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

DECEMBER 21, 2021
5:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Keith Gaskin presided over the meeting, and all Council Members were present. Also present were the General Counsel, Police Chief, Assistant Police Chief, HR Director, and all other Department Heads.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Gaskin called the meeting to order and called upon Rev. Jason Shelby, Priest at St. Paul Episcopal Church, Columbus, MS, to offer the Invocation.

II. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Council Member Greene added an item on the Policy Agenda as Item "S" – *Discussion of Chief Operating Officer (COO) Salary.*

Council Member Mickens added an item on the Policy Agenda as Item "T" - *Discuss Cares Act Funding.*

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

III. APPROVE MINUTES FOR PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

A. **Approve Minutes for the Meeting of December 7, 2021**

Council Member Stewart made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of December 7, 2021. Council Member Dicicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

IV. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS

Council Member Stewart made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for December 21, 2021, in the amount of $909,391.13 Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officer, Robert Eguires, effective December 21, 2021.

B. Approve permit request submitted by Nancy Carpenter, on behalf of the Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation, to host “Catfish in the Alley” to be held on April 9, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with streets being blocked on Friday, April 8, 2021 from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on April 9, 2022. *See attached map.*

C. Approve permit request submitted by Nancy Carpenter, on behalf of the Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation, to host “Catfish in the Alley 5K” to be held on April 9, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. *See attached map.*

D. Approve request for five (5) Fire and Rescue Personnel: Josh Nolt, Brandon McKay, Fredreon Steele, Kaelan Brownstein and Sally Kerstetter to attend “NREMT Course at EMCC” to be held in Mayhew, MS and approve payment of registration in the amount of $9,500.00

Council Member Dicicco made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Council Member Greene 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 Gaskin offered remarks regarding the outpouring love from citizens following recent fires that occurred in the City.

Mayor Gaskin made the following announcements:

- “Shop with Cops” was held Sunday, December 19, 2021.
- Met with parents and officials of the Columbus Municipal School District regarding bus issues
- Columbus Crime Prevention Task Force will meet again in January 2022.

Mayor Gaskin then thanked City employees for all they do and wished the employees and citizens a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Mayor Gaskin asked the Council if they had any questions for Department Heads.

B. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for November 2021.

Council Member Dicicco asked if there were any code violations in Wards 1 and 2. Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James answered by stating that it should not be concluded that if none are on this agenda, that none exist. Code violations may appear on future agendas.

Council Member Dicicco asked the Police Chief for the normal requested information. Chief Shelton responded by reporting that 302 tickets were written and five (5) were retired to the file.

C. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for November 2021

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

D. Monthly Report from the City of Columbus Planning & Community Development Department for November 2021

The Monthly Report from the City of Columbus Planning & Community Development Department for November 2021 was presented. No action was taken.

E. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for November 2021

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for November 2021 was presented. No action was taken.

F. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for November 2021

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

G. Monthly Report from the Fire and Rescue Department for November 2021

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

H. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for November 2021

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

I. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for November 2021

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

J. Financial Report

K. Board Vacancies

Public Information Officer, Joe Dillon, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that one (1) appointment will be made tonight and he has heard from one (1) of the applicants.

COLUMBUS HOUSING AUTHORITY

- 1 Vacancy, 5-Year Term, to fill the remainder of Bobby Caldwell's 5-Year Term that expires on 7/16/2024. Mr. Caldwell resigned on November 15, 2021.
- Appointment will be made December 21, 2021.

APPLICANTS:

- David Vega
- Kegdra Gray

David Vega came forward, introduced himself and discussed his purpose of applying to serve on this board.

Kegdra Gray was not present and did not send a letter.

Council Member Dicicco made a motion to appoint David Vega to the Columbus Housing Authority board to fill the remainder of Bobby Caldwell's unexpired term, until 7/16/2024. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:
Council Member Stewart made a substitute motion to appoint Kegdra Gray to the Housing Authority board to fill the remainder of Bobby Caldwell's unexpired term, until 7/16/2024. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

Council Members Stewart, Mickens, Beard and Jones voted in favor of the motion. Council Members Greene and Dicicco opposed the motion.

The motion carried 4/2.

TREE BOARD:
- 2 Vacancies, 3-Year Terms, Barbara Bigelow's term expires 12/18/2021. Kerry Pittman's 2-Year Term expires 1/02/2022.
- Appointments will be made January 4, 2022.

