MEETING OF
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS

DECEMBER 15, 2020
5:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. presided over the meeting. All Council Members participated in the meeting via teleconference (Zoom). The General Counsel also participated via ZOOM. Those participating in person were the COO, CFO, Police Chief, Assistant Police Chief, and the HR Director. All other Department Heads participated via tele-conference.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order and called upon Rajan Zed, President, Universal Society of Hinduism, to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 1, 2020

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of December 1, 2020. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for December 15, 2020 in the amount of $679,170.26. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

IV. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA:
There are no changes to be made to the Consent Agenda.

POLICY AGENDA:
There were no changes made to the Policy Agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
There were no Executive Session matters to come before the Mayor and Council.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, all Council Members present voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve request for twenty-four (24) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "EMT Refresher" to be held in Columbus, MS, and approve payment of $250.00 for registration.

B. Accept letter of resignation from one (1) Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Donald Buckner, effective December 30, 2020, and approve compensation for any unused vacation leave and transfer unused sick leave to PERS.

C. Approve request for four (4) Fire and Rescue Firefighters to attend "EMT Class" to be held in Mathiston, MS, and approve payment of $7,500.00 for registration. The Firefighters are : Lukas Borntrager, William Boyd, Landon Hill and Thomas Parsons.

D. Accept letter of resignation from one (1) Public Works Department employee, Dantavious Stewart, effective December 11, 2020, and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, all Council Members present voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA

A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Smith wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year.

B. Swearing in of one (1) Fire and Rescue Firefighter

- **Kameron Pearson**

Mayor Smith swore in Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Kameron Pearson, as he recited the Oath of Office/ Assistant Chief Hughes presented Pearson with his helmet.

C. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department for November 2020.

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department for November 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

D. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for November 2020

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for November 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

E. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for November 2020

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for November 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

F. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for November 2020

The Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for November 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

G. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for November 2020

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for November 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for November 2020

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for November 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

I. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for November 2020

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for November 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

J. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for November 2020

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for November 2020 was presented. No action was taken.

K. Monthly Financial Report

Deliah Vaughn, CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report for November and remarked that the City currently has a combined total of $14,520,003.49 which includes the $6.2 Bond money for paving. The General Fund has a total of $10,654,340.05 and Special Revenue Funds totaling $3,865,663.44. The General Fund Operating Cash for the month of November was $1,000,546.67; prior year was 926,439.77, which is a $74,106.90 (more than) from November 2019. The Sales Taxes collections for the month were $850,094.31, which is an increase of $45,041.41 compared to the same time last year.

L. BOARD VACANCIES

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that the following appointments can be made tonight:

GTR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD

- 2 Vacancies, 4-year Terms for Kathy Goodwin and Lesia T. Jackson expire 12/31/2020.
- Appointments will be made December 15, 2020.
- No Applicants at this time.

APPLICANTS:

- **KATHY GOODWIN**
- **LESIA T. JACKSON**

Council Member Gavin made a motion to reappoint Kathy Goodwin and Lesia T. Jackson to the GTR Solid Waste Management Authority Board for 4-Year Terms, until December 31, 2024. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS OF DEVELOPMENT CODES

- 1 Vacancy, 1 Year Term for Alan Lewis expires 1/07/2021.
- Requirement: Fire Protection Engineer or Contractor.
- Appointment will be made January 5, 2021.

APPLICANTS:

- ALAN LEWIS

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

- 2 Vacancies, 3-Year Terms for Whythe Rhett and Quinn Brislin expire 01/20/2021.
- Appointments will be made January 19, 2021.

APPLICANTS:

- QUINN BRISLIN

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

VIII. POLICY AGENDA

A. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) CRD Grounds Technician, contingent upon a successful drug screen and pre-employment physical.

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the request to hire **ALEXANDER LIPSCOMB** as Columbus Recreation Department Grounds Technician, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

B. Discuss/Approve City Property and Casualty Insurance renewal.

Pat Mitchell, Human Resources Director, remarked that the Insurance Committee met and discussed the City Property and Casualty Insurance renewal for 2021 and presented the cost. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the 2021 City’s Property and Casualty Insurance renewal in the amount of $417,509.00. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

THE RENEWAL DOCUMENT FOLLOWS:

