

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

**FEBRUARY 17, 2021
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met in re-scheduled Session on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. The meeting was rescheduled due to inclement weather. Mayor Robert E. Smith, Sr. presided over the meeting. All Council Members participated in the meeting via teleconference (Zoom). Those also present in person were the COO, CFO, the General Counsel, the 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 Council Member Box to offer the Invocation.

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 5, 2021.

Council Member Stewart made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of February 2, 2021. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS

Council Member Box made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for February 17, 2021, in the amount of \$833,506.76. Council Member Stewart 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:

Delete Item "D."

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Add Item “F” – Approve 2% tourism tax payment to Lowndes County, Golden Triangle Development LINK, and Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Add Item “G” – Approve request from Main Street Columbus to receive the total \$15,000.00 allocation for the 2021 Market Street Festival as outlined in the Inter-Local Agreement between the City of Columbus, Lowndes County Board of Supervisors and the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Add Item “H” – Accept letter of resignation from one (1) part-time CPD Officer, effective February 16, 2021.

POLICY AGENDA:

Delete Item “B.”

Add Item “D” – Proclamation of existence of a local emergency

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, with 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 four (4) Fire and Rescue personnel: Lukas Borntrager, William Boyd, Landon Hill and Thomas Parsons to attend “HazMat Awareness & Operations Final” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$640.00 for registration, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement for meal expenses.
- B. Accept letter of resignation from Shelby Cole, Columbus Recreation Department employee, effective January 25, 2021, and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the normal recruitment process.
- C. Ratify approval for one (1) CPD Officer to travel to the Crime Lab in Jackson, MS, on January 25, 2021 and approve payment for travel and meal expenses.
- D. DELETE
- E. Approve request to refund Mrs. Audrey Jones, widow of Mr. William Jones who passed away after submitting request and paying \$328.00 for a permit to construct a single-family dwelling at 2208 – 3rd Avenue North. Mrs. Jones has decided not to pursue the project.
- F. Approve 2% tourism tax payment to Lowndes County, Golden Triangle Development LINK, and Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau.

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- G. Approve request from Main Street Columbus to receive the total \$15,000.00 allocation for the 2021 Market Street Festival as outlined in the Inter-Local Agreement between the City of Columbus, Lowndes County Board of Supervisors and the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- H. Accept letter of resignation from one (1) part-time CPD Officer, Richard Dye, effective February 16, 2021.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with amendments. Council Member Stewart 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 Members.

B. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department for January 2021

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department for January 2021 was presented. No action was taken.

C. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for January 2021

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for January 2021 was presented. No action was taken.

D. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for January 2021

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for January 2021 was presented. Mayor Smith directed some questions to Bennie Coleman, Assistant Public Works Director. No action was taken.

E. Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for January 2021

The Monthly Report from the City Planning and Community Development Department for January 2021 was presented. No action was taken.

F. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for January 2021

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The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for January 2021 was presented. No action was taken.

G. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for January 2021

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for January 2021 was presented. No action was taken.

H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for January 2021

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for January 2021 was presented. No action was taken.

I. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for January 2021

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for January 2021 was presented. No action was taken.

J. Monthly Financial Report

Deliah Vaughn, CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report for January 2021 and remarked that the City currently has a combined total of \$15,966,423.25, which includes the \$6.2 Bond money for paving. The General Fund has a total of \$12,039,531.15 and Special Revenue Funds totaling \$3,926,892.10. The General Fund Operating Cash for the month of January was \$1,557,699.31, prior year was \$883,549.86, which is \$674,149.45 more than January 2020. The Sales Tax collections for the month were \$949,814.86, which is an increase of \$24,851.99 compared to the same time last year. last year.

Ad Valorem Collection for January 2021 totaled \$2,652,950.88. Deposited \$1,957,692.98 in the General Fund, \$406,641.57 in the General Obligation Bond, and \$288,616.33 in the P & F account. January sales tax was \$802,384.78. January's Docket totaled \$1,375,827.14 and Payroll for January totaled \$1,137,131.29. The General Fund as of December 31, 2020 was \$1,194,077.67. Total Ad Valorem and Sales Tax Deposit was \$2,760,077.76. Total deposits for January 2021 was \$3,954,085.43 and total payments made in January was \$2,512,958.43.

