

# MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS JANUARY 5, 2016

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 15, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Robert Smith presided over the meeting and all Council Members were present, with the Ward 5 Council seat being vacant. Also present were the COO, CFO, General Counsel, Interim Chief Fred Shelton, and the Human Resources Director.

## I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order and called upon Council Member Mickens to offer the Invocation.

## II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 15 & 30, 2015

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meetings of December 15 and 30, 2015. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

## III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR JANUARY 5, 2016

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for January 5, 2016 in the amount of \$626,736.13. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

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

### CONSENT AGENDA:

Add "Director" to Item "f".

### POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "F" – *Discuss/Approve Advertising City Resources.*

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Add Item "G" – *Discuss/Approve awarding low bid for Asbestos Removal from City Hall.*

Add Item "H" – *Discuss/Approve Asbestos Assessment Proposal for Gilmer Inn.*

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the overall agenda, according to the amendments. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve request to refund Brittany Sherrod the sum of \$380 for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center Rental.
- B. Ratify request for one (1) CPD Investigator to travel to the State Crime Lab in Meridian, MS to submit evidence at no cost to City.
- C. Accept letter of retirement from Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief, Carroll Lancaster, effective January 19, 2016, and approve request to use five (5) shifts of unused vacation: January 3, 9, 12, 15 & 18, 2016. He also requests permission to purchase his duty weapon for the price of \$10.00.
- D. Accept letter of retirement from Fire and Rescue Captain, Larry Webber, effective January 16, 2016, and approve request to be paid for 240 hours for remaining balance of unused vacation according to City policy.
- E. Approve request for the Fire Chief and Fire Personnel Bobby Barksdale and Michael Chandler to attend the "2016 Mid-Winter Fire Chiefs Conference" to be held in Ridgeland, MS, and approve payment of \$195.00 for registration, \$75.00 for travel, \$\$1,461 for lodging and \$ \$276.00 for meal expenses.
- F. Approve request for the Federal Programs Assistant George Irby **and Director** Christina Berry to attend the "2016 Community Investment Workshop" to be held in Ridgeland, MS, and approve payment of \$25.00 for travel and \$38.25 for meal expenses for George Irby and pay \$165.30 for travel and \$38.25 for meal expenses for Christina Berry.
- G. Ratify request for K-9 Officer Robert Equires to travel to the Flowood, MS Police Department to pick up a canine cage at no cost to City.
- H. Approve request for CPD Training Director Elizabeth Patrick to attend the "CPR Educational Conference" to be held in Birmingham, AL, and approve payment of \$200 for registration, \$132.48 for travel and \$46.00 for meal expenses.
- I. Approve request for CPD Officers Joshua Vandiver and Timothy Jenkins to attend the "First Line Supervision Training" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$295 each for registration, \$237 each or lodging, \$100 each for travel and \$138.00 each for meal expenses.

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- J. Approve request for CPD K-9 Officer Robert Eguires to attend the “MS Law Enforcement Officer’s K-9 Academy” to be held in Southhaven, MS, and approve payment of \$500 for travel expenses, (Academy is from January - March).
- K. Approve request for CPD Officers to attend the “Mississippi Delta Law Enforcement Training Academy” in Moorhead, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging and meal expenses which will be reimbursed after graduation. Payment for required clothing allowance per officer is also requested to be approved.
- L. Approve request for the Interim Police Chief to attend the “Mini-Conference on Policing and Race” to be held in Cincinnati, OH at no cost to City.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, according to the amendments. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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

- A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Smith thanked everyone that attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bonfire that was held on January 4, 2016. He also thanked Councilman Gavin for providing the entertainment and the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments for their assistance.

Interim Chief Fred Shelton gave an update from MBI regarding the Ricky Ball shooting.

- B. Board Vacancies:

COO David Armstrong announced that there are no board vacancies to be made tonight.

### **Columbus-Lowndes Recreation Authority**

- One Vacancy
- Oop Swoope’s 5-Year Term expired May 25, 2015.
- Joint Appointment from the Mayor and Board of Supervisors’ President
- No action taken.

