

MAYOR
KEITH GASKIN

CITY COUNCIL
ETHEL TAYLOR STEWART
JOSEPH W. MICKENS, SR.
RUSTY GREENE
PIERRE BEARD SR.
STEPHEN JONES
JACKIE DICICCO

**INTERIM CHIEF OPERATIONS
OFFICER**
MARK ALEXANDER

City of Columbus
POST OFFICE BOX 1408, COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI 39703

**MEETING OF
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS
July 20, 2021**

CFO/SECRETARY-TREASURER
DELIAH VAUGHN

POLICE CHIEF
FREDERICK C. SHELTON

FIRE CHIEF
MARTIN ANDREWS

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR
PATRICIA MITCHELL

**INTERIM CITY PLANNING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
GEORGE IRBY

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

II. APPROVE MINUTES FOR PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

A. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MEETINGS OF JULY 6 & 7, 2021

III. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS.

A. DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR JULY 20, 2021

IV. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- F. Shelton** A. Approve permit request submitted by Kabir Karriem, on behalf of the 2021 7th Avenue Heritage Festival Committee, to host the "7th Avenue Heritage Festival" to be held on October 1-2, 2021 from 12:00 noon October 1, 2021 until 10:00 p.m. October 2, 2021 blocking the corner of 7th Avenue North and 15th Street North.
- F. Shelton** B. Approve request to send four (4) CPD Officers to the "Mississippi Delta Community College Law Enforcement Training Academy" in Moorhead, MS, and approve cost of tuition and clothing required by the academy. The clothing allowance is not to exceed \$350.00 per Officer and will be reimbursed upon completion of the academy.
- F. Shelton** C. Approve permit request submitted by Annette Jones, on behalf of Bleeding Heart Ministry, to host a "Religious Assembly" on July 31, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.. With approval from management, this assembly will take place at the Gateway Shopping Center.
- F. Shelton** D. Ratify permit request submitted by Cyretha Owens to host a "Columbus March for Life" held on July 17, 2021 from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. beginning at the Soccer Complex to the parking lot of the Columbus Police Department.
- M. Andrews** E. Approve request for three (3) Fire and Rescue Firefighters to attend the "NREMT Exam" to be held in Tuscaloosa, AL, and approve payment for travel and meal expenses.
- M. Andrews** F. Approve donation of surplus fire hose to Lowndes County Volunteer Fire Department
- R. Bonner** G. Approve request to refund Terrica Thomas \$300.00 for Convention Center Rental cancellation.

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| C. Bush | H. | Approve request to advertise for two (2) Laborer positions to replace two (2) former employees |
| F. Shelton | I. | Approve request for an Animal Control Officer to attend the "Basic Animal Control Concepts and Investigations Training" to be held in Grenada, MS and approve payment of registration. |
| G. Irby | J. | Approve request to authorize Mayor to sign documents in reference to the Blight Elimination Program (BEP), Home Investment Partnership (HOME), and Justice Assistance Grant Programs. |
| D. Vaughn | K. | Approve the 2% tourism tax payment to Lowndes County, Golden Triangle Development LINK and Columbus Visitors Bureau |
| M. Andrews | L. | Approve request to send three (3) Firefighters to attend the "NFPA 1001 I-II Certification" class to be held in Pearl, MS, on August 2 - September 23, 2021, and approve payment for registration, travel, and meal expenses. |
| M. Andrews | M. | Approve request to send one (1) Firefighter to attend the "NFPA 1002 Driver Operator" course to be held in Starkville, MS, on August 2-13, 2021 and approve payment for registration and meals. |

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

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| K. Gaskin | A. | General Comments from the Mayor and Council |
| S. James | B. | Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for June 2021 |
| G. Irby | C. | Monthly Report from the Office of Planning & Community Development for June 2021 |
| K. Wiegel | D. | Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for June 2021 |
| F. Shelton | E. | Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for June 2021 |
| M. Andrews | F. | Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for June 2021 |
| W. Blunt | G. | Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for June 2021 |
| C. Bush | H. | Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for June 2021 |
| G. Lewis | I. | Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for June 2021 |
| D. Vaughn | J. | Financial Report |

M. Alexander K. Board Vacancies

MUNICIPAL ELECTION COMMISSION

3 Vacancies, 4-Year Terms for Penesha McDowell Harrison, Diane Sloan, and Roy M. Hicks expired 6/30/2021.

Appointments will be made July 20, 2021.

APPLICANTS:

- Penesha McDowell Harrison
- Roy M. Hicks
- Julie C. Parker
- Jermaine Shanklin
- Lavonne Latham Harris

MUNICIPAL ELECTION COMMISSION (for 8/3/21 appointments)

2 Vacancies, 4-Year Terms for George T. Sumrall and Willie Harris expired 7/18/2021.

Appointment will be made August 3, 2021

APPLICANTS:

- George T. Sumrall
- Japa Castro
- Pam Brock

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

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| M. Andrews | A. | Discuss/Approve rehiring one (1) Entry Level Firefighters, pending successful completion of a pre-employment drug screen. |
| K. Wiegel | B. | Discuss/Approve recommendations from the July 12, 2021 Planning Commission |
| F. Shelton | C. | Discuss/Approve re-hiring one (1) CPD Officer and one (1) CID Investigator, contingent upon a successful drug screen and pre-employment physical. |
| C. Bush | D. | Approve request to fill one (1) Laborer position, contingent on successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen. |

- M. Andrews** E. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) Entry Level Firefighter, pending successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam and drug screen, and approval by the Civil Service Commission to interview.
- E. Gruseck** F. Discuss/Approve requests from the United Way of Lowndes & Noxubee for the annual fundraising kickoff.
- K. Stafford** G. Discuss/Approve Submitting 2021 MDOT ERBR Grant Application for Repair on three (3) City Bridges
- W. Blunt** H. Discuss/Approve request to hire an attorney on a temporary basis to work in Municipal Court.
- R. Bonner** I. Discuss/Approve request for Wilson Beck, Director of Columbus Lowndes Chamber of Commerce, to use the Regal Hall for August 3, 2021 & August 24, 2021 between the hours of 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. as a donation.
- R. Bonner** J. Discuss/Approve request for Lanise Frison, 205 Outreach Program, to use Trotter Upper Level for October 3, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 a.m. as a donation.
- S. James** K. Discuss/Approve the Derelict Property Docket.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: