

# **MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS OCTOBER 20, 2015**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular session on Tuesday, October 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 Robert Smith called the meeting to order and called upon Pastor R. J. Matthews of Kingdom Vision International Church to offer the Invocation.

## **II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF OCTOBER 6, 2015.**

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the minutes for the Meetings of October 6 & 13, 2015. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion passed.

## **III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR OCTOBER 20, 2015.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for October 20, 2015, in the amount of \$364,545.06. Council Member Turner 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 "Court Clerk" to Item "M".

Add Item "S" – *Approve request for the Municipal Court Administrator to attend the 2015 Court Administrators Fall Conference presented by the Mississippi Judicial College to be held in Jackson, Mississippi. There will be no cost to the City.*

**POLICY AGENDA:**

Add Social Media Policy for discussion.

Delete Item "C".

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

Add Item "E" – *Approve request to hire one (1) Entry Level Firefighter, contingent upon successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.*

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

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve request to refund Kenneth Montgomery the sum of \$300.00 for cancellation of Trotter Convention Center Rental.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Dale Ballard and Sam Collier, to attend the "Structural Collapse Refresher" to be held in Meridian, MS, and approve payment of \$75.00 for travel and \$92.00 for meal expenses.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Michael Miller, to attend the "FUNSAR Class" to be held in Rankin County, MS, and approve payment of \$75.00 for travel and \$46.00 for meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Tabitha Barham, to attend the "Grant Management Class" to be held in Baton Rouge, LA, and approve payment of \$495.00 for registration, \$315.27 for lodging, \$200.00 for travel and \$224.00 for meal expenses.
- E. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Michael Chandler, to attend the "Peer Assessor Site Visit" to be held in Vista, CA, at no cost to the City.
- F. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Michael Miller, to attend the "OSAR Training" to be held in Calhoun County, MS, at no cost to the City.
- G. Approve request for the Public Works Director to attend the "Chemical Spill Response Training" to be held in Pearl, MS, and approve payment of \$150.00 for registration, \$67.15 for lodging, \$59.91 for travel and \$92.00 for meal expenses.
- H. Approve request for Police Officer Christopher Vanhouten to attend "Interview and Interrogation" class to be held in Tupelo, MS, and approve payment of \$150.00 for registration.

MINUTES  
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- I. Approve request for Police Officers, James Hanson and Kevin McCrary, to attend the "Stress Analysis Recertification Class" to be held in New Orleans, LA, and approve payment of \$395.00 for registration for each, \$300.00 for lodging for each and \$248.50 for meal expenses for each.
- J. Approve request for Police Officer James Hanson to attend the "Sovereign Citizens Seminar" to be held in Corinth, MS, and approve payment of \$36.00 for travel expenses.
- K. Approve request for Police Officer James Hanson to attend the "ARIS/MIG Armorers Course" to be held in Warrior Ranch, AL, and approve payment of \$450.00 for registration and \$36.00 for travel expenses.
- L. Approve request for CID Secretary, Angela Johnson, to pay \$25.00 for the application fee to become a Notary Public and \$150.00 for notary supplies.
- M. Approve request for CID Secretary Angela Johnson to become an Ex-officio officer.
- N. Approve permit request from Amber Brislin, for St. Paul's Episcopal School and First United Methodist School to host a "Boo Parade". Students from both schools will trick or treat with the downtown stores and businesses throughout downtown Columbus. The event will start at 10:00 a.m. and end at 11:00 a.m. on October 30, 2015. Please see the attached route.
- O. Approve permit request from Barbara Bigelow, Director of Main Street Columbus to host the Wassail Fest on Friday December 4, 2015 from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Please see the attached map for the streets to be blocked off.
- P. Approve permit request from Officer Rhonda Sanders from the CPD to host a "Haunted House and Glow Run" to be held October 30-31, 2015. The Haunted House will be held at the Trotter Convention Center Lower Level. Officer Sanders is requesting to block off 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North and 5<sup>th</sup> Street North and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North and 4<sup>th</sup> Street North for this event. The event is a fundraiser for two (2) Police Officers with medical problems and the Fireman's Scholarship Fund. The event will take place from 5:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m.
- Q. Approve permit request for Barbara Bigelow, Director of Main Street Columbus to host the "Columbus Christmas Parade" to be held on Saturday, December 12, 2015, from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Please see the attached route map.
- R. Approve request for the H.R. Director, Patricia Mitchell, to attend the 2015 (III-M) Fall Session of the Certification Program for Municipal Clerks, to be held in Oxford, MS, and approve payment of \$200.00 for registration, \$306.00 for lodging, \$132.25 for travel and \$153.00 for meal expenses.
- S. Approve request for the Municipal Court Administrator, Wendy Blunt, to attend the 2015 Court Administrators Fall Conference presented by the Mississippi Judicial College to be held in Jackson, Mississippi. There will be no cost to the City.

