

**MEETING OF
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS
May 2, 2017**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, 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. Also present were the COO, CFO, General Counsel, Police Chief, and the Human Resources Director.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order and called on Rev. Joe L. Peoples to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 18, 2017.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Minutes of April 18, 2018. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR MAY 2, 2017.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for May 2, 2017, in the amount of \$1,191,085.61. Council Member Mickens 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:

Add Item "R" - Approve permit request submitted by Andy Tentoni on behalf of First United Methodist Church to host a "Blessing of the Bikes and Bugs Block Party" to be held on Sunday, May 7, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. on College Street between 6th Street to mid-block going east and 6th Street from College to 3rd Ave. South. 6th Street and College will not be blocked.

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

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request to refund Latoya Hairston the sum of \$380.00 and Bernice Jones the sum of \$270.00 for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center Rental.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Engineer, Kirk Gayle, to attend "Task Force Working Group Meeting" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Engineer, Kirk Gayle, to attend "MS Partners in Preparedness Summit" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Accreditation Manager, Alan Lewis, to attend "R0492: Emergency Resource Deployment Planning: Standards of Cover" to be held in Emmitsburg, MD, and approve payment for reimbursement for meal expenses.
- E. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Personnel, Melvin Junkin and Marco Rodriguez, to attend "Fire Investigator 1033" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$1,280.00 for registration, \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- F. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Captain, Steve Loden, to attend the "Public Safety Survival Dive Class" to be held in Ridgeland, MS, and approve payment of \$327.00 for lodging, \$75.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- G. Approve request for Fire & Rescue Personnel, Michael Chandler, Scott Swain, and Wes Mims, to attend "Fire-Rescue International 2017" to be held in Charlotte, NC, and approve payment of \$2,075.00 for registration, \$2,985.00 for lodging, \$300.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- H. Approve request from Keith Worshaim for Fire & Rescue to help raise funds at Fire Station #1 on Saturday, May 13, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. for the local Special Olympics Athletes.
- I. Approve request for Municipal Court Judge Gary Goodwin and Drug Court Coordinator Leonardo Dismukes to attend the "Mississippi Association Drug

Court Professionals Conference” to be held in Natchez, MS, and approve payment of \$150.00 each for registration, \$378.00 each for lodging, \$287.40 each for travel, and reimbursement for meal expenses.

- J. Ratify permit request submitted by LaChunda Sparks, Family Advocacy Program Assistant, to host the “Child Abuse Prevention Month for Community Awareness Parade” held on April 28, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. The route began on Hwy 82, MLK, 5th Avenue North, to 23rd Street North around Stokes Beard Elementary.
- K. Approve permit request submitted by Martha Gordon on behalf of the Sandfield Horizon Committee to host the “Annual Eighth of May Festival” to be held on Saturday, May 13, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m., and to block off 4th Avenue South from 23rd Street to the beginning of 25th Street and 23rd and 24th Streets from College Street to Washington Avenue South.
- L. Approve permit request for the CPD to participate in the “Mississippi Special Olympics Torch Run” to be held on May 16, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., and approve the route which will begin at City Hall, down Main Street and end at the Columbus Municipal Court Complex.
- M. Approve request for CPD Officer, Roman L. Sones, and CPD Sergeant to attend the “Active Shooter Instructor Class” to be held in Pearl, MS, at no cost to City.
- N. Approve request for Officer Robert Equires and K-9 Stanley to attend the “National Narcotics Detector Dog Association Certification Program” to be held in Southaven, MS, and approve payment of \$80.00 for certification and \$30.00 for travel expenses.
- O. Approve request for CPD Officer, Ron Richardson, to attend the “Hidden Compartments Housing Authority Searches Training” to be held in Birmingham, AL, and approve payment of \$295.00 for registration, \$200.00 for lodging, and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- P. Approve request for CPD Corporal Timothy Jenkins and CPD Officer Josh Vandiver to attend the “FBI LEEDA Training Course” to be held in Hernando, MS, and approve payment for \$650.00 for registration, \$595.00 for lodging, \$150.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- Q. Approve request for Historic Preservation Commission member, Ann Davis, to attend the “May 2017 Historic Preservation Boot Camp” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$40.00 for registration, \$265.68 for lodging, \$165.42 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.