APPLICANTS:
- Barbara Bigelow
- Tanner Imes

GOLDEN TRIANGLE REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD:
- 1 Vacancy, 4-Year Term, Robert Smith's Term Expires 12/31/2021.
- Appointment will be made January 4, 2022.

APPLICANT:
- Robert Smith, Sr.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & AOOEALS OF DEVELOPMENT CODES:
- 1 Vacancy, 1-Year Term, Alan Lewis' Term Expires 1/07/2022.
- Appointment will be made January 18, 2022.
- No applicants at this time.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

Curtis Bordenave:
Mr. Bordenave came before the Mayor and Council regarding a ditch behind his business that is eroding and remarked that it is the City's responsibility to correct the problem. The City's Engineer, Kevin Stafford, came forward and discussed the problems that this property owner is experiencing and remarked that his professional opinion is that this is not the City's responsibility.

Jason Spears:
Mr. Jason Spears came before the Mayor and Council and stated that he works closely with the Columbus Soccer Organization and they have scheduled a tournament for February 12-13, 2022 that will being in visitors from out-of-town. Mr. Spears requested permission to close the street at Championship Loop and bring in Food Trucks as well as open the Concession Stand and requested approval.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to grant the request to bring in Food Trucks at the upcoming Soccer Tournament to be held at the Soccer Plex and contact the Police Department about closing the street. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA

A. **Discuss/Approve request to promote employee to the position of Accounts Payable Clerk and approve request to advertise to fill vacated position.**

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to promote **ALICE BYARS** to the position of Accounts Payable Clerk with a pay increase to $13.95 per hour and approve the request to advertise to fill the vacated position. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

B. Discuss/Approve request to reject reroofing bid for the Municipal Complex, approve for the City Engineer to write specifications and readvertise.

Council Member Greene made a motion to reject the reroofing bid for the Municipal Complex, approve for the City Engineer to write specifications and readvertise. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion..

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

C. Discuss/Approve request City's Property and Casualty Insurance Renewal for 2022.

Council Member Stewart made a motion to approve the City's Property and Casualty Insurance Renewal for 2022. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

THE INSURANCE RENEWAL FOLLOWS:

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City of Columbus. MS Insurance Renewal 12/31/2021-12/31/2022

Property	Travelers Exp. Value	Exp. Premium	Travelers Ren. Value	Ren. Premium	Travelers MMSC Value	Premium
Blanket Buildings	$38,585,559	$62,817	$29,462,076	$70,947	$29,460,076	$70,947
*Business Personal Property						
*Per Schedule of Property						
Deductible $5,000						
Inland Marine (Equip. Coverage)						
Scheduled Items	$2,785,140	$9,280	$2,715,540	$8,364	$2,715,540	$8,384
Streetlights			$3,410,200	$10,128	$3,410,200	$10,128
Deductible $1,000						
Wind Ded. $5,000						
Scheduled Items						
Crime (Employment Theft Dishonesty)	$100,000	$1,094	$100,000	$1,094	$100,000	$1,094
Auto						
Auto Liability $1,000,000 Subject to						
Mississippi Tort Statutory Cap of	$500,000	$202,182	$500,000	$221,268	$500,000	
Uninsured Motorists	REJECTED		REJECTED			
Medical Payments	EXCLUDED		EXCLUDED		INCLUDED	
Physical Damage Coverage	211 Units		214 Units			
$1,000 Deductible Comp & Coll	INCLUDED		INCLUDED			$95,217
General Liability						
Each Occurrence	$1,000,000	$52,849	$1,000,000	$57,413	$500,000	
General Aggregate	$2,000,000		$2,000,000			
Subject to the MS Tort Statutory Cap of	$500,000		$500,000			
Limited Pollution	$1,000,000		$1,000,000			
Cemetery Liability	$1,000,000		$1,000,000			
Medical Expense	EXCLUDED		EXCLUDED			
Personal and Advertising Injury	$1,000,000		$1,000,000			
Employee Benefits Liability	$1,000,000	$387	$1,000,000	$381	INCLUDED	
($1,000 Deductible)						
Law Enforcement Liability						
Each Wrongful Act	$1,000,000	$10,175	$1,000,000	$23,610	$500,000	
Annual Aggregate	$1,000,000		$1,000,000			
Retroactive Date 12/11/2017						
	Deductible $75,000		Deductible $75,000		Deductible $0	
Public Official Management Liability And Employment Practices Liability						
Each Wrongful Act	$1,000,000	$57,633	$1,000,000	$50,967	$500,000	
Annual Aggregate	$2,000,000		$2,000,000			
Retroactive Date 7/1/1993	Deductible $25,000		Deductible $25,000		Deductible $0	
Cyber	$1,000,000	$7,118	$1,000,000	$9,172	$1,000,000	$9,172
	Deductible $5,000		Deductible $5,000		Deductible $5,000	
					Travelers Total	$192,922
	Agency Fee	$5,000	Agency Fee	$5,000	MMSC Total	$246,172
	Total	$417,509	Total	$465,344	Total	$439,094