K. Board Vacancies

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

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ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS

- 1 Vacancy, 3-Year Term for Gregory Jefferson expires 02/06/2021. a
- Appointment will be made February 17, 2021.

APPLICANT:

- Bo Harrison

Council Member Jones made a motion to appoint Bo Harrison to the Zoning Board of Adjustment & Appeals for a 3-Year term, until February 16, 2024. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS

- 1 Vacancy, 1-Year Term for Kevin Stafford expires 03/02/2021.
- Appointment will be made March 02, 2021.

APPLICANT:

- Kevin Stafford

COLUMBUS MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

- 1 Vacancy, 5-Year Term for Dr. Jo Shumake expires 03/01/2021.
- Appointment will be made March 2, 2021.

APPLICANTS

- Dr. Jo Shumake
- Dr. Cynthia S. Brown
- Ronny Glenn Deloach

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

VIII. POLICY AGENDA

A. Discuss/Approve Promotion of three (3) CPD Officers

Chief Fred Shelton came forward and remarked that the Promotional Exam for the position of Corporal were administered and three (3) officers passed. CPD is in need of supervisors; therefore, he requests to promote **Glenn Jenkins, Mark Underwood and Chris Ware** to the position of Corporal with an increase to \$17.30 per hour. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to CPD

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Officers as listed above to the position of Corporal. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

B. DELETE

C. Discuss/Approve Sweet Gum Lane Speed Hump Request

Kevin Stafford, dba Neel-Schaffer, Inc., reported that the Traffic Calming Committee has received a petition for traffic calming devices in the residential neighborhood of Timber Cove. At this time, Sweet Gum Lane is the only street which meets the minimum required owner signatures (60%) for consideration, but other streets in the neighborhood were reviewed, including Honeysuckle Lane and Oakwood Lane. At this time, one (1) speed hump has been approved for Sweet Gum Lane. a study has been conducted and a request made to erect an All-Way Stop sign for Park Circle at Prince George Street. Currently, there is a one-way stop on Prince George Street and traffic along Park Circle does not stop. Per Section 2B-07, Multi-way Stop Applications, of the 2009 Edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), conditions are a minimum warrant requirement for an ALL-WAY STOP. Based on this recommendation, Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request for an All-Way Stop for Park Circle at Prince George Street. Council Member Box seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Proclamation of existence of a local emergency

David Armstrong, COO, discussed the Proclamation of existence of a local emergency that was approved by the Acting Governor, Delbert Hoseman. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Proclamation of existence of a local emergency due to winter weather conditions from February 13, 2021 – March 13, 2021. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

THE PROCLAMATION FOLLOWS:

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PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY
(by City Council or County Board of Supervisors)

WHEREAS, City of Columbia the City Council /or Board of
Supervisors does hereby find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property
have arisen within said City /County, caused by Winter Weather
(Severe storm, tornado, damaging winds, flash flooding, river flooding)

drought, wildland fire, structural fire, hail, hazardous material incident, epidemic, hurricane, earthquake, other)

commencing on or about 3 AM/PM on the 13th day of February, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid conditions of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the
proclamation of the existence of a local emergency in order to provide for the health and safety of the
citizens and the protection of their property within the affected jurisdiction;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that in accordance with Section
33-15-17(d), Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, a local emergency now exists throughout said
City /County; and shall be reviewed every thirty (30) days until such local emergency is no longer
in effect and proclaimed terminated by the City Council / Board of Supervisors of the City /
County of Columbia, State of Mississippi.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that all City / County agencies and
departments shall render all possible assistance and discharge their emergency responsibilities as set
forth in the City / County Emergency Operations Plan.

DATE: 2/17/2021

Rob E. Smith
Mayor / President of Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Don E. Hain
Councilperson / Supervisor

Ward 6

Debra B. Hughes
Clerk of City / Chancery
Clerk for Board of Supervisors

D. T. G.
Councilperson / Supervisor

Ward 5

Charles E. Box
Councilperson / Supervisor

Ward 4

Charles E. Box
Councilperson / Supervisor

Ward 3

J. W. Mickens
Councilperson

Ward 2

Stacy Steel
Councilperson

Ward 1

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ADJOURNMENT:

The Mayor then asked if there was any other business to come before the Mayor and City Council. There being none, Council Member Jones moved that the meeting be adjourned. Upon second by Council Member Beard 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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