substitute Motion to appoint Jarvis Fenster to the City Planning Commission Board for the remainder of Quincy Harris' 3-Year Term, until 11/19/2022. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

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

Council Member Mickens asked if City Employees can serve on City Boards, which led to a brief discussion of the matter. Then, Council Member Jones

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made Jones made a motion to table this matter until the next Council Meeting to give Ms. Mitchell time to research the matter.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

VIII. POLICY AGENDA

- A. Discuss/Approve application of the City of Columbus for a new round of funding for MEMA Mitigation for mitigation to be determined, and appoint Joe Dillon as Application Manager with same arrangement as COVID CARES ACT application.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to designate the City of Columbus as an Applicant for Mitigation (Notice of Intent), which does not obligate the City in any way. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Council Member Jones made a motion to appoint Joe Dillon as the FEMA Mitigation Manager under the same terms originally approved. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

- B. Discuss Good News Columbus update on Columbus Fire & Rescue work in Louisiana for Hurricane Laura victims.**

Joe Dillon reported that the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department sent three (3) Firefighters: Chris Carter, Melvin Junkin and Wes Mims to Lake Charles, Louisiana to assist wherever needed following Hurricane Laura. 100% of the cost is reimbursable.

- C. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket**

Mayor Smith remarked that he had received a complaint about the City not adjudicating dilapidated property that is located in the 16th Section. The General

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Counsel responded that no dilapidated property is exempted and 16th Section property is treated like all other property. No action was taken.

WILLIAM BECKON

702 – 14th Street North

CASE NUMBER 20-0047

VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0047**. 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 Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

FRANK STUMPF, Et al

701 – 22nd Street South

CASE NUMBER 20-0155

VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0155**. 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 Beard seconded the motion.

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All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried

MALONE LABE, LLC

6th Avenue North

CASE NUMBER 20-0146

VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0146**. 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 Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried

ISAAC L. FISHER

712 – 12th Street North

Case Number 20-0195

VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0195**. 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 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.

ESTATE OF ANNIE LOU HOPKINS
16th Street North
CASE NUMBER 20-0147 VEGETABLE

DELETED

ESTATE OF ROBERT JAMES
22nd Street South
Case Number 20-0156 VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0156**. 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 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.

LEON MIXON and MATTIE MIXON
2212 – 4th Avenue South
Case Number 20-0152 VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0152**. 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 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.

VARNELL BREWER and CHARLES BREWER
4th Avenue South
Case Number 20-0153 VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0153**. 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 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.

ESTATE OF ROBERT JAMES
22nd Street South
Case Number 20-0106 ABANDONED STRUCTURE

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0106**. 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 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.

D. Discuss/Approve Resolution for Hazard Mitigation Plan

Kevin Stafford, City Engineer, dba as Neel-Schaffer, Inc., came forward and

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remarked that he met with the Chief Operations Officer, Public Works Director and the Assistant Public Works Director, and reviewed the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Council Member Jones made a motion to adopt the Resolution for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion, followed by a unanimous vote as follows:

Council Member Ethel Stewart Taylor	voted:	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Joseph Mickens, Sr.	voted:	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Charlie Box	voted:	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Pierre Beard	voted:	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Stephen Jones	voted:	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Bill Gavin	voted:	<u>YES</u>

The motion having received the affirmative vote of all Council Members present, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted.

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 Jones 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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