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

JULY 19, 2022
5:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 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, the CFO, the COO, Police Chief, Assistant Police Chief, HR Director, and all other Department Heads.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATIION

Mayor Gaskin called the meeting to order and called upon Minister Tyson Cunningham, of Vibrant Church, Columbus, MS, to offer the Invocation.

II. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Council Member Greene made a motion to adopt the Agenda as presented. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

III. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of July 5, 2022. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Special Meeting of July 11, 2022. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve request for the Domestic Violence Advocate, Dorothy Sanders, to attend the "Women of Color Training" to be held in Biloxi, MS and approve payment of $321.25 for travel expenses.

B. Approve request for Consultant, Howard Cross, to travel to Columbus for a Leadership and Officer Development workshop for the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department, and approve payment of $3,000.00 for instructor's fee, $313.92 for lodging, $800.00 for airfare, and $161.00 for per diem.

C. Accept letter of resignation from Community Outreach Director, Glenda Buckhalter Richardson, effective July 25, 2022, and approve compensation of any accrued, unused vacation leave.

D. Accept letter of resignation from Columbus Fire and Rescue Engineer, Brent Younger, effective July 29, 2022 and approve compensation of any accrued, unused vacation leave.

E. Approve request to extend Woody's on the Water closing to August 9, 2022.

F. Approve a request by United Way to extend usage of the Farmer's Market to Munson's Brother Brewery to include use of 3rd Street North between 3rd Avenue and 2nd Avenue North, placement of food trucks blocking off the ends of the street for safety and use of hot air balloons.

Council Member Greene made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and their being none, all Council Members voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote.

V. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR JULY 19, 2022

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for July 19, 2022, in the amount of $431,945.22. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA

A. Mayor Gaskin asked the Council Members if they had any comments/ announcements. There were none.

Mayor Gaskin offered the following observations/remarks:

- *The Mayor, members of the Council, Waggoner Engineering representatives and a staff member from Worth Thomas Consulting Government Affairs traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with State Senators and Congressmen in efforts to secure funds. This was a very productive trip.*
- *Thank you to Chief Shelton and Chaplain Spencer for coordinating a community-wide prayer breakfast on Saturday, July 16. Thank you to all who attended.*
- *Later this month, there will be two (2) Town Hall & Drop-In Sessions for the Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation. One will be Thursday, July 28 at 6:00 p.m. at The Dream Center located at 1820 23rd Street North and the other one will be Friday, July 29 at 10:00 a.m. at the Community Resource Building located at 2300 14th Avenue North.*
- *As many may know, Glenda Richardson, Community Outreach Director for the City, has resigned. She will be missed and we wish her well.*

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

B. Monthly Report from the Forensic Lab for June 2022

The Monthly Report from the Forensic Lab for June 2022 was presented. No action was taken.

C. Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for June 2022

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for June 2022 was presented. No action was taken.

D. Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for June 2022

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for June 2022 was presented. No action was taken.

E. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for June 2022

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for June 2022 was presented. No action was taken.

F. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for June 2022

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for June 2022 was presented. No action was taken.

G. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for June 2022

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for June 2022 was presented. No action was taken.

H. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for June 2022

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for June 2022 was presented. No action was taken.

I. Monthly Report from the Recreation Department for June 2022

The Monthly Report from the Recreation Department for June 2022 was presented. No action was taken.

J. Monthly Report from the Office of Planning & Community Development for June 2022

The Monthly Report from the Office of Planning & Community Development for June 2022 was presented. No action was taken.

K. Board Vacancies

Jammie Garrett, COO, announced a vacancy on one (1) board and remarked that no appointments will be made tonight.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
1 Vacancy, 4-Year Term, Rita Felton's Term Expires 8/15/2022.
Appointment will be made August 16, 2022

APPLICANT:
- Rita Felton

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

A. Ms. Amber Henson, Roast & Boast Sponsorship Request

Ms. Amber Henson came before the Mayor and Council to request Sponsorship for Roast & Boast. This is an annual event that attracts tourists from near and far. Council Member Greene made a motion to table this request. Council Member Dicicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

B. Ms. Lavonne Latham Harris, Police Department Concerns

Ms. Lavonne Latham Harris, President of the local Chapter of NAACP and spokesperson for members in the audience, came before the Mayor and Council to discuss Police Department concerns. The Mayor and Council heard Ms. Harris' concerns and took no action.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA

A. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

EYE PROPERTY SOLUTIONS, LLC
2021 College Street
CASE NUMBER: 22-0188 Closing of Vacant Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0188**. 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 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 Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

**ROBERT G. MILLER, JR.
88 Airline Road
CASE NUMBER: 22-0165 OVERGROWN LOT**

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0165**. 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 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 Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

**JOHN A. BARRON
2511 – 5th Avenue North
CASE NUMBER: 22-0189 OVERGROWN LOT**

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0189**. 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 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 Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

NANCY J. and CYNTHIA MACNEILL
1217 11th Avenue North
CASE NUMBER: 22-0157 OVERGROWN LOT

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0157**. William Massey came forward for clarification of the process. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated that 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 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 Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

ALEXIS EARL BLUNT
402 Waterworks Road
CASE NUMBER: 22-0189 OVERGROWN LOT

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0189**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, 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 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 Beard 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 Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

MARTHA STEWART
1014 5th Avenue North
CASE NUMBER: 22-0184 OVERGROWN LOT

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0184.** No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James 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 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 Beard 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 6/0.

B. Discuss/Approve recommendations from the July 11, 2022 Planning Commission meeting.

<u>Permitted Use Request P/U 22-13</u>

On behalf of Robert Woods
1411 College Street
Tax Parcel 61W10-02-00601
R-3 Multi-Family Residential District

Request to operate a short-term rental

The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of request to operate a short-term rental on the second and third floors only. The first floor is long-term rental.

Council Member Beard moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to allow the operation of a short-term rental on the second and third floors be approved by Council. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion. Building Official, Kenney Wiegel, stated that there were no objections to this request There followed discussion, consideration, and review by the Council of the issues and facts presented by this request and the action taken by the City of Columbus Planning Commission.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

<u>Permitted Use Request P/u 22-14</u>

On behalf of Brettany Payne
712 6th Avenue North, Apt. 2
Tax Parcel 61W08-00-15900
R-3 Multi Family Residential District

The Planning Commission unanimously recommended for Apartment 2 to be used as a short-term rental.

Council Member Beard moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to allow the operation of a short-term rental on the second and third floors be approved by Council. Council Member Greene seconded the motion. Building Official, Kenney Wiegel, stated that there were no objections to this request There followed discussion, consideration, and review by the Council of the issues and facts presented by this request and the action taken by the City of Columbus Planning Commission.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

C. Discuss/Approve hiring two (2) CPD Officers, contingent on successful completion of a drug screen and pre-employment medical exam.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to hire **Austin A. Greene** and **Margarette A. Hughes** as Police Officers, 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 6/0.

D. Discuss/Approve Request to fill vacant position of Property and Evidence Custodian position.

Council Member Beard made a motion to hire **Courtney Malone** as Property and Evidence Custodian @ $15.39 hourly ($32,000 annually), 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 6/0.

E. Discuss/Approve Request to host the "National Night Out Against Crime" to be held on August 2, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at East Columbus Gym, Townsend Community Center, Sim Scott Community Center and Sandfield Community Center with the attached disbursements for advertising resources.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to host "National Night Out Against Crime" to be held on August 2, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at East Columbus Gym, Townsend Community Center, Sim Scott Community Center and Sandfield Community Center with the attached disbursements for advertising resources.. Council Member Dicicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

Council Member Beard made a motion to increase the disbursement amounts from $300.00 to $500.00 for each Community Center. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

F. Discuss/Approve MDOT Transportation Alternatives Application.

Kevin Stafford, dba Neel-Schaffer, Inc., came forward and requested approval to accept the MDOT Transportation Alternatives Application for 5th Street Pedestrian Improvements (Surface Transportation Block Grant Program [STBG]. A description of the project, including benefits of the project, Maps, Plans & Photos, Evidence of Eligibility, Environmental Review, Right-of-Way, utilities & Easements, and Budget and Implementation scheduled was distributed. The 5th Street Pedestrian Improvements Project is eligible under the following categories identified by the grant:

1. Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
2. Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs

The end result will be a project that accommodates variety and inclusion in the City's transportation network and provides much needed improvements to the city's existing pedestrian connections, including the routes into downtown and the Soccer Complex. The total project cost is $1,825,280.03. Federal share of construction costs is $1,382,787.90. Total participation by Lowndes County is $442,492.13.

