

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS DECEMBER 1, 2015

The Mayor and Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 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, 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 Box to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2015.

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the Minutes for the meeting of November 17, 2015. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR DECEMBER 1, 2015.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for December 1, 2015 in the amount of \$445,349.15. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

IV. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

CONSENT:

Add Item "F" – *Approve request for the Fire Chief to attend the MS State Fire Academy Graduation to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment for travel and meal expenses.*

REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

Add William Bluit as an applicant to the City Planning Commission Board.

Council Member Karriem 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 for Officers Kevin McCrary and Aaron Andrew to attend the "Below 100 Training – Train the Trainer" to be held in Oxford, MS, at no cost to the City.
- B. Approve request for Officer Kelvin Burdine to attend the "Driver's Instructor Training Course" to be held in Moorehead, MS, and approve payment of \$500.00 for registration and \$40.00 for travel expenses.
- C. Approve request for Assistant Police Chief McCoy to purchase his service weapon for \$10.00 upon retirement.
- D. Approve request to refund Stephanie Stewart the sum of \$300.00 for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center Rental.
- E. Approve request for Officer Robert Eguire to attend the "VonLiche Kennels Buy Trip" in Denver, IN, and approve payment of \$150.00 for travel, lodging and \$229.50 for meal expenses.
- F. Approve request for Fire Chief Andrews to attend the MS State Fire Academy Graduation to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment for travel and meal expenses.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, according to the amendment. Council Member Mickens 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**

The Council discussed scheduling a meeting with the Committee to review SOG activities.

B. Swearing in of three (3) Police Officers and four (4) Reserve Officers

Mayor Smith read the Oath of Office and swore in three Police Officers: Eric Potts, Matthew Minga, and Robert McCraw.

C. Board Vacancies:

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various Boards and remarked that appoints can be made tonight.

Municipal Election Commission

- One (1) Vacancy
- Joyce Abrams resigned October 21, 2015.
- Appointment can be made December 1, 2015 to fill the remainder of a 4-Year Term.
- Term expires June 30, 2017

APPLICANTS

- Diane Sloan

Council Member Karriem made a motion to appoint Dian Sloan to the Municipal Election Commission to fill the unexpired term that was vacated by Joyce Abrams. The term expires June 30, 2017. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

City Planning Commission

- Three (3) Vacancies
- Annette Savors 3-Year Term expired November 4, 2015.
- William Bluit's 3-year Term expired November 4, 2015.
- Major Andrews' IV 3-Year Term expired November 4, 2015.
- Appointments can be made December 1, 2015.

APPLICANTS

- Major Andrews
- Annette Savors
- William Bluit

Council Member Taylor made a motion to appoint Major Andrews, Annette Savors and William Bluit to the City Planning Commission Board for a 3-Year term. Council Member Karriem seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals

- Two (2) Vacancies
- Quinn Brislin's 3-Year Term will expire December 4, 2015.
- Kevin Stafford's 3-Year Term will expire December 4, 2015.
- Appointments can be made December 1, 2015.

APPLICANTS

- Quinn Brislin
- Kevin Stafford

Council Member Taylor made a motion to appoint Quinn Brislin and Kevin Stafford to the Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals for a 3-Year term. Council Member Karriem seconded the Stafford seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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 Applicants at this time

Tree Board

- Two (2) Vacancies
- Kerry Pitman's 3-Year Term will expire December 31, 2015.
- Amber Murphee's 3-Year Term will expire December 31, 2015.
- Appointments can be made December 15, 2015.

APPLICANT

- Barbara Bigelow

GTR Waste Management Authority

- One (1) Vacancy
- M. L. McCarty's 4-Year Term will expire December 31, 2015.
- Appointment can be made December 15, 2015.

