

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS MARCH 15, 2016

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Robert Smith presided over the meeting and all Council Members were present. Newly elected Council Member for Ward 5, Stephen Jones, was present for this meeting. Also present were the COO, CFO, General Counsel, Chief Oscar Lewis and the Human Resources Director.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Robert E. Smith called the meeting to order and called upon Council Member Box to offer the Invocation.

APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 1, 2016.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of March 1, 2016. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

I. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR MARCH 15, 2016.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for March 15, 2016 In the amount of \$374,874.82. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

II. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA:

Change Item "A" to read *Approve request to refund two (2) citizens for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center Rental.*

Add Item "P" – *Approve request from Leroy Brooks to allow beer sales on the festival site for Juneteenth-Columbus, Inc., which will be held June 17, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. and on June 18, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. The festival will be held in Sim Scott Park.*

Add Item "Q" – *Approve request from Barbara Bigelow, Main Street Director, to allow Beer sales on May 6, 2016 during the Market Street Festival's Friday evening concert at the Riverwalk from 6:00 p.m. until 10:30 p.m., and on Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.*

REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

Add Gregory Jefferson as an applicant for the Columbus Municipal School District.

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "J" – Discuss/Approve Easement for BNSF Railroad.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Add Personnel Matters (2).

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the agenda as presented with the above amendments. Council Member Box seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, the council voted unanimously in favor of same.

The motion carried.

III. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request to refund Twanna Gray the sum of \$375.00 and MUW (Welty Gala) the sum of \$1,100.00 for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center Rental.
- B. Approve request for CPD Officer Tabertha Hardin to attend the "Detective and New Criminal Investigator Training" to be held in Birmingham, AL, and approve payment of \$450.00 for registration, \$376.00 for lodging and \$324.50 for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for CPD Officer Christopher VanHouten to attend the "Homicide Investigation Training" to be held in Montgomery, AL, and approve payment of \$295.00 for registration, \$100.00 for travel and \$162.00 for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for CPD Officer Rhonda Sanders to attend the "Recruiting Public Speaking" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$255.00 for registration, \$300.00 for lodging and \$178.50 for meal expenses.
- E. Approve request for CPD Officer Timothy Jenkins to attend the "One Loud Voice Training" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$100.00 for travel and \$127.50 for meal expenses.
- F. Approve request for Police Chief Oscar Lewis to attend the "2016 Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police Summer Educational Conference" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$325.00 for registration, \$472.00 for lodging, \$50.00 for travel and \$229.50 for meal expenses.
- G. Approve permit request from Becky Maurer on behalf of Exchange Club of Columbus to host a "10K Race" to be held on March 19, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the run is to raise funds for child abuse prevention and the Uncle Bunky Memorial Fund for Abused Children. Please see the attached route map.

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- H. Approve permit request from Pastor R. J. Matthews on behalf of Kingdom Vision International Church to host a "Prayer Walk" on Saturday, March 26, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Please see the attached route map.
- I. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer Yolanda Young, effective April 25, 2016.
- J. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer Raymond Hackler, effective March 24, 2016, and approve request to be paid for any unused vacation leave. He also requests to have unused sick leave transferred to PERS.
- K. Approve request for Payroll Clerk, Erica Bankhead, to attend the "2016 Municipal Service Company Advanced Claims Management Workshop" to be held at Hinds Community College, Raymond, MS, and the "2016 Advanced Human Resource Risk Management Workshop" to be held in Flowood, MS, and approve payment of \$186.84 for the March 30, 2016 Workshop and \$167.40 for the April 6, 2016 Workshop for travel expenses. These are one-day workshops and lunch will be provided.
- L. Approve request for Fire & Rescue Administrative Assistant Tabitha Barham to attend the "ESAP Committee Meeting" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$35.00 for travel and \$23.00 for meal expenses.
- M. Approve request for Fire & Rescue Personnel Joseph Denton to attend the "CPAT Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$57.00 for registration, \$89.00 for lodging, \$50.00 for travel and \$46.00 for meal expenses.
- N. Approve request for twelve (12) Fire & Rescue Personnel, Todd Graham, Lance Godfrey, and Scott Swain to attend the "Task Force II Rope Rescue Refresher Course" to be held in Meridian, MS, and approve payment of \$150.00 for the three of them to travel and \$92.00 for each for meal expenses; then Sam Collier, Tommy Massey, Wes Mims, Dale Ballard, Kevin Brown, Steve Loden, Alan Walker, Will McReynolds, and Kirk McKellar to attend the Rope Rescue Refresher Course and approve payment of \$150.00 for travel expenses. A meal is provided for each.
- O. Approve request for the Preventive Maintenance Renewal for the CPD generator.
- P. Approve request from Leroy Brooks of Juneteenth-Columbus, Inc., to allow beer sales on the festival site on June 17, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. and on June 18, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. The festival will be held in Sim Scott Park.
- Q. Approve request from Barbara Bigelow of Main Street Columbus to allow beer sales on May 6, 2016 during the Market Street Festival's Friday evening concert at the Riverwalk from 6:00 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. and at the festival in downtown Columbus on Saturday, May, 7, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

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Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the amendments. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, the council voted unanimously in favor of same.

The motion carried.

REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Robert E. Smith announced that the Mayor's 9th Annual Unity Picnic will be held April 2, 2016 and invited the public to attend.