Council Member Greene made a motion to table this request. The motion failed for lack of a second.

<u>SUBSTITUTE MOTION:</u>
Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the MDOT Transportation Alternatives Application and for the agreement between the City of Columbus

and Lowndes for the City to pay the matching funds or reimburse Lowndes County for the match.

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

The motion carried 4/2.

Council Member Mickens suggested precaution when approving projects that require matching funds.

THE MEMORANDUM AGREEMENT FOLLOWS:

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MEMORANDUM AGREEMENT –
MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI AND
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

This Memorandum Agreement – Mayor and Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi with the Lowndes County Board of Supervisors (the "Agreement") is made and entered into effective as of the date herein specified in Section _____ hereof, by and between the City of Columbus, Mississippi, acting through its Mayor and City Council (the "City") and Lowndes County, Mississippi, acting through its Board of Supervisors (the "County"). The City and the County shall be referred to herein each as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties".

RECITALS:

A. WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City are the duly elected and serving governing body of the City;

B. WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County is the duly elected and serving governing body of the County;

C. WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council are desirous of seeing improvements to pedestrian and vehicular facilities along 5th Street North from 5th Avenue to 9th Avenue, to include needs for ADA accessible routes and to improve connectivity of existing facilities and thereby improve and enhance economic, health and recreational opportunities and increase the chances for an acceleration of economic growth and improve tourism opportunities for citizens of the County and particular those who live in or visit the City;

D. WHEREAS, the County is agreeable to applying to the Mississippi Department of Transportation for the Transportation Alternatives Application Grant for the project known as the TAP 5th Street Pedestrian Improvements Project (the "Project"), contingent upon the City providing any and all necessary matching funds and providing any and all design work at its expense;

E. WHEREAS, because the Project is one of the primary entryways into the Central Business District and lies very near the center of the City, the City is motivated to make any and all payments of matching funds required to be made and to pay for whatever designs are required to complete the Project;

F. WHEREAS, the Parties desire to enter into this Agreement to set forth the various rights, responsibilities and duties of each Party and to set forth the terms and conditions for the application for the Project and for funding the same; and

G. WHEREAS, it is found by the Parties that it is in the best interest of the Parties that they enter into and execute this Agreement for the best interests of the City, the County and its citizens.

NOW THEREFORE, FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE AND THE MUTUAL BENEFITS ACCRUING TO THE CITY AND THE COUNTY, SUCH PARTIES DO HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. <u>Duration.</u> This Agreement shall be in force and effect unless and until terminated in accordance with the provisions hereof.

SECTION 2. Purpose. The purpose of this Agreement is to define the respective responsibilities of the Parties with respect to the Project.

SECTION 3. Organization; Authority. The Parties are authorized to enter in to this Agreement pursuant to Section 17-13-1 of the Mississippi Code.

SECTION 4. Financing and Supplying.

(a) *Financing generally.* The costs of the Project shall be financed by MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration if the grant is awarded and the City will pay for any and all matching funds and engineering and other costs not covered by the grant.

(b) *Supplying generally.* The application shall be made by the County, together with whatever letters, certifications, resolutions or other administrative papers are required in order to submit the application to the granting authority or authorities.

SECTION 5. Operation of the Project. The project shall be carried out and directed by the County and funded and administered by the City and the City Engineer.

SECTION 6. Termination; Disposition of Property. This Agreement shall terminate only upon mutual written agreement of the Parties hereto. There will be no real or personal property owned by the Parties with respect to the Project.

SECTION 7. Bonds; Financing. No bonds will be issued or indebtedness incurred by either Party other than as set forth in this Agreement, and any costs of matching funds or engineering fees shall be the sole responsibility of the City.

SECTION 8. Amendment. This Agreement may be amended at any time, but only by the mutual consent of the Parties evidence by such agreement entered pursuant to same on the minutes of the respective Parties.

SECTION 9. Manner of Acquiring, Holding and Disposing of Property; Cooperation Concerning Property Matters. There will be no real or personal property owned by the Parties with respect to the Project; Therefore, no provisions of this Agreement need address same.

SECTION 10. Revenues from the Project. Any revenues from the Project shall be allocated in accordance with the laws of the State of Mississippi, including, but not limited to Title 19, Title 21 and Title 27 of the Mississippi Code.