Disclosure: This outline is a synopsis of coverage and implies no terms and conditions of the actual Contract. No coverage can be construed by the synopsis. Please refer to the actual contract. Cancellations after binding are subject to eleven percent retainage plus cancellation provisions of the Insurance contract. Quote is valid until 12/31/2021. Actual premium may change based upon Confirmation of schedules. All commissions and fees are fully earned.

D. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

MORTGAGE CENTER, INC.
917 6th Street South
CASE NUMBER: 21-0389 Accumulation of Rubbish and Garbage

The General Counsel called cause number **21-0389**. 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 6/0.

JACKIE GREEN
501 28th Street North
CASE NUMBER: 21-0277 Property Maintenance Code Violation

The General Counsel called cause number **21-0277**. Property owner, Jackie Green, appeared and requested a **45-day extension** to remediate the property. Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, agreed with the request for a **45-day extension** to remediate the structure. 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 and grant the **45-day extension** to remediate the structure. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

LEON DUMAS
1318 15th Street North
CASE NUMBER 21-0381 Property Maintenance Code Violation

The General Counsel called cause number **21-0381**. 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 6/0.

RICHARD P. AND JULIA G. JOHNSTON
1206 7th Street North
CASE NUMBER: 21-0390 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **21-0390**. 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 6/0.

CARL JONES
711 15th Street North
CASE NUMBER: 21-0426 Property Maintenance Code Violation

The General Counsel called cause number **21-0426.** The property owner was present, but had to leave and notified the Code Enforcement Officer of a request for a **45-day extension.** Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, agreed with the request for a **45-day extension** to remediate the structure. Council Member Jones 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 requested by law to grant the **45-day extension** to apply for a Building Permit and remediate the structure. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

NIA COLOM BLACKMAN
1103 5th Avenue North
CASE NUMBER: 21-0435 Property Maintenance Code Violation

The General Counsel called cause number **21-0435**. Frankie Colom appeared on behalf of Nia Colom Blackman and requested a **45-day extension** to remediate the property and sell it. Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, agreed with the request for a **45-day extension** to remediate the structure. Council Member Jones 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 and grant the **45-day extension** to remediate the structure. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

WILBERT & SARAH THOMAS ESTATE
2311 Washington Avenue
CASE NUMBER: 21-0410 Vegetation and Abandoned Structure/Building

The General Counsel called for cause number **21-0410.** No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated that the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is her recommendation to enter into 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 Jones 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 Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

IDA GIPSON AND DATRICK DAVIS
1923 College Street
CASE NUMBER: 21-0434 Burned Building

The General Counsel called cause number **21-0434**. Property owner, Ida Gipson, appeared and requested a **45-day extension** to demolish the burned structure. Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, agreed with the request for a **45-day extension** to demolish the structure. Council Member Greene 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 and grant the **45-day extension** to remediate the structure. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

E. Discuss/Approve Tax Exemption for new equipment at Johnson Tombigbee (JTB) in the amount of $19,045.91.

General Counsel Turnage apprised the Council of a request for an Ad Valorem tax exemption from Johnson Tombigbee (JTB) in the amount of approximately $19,045.91 per year during the exemption period. JTB pays approximately $40,000.00 annually in real property taxes and $115,000.00 annually in Equipment Ad Valorem taxes. Council Member Greene made a motion to approve the request to grant JTB a tax exemption for a 10-year period. Mayor Gaskin called for a second to the motion. There was no second and the motion failed.