Proclamation – American Red Cross Month

Mayor Smith presented a Proclamation to American Red Cross volunteers in honor of American Red Cross Month.

Council Member Gavin announced that a Neighborhood Watch Committee meeting for Ward VI has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Brandon School Central Office.

B. Swearing In of one (1) Reserve Officer

Mayor Smith swore in Reserve Officer Aaron Conley and read the Oath of Office.

C. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for February 2016

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for February 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

D. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for February 2016

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for February 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

E. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for February 2016

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for February 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

F. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for February 2016

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for February 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

G. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for February 2016

The Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for February 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

H. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for February 2016

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for February 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

I. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for February 2016

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for February 2016 was presented. No action was taken.

J. Monthly Financial Report

Milton Rawle, CFO, gave the Monthly Financial Report and remarked that the sales taxes increased by \$23,081.15 compared to the same time last year.

K. Board Vacancies:

GTR Waste Management Authority

- One (1) Vacancy
- Ralph McLain resigned January 5, 2016.
- This 4-Year Term will expire December 31, 2018.
- No Applicants at this time
- Appointment can be made immediately.

Columbus Municipal School District

- One (1) Vacancy
- Stephen Jones resigned March 10, 2016.
- Applicant will fill the remainder of unexpired 5-Year Term which ends 3/2/2019.
- Appointment can be made April 19, 2016.

Applicant

- Ronnie Clayton
- **Gregory Jefferson**

Tree Board

- One (1) Vacancy
- Jeffrey C. Wilson's 3-Year Term will expire 4/6/2016.
- He serves as the MSU Extension Service Member.
- No Applicants at this time
- Appointment can be made April 5, 2016.

Board of Adjustment & Appeals of Development Codes

- One (1) Vacancy
- Kevin Stafford's 1-Year Term will expire 04/07/2016.
- Appointment can be made March 15, 2016.

Applicant

- Kevin Stafford

Council Member Taylor made a motion to reappoint Kevin Stafford to the Board of Adjustment & Appeals of Development Codes Board until April 7, 2017. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve request to apply for the 2016 Transportation Enhancement Youth Corps Program and provide matching funds.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the City to apply for the 2016 Transportation Enhancement Youth Corps Program Grant in the amount of \$35,000 with a 20% match, with the City contributing an additional \$20,000 to enable the employment of more students. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion, and then the question was put to a roll-call vote, with the results as follows:

Council Member Gene Taylor	voted: <u>YEA</u>
Council Member Joseph Mickens	voted: <u>YEA</u>
Council Member Charlie Box	voted: <u>YEA</u>
Council Member Marty Turner	voted: <u>YEA</u>
Council Member Stephen Jones	voted: <u>YEA</u>
Council Member Bill Gavin	voted: <u>YEA</u>

THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

B. Discuss/Approve promotion of five (5) Laborers to Crew Leaders.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to promote Lakendrick Bankhead, LeeRoy Deloach, Lydell Evans, Melvin Smith and Ernest Thomas to the position of Crew Leaders at an hourly rate of \$10.50, effective immediately. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Discuss/Approve request to fill two vacant Laborer positions for Public Works Department.

Council Member Turner made a motion to hire Joseph E. Norman and Demontrell Cunningham as Laborers at \$10.00 per hour, contingent on successful completion of the pre-employment medical examination and drug screen. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve permission to advertise Phase II of City Hall renovations.

Council Member Turner made a motion to approve the request to advertise for Phase II of City Hall renovations. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve promotion of an Engineer to Deputy Fire Marshal.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to promote Engineer Madison Guyton to the position of Deputy Fire Marshal at \$21.1538 per hour/\$44,000.00 annually. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Discuss/Approve request to apply to the Federal Home Loan Bank for a homeownership Renovation Grant.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to apply to the Federal Home Loan Bank for a Homeownership Renovation Grant in the amount of \$500,000.00 with no match, but \$25,000 will be taken from the Contingency Fund to pay for temporary relocation of families. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

G. Discuss/Approve Bank Depository recommendation for Two-Year period.

Milton Rawle presented the Bid Tabulation for Bank Depository for a two-year period and recommended that the bid be awarded to Citizens National Bank.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the request to award the Bank Depository Bid for a two-year period to Citizens National Bank. Council

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Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Stan Murray, Market President for Citizens National Bank came forward and thanked the City for the opportunity to provide banking services.

H. Discuss/Approve recommendations from the Planning Commission Meeting of March 14, 2016.

Permitted Use Request P/U 16-03

**BCAT Holdings, LLC
(On Behalf of Cumulus Broadcasting)
105 – 5th Street North**

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request to relocate communication tower and equipment.

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 relocate a communication tower and equipment to 105 – 5th Street North as a Permitted Use be approved. 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.

I. Discuss/Approve Contract Award of Bid for Asbestos Removal in Gilmer Inn and Brumley buildings.

Robyn Eastman, City Project Manager, came forward and reported that he has opened bids for Asbestos Removal at the Gilmer Inn and Brumley buildings and recommends that the bid be awarded to EAC Environmental at a cost of \$44,100.00. Council Member Turner made a motion to award the bid for Asbestos removal from the Gilmer Inn and Brumley buildings to EAC Environmental at a cost of \$44,100.00. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

J. Discuss/Approve Easement for BNSF Railroad.

Council Member Turner made a motion to approve the Easement for BNSF Railroad at 14th Avenue North and Moss Street at a cost of \$775.00. Council

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Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

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