

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS JANUARY 20, 2015

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 20, 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, Police Chief 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 JANUARY 6, 2015.

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of January 6, 2015. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR JANUARY 20, 2015.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for January 20, 2015 in the amount of \$894,327.48. Council Member Karriem 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:

Change the wording on Item "M" to read *Approve request for Mayor Smith and any Council Member that wishes to travel to Washington, D.C.*

Add Item "P" – *Approve request for three (3) Police Officers and One (1) Garage Superintendent to travel to Jefferson City, MO, to pick up police cars.*

BOARD VACANCIES:

Add *Elizabeth "Liz" Terry as an applicant to the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau Board*

Change the appointment date for the Columbus Municipal School District Board to February 17, 2015 for both appointments.

Add Josie S. Shumake as an applicant to the Columbus Municipal School District Board.

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "G" – *Discuss/Approve software contract for new software for the Code Enforcement Department.*

Council Member Turner made a motion to approve the agenda according to the amendments. Council Member Karriem seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request for Officer Terrie Songer to attend the "Leadership Institute Conference" to be held in Gonzales, LA, and approve payment of \$525.00 for registration, \$429.75 for lodging, \$100.00 travel, and \$253.00 for meal expenses.
- B. Approve permit for a 5K Fun Run Fundraiser hosted by the Exchange Club, to be held on March 14, 2015, from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.
- C. Accept request from Officer Matthew Sorrells to become part-time, effective January 28, 2015.
- D. Approve request to refund Marshanda Carter the sum of \$230.00 for cancellation of Convention Center Rental.
- E. Ratify request for the Fire Chief Andrews to attend the "Activation and Assumption of Command Ceremony" that was held at Moody AFB, GA, and approve payment of \$200.00 for the cost of lodging and \$92.00 for meals.
- F. Approve request for the Fire Training Chief, Duane Hughes, to attend the "Domestic Extremism and Hate Crimes Training Seminar" to be held in Pearl, MS, and approve payment of \$60.00 for the cost of travel and \$46.00 for meals.
- G. Approve request for Firefighters Jonathan Cantrell, Matthew Jones, and Eric Minga, to attend the "Confined Space Rescue Technician Training" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$204.00 for the cost of registration, \$60.00 for travel and \$345.00 for meals.

- H. Approve request for Firefighters Darryl Brown and Taylor Mitchell to attend the “Hazardous Materials Technician – I Training” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$272.00 for the cost of registration, \$120.00 for the cost travel and \$460.00 for meals.
- I. Approve request for Firefighter Shannon Murphy to attend the “Hale Pump Class” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$170.00 for the cost of registration, \$60.00 for travel and \$92.00 for meals.
- J. Approve request for Community Resources Director, Glenda Buckhalter, to attend the “Mississippi HOME Corp Affordable Housing Conference” to be held in Natchez, MS, and approve payment of \$225.00 for the cost of registration, \$198.00 for lodging and \$115.00 for meals.
- K. Ratify request for the Public Works Director, Casey Bush, to attend the “Activation and Assumption of Command Ceremony” that was held at Moody AFB, GA, and approve payment of \$69.00 for the cost of meals.
- L. Accept letter of resignation from Matthew Harge, Truck Driver, effective January 19, 2015, and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process.
- M. Approve request for Mayor Smith and any Council Member that wishes to travel to Washington, D.C., and meet with the Mississippi Congressional Delegation regarding funding for the Riverwalk Extension Project and approve payment for cost of travel, lodging and meals.
- N. Approve request to advertise for Legal Publications Bid.
- O. Ratify request for Federal Programs Assistant, George Irby, to attend the “Activation and Assumption of Command Ceremony” that was held at Moody AFB, GA, and approve payment for the cost of meals.
- P. Approve request for three (3) Police Officers and the Garage Superintendent. Glenn White to travel to Jefferson City, MO, to pick up police cars.

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, according to the amendments. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

- A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Smith offered condolences to the family of Mr. John W. Dickerson.

- B. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for December 2014
The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for December 2014 was presented. No action was taken.
- C. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for December 2014
The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for December 2014 was presented. No action was taken.
- D. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for December 2014
The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for December 2014 was presented. No action was taken.
- E. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for December 2014
The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for December 2014 was presented. No action was taken.
- F. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for December 2014
The Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for December 2014 was presented. No action was taken.
- G. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for December 2014
The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for December 2014 was presented. No action was taken.
- H. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for December 2014
The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for December 2014 was presented. No action was taken.
- I. Monthly Financial Report
The Monthly Financial Report for December 2014 was presented. Milton Rawle, CFO, elaborated on the report.