F. Discuss/Approve Columbus Light & Water Revenue Bonds

General Counsel Turnage stated that on November 16, 2021, the Council passed a Resolution of intent for Columbus Light & Water to issue Revenue Bonds. Tonight, the Resolution finding that there was no protest is presented for approval. The Resolution was advertised in the Commercial Dispatch three (3) times and City Hall did not receive a signed petition of objectors. Approval is needed so the Bond attorneys can proceed with the issuance process. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Resolution finding that there was no protest in issuing Columbus Light & Water Revenue Bonds. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.to adopt the foregoing Resolution and the question being put to a roll call vote, the results are as follows:

Ethel Taylor Stewart	voted: YES
Joseph Mickens, Sr.	voted: YES
Russell Greene	voted: YES
Pierre Beard, Sr.	voted: YES
Stephen Jones	voted: YES
Jacqueline Dicicco	voted: YES

The motion having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Governing Body present, being a quorum of said Governing Body, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted this the 21st day of December, 2021.

THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

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The Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi (the "**City**") took up for consideration the matter of borrowing funds from the Mississippi Development Bank, for the purpose of providing funds to acquire and/or improve the City's electric generating, transmission and distribution system.

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI DECLARING THE INTENTION OF THE CITY TO BORROW FUNDS FROM THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT BANK IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED EIGHT MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ($8,700,000) THROUGH A LOAN FROM THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS TO ACQUIRE AND/OR IMPROVE THE ELECTRIC GENERATING, TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OF SAID CITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Columbus Light & Water Department, also known as the Utility Commission (the "**Department**" or the "**Commission**"), was created by the City of Columbus, Mississippi (the "**City**") pursuant to the provisions of Sections 21-27-11 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended (the "**Utilities Act**"), to control, manage and operate the City's water, sewer and electric utilities; and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized by the Utilities Act to issue revenue bonds of the City in such amounts as it may find necessary and proper and for the purposes set forth in the Act, including, but not limited to, the acquisition and improvement of the City's electric generating, transmission and distribution system (the "**System**"); and

WHEREAS, the members of the Commission (the "**Commissioners**"), acting for and on behalf of the Commission, desire to provide for the improvement of the System, including, but not limited to (a) the construction and/or installation of new fiber to replace the existing fiber network to extend the fiber network to residential and business meters to meet customer demands (b) reimbursing the City for the installation of a new transformer, (c) the financing of a Capital Improvement Plan, (d) the acquisition of certain buildings and parking lots and the construction of additional bays, and (e) the construction of an electrical warehouse communication bomb shelter (the "**Project**"), and have determined that the project would be in the best interest of the Department and the residents of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the City Council of the City (the "**Governing Body**"), acting for and on behalf of the City, is authorized under the provisions of Sections 31-25-1 *et seq.*, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended (the "Bank Act" and together with the Utilities Act, the "**Act**") and the Utilities Act to borrow from the Mississippi Development Bank (the "**Bank**") in such amounts as it may find necessary and proper in order to provide funds for the Project; and

WHEREAS, by resolution dated February 18, 2021 (the "**Department Resolution**") and Commission action taken at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 26, 2021 (the "**Commission Minutes**" together with the Department Resolution, the "**Department Intent Resolution**") , the Commissioners requested the City to enter into a loan with the Bank to borrow money from the

Bank in the total principal amount not to exceed Eight Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars ($8,700,000) (the "**Loan**") to provide funds for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the proceeds of the Loan will be used to provide funds for the Project, to fund a debt service reserve fund, if required, and to pay the costs associated with the Loan and the issuance of bonds by the Bank to fund the Loan (the "**Bank Bonds**"), all as authorized by the Act; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Department Resolution, the Commissioners found and determined that the Project is to be done substantially in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by competent engineers employed by the Department and approved by the Commissioners, that the estimated cost of the Project, as determined by competent engineers employed by the Department, will not exceed Eight Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars ($8,700,000) and that the costs thereof are economically feasible; and

WHEREAS, the City constitutes a "local governmental unit" within the meaning of the Bank Act; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the health and well-being of the citizens of the City to borrow money from the Bank through the Loan in order to provide financing for the Project; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary, proper and economically feasible that the City borrow money by entering into the Loan with the Bank, for the purposes herein stated and under the procedures hereinafter set forth and as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, the City reasonably expects that the Department will incur expenditures in connection with the Project prior to the issuance of the Bank Bonds for which the City intends to reimburse itself the Department, from the proceeds of the Loan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Governing Body hereby accepts and approves the Department Resolution, a copy of which is on file with the Secretary-Treasurer of the City.

