

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

**DECEMBER 1, 2020
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, December 1, 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). Those present in person were the COO, CFO, General Counsel, Police Chief, Assistant Police 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 17, 2020

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of November 17, 2020. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members 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 1, 2020, in the amount of \$843,804.57. Council Member Gavin 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.

REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

Add "Anganesha Sanders" to the list of new Police Officers to be sworn in.

Add Lesia T. Jackson as an applicant for the GTR Solid Waste Management Authority Board.

POLICY AGENDA:

Add Item "G" – *Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) CPD Officer, contingent upon a successful drug screen and pre-employment medical exam.*

Add Item "H" – *Discuss/Approve permission for the HR Director to advertise for one (1) vacant Public Works Laborer position.*

Council Member Jones 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 permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow, on behalf of Main Street Columbus, Inc., to host "Whoville Crusin" to be held on December 12, 2020 from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. *See attached map.*
- B. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Corporal, Tabertha Hardin, effective December 3, 2020, and approve compensation of any unused vacation leave and transfer any unused sick leave to PERS.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. 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.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA

A. General Comments from the Mayor and Council Members

There were no comments from the Mayor and Council.

B. SWEARING IN OF FOUR (4) CPD OFFICERS

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Mayor Smith swore in four (4) new Police Officers as they recited the Oath of Office. The CPD Command Staff was present and Chief Shelton presented each employee with the Oath of Office. The officers are:

- JUSTIN ROBINSON
- JUSTICE OWENS-PEAGLER
- JOHANNAH OWUSU
- ANGANESHA SANDERS

C. 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 can be made December 15, 2020.

APPLICANT:

- Lesia T. Jackson

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS OF DEVELOPMENT CODES

- 1 Vacancy, 1-Year Term for Alan Lewis expires 01/07/2021.
- 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 Wythe Rhett and Quinn Brislin expire 01/20/2021.
- Appointments will be made January 19, 2021.

APPLICANT:

- Quinn Brislin

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

VIII. POLICY AGENDA

A. Discuss/Approve permission request from the Hazard Mitigation Officer to begin the application process for the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant (BRIC).

Joe Dillon came before the Mayor and Council and apprised them of two (2) Grants and requested permission to apply for them. The first Grant is the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant (BRIC), which is 75%/25%, and appoint Joe Dillon as the manager at the standard rate of \$92.00 per hour, not to exceed \$10,000. Council Member Jones made a motion to authorize Joe Dillon to apply for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant (BRIC), which is 75%/25%, and appoint Joe Dillon as the manager at the standard rate of \$92.00 per hour, not to exceed \$10,000. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT

Council Member Jones made a motion to grant permission from the Hazard Mitigation Officer to begin the application process for the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant and the approved terms. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

B. Discuss/Approve Good News Columbus Update.

Joe Dillon updated the Mayor and Council on projects. The City successfully applied for a FEMA COVID-19 Grant in the amount of \$374,528.00 for insurance costs, medical costs, and loss revenue.

RECOGNITION OF COLUMBUS FIRE AND RESCUE PERSONNEL:

Joe Dillon, PIO, reported that on November 16, 2020 at 3:15 p.m., Battalion Chief Chip Kain arrived on the scene of a fire and found one victim trapped inside. Fire Personnel Wes Mims, Damon Estes, and Donald Buckner entered, searched the structure, located the victim and brought him outside. The victim was airlifted to Jackson, MS with 3% burns on upper body and is in stable condition.

THREE (3) HURRICANES:

Fire and Rescue personnel responded to three (3) Hurricanes: one (1) out of state in Louisiana, four (4) personnel participated in Search and Rescue; the second hurricane- Delta, Chris Carter utilized communication skills to assist on the Gulf Coast and the third hurricane – Zeta, one (1) person responded and performed Search and Rescue tasks. He was on the Gulf Coast two (2) days.

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Mayor Smith thanked the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department for a job well done.

C. Discuss/Approve 2020 Overlay and Street Improvement Project Award to the lowest responsive bidder, contingent upon Bond Fund Allocation.

Kevin Stafford dba Neel-Schaffer, Inc. updated the Mayor and Council on the 2020 Overlay and Street Improvement Project, stating that the bids are due in at City Hall in six (6) days at 2:00 p.m. and requested approval to give the Engineers authorization to award the lowest and best bid, contingent upon bids falling within the allocated bond funding approved by the City Council. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the 2020 Overlay and Street Improvement Project Award to the lowest responsive bidder, contingent upon Bond Fund Allocation approved by the City Council. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) Code Enforcement Assistant, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to hire **VERONICA STEWART** as Code Enforcement Assistant at \$13.00 per hour, 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.

E. Discuss/Approve the request to hire one (1) Shop Mechanic for the City Garage, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to hire **CALVIN ROBINSON** as a Mechanic for the City Garage at \$16.22 per hour, 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

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F. Discuss/Approve Agreements for the Columbus Recreation Department Contract

Greg Lewis, Recreation Department Director, submitted agreements between the City of Columbus and the CRD for two (2) individuals **DEBRA CLAY** and **SHANNON COLVIN** to perform cleaning/Concession services at a rate of \$10.00 per hour for twelve (12) hours during sporting events. Council Member Beard made a motion to enter into a contract with Debra Clay and Shannon Colvin to perform cleaning/Concession services during sporting events at a rate of \$10.00 per hour for twelve (12) hours. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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

Council Member Jones made a motion to hire **ANGANESHA SANDERS** as an Entry-Level Police Officer, contingent on 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.

H. Discuss/Approve permission for the HR Director to advertise for one (1) vacant Public Works Laborer position.

Casey Bush, Public Works Director, reported that one (1) of the employees hired in October failed to show up for work and requests to fill this position. Council Member Beard made a motion to authorize the Human Resources Director to advertise for one (1) vacant Laborer position. Council Member Gavin 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 Gavin moved that the meeting be

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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

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