APPLICANTS

- M. L. McCarty
- James Wamble III

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

- A. Discuss/Approve cost of property clean up on cases previously heard by Council and for which remediation has been completed.**

Council Member Box made a motion to adjudicate property previously heard by Council and for which remediation has been completed. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

THE ADJUDICATION FOLLOWS:

- B. Discuss/Approve Annual Municipal Compliance Questionnaire required for Audit.**

Milton Rawle, CFO, presented the Municipal Compliance Questionnaire for approval. Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the Municipal Compliance Questionnaire. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOLLOWS:

- C. Discuss/Approve Change Order for College Street and 12th Street ramps.**

Robyn Eastman with J5 came forward and requested approval of a Change Order for the 2015 Infrastructure Improvement Project Phase 2 Bond Improvement to add ADA ramp for College Street and 12th Street. Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Change Order for the 2015 Infrastructure Improvement Project Phase 2 Bond Improvement to add ADA ramp for College Street and 12th Street, in the amount of \$12,460.00. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

- D. Discuss/Approve hiring of two (2) part-time employees in the Convention Center which will not increase the department's budget for salaries.**

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the request to hire Lisa Foote

and Regina Allen as part-time employees at the Trotter Convention Center at the hourly rate of \$11.00 and divide hours among existing part-time employees. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve Award of Amphitheater Site Grading Package.

Kevin Stafford with Neel-Schaffer, came forward, presented the Bid tabulations for the Senator Terry Brown Amphitheater Rough Grading Site Package and requested the Council award the base bid and Additive Alternative No. 1 in the amount of \$44,341.28 to Weathers Construction, Inc. Council Member Karriem made a motion to award the base bid and Additive Alternative No. 1 in the amount of \$44,341.28 for the Senator Terry Brown Amphitheater Rough Grading Site Package to Weathers Construction, Inc. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Discuss/Approve hiring of two (2) full-time Police Officers and one (1) part-time Police Officer.

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the request to hire Cecil Lamar Peacock and Toni Howard as full-time Police Officers and Louis Alexander as a part-time Police Officer, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

CLOSED DETERMINATION:

Council Member Karriem made a motion to go into closed session to determine whether it is necessary to go into Executive Session. Council Member Taylor 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, the Police Chief and the HR Director exited the Council Chambers.

Mayor Smith apprised the Council of four (4) personnel matters and Acquisition of Real Property and remarked that these items warrant being heard in executive session.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to go into Executive Session. Council Member Box 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 matter and acquisition of Real Property.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel Matters (4)

PERSONNEL MATTER 1:

Public Works Director Casey Bush came forward and requested that employee I. D. Number 1061 be terminated for failure to submit to a drug screen. This employee is presently on extended probation for tardiness until February 2016. Council Member Gavin made a motion to terminate the employee of employee I. D. Number 1061 for failure to submit to a drug screen, effective immediately. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

PERSONNEL MATTER 2 & 3:

David Armstrong, COO the discussed the job performance of two I. T. employees, I. D. Numbers 855 and 987 and requested employee I. D. Number 855 be demoted to Assistant I. T. Director at a salary decrease to \$42,500 and employee I. D. Number 987 be promoted to I. T. Director and that his salary be increased to \$46,000.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the afore stated request. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion, with the exception of Council Member Mickens, who opposed.

The motion carried.

PERSONNEL MATTER 4:

The Council discussed Interim Police Chief Fred Shelton's pay while performing added duties. Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the adjustment of pay for Interim Chief Shelton from \$53,560 to \$63,560 immediately and return it to the old rate if he is not selected for the permanent position of Chief. Council Member Karriem seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY:

The Council discussed the acquisition of Real Property involving the old Brumley Sporting Goods Store at a cost of \$242,000.00, which is less than the approved value of \$245,000.00. Mark Castleberry, deposited \$10,000 earnest funds for the purchase of real property and requested reimbursement. Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the request to purchase the old Brumley Sporting Goods Store at a cost of \$242,000.00 and that of those funds, that Mark Castleberry be reimbursed the sum of \$10,000.00 earnest money . Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

The Council then discussed the fact that part of the above purchase price of \$242,000.00 included a Real Estate brokerage fee of \$17,000.00, Council Member Karriem made a motion for the City of Columbus call upon the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau to share the cost and pay \$8,500.00. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

OPEN SESSION:

Council Member Box made a motion to return to Open Session. Council Member Karriem 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 Council voted to go in Executive Session and considered four (4) items of personnel, terminated one Public Works employee for refusing to take a drug screen, demoted one I. T. employee and promoted one I. T. employee, increased the salary of the Interim Police Chief to \$63,560.00, and approve the acquisition of real property.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Mayor then asked if there was any other business to come before the Mayor and City Council. There being none, Council Member Karriem 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

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