

# MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS JULY 5, 2016

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 5, 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. Also present were the COO, CFO, General Counsel, Police Chief, and the Human Resources Director.

## **I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION**

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

## **II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2016.**

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of June 21, 2016. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

## **III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR JULY 5, 2016.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for July 5, 2016 in the amount of \$344,328.78. 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 AGENDA:**

Add Item "i" - *Approve request from John Gholston of Glenn Crane & Rigging to block off the street at 5<sup>th</sup> & Main Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North on July 7, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. There will be a crane lifting equipment to the top of a building.*

Add Item "j" – *Ratify permit from the Southside Townsend Committee Members for a "Memorial March" that was held on July 1, 2016 from 6:45 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The route began at 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, turned left on 11<sup>th</sup> Street South and right onto 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to the park.*

Add Item "K" – *Accept letter of resignation from one (1) Police Officer.*

Add Item "L" – *Accept letter of resignation from one (1) Public Works Department Laborer.*

Add Item "M" – *Accept letter of resignation from one (1) CPD Custodian and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process.*

**CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:**

Add Elaine Hegwood: RE: Rename room in Trotter Convention Center after Gill Harris.

**POLICY AGENDA:**

Change Item "C" to Item "D."

Add Item "C" – *Report to Council on any written objections to Bond Issuance and Open the meeting for Objections to same.*

Add Item "D" – *Discuss/Approve Easement for TRVWMD for CLW Waste Water Treatment Plant.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Change Personnel Matters to one (1).

Add one (1) Pending Litigation Matter

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

The motion carried.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve request to refund Carolyn Aaron the sum of \$750.00 and Lowndes County Imagination Library the sum of \$150.00 for cancellation of the Trotter Convention Center Rental.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel Kirk Gayle to attend the "MS SAR Working Group" planning meeting, to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$75.00 for travel expenses.
- C. Approve request to surplus a 1985 model SCBA Compressor and donate said compressor to the Crystal Springs Volunteer Fire Department.

MINUTES  
JULY 5, 2016

- D. Approve request to send CPD Lieutenant Anthony Nelson to the “Regional Counterdrug Training/Investigations Academy” to be held in Corinth, MS, at no cost to the City.
- E. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer Mark Whitaker, effective July 17, 2016.
- F. Approve permit request from Ashlay Miller to host a “Block Party” on July 23, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. She is requesting to block off 913 – 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South from the light pole to the mailboxes.
- G. Approve request for the Mayor and Council to attend the “National League of Cities – City Summit 2016” to be held in Pittsburgh, PA, and approve payment of registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses.
- H. Approve request for the Mayor and Council to attend the “Mississippi Policy Conference 2016” to be held in Tunica, MS, and approve payment of registration, lodging, travel, meal expenses and souvenir booklet ad.
- I. Approve request from John Gholston of Glenn Crane & Rigging to block off the street at 5<sup>th</sup> & Main Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North on July 7, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. There will be a crane lifting equipment to the top of a building.
- J. Ratify permit from the Southside Townsend Committee Members for a “Memorial March” that was held on July 1, 2016 from 6:45 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The route began at 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, turned left on 11<sup>th</sup> Street South and right onto 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to the park.
- K. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer Cecil Lamar Peacock, effective July 14, 2016.
- L. Accept letter of resignation from Public Works Department Laborer Brandon Thomas, effective July 14, 2016.
- M. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Custodian Roderick Sunivelle and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the above amendments. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, all Council Members voted in favor of same, with the exception of Council Member Gavin, who opposed.

The motion carried.

## **VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:**

### **A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members**

There were no comments from the Mayor and Council Members.

**B. Summer Youth Program Recognition**

Mr. Travis Jones and Ms. Christina Berry presented the 2016 Summer Youth and recognized them for their job performance. One of the students spoke on behalf of the entire group and thanked the Mayor and Council for extending them the opportunity to work and gain experience.

**C. Board Vacancies**

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that one (1) appointment can be made tonight.

**Columbus Housing Authority**

- One (1) Vacancy
- Gretta S. Gardner's 5-Year Term will expire 7/13/2016.
- Appointment can be made 7/5/2016.

**APPLICANT**

- Gretta S. Gardner

Council Member Taylor made a motion to reappoint Ms. Gretta Gardner to the Columbus Housing Authority Board for a 5-Year Term, until 7/13/2021. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**Board of Adjustment & Appeals**

- One (1) Vacancy
- Fred Kinder resigned 5/31/2016.
- No Applicants at this time
- Appointment can be made 7/5/2016.

**VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA**

Larry Golden – Building Capacity – **NO SHOW**

Ms. Elaine Hegwood approached the Mayor and Council regarding renaming a room in the Trotter Convention Center after Gill Harris. The Mayor and Council took this request under advisement.

**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 adjudicate 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 carried.

**THE ADJUDICATED LIST FOLLOWS:**

- B. Approve request to hire applicant to fill vacant position of Diesel Mechanic in the Maintenance Shop at \$15.75 per hour, contingent on successful completion of pre-employment medical examination and drug screen.**

Council Member Taylor made a motion to hire Mr. Jimmy Morris as a Diesel Mechanic in the Maintenance Shop at \$15.75 per hour, 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.

- C. Report to Council on any written objections to Bond Issuance and Open the meeting for Objections to same.**

Mayor Smith conducted a hearing for any written objections to Bond Issuance and opened the meeting for Objections to same.

Berry Hinds came forth and voiced his concerns the City's credit worthiness and debt capacity. Mr. Steve Edds remarked that the City has a number of non-bond obligations and issuing \$5,000,000.00 will not affect its debt capacity.

There were no other comments or questions.

- D. Discuss/Approve General Obligation Bond Resolution.**

Mr. Steve Edds came forth and briefly requested that the Mayor and Council Consider the matter of providing financing for certain capital improvements in the City of Columbus, Mississippi, and after a discussion of the subject matter, **Council Member Box** offered and moved for the adoption of the following Resolution:

**Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi finding and determining that the Notice of Resolution of Intent to either issue General Obligation Bonds of the City of Columbus, Mississippi, issue a General Obligation Bond of said City for sale to the Mississippi Development Bank or enter into a loan with the Mississippi Development Bank, all in an aggregate principal, amount of not to exceed**

**Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000), was duly published as required by Law and that no written protest or other objection of any kind or character against the Issuance of such General Obligation Bond or Bonds, for such loan or the use of the proceeds thereof has been filed by qualified Electors of said City; declaring the necessity for the sale and issuance of Such General Obligation Bond or Bonds or for such loan; and for related Purposes.**

**Council Member Gavin** seconded the motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution, and the question being put to a roll call vote, the result was 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 GABIN	voted: <u>yea</u>

The motion having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Governing Body present, being a quorum of said Governing Body, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted this the 5<sup>th</sup> day Of July, 2016.

**THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:**

**E. Discuss/Approve Easement for TRVWMD for CLW Waste Water Treatment Plant.**

Mr. Kevin Stafford, with Neel-Schaffer, Inc., came forward and requested the Council to approve a Temporary Easement for PNN 44-1503-019 Drainage Improvements at West Yorkville Road. Council Member Taylor made a motion to approve a Temporary Easement for PNN 44-1503-019 Drainage Improvements at West Yorkville Road for and in consideration of the drainage Improvements at West Yorkville Road in the City of Columbus in Lowndes County by the Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District, its successors and assigns, the undersigned hereby grants, bargains, sells and warrants unto the Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District a temporary easement over, on and across the lands located in Lowndes County. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**THE TEMPORARY EASEMENT FOLLOWS:**

MINUTES  
JULY 5, 2016

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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