

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS JANUARY 2, 2018

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 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 and the Human Resources Director.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. called the meeting to order and called upon Rev. Reuben Dockery, pastor of Beythel Family Church of Nashville, TN to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 19, 2017.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of December 19, 2017. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR JANUARY 2, 2018.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for January 2, 2018, in the amount of \$513,454.25. 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:

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Add Item "E" – *Approve request for the City Planner to meet with the Department of Rural Development and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to discuss housing programs for the City of Columbus, and approve payment for travel, lodging and meal expenses.*

Add Item "F" – *Approve request to refund three (3) citizens for clean-up deposit.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Change Personnel Matters to four (4).

Council Member Jones 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. Approve request to refund Doug Walker the sum of \$270.00, Maria Mayo the sum of \$900.00, and Barbara Dixon the sum of \$175.00 for cancellation of the Trotter Convention Center rentals.
- B. Approve request for one (1) Fire and Rescue Engineer, George Brock, to attend "Hazardous Materials Technician II" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for CPD Officers Virginia McDonald and Jeremy Brown, to attend the "Mississippi Delta Community College Law Enforcement Training Academy" in Moorhead, MS, and approve payment of \$3,600.00 per officer for tuition and also approve clothing allowance not to exceed \$350.00 per officer.
- D. Approve request to reimburse continuing education costs of \$920.00 to CPD Captain, Brent Swan.
- E. Approve request for City Planner, George Irby, to travel to Washington, DC to meet with the Department of Rural Development and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to discuss housing programs for the City of Columbus, and approve payment for travel, lodging and meal expenses.
- F. Approve request to refund three (3) citizens: Tameka Walls, Tameka Smith, and Lakesha Hairston, the sum of \$150.00 each for cleanup deposits.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Consent 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.

The motion carried.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Smith wished everyone in attendance and all citizens a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

B. Swearing in three (3) CPD Officers

- Virginia McDonald
- Jeremy Brown
- Reginald Adams

Mayor Smith swore in three (3) Police Officers: Virginia McDonald, Jeremy Brown and Reginald Adams as they recited the Oath of Office. Chief Fred Shelton pinned on their badges.

C. Board Vacancies

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that no appointments will be made tonight.

City Planning Commission

- 2 Vacancies
- 3-Year Terms for Wythe Rhett and Quinn Brislin will expire 01/20/2018.
- Appointments will be made January 16, 2018.

Applicants

- Wythe Rhett
- Quinn Brislin

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

JODY ANDREWS – Downtown Parking

Jody Andrews did not show up.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve Pedestrian and Signal Improvements in Downtown Columbus.

George Irby, City Planner, came before the Mayor and Council and requested approval to apply for a Pedestrian and Signal Improvements Grant for Downtown Columbus.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to apply for a Grant for a Pedestrian and Signal Improvements Grant for Downtown Columbus. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

CLOSED DETERMINATION:

Council Member Jackson made a motion to go into closed session to determine whether it is necessary to go into Executive Session. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

All members of the public, with the exception of the Mayor, the Council, the General Counsel, the COO, and the HR Director, exited the Council Chambers.

Mayor Smith apprised the Council of four (4) Personnel Matters, and remarked that these matters warrant being heard in Executive Session.

Council Member Jones made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss four (4) personnel matters. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

The Chief Operations Officer then announced to the general public outside the Council Chambers that the Council was going into Executive Session to discuss four (4) personnel matters.

OPEN SESSION:

Council Member Jones made a motion to end the discussion of these matters and return to Open Session. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

The Chief Operations Officer then announced to the general public outside the Council Chambers that the Council was back in Open Session.

The General Counsel announced that the Mayor and Council considered four (4) personnel matters in Executive Session, one (1) involving the promotion of Assistant Chief Fred Shelton to the position of Police Chief; two (2) involving the job performance of Public Works Department employees and the Council voted to suspend them for twelve (12) work days without pay; and the final matter involves violation to the City's Chargeable Accident Policy and the Council voted to terminate an employee in the Police Department.

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

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

Milton Rawle, Jr.,
CFO- Secretary-Treasurer

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