SECTION 11. Effective Date; Approvals; Filing. This Agreement shall be effective from and after the last to occur of the following: (a) when executed by the Parties hereto, (b) the approval by the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Mississippi has been obtained, (c) this Agreement has been filed with the Chancery Clerk of Lowndes County, Mississippi and wherever else required by law.

SECTION 12. Miscellaneous.

(a) *Controlling Law.* This Agreement has been entered into under, and shall be interpreted and construed according to the laws of the State of Mississippi.

(b) *Severability.* If any terms of this Agreement is found to be void or invalid, such provision shall be fully severable here from and such invalidity shall not affect the remaining terms of this Agreement, which shall continue in full force and effect, and this Agreement shall be reformed and construed as if such invalid provision had never been contained herein, and if possible, such provision shall be reformed to the maximum extent permitted under applicable law to render same valid, operative and enforceable to reflect the intent of the parties as expressed herein.

(c) *Counterparts.* This Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument. This Agreement may also be executed by fax or email and such shall be deemed for all purposes to be an original signatory page.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, the undersigned Parties have executed this Agreement effective as of the Effective Date, although signed on the dates set forth below on the respective signatures below.

CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI

BY:______________________________
Keith Gaskin, Mayor

ATTEST:

____
James Brigham, Secretary Treasurer / Clerk

(S E A L)

LOWNDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

____
BY: Trip Hairston, President

Attest:

____
Chancery Clerk and Clerk, Board of Supervisors

(S E A L)

1296474

G. Discuss/Approve rejecting all bids and rebidding the Columbus Lowndes County Airport Taxiway Pavement Rehabilitation project.

Council Member Beard made a motion to reject all bids and rebid the CLCA Taxiway Pavement Rehabilitation project. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

H. Discuss/Approve request to execute the *Settlement Participation Agreement* for the State of Mississippi's opioid settlement with Endo Health Solutions, Inc. and Endo Pharmaceuticals.

Council Member Stewart made a motion to approve the request to execute the *Settlement Participation Agreement* for the State of Mississippi's Opioid Settlement with Endo Health Solutions, Inc. and Endo Pharmaceuticals. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

I. Discuss Selection of search committee to hire a new Police Chief

Council Member Greene made a motion to solicit the guidance of a Consultant to lead a national search for the next Police Chief for the City of Columbus. Council Member Dicicco seconded the motion.

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

The motion failed 2/4.

J. Discuss/Approve request to appoint an Interim Police Chief, effective August 16, 2022.

Council Member Beard made a motion to appoint Doran Johnson as Interim Police Chief at the same rate of pay of the current Chief ($74,160.00 annually), effective August 16, 2022 and make a selection of a ten (10)-person committee at a later date, to include three – four (3-4) citizens. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

K. Discuss/Approve request to enhance East Columbus Gym.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the request to enhance East Columbus Gym out of ARPA funds. The enhancements will include:

- $2,500.00 Landscaping
- $7,935.17 Stage
- $4,480.00 Electrical Panels
- $7,200.00 Painting

TOTAL $22,116.17

Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

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 Greene 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 CFO, and the HR Director, exited the meeting.

Mayor Gaskin apprised the Council of one (1) personnel matter involving the job performance of an employee in the Public Works Department.

Council Member Jones made a motion to go in Executive Session to discuss one (1) personnel matter. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

The COO announced to the general public outside the Council Chambers that the Council was going into Executive Session to discuss one (1) personnel matter.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

PERSONNEL MATTER (1)
The matter of personnel to come before the Mayor and Council involves an employee in the Public Works Department. Public Works Director, Casey Bush, reported that Employee, I. D. Number 1461, has not reported for work nor called since July 6, 2022. Mr. Bush requested that his employment be terminated, effective immediately. Council Member Jones made a motion to terminate Employee, I. D. Number 1461 for failure to report to work or contact his immediate supervisor. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

OPEN SESSION:
Council Member Dicicco made a motion to end the discussion of this matter and return to Open Session. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

The COO announced to the general public outside the meeting room that the Council was back in Open Session.

The General Counsel announced that the Mayor and Council went in Executive Session to discuss one (1) personnel matter involving the job performance of employees in the Public Works Department and voted to terminate his employment for failure to report for work.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Approved by: ______________________________ ______________________________

Keith Gaskin, Mayor

James “Jim” Brigham
CFO/Secretary-Treasurer/City Clerk

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