- R. Approve permit request submitted by Andy Tentoni on behalf of First United Methodist Church to host a "Blessing of the Bikes and Bugs Block Party" to be held on Sunday, May 7, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. on College Street between 6th Street to mid-block going east and 6th Street from College to 3rd Ave. South. 6th Street and College will not be blocked.

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

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

- **Proclamation –National Police Week**
Mayor Smith presented a Proclamation to Chief Oscar Lewis in recognition of National Police Week.
- **Proclamation – Kids to Parks Day**
Mayor Smith read a proclamation in recognition of "Kids to Parks Day."

B. Board Vacancies

Civil Service Commission

- 1 Vacancy due to resignation of Al Hatcher
- Unexpired 4-Year Term ending 8/5/2018
- Appointment can be made May 2, 2017.

Applicants

- Rita Felton
- Michael Sykes, Jr.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to appoint Ms. Rita Felton to the Civil Service Commission to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Al Hatcher, until August 5, 2018. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Historic Preservation Commission

- 2 Vacancies
- 4-Year Terms for Fred McCaleb and Keith Gaskin will end
5/16/2017

- Appointment can be made May 16, 2017.

Applicants

- Bryan Brown

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

Christian Community in Prayer – National Day of Prayer

Mr. Danny Avery and Rev. Joe L. Peoples came forth and invited citizens of Columbus to join them for the National Day of Prayer, which will be held May 4, 2017 at the YMCA.

Sharon Lewis – Potholes

Ms. Sharon Lewis came forth and remarked that she hit a pothole that caused damage to her vehicle and asked the City to repair it. Pat Mitchell remarked that Ms. Lewis' claim has been filed with Travelers Insurance Company and has been denied. A letter was mailed to Ms. Lewis, but it returned. Ms. Mitchell provided a copy of the denial letter.

Lillian Murray – Columbus Beautification Program

Ms. Lillian, dba Columbus Lawn Care Solution Systems came before the Council with a proposal to provide subsidized lawn care service, which will improve citizen satisfaction for its Senior Citizens. Mayor Smith remarked that he will take the request under consideration. No action was taken.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

- A. Discuss/Approve request for one (1) Fire and Rescue Personnel to receive tuition reimbursement for the successful completion of "FIR 3303 – Introduction to Fire Prevention."**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to reimburse Fire And Rescue Personnel, Alan Lewis, for successful completion of "FIR 3303 – Introduction to Fire Protection, according to the City's Tuition Reimbursement Policy. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

- B. Discuss/Approve promotion of a Laborer to Tractor Operator for the Public Works Department**

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the request to promote Public Works Laborer Lannie Walker to the position of Tractor Operator, with

an increase in pay from \$10.00 per hour to \$10.50 per hour. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Discuss/Approve promotion of a Truck Driver to Boom Truck Driver for the Public Works Department.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to promote Public Works Truck Driver to the position of Boom Truck Driver with and increase in pay from \$10.41 per hour to \$12.83 per hour. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve promotion of CPD Investigator to Corporal

Council Member Turner made a motion to approve the request to promote a CPD Investigator, Christopher Smith, to Corporal, with the appropriate pay increase. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve request to hire five (5) Entry Level CPD Officers and one (1) Certified Officer contingent upon a successful pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire five (5) Entry-Level CPD Officers: Kenneth Davis, Raymond Lee, Tommie Stinson, John Tulipan, and Jonathan Vergne and one (1) Certified Officer, Hugh McCarty, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket.

**ROY A. FRIDAY
301 Forest Blvd.
Case Number 17-0025 Structure**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0025**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones 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 Box 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) 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 Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**LEWIS GREENWOOD
Case Number 17-0030 Vegetation**

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0030**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones 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 Taylor made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may cut 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.

ROBERT J. CONNER, et al
West Chandler Road
Case Number 17-0031 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0031**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones 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 Taylor 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) 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.

ROBERT J. CONNER, et al
West Chandler Road
Case Number 17-0032 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0032**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones 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 Taylor 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) 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.

GARNETT PROPERTIES, LLC
205 Robinwood Circle
Case Number 17-0033 Structure/Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **17-0033**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones 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 Mickens made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, 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 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 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 come before the Mayor and Council.

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

MINUTES
MAY 2, 2017

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

**Milton Rawle, Jr.,
CFO- Secretary-Treasurer**

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