SECTION 2. As requested in the Department Resolution, the Governing Body hereby declares its intention to borrow money from the Bank by entering into the Loan with the Bank in a total principal amount not to exceed Eight Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars ($8,700,000), for the purpose of providing funds for the Project, to fund a debt service reserve fund, if required, and to pay the costs associated with the Bank Bonds and the Loan, all as authorized by the Act.

SECTION 3. The principal and interest on the Loan shall be payable over a period not to exceed twenty-five (25) years solely from revenues of the System. The Loan shall not constitute an indebtedness of the City within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory restrictions, limitations, or provisions, and the taxing power of the City will not be pledged to the payment of the Loan, but the same, together with the interest thereon, shall be payable solely from revenues of the System.

SECTION 4. Unless a protest in writing signed by not less than twenty percent (20%) of the qualified electors of the City objecting to and protesting against the Loan is filed with the Governing Body at City Hall located at 523 Main Street in the City on or before 5:00 p.m. on December 21, 2021, which date shall be more than ten (10) days after the date of the last publication of this resolution, the Governing Body will provide for the City to enter into the Loan with the Bank at said time or at some meeting or meetings subsequent thereto. If such objection and protest is filed on or before said date and hour, the question of the Loan may be submitted to an election to be held as provided in Section 21-27-43 of the Utilities Act.

SECTION 5. This resolution shall be published once a week for at least three consecutive weeks in the *Commercial Dispatch*, a newspaper published in and having a general circulation in the City and qualified under the provisions of the laws of the State of Mississippi, and the last publication of this resolution shall be more than ten (10) days prior to the date hereinabove set forth in Section 4 as the deadline for the filing of any objection or protest.

SECTION 6. The Mayor of the City (the "**Mayor**"), Secretary-Treasurer of the City (the "**Secretary-Treasurer**"), Elected Officer of the City ("**Elected Officer**") of the City or Designated Representative of the City (the "**Designated Representative**" and together with the Mayor, Secretary-Treasurer or Elected Officer "**Authorized Representative**") are authorized and directed to procure from the publisher of the aforesaid newspaper the customary proof of publication of this resolution and have the same before the Governing Body on the day and hour hereinabove specified.

SECTION 7. The City hereby declares its official intent to reimburse the Department from the proceeds of the Loan for expenses incurred with respect to the Project subsequent to the date of this resolution in addition to the Department Intent Resolution. This resolution in addition to the Department Intent Resolution is intended as a declaration of official intent under Treasury Regulation 1.150 2. The Loan will not exceed an aggregate principal amount of Eight Million Seven Hundred Thousand and No/100ths Dollars ($8,700,000). The Bank Bonds issued to finance the Project will not exceed an aggregate principal amount of Eight Million Seven Hundred Thousand and No/100ths Dollars ($8,700,000).

SECTION 8. All orders, resolutions or proceedings of the Governing Body in conflict with the provisions of this resolution shall be and are hereby repealed, rescinded and set aside, but only to the extent of such conflict.

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G. Discuss/Approve awarding CLCA Jet-A Fuel Tank Replacement project to the lowest responsive bidder, Cobb Environmental & Technical Services in the amount of $185,148.00.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to award Columbus Lowndes County Airport Jet-A Fuel Tank Replacement project to the lowest responsive bidder, Cobb Environmental & Technical services in the amount of $185,148.00. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

H. Discuss/Approve accepting FAA's Airport Rescue Grant Offer, Grant No. 3-28-0019-024-2022 in the amount of $32,000.00 for CLCA.