MEETING OF
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 15, 2020

VIII. B.

City of Columbus. **MS Insurance Renewal 12/31/2020-12/31/2021**

	Renewal Value	Premium	2019 Value	Premium
Property				
Travelers				
Blanket Buildings	$28,585,559	$62,827	$27,326,275	$56,119
*Business Personal Property				
*Per Schedule of Property				
Deductible $5,000				
Inland Marine (Equip. Coverage)	$2,765,140	$9,280	$2,715,640	$8,926
Travelers				
Deductible $1,000				
Wind Ded $5,000				
Scheduled Items				
Crime (Employment Theft Dishonesty)	$200,000	$2,004	$100,000	$846
Travelers				
Auto Liability and Physical Damage Coverage				
Travelers				
Auto Liability $1,000,000 Subject to				
Mississippi Tort Statutory Cap of	$500,000	$202,192	$500,000	$170,004
Uninsured Motorists	Rejected		Rejected	
Medical Payments	Excluded		Excluded	
Physical Damage Coverage	211 Units		201 Units	
$1,000 Deductible Comprehensive and Collision				
General Liability				
Travelers				
Each Occurrence	$1,000,000	$52,849	$1,000,000	$56.232
General Aggregate	$2,000,000		$2,000,000	
Subject to the Mississippi Tort Statutory Cap of	$500,000		$500,000	
Limited Pollution: Herbicide/Pesticide Spraying	$1,000,000		$1,000,000	
Cemetery Liability	$1,000,000		$1,000,000	
Medical Expense	EXCLUDED		EXCLUDED	
Personal and Advertising Injury	$1,000,000		$1,000,000	
Employee Benefits Liability	$1,000,000	$981	$1,000,000	$361
($1,000 Deductible)				
Law Enforcement Liability				
QBE Specialty Insurance				
Each Wrongful Act	$1,000,000	$19.145	$1,000,000	$78,440
Annual Aggregate	$1,000,000		$1,000,000	
Retroactive Date	**12/11/2017**			
Deductible $75,000 each wrongful act				
Public Official Management Liability				
And Employment Practices Liability				
Travelers				
Each Wrongful Act	$1,000,000	$57,633	$1,000,000	$52.164
Annual Aggregate	$2,000,000		$2,000,000	
Retroactive Date	**7/1/1993**		7/1/1993	
Deductible $25,000 Each Wrongful Act				
Cyber	$1,000,000	$7.118	$1,000.000	$5,858
BCS Insurance Company				
Agency Fee		$5,000		$2,500
	Total	**$417.509**		**$431,470**

Disclosure: This outline is a synopsis of coverage and implies no terms and conditions of the actual Contract. No coverage can be construed by the synopsis. Please refer to the actual contract. Cancellations after binding are subject to eleven percent retainage plus cancellation provisions of the insurance contract. Quote is valid until 12/01/2020. Actual premium may change based upon confirmation of schedules.

C. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) CPD Officer, contingent upon a successful drug screen and pre-employment physical.

Council Member Beard made a motion to hire **TIMOTHY TATE** as a CPD Officer, contingent upon successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve recommendations from the December 14, 2020 Planning Commission meeting.

Permitted Use Request P/U 20-20

Jim Mauldin
304 – 5th Street South (*former Fred's Building)*
Parcel #61W45-00-08500
C-2 Community Commercial District

Request to allow Climate Controlled Mini Storage within the C-2 Community Commercial District.

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request.

Council Member Stewart moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to allow a Climate Controlled Mini Storage within the C-2 Community Commercial District be approved as a Permitted Use. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the permitted use application. No one answered. There followed discussion, consideration, and review by the Council of the issues and facts presented by this request and the action taken by the City of Columbus Planning Commission.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

P/C Docket No. 20-22

Sheffield Construction Inc.
1.84 Acres on Chandler Road
Parcel #69W22-00-158.01
C-3 Highway Commercial District

The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of request to rezone the parcel from C-3 Highway Commercial to R-1 Single Family Residential with the stipulation that all dwellings be accessed off of Chandler Road. The Commission based their decision on a change in the character of the neighborhood and a public need.

Council Member Stewart moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to rezone the parcel from C-3 Highway Commercial to R-1 Single Family Residential with the stipulation that all dwellings be accessed off of Chandler Road. The Commission based their decision on a change in the character of the neighborhood and a public need be approved. The Mayor asked if anyone in the audience objected to the permitted use application. No one answered. There followed discussion, consideration, and review by the Council of the issues and facts presented by this request and the action taken by the City of Columbus Planning Commission.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Permitted Use Request 20-21

Magnolia Enterprises
3500 Bluecutt Road
Parcel #47W17-00-003.01
C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District

Request to allow a bar, nightclub, lounge, tavern within the C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District.

With a vote of 5 to 2, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the request.

Mayor Smith acknowledged participation of individuals in support of the request and those in opposition of the request and proceeded with the meeting by extending Attorney Wilbur Colom the opportunity to speak in favor of the permitted use. Attorney Colom began by stating that he represented Magnolia Enterprises and discussed the proposed new location for the “Yo’ Bar.” Mayor Smith opened the floor for comments. Those in opposition include Ms. Doris Hardy, local Realtor, Trip Hairston, Lowndes County Supervisor, Attorney Rod Ray, Mark Hardy, and Rucker McCarty. The objectors main concerns were that the business would cause traffic congestion and was not harmonious with the orderly development of the zoning district. Jermaine Shanklin offered remarks in favor of the request. The owners of Yo’ Bar spoke and defended some of the concerns and Mr. Colom reiterated that the location was harmonious with the location. Council Members

Gavin and Box stated that they would be opposed to the request. Council Member Beard made a motion to adhere to Permitted Use Request 20-21 and stated that restaurants and bars operated in harmony with their locations all around Columbus and cited a number of examples. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

Council Members Stewart, Mickens, Beard and Jones voted in favor of the motion. Council Members Box and Gavin opposed the motion.

The motion carried with a 4/2 vote.

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 Beard moved that the meeting be adjourned. Upon second by Council Member Stewart and unanimous vote, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

Approved by: ______________________________ ______________________

Robert E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

Deliah T. Vaughn
CFO- Secretary-Treasurer

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