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, according to the amendments. Council Member Gavin 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 offered condolences to the family of the suspect that was shot on October 16, 2015 and reported to the public that the case has been turned over to MBI (Mississippi Bureau of Investigations).

Chief Carleton then offered condolences.

Council Member Turner requested that members of the audience be permitted to speak and ask questions.

Council Member Karriem asked the Police Chief if he had the opportunity to view evidence or listen to recordings. He then asked the chief to remain transparent and keep the public informed.

Council Member Turner made a motion to permit anyone in the audience to speak. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion. Council Member Gavin remarked that we have already approved the Agenda.

Council Members Taylor, Mickens, Turner and Karriem voted in favor of the motion. Council Members Box and Gavin opposed the motion.

The motion carried.

Council Member Karriem made a motion to limit the comments to two (2) minutes each. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried with a 5/1 vote.

There followed a public input session where numerous citizens approached the Mayor and City Council with comments.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY:**

The Council then discussed the Social Media Policy that was approved November of 2013. Mayor Smith remarked that since City employees and department heads must abide by the policy and are disciplined if they do not,

elected officials should also adhere to the policy. Council Member Turner remarked that he has apologized to one individual and he doesn't believe the City's policy applies to elected officials. Council Member Karriem made a motion to publicly reprimand Council Member Turner. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried.

Members of the public were then extended the opportunity to come to the podium and voice thoughts and concerns regarding the recent fatal shooting.

**B. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for September 2015.**

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for September 2015 was presented. No action was taken.

**C. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for September 2015.**

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for September 2015 was presented. No action was taken.

**D. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for September 2015**

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for September 2015 was presented. No action was taken.

**E. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for September 2015**

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for September 2015 was presented. No action was taken.

**F. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for September 2015**

The Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for September 2015 was presented. No action was taken.

**G. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for September 2015**

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for September 2015 was presented. No action was taken.

**H. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for September 2015**

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Division for September 2015

was presented. No action was taken.

**I. Monthly Financial Report**

Milton Rawle reported that the sales tax increased by \$48,000 compared to the same time last year.

**J. Board Vacancies:**

COO David Armstrong announced vacancies on various boards.

**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

**VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA**

**VIII. POLICY AGENDA:**

**A. Declare list of property currently at Trotter Center as surplus, of zero value and approve disposal of same.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to declare the list of property at the Trotter Center as surplus, of zero value and approve disposal of the same. Council Member Turner seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**THE LIST FOLLOWS:**

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. 1 round table      | 9. 1 Podium            |
| 2. 1 freight dolly    | 10. 6 Office chairs    |
| 3. 1 end table        | 11. 3 tea makers       |
| 4. 3 planters         | 12. 1 ice dispenser    |
| 5. 1 projector screen | 13. 3 Formica cabinets |
| 6. 2 light fixtures   | 14. 1 white cooler     |
| 7. 4 filing cabinets  | 15. (24) 6-ft. tables  |
| 8. 3 desks            | 16. 7 wooden risers    |

**B. Discuss/Approve Deductive Change Order.**

Robyn Eastman came forth and requested approval of a deductive Change Order in the amount of \$123,187.00 under the City Infrastructure Phase II project.

Council Member Karriem made a motion to approve the deductive Change Order in the amount of \$123,187.00 under the City Infrastructure Phase II project. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**C. Deleted**

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

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

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**The adjudicated property follows on the next three pages:**

**(THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY)**

**E. Approve request to hire one (1) Entry Level Firefighter, contingent upon successful completion of medical examination and drug screen.**

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

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**F. Discuss the Social Media Policy**

This matter was discussed under Item "A" of the Reports, Proclamations, Recognition Agenda. Council Member Karriem offered remarks about Council Member Turner's recently remarks made on social media, requested that he be reprimanded and publicly apologize.

Council Member Karriem made a motion stating that Council Member Turner should be publicly reprimanded for negative comments made on a social media outlet. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Vice-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 Taylor and unanimous vote, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Gene Taylor, Vice-Mayor**

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