

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

**NOVEMBER 3, 2020
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 3, 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 were present. Also present were the COO, CFO, General Counsel, Police Chief, Assistant Police Chief, the Fire Chief and the HR Director. All other Department Heads participated via teleconference.

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 OCTOBER 20, 2020

Council Member Stewart made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of September 15, 2020. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS

Council Member Gavin made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for November 3, 2020, in the amount of \$541,395.32. Council Member Jones 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:

There were no changes to the Consent Agenda.

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POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "E" – *Discuss/Approve hiring two (2) Laborers for vacant positions in the Public Works Department, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.*

Add Item "F" – *Discuss/Approve Amendments of Budget for FY beginning 10/01/2019 and ending 09/30/2020.*

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

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve request for ten (10) Fire and Rescue Firefighters to attend "NFPA 1002 Driver/Operator" class to be held in Columbus, MS, and approve payment of \$1,964.00 for registration.
- B. Approve request for four (4) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "FUNSAR W/SAR TECH 2" to be held in Meridian, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for fuel.
- C. Accept request for three (3) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "NASAR ADSAR" to be held in Meridian, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for fuel expenses.
- D. Accept letter of resignation from Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Lester Sandifer, effective October 31, 2020, and approve compensation for unused vacation leave, and submit unused sick leave to PERS.
- E. Accept letter of resignation from Forensic Lab Director, Austin Shepherd, effective October 31, 2020, and approve compensation for 240 hours of accrued vacation leave and transfer remain vacation and sick leave to PERS.
- F. Accept letter of retirement from I. T. Help Desk Tech, Walter Wickham, effective September 30, 2020.
- G. Ratify Permit request submitted by Debra Taylor, on behalf of Columbus Housing Authority, to host a "Red Ribbon Drive Through" that was held on October 29, 2020 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at 4th Street South to right on 10th Avenue South.

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- H. Approve request for the Mayor, City Council, COO, CFO and Interim Planning Director to attend the MML 2021 Mid-Winter Legislative Conference to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- I. Approve request for the City Registrar and Assistant to attend the “2020 Annual Mississippi Municipal Clerks and Collectors Association Winter Workshop” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$165.00 each for registration, \$114.00 each for lodging, \$179.55 each for travel expenses and reimbursement of meal expenses.

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 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 announced that the 2nd City-wide Clean-up project will be held Saturday, November 14, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

A City-wide Turkey Drive begins today, November 3, 2020 through November 20, 2020 and will be distributed from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 (noon) on Saturday, November 21, 2020.

B. BOARD VACANCIES

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that an appointment can be made on the Board of Adjustment & Appeals of Development Codes tonight.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS OF DEVELOPMENT CODES

- 1 Vacancy, Ralph McLain’s 2-Year Term Expired 10/16/2020.
- Requirements: Applicant(s) must be an Electrical Engineer or Contractor.
- Appointment can be made immediately.

APPLICANT:

- Ralph McLain

Council Member Mickens made a motion to re-appoint Ralph McLain to the Board of Adjustment & Appeals of Development Codes for a 2-Year Term, until October 16, 2022. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

VIII. POLICY AGENDA

A. Discuss/Approve request to hire one (1) Fire and Rescue Administrative Assistant, pending successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to hire **WINDIE V. SPEED**, as Administrative Assistant for the Fire & Rescue Department at \$14.9375 per hour, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

B. Discuss/Approve hiring two (2) Entry-Level Firefighters, pending successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.

Council Member Jones made a motion to hire **ELLIOTT JOHNSON and JONATHAN BISHOP**, as entry-level Firefighters, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

C. Discuss/Approve request to advertise for one (1) vacant Mechanic position and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to advertise for one (1) vacant Mechanic position and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve request to re-advertise for the vacant position of Grounds Technician at the Columbus Recreation Department and authorize the HR Director to begin the recruitment process.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to re-advertise for the vacant position of Grounds Technician at the Columbus Recreation Department and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

E. Discuss/Approve the request to hire two (2) Laborers for vacant positions in the Public Works Department, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to hire **TONY BAILEY AND BRETT THOMPSON** as Laborers to fill the vacant positions in the Public Works Department, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

F. Discuss/Approve Amendments of Budget for FY beginning 10/01/2019 and ending 09/30/2020.

Deliah Vaughn requested approval of Amendments to the Budget for FY beginning 10/01/2019 and ending 09/30/2020 in the amount of \$2,914,464.70. Council Member Box made a motion to approval of Amendments to the Budget for FY beginning 10/01/2019 and ending 09/30/2020 in the amount of \$2,914,464.70. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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

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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

Deliah T. Vaughn
CFO- Secretary-Treasurer