## **VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA**

## **VIII. POLICY AGENDA:**

**A. Discuss/Approve Advertising for sealed bids for Designation as a City Depository.**

Council Member Box made a motion to approve advertising for sealed bids for Designation as a City Depository. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**B Discuss/Approve creating new Public Relations Director position for City.**

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the creation of a new Public Relations Specialist position at a salary of \$35,000 – \$42,000 annually, and approve the job description. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**C. Discuss/Approve Agreement to Use MDOT Airspace for Riverwalk Extension.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Agreement to use MDOT Airspace for the Riverwalk Extension. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**THE AGREEMENT FOLLOWS:**

**D. Discuss/Approve Resolution setting Special Election for Ward 5 vacancy.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Resolution and Order Setting a Special Election to fill a vacancy in office of Council Member – Ward 5. The deadline to qualify is January 27, 2016. The election will be held February 16, 2016 and a Run-Off election will be held March 8, 2016. The Motion was seconded by Council Member Gavin. After careful deliberation upon passage of the same by the Mayor and City Council, the Mayor called for a vote on the motion and the votes were recorded as follows:

	Yes	No
Council Member Gene Taylor	<u>  X  </u>	_____
Council Member Joseph W. Mickens, Jr.	<u>  X  </u>	_____
Council Member Charlie Box	<u>  X  </u>	_____
Council Member Marty Turner	<u>  X  </u>	_____

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Council Member Kabir Karriem	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Council Member Bill Gavin	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>

The Mayor then announced that the above and foregoing resolution passed on a vote of   5   to   0   and that the resolution of the City of Columbus was duly adopted and would be spread upon the minutes.

This the  5<sup>th</sup>  day of January, 2016.

**THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:**

- E. Discuss/Approve recommendations from the Planning Commission Meeting of December 14, 2015.**

**Permitted Use Request P/U 15-03**

**City of Columbus, Mississippi  
@ Island Road**

The Planning Commission recommends approval to rezone from A-1 (General Agricultural) District to C-3 (Highway Commercial) Zone District; with further recommendation for a *Permitted Use*.

Council Member Taylor 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 request to rezone from A-1 (General Agricultural) District to C-3 (Highway Commercial) Zone District, with further recommendation for a *Permitted Use*, be approved. Council Member Turner seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the permitted use application. Nobody 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 15-04**

**Commercial Dispatch Publishing Co.  
903 Alabama**

The Planning Commission recommends approval to rezone the north 100 feet depth of parcel from R-1 (Single-Family Residential) to C-3 (Highway Commercial) Zone District.

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 to approve the request to rezone the north 100 feet depth of parcel from R-1 (Single-Family Residential) to C-3 (Highway Commercial) Zone District be approved. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the permitted use application. Nobody 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 15-09**

**Landowner  
On Behalf of Tenant, "Pop's Barbecue"  
1811 Main Street**

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request to allow a Food Concession.

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 to approve the request to allow a Food Concession as a Permitted Use, be approved. Council Member Turner seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the permitted use application. Nobody 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.

#### **Amend Telecommunication Ordinance**

The Planning Commission recommends approval to amend ordinance – to allow collocation of additional telecommunication facilities without Planning Commission's approval

Council Member Taylor 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 to amend ordinance – to allow collocation of additional telecommunication facilities without Planning Commission's approval be approved. Council Member Turner seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the permitted use application. Nobody 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.

**F. Discuss/Approve Advertising City Resources.**

Council Member Taylor moved to ratify the expenditure of \$251.35 from 001-004-703 (Advertising City Resources) and find that said amount is a legitimate expense that will advertise and bring into favorable notice the opportunities, possibilities and Resources of the City of Columbus. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**G. Discuss/Approve awarding low bid for Asbestos Removal from City Hall.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to award the bid for Asbestos Removal From City Hall to EAC Environmental & Selective Demolition at a cost of \$7,200.00. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**H. Discuss/Approve Asbestos Assessment Proposal for Gilmer Inn.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Asbestos Assessment Proposal from AIR Environmental for the Gilmer Inn at a cost of \$3,450.00. Council Member Gavin 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 be discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Mayor then asked if there was any other business to come before the Mayor and City Council. There being none, Council Member Box moved that the meeting be adjourned. Upon second by Council Member Turner and unanimous vote, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Milton Rawle, Jr.,  
CFO- Secretary-Treasure

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