J. Board Vacancies:

Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau

- One Vacancy
- Bernard Buckhalter resigned effective immediately.
- Applicant will fill the remainder of unexpired term which is July 7, 2015.
- Appointment can be made immediately.

APPLICANT

- Elizabeth "Liz" Terry

Council Member Mickens made a motion to appoint Elizabeth "Liz" Terry to the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau for the remainder of an unexpired term, which is July 7, 2015. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed.

Zoning Board of Adjustment & Appeals

- One Vacancy
- 3-Year Term
- Darren Leach's term will expire February 1, 2015.
- Appointment can be made January 20, 2015.

APPLICANT:

- Darren Leach

Council Member Karriem made a motion to reappoint Darren Leach to the Zoning Board of Adjustment & Appeals board for a three year term. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

City Planning Commission

- Two Vacancies
- 3-Year Terms
- Quinn Brislin's term will expire February 1, 2015.
- Wythe Rhett's term will expire February 21, 2015.
- Appointments can be made January 20, 2015.

APPLICANTS:

- Quinn Brislin
- Wythe Rhett

Council Member Taylor made a motion to reappoint Quinn Brislin to the City Planning Commission for a three-year term. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

Council Member ~~Taylor~~ ~~Karriem~~ made a motion to reappoint Wythe Rhett to the City

Planning Commission for a three-year term. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

Columbus Municipal School District Board

- Two Vacancies
- Remainder of Greg Lewis' unexpired term, until March 2, 2019
- Currie B. Fisher's 5-Year Term will expire March 2, 2015.
- Appointments can be made March 3, 2015

APPLICANTS:

- Stephen Jones
- Eric Thomas
- Lori LeVar Pierce
- Josie S. Shumake

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 Taylor made a motion to approve the cost of property clean-up on cases 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 passed.

B. Discuss/Approve request to hire one (1) Entry-Level Firefighter, Contingent on successful completion of pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire Justin Cox as an Entry-Level Firefighter, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

C. Approve request to promote two (2) Fire Engineers to Fire Captains with the scheduled pay increase, effective immediately.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to promote Engineers Kevin Brown and Johnny "Melvin" Junkin to the position of Fire Captain and increase the rate of pay to \$13.79 per hour, effective immediately. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

D. Approve request to promote two (2) Fire Fighters to Fire Engineers with the scheduled pay increase, effective immediately.

Council Member Turner made a motion to promote Firefighters William McReynolds and Madison Guyton to the position of Fire Engineer and increase the rate of pay to \$11.77 per hour, effective immediately. Council

Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

E. Conduct Hearing on Overgrown Lots and Dilapidated Houses.

DONALD DUPRIEST
Lehmborg Road
Case Number 15-038 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **15-038**. 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 Taylor made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may 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 Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

BRUCE NEAL
Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Case Number 15-045 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **15-045**. 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 Turner made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may 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 Karriem seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

HATCHER INVESTMENT PROPERTIES, LLC
1513 Washington Avenue
15-047/048
Case Number 14-524 Vegetation, Vacant structure, maintenance code

The General Counsel called cause number **15-047/048**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones stated to the Mayor and Council that the property was in such a state of uncleanness 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 Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed

WILLIE AND DERWOOD HUGHES
2015 Washington Avenue
Case Number: 14-461 Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **14-461**. Mrs. Harkins approached the Mayor and Council to request an **extension of forty-five (45) days**. Code Enforcement Officer Tomarris Jones remarked that he concurs with the request and recommends entering a proposed Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property is in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should give the owner seven (7) days on remediation of vegetation and forty-five (45) days to remediate the exterior property and provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council Member Mickens made a motion to grant the extension in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may 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 and remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) 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 passed.

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F. Discuss/Approve Renewal of Mt. Vernon Mills Lease Continuation Agreement.

David Armstrong, COO, discussed the Renewal of the Mt. Vernon Mills Lease Continuation Agreement and remarked that the lease will increase to \$3,000 annually for ten (10) years and is payable on the first day of each rental year during said term. Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the Renewal of the Mt. Vernon Mills Lease Continuation Agreement. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

G. Discuss/Approve software contract for new software for the Code Enforcement Department.

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the purchase of a new software package for the Code Enforcement Department. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

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The Mayor and City Council
City of Columbus, MS
January 20, 2015
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Approved by: _____
Robert E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

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

