

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

**NOVEMBER 17, 2020
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. presided over the meeting, and all Council Members were present, with the exception of Council Member Stewart who participated via teleconference. Also present were the COO, CFO, General Counsel, Police Chief, Assistant Police Chief, 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 November 3, 2020

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of November 3, 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 November 17, 2020 in the amount of \$1,128,838.03. 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 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 three (3) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "NFPA 1021: Company Officer" to be held online, and approve payment of \$525.00 for registration.
- B. Approve request for three (3) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "NFPA1041: Fire Instructor" to be held online, and approve payment of \$525.00 for registration.
- C. Ratify request for one (1) Fire and Rescue Captain to attend "Hurricane Zeta Deployment" that was held in Gulfport, MS, and approve payment of \$117.02 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- D. Approve permit request submitted by Katie Fenstermacher, on behalf of Annunciation Catholic School, to host the "In Our Nation Day Parade" to be held on February 2, 2021 from 9:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. at Annunciation Catholic School, 223 North Browder Street, turning right on Browder Street, right onto Alabama Street, right onto Gardner Blvd., right onto Maxwell Lane and right into ACS parking lot.
- E. Ratify request for one (1) CPD Officer to attend the "Strategic Self-Defense and Gun Fighting Tactics Training" that was held in Tuscaloosa, AL, and approve payment of \$600.00 for registration, travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- F. Approve request to send three (3) CPD Officers to the "Mississippi Delta Community College Law Enforcement Training Academy" in Moorhead, MS, and approve cost of tuition and clothing that is required by the academy. The clothing allowance is not to exceed \$350.00 per Officer and will be reimbursed upon completion of the academy.
- G. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Landon George, effective November 24, 2020.

Council Member Gavin 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 thanked the Council Members, coordinators and all volunteers for their clean-up efforts for CLEAN-UP COLUMBUS held November 14, 2020.
- Mayor Smith announced that there will be a City Turkey Drive-Thru on Saturday, November 21, 2020 where turkeys will be handed out until all are gone.
- Mayor Smith announced that the 14th Annual Senior Citizens' Thanksgiving Dinner will be cancelled due to COVID-19.
- Mayor Smith reported that the City of Columbus received \$553,695.84 reimbursement for COVID-19 expenses and thanked Joe Dillon for all of his efforts and hard work devoted to this project.
- Following discussion on where to allocate the funds, the Council agreed to put the funds in a Reserve Account.
- Joe Dillon came forward and remarked that the funds were reimbursement for payroll expenses. He thanked all the Department Heads for working with him to expedite the reimbursement.
- Joe Dillon also reported that the City is expecting reimbursement from FEMA for lost revenue, to include Trotter Convention Center cancellations cancellations and refunds for Community Center rentals; and refunds for payments of sporting events. The City is also expecting reimbursement from FEMA for the 2019 Tornado.
- **STORM SHELTERS** – Permits are being obtained for the storm shelters following soil testing.

B. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department for October 2020

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

C. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for October 2020

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

D. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for October 2020

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

E. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for October 2020

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

F. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for October 2020

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

G. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for October 2020

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

H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for October 2020

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

I. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for October 2020

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

J. Monthly Financial Report

Deliah Vaughn, CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report for October and remarked that the City currently has a combined total of \$14,671,873.28 which includes the \$6.2 Bond money for paving. The General Fund has a total of \$11,365,490.71 and Special Revenue Funds totaling \$3,306,382.57. The General Fund Operating Cash for the month of October was \$1,556,023.19; prior year was \$1,178,454.39, which is a \$377,568.80 difference (more than) from October 2019. The Sales Taxes collections for the

Sales Tax Collections for the month have not been received.

K. BOARD VACANCIES

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that no 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.

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.
- No applicants at this time.

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.
- No Applicants at this time.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

Rudy Watkins, dba The PATH Company, came forward and presented a Power-Point Presentation of the Post-Project update of the LED lighting throughout the City of Columbus. Mr. Watkins began by thanking the Mayor & Council, General Counsel, COO, Todd Gale, Director of Columbus Light and Water, and all others involved in this project. The projected annual savings were also discussed. No action was taken.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA

A. Discuss/Approve Recommendations from the November 9, 2020 Planning Commission meeting.

Permitted Use Request P/U 20-17

Thaddus Wilkins
718 & 720 Railroad Street

Parcel #61W06-01-20700 and Parcel #61W06-01-20800
R-1 Single Family Residential District

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request to rezone both of the above-referenced parcels from R-1 Single Family Residential to R-3 Multi-Family Residential. The Commission based their decision on a change in the character of the neighborhood and a public need. a.

Council Member Jones 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 both of the above-referenced parcels from R-1 Single Family Residential to R-3 Multi-Family Residential 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. Mr. Willie Hairston participated in the meeting via Zoom, but did not object after getting more understanding.. 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 P/U 20-19

TVG PROPERTIES
322 5th Street South (former Fred's Building)
Parcel #61W45-00-08500
C-2 Community Commercial District

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request to allow First Floor residential use of the rear portion of the former Fred's Building, located at 322 – 5th Street South. Specifically, this is the existing two-story portion of the building. The front portion of the building will remain retail.

Council Member Jones 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 First Floor residential use of the rear portion of the former Fred's Building, located at 322 – 5th Street South 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.

B. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

KENNETH COLLINS

915 – 9th Street South

CASE NUMBER 20-0261

VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0261**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated 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** on the structure, and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones 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. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

NETTIE L. KENNEDY

1307 – 11th Avenue South

CASE NUMBER 20-0134

DILAPIDATED

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0134**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated 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** on the structure, and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones 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. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

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The motion carried.

CHARLENE PORTER
637 – Hwy. 12 East
CASE NUMBER 20-0233 VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0233**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanliness 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** on the structure, and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones 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. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

JANET LEE MORRIS
920 Waterworks Road
CASE NUMBER 20-0238

The General Counsel called cause number **20-0238**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanliness 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** on the structure, and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones 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. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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

Approved by: _____
Robert E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

Deliah T. Vaughn
CFO- Secretary-Treasurer