Council Member Beard made a motion to accept the FAA's Airport Rescue Grant Offer, Grant No. 3-28-0019-024-2022 in the amount of $32,000.00 for CLCA. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

I. Discuss/Approve second and final payment to Weather's Construction for Open Hangar Rehabilitation Project in the amount of $35,835.65.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the second and final payment to Weather's Construction for Open Hangar Rehabilitation Project in the amount of $35,835.65. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

J. Discuss/Approve payment application No. 9 for Walters Construction for 2020 City Street Paving in the amount of $374,348.35.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve payment application No. 9 to Walters Construction for 2020 City Street Paving in the amount of $374,348.35. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

K. Discuss/Approve Acceptance of Drainage Easements for Chateaux de Holly Hills Apartment Ditch Cleaning by the TRVWMD.

Council Member Dicicco made a motion to approve Acceptance of Drainage Easements for Chateaux de Holly Hills Apartment Ditch Cleaning by the TRVWMD. The City maintains the easement. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

L. Discuss/Approve Beech Street Drainage Pipe Replacement

Kevin Stafford, dba Neel-Schaffer, Inc. came forward and stated that the Pipe behind Beech Street needs to be replaced. This is an on-going project. Public Works completed some work five (5) years ago and the ditch downstream was completed in 2017. The cost is approximately $251,000.00, with $215,000.00 taken from the use tax funds for street improvements. Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Beech Street Drainage Pipe Replacement. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

M. Discuss/Approve Lawrence Street Drainage Ditch Repairs and Acceptance of Drainage Easements from residents.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve Lawrence Street Drainage Ditch Repairs and Acceptance of Drainage Easements from residents. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

N. Discuss/Approve Forrest Glenn Road Guardrail Addition

Council Member Greene made a motion to approve Forrest Glenn Guardrail Addition and pay the cost out of use tax funds. Council Member Dicicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

O. Discuss/Approve Geotechnical Exploration Proposal for the new bridge at Propst Park

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the Geotechnical Exploration Proposal for the new bridge at Propst Park. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

P. Discuss/Approve ARPA Consulting Firm (Horne, LLP; Waggoner Engineering; and Neel-Schaffer Inc.)

Council Member Greene made a motion to approve Waggoner Engineering as the City's ARPA Consulting Firm. Council Member Dicicco seconded the motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:
Council Member Stewart made a substitute motion to approve Neel-Schaffer, Inc. as the Engineering Firm as the City's ARPA Consulting Firm. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

Council Members Stewart and Beard voted in favor of the motion.
Council Members Mickens, Greene, Jones and Dicicco opposed the motion.

The motion failed 2/4.

ORIGINAL MOTION:
Council Members Mickens, Greene, Jones and Dicicco voted in favor of approving Waggoner Engineering as the City's ARPA Consulting Firm. Council Members Stewart and Beard opposed the motion.

The motion carried 4/2.

Q. Discuss/Approve Re-Naming 23rd Street South (Sandfield) to honor Joe Edwards

Council Member Stewart made a motion to dedicate 23rd Street (Sandfield) to honor Joe Edwards. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

R. Discuss/Approve Re-Naming Ponderosa Drive (Hwy. 69) to honor Dennis Erby

Council Member Stewart made a motion to dedicate Ponderosa Drive (Hwy. 69) to honor Dennis Erby. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

S. Discussion of Chief Operating Officer (COO) Salary

Council Member Greene made a motion to increase the salary for Chief Operating Officer (COO) to include the range of $85,000 - $120,000. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion. The Council entered in a discussion regarding this request. It was suggested that we wait until the Selection Committee meets and vet the applications and then discuss the salary for the position. Council Member Greene rescinded his motion and Council Member Mickens rescinded his second. No action taken.

T. Discuss Cares Act Funding

Questions were directed to General Counsel Turnage regarding the legality of using the CARES Act funds for employees' raises. The City Attorney stands firm on not giving employees a bonus. These funds can be used as Incentive Pay for future work. The City received $553,695.00 CARES Act funds on November 10, 2020. Council Member Jones made a motion to ask the General Counsel to bring a proposal on how the CARES Act funds can be spent at the next meeting. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

<u>CLOSED DETERMINATION:</u>
Council Member Jones made a motion to go into closed session to determine whether it is necessary to go into Executive Session. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

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 Gaskin apprised the Council of four (4) personnel matters related to the job performance of an employee in the Recreation Department and three (3) employees in the Police Department.. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

The Public Information Officer then announced to the general public outside the Council Chambers that the Council was going into Executive Session to discuss four (4) personnel matters, one (1) related to the job performance of a particular employee in the Recreation Department and three (3) related to the medical condition of employees in the Police Department.

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