

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

**MAY 4, 2021  
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 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 in person, except Council Member Gavin, who participated via teleconference (Zoom). Also in attendance were the COO, CFO, the General Counsel, Police Chief, Assistant Police Chief, the HR Director and all Department Heads.

## **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 APRIL 20, 2021.**

Council Member Stewart made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of April 20, 2021. 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 Jones made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for May 4, 2021 in the amount of \$522,950.54. Council Member Stewart 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:**

Add Item "I" to read: *Accept letters of resignation from three (3) Public Works Department employees, one (1) effective April 27, 2021, one (1) effective May 5, 2021*

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*and one (1) effective May 14, 2021. Approve request to compensate two employees for unused vacation leave and approve request for HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.*

Move Item "E" to the Policy Agenda as Item "F".

Move Item "F" to the Policy Agenda as Item "G".

**REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:**

Approve request to name a park on the Southside of town, "JOE EDWARDS PARK."

**CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:**

Add Curtis Bordenave – Patio 45 Restaurant.

**POLICY AGENDA:**

Add Item "D" – *Approve request to hire six (6) Summer workers and two (2) Seasonal workers for the Columbus Recreation Department.*

Add Item "E" – *Approve request to promote two (2) Truck Drivers to Boom Truck Operators with pay increase.*

Add Item "F" – *Approve request for the Municipal Court Clerk to attend the "Mississippi Municipal Court Clerk Annual Summer Seminar" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment for lodging, travel and meal expenses.*

Add Item "G" – *Approve request for the Code Enforcement Officer and Assistant to attend the "Mississippi Association for Code Enforcement Educational Conference" to be held in D'Iberville, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Add – Prospective Litigation Matter.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, with the above 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.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Ratify request for Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Kyler Kidder, to attend "Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operations test (HAZMAT)" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$25.00 for travel and \$25.00 for reimbursement for meal expenses.

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- B. Approve request from Fire and Rescue Firefighter, Landon Hill, for reimbursement of \$22.62 for attending CPAT-E, held in Jackson, MS.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue Chief of Training, Mike Chandler, to attend the "Accreditation Site Visit" to be held in New Bern, NC, at no cost to the City.
- D. Approve request for three (3) Fire and Rescue personnel: Drew Williamson, Clayton Aldridge, and Onterio Lowery, to attend the "National Registry of EMT (NREMT)" to be held in Tuscaloosa, AL and approve payment of \$138.00 for reimbursement of meal expenses.
- E. MOVED TO POLICY AGENDA
- F. MOVED TO POLICY AGENDA
- G. Ratify permit request submitted by LaChunda Sparks on behalf of the CAFB, DHS and Stokes Beard Elementary School to host a "Child Abuse Prevention Parade" that was held on April 29, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m., starting at Stokes Beard Elementary School, 311 South Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.
- H. Ratify permit request submitted by Nicole Clinkscases, on behalf of Community Recovery of Lowndes County, to host a "Home Dedication Ceremony" that was held on April 24, 2021 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., blocking the 800 block of 18<sup>th</sup> Street North.
- I. Accept letters of resignation from Public Works Department employees, Quiana Munson, effective April 27, 2021, Culandus Walton, effective May 5, 2021, and Ronnie O'Neal, effective May 14, 2021. Approve request to compensate Walton and O'Neal for unused vacation leave and approve request for HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with the above amendments. 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 thanked everyone for their attendance and announced that Council Member Gavin was participating in the meeting via teleconference (ZOOM).

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Mayor Smith then requested approval to name the park on Bell Avenue (formerly Glenn Machine Works' location) "JOE EDWARDS PARK." Council Member Jones made a motion to name park on south side of town "JOE EDWARDS PARK." Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**B. BOARD VACANCIES**

David Armstrong, COO, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that no appointments can be made tonight.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

- 1 Vacancy, 4-Year Term for Bryan Brown expires 05/16/2021.
- Appointment will be made May 18, 2021.
- There are no applicants at this time

**CITY UTILITIES COMMISSION**

- 1 Vacancy, 5-Year Term for Charlie Newell expires 06/21/2021.
- Appointment will be made June 15, 2021.
- There are no applicants at this time.

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

- 3 Vacancies, 4-Year Terms for Penesha McDowell Harrison, Diane Sloan and Roy M. Hicks will expire 6/30/2021.
- Appointments will be made July 6, 2021.

**APPLICANT:**

- Penesha McDowell Harrison

**VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA**

- Stephanie Gibson & Sherry Faggans – National Day of Prayer  
Ms. Gibson and Ms. Faggans could not be present due to possible inclement weather; therefore, Council Member Box announced that National Day of Prayer will be held Thursday, May 6, 2021 at noon on the Lowndes County Courthouse lawn. The public is invited.
- Karen L. Johnwick – Patio 45 Restaurant

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Mrs. Johnwick came forward with complaints about Patio 45 Restaurant. She stated that there are four (4) working adults in her house and the loud music interferes with their ability to sleep. Something needs to be done about this. General Counsel Turnage remarked that this matter was tabled at the April 6, 2021 meeting and the Council will discuss the issue tonight.

- **Curtis Bordenave – Patio 45 Restaurant**  
Mr. Bordenave could not appear, but his wife, Eurie Bordenave, came forward and made remarks. She stated that they, the Bordenaves are not breaking the law and are trying to abide by the rules.

**VIII. POLICY AGENDA**

**A. Discuss/Approve request to advertise for Office Clerk in the Building Inspection Department.**

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to authorize the H. R. Director to advertise for the vacant position of Office Clerk in the Building Inspection Department. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**B. Discuss/Approve acceptance of Right-of-Way for Union Drive Turnaround**

Kevin Stafford, dba as Neel-Schaffer, Inc. remarked that school buses are having difficulty turning around on Union Drive and stated that Council Member Taylor and family would like to donate the small parcel of property as Right-of-Way for Union Drive Turnaround, located at the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of Section 26 Township 18 South, Range 18 West, Lowndes County, MS, parcel number 69W220011300 for the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00). Council Member Jones made a motion to accept the Right-of-Way for Union Drive Turnaround. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**C. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket**

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NANCY J. MACNEILL AND  
CYNTHIA MACNEILL  
1217 – 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
CASE NUMBER 21-0067                      VEGETATION

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS CASE.

FLISHA HOLT  
1424 – 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Case Number 21-0082                      VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **20-01082**. 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** 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 Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

GENESIS CHURCH  
1820 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Street North  
CASE NUMBER 21-0070                      VEGETATION

The General Counsel called cause number **21-0070**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is her recommendation to enter the proposed Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council Member Beard made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may remediate the property with respect to 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 immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under

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Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**MARCO HARRISON**  
**106 MAPLE STREET**  
**Case Number 21-0073**

**Vegetation, Maintenance Code Violation and  
Rubbish and Garbage**

The General Counsel called cause number **21-0073**. 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** 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 Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**ROSE DEI ROLKE and JAMES R. ROLKE**  
**803 HEMLOCK STREET**  
**Case Number 21-0086    VEGETATION**

The General Counsel called cause number **21-0086**. No one appeared. The Code Enforcement Officer was asked what her recommendation was. Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, stated the property owner contacted her and requested an extension and remarked that 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 give the property owner a **10-day extension** to remediate the property, and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones made a motion give the property owner a **10-day extension** to remediate the property, and that an Order be issued for the property 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

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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 Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**WILLIAM ROLKE and WILMA ROLKE**  
**804 HEMLOCK STREET**  
**Case Number 21-0087     VEGETATION, RUBBISH AND GARBAGE**

The General Counsel called cause number **21-0087**. No one appeared. The Code Enforcement Officer was asked what her recommendation was. Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, stated the property owner contacted her and requested an extension and remarked that 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 give the property owner a **10-day extension** to remediate the property, and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones made a motion give the property owner a **10-day extension** to remediate the property, and that an Order be issued for the property 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 Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**NINA KING PANNELL**  
**724 – 15<sup>th</sup> Street North**  
**724 ½ 15<sup>th</sup> Street North**  
**Case Number 21-0034     ABANDONED STRUCTURE**

The General Counsel called cause number **21-0034**. 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** 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)

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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 Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**RENITA SPEIGHTS**  
**1907 – 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South**  
**Case Number 21-0077**

**VEGETATION, RUBBISH AND GARBAGE**

The General Counsel called cause number **21-0077**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is her recommendation to enter the proposed Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council Member Stewart made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may remediate the property with respect to 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 immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**JODI J. NAPIER**  
**71 PANDORA DRIVE**  
**CASE NUMBER 21-0090**

**VEGETATION**

The General Counsel called cause number **21-0090**. 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** 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

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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 Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**D. Discuss/Approve request to hire six (6) summer workers and two (2) Seasonal workers for the Columbus Recreation Department.**

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to hire six (6) summer workers and two (2) seasonal workers for the Columbus Recreation Department. Summer workers' hourly rate of pay will be \$8.00 and seasonal workers' hourly rate of pay will be \$10.00, up to 30 hours per week with no benefits. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**E. Approve request to promote two (2) Truck Drivers to Boom Truck Operators with pay increase.**

Council Member Beard made a motion to promote Rhonda Bailey and Gregory Wright to the position of Boom Truck Operator with a pay increase to \$15.00 per hour. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion. *(These promotion are a result to the recent resignation of two (2) Boom Truck Operators.*

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

**F. Approve request for the Municipal Court Clerk to attend the "Mississippi Municipal Court Clerk Annual Summer Seminar" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment for lodging, travel and meal expenses.**

The Municipal Court Clerk was asked questions about this request. She stated that it is important to attend this seminar so that she can remain abreast to changing laws and bring those updates back to the City of Columbus. Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion, with the exception of Council Member Mickens, who opposed.

The motion carried 5/1.

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**G. Approve request for the Code Enforcement Officer and Assistant to attend the “Mississippi Association for Code Enforcement Educational Conference” to be held in D’Iberville, MS, and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses.**

The Code Enforcement Officer was asked question about this request. She stated that this conference was very helpful when she was the Code Enforcement Assistant. She said she learned a lot of valuable information that helped her transition to the Code Enforcement Officer position and she believes it will benefit her assistant. Council Member Stewart made a motion to approve the request. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion, with the exception of Council Member Mickens, who opposed.

The motion carried 5/1.

**CLOSED DETERMINATION:**

Council Member Beard made a motion to go into closed session to determine whether it is necessary to go into Executive Session. Council Member Gavin seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

All members of the public, with the exception of the Mayor, the Council, the General Counsel, the COO, the Police Chief, and the HR Director, exited the meeting.

Mayor Smith apprised the Council of one (1) Prospective Litigation matter and remarked that this matter warrants being heard in Executive Session. Council Member Jones made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a Prospective Litigation matter. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

The Chief Operations Officer then announced to the general public outside the Council Chambers that the Council was going into Executive Session to discuss a Prospective Litigation matter.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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**OPEN SESSION:**

Council Member Mickens made a motion to end the discussion of these matters and return to Open Session. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

The Chief Operations Officer then announced to the general public outside the meeting room that the Council was back in Open Session.

The General Counsel reported that the Mayor and Council went in Executive Session to discuss a Prospective Litigation matter and took no action.

**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