

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

**AUGUST 16, 2022
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 16, 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 INVOCATION

Mayor Gaskin called the meeting to order and called upon Reverend Paul Bennett, Teaching and Involvement Minister of Columbus Church of Christ, to offer the Invocation.

II. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Council Member Jones requested that all Agenda Items be submitted in a timely manner to prevent the need to ratify requests after the fact. 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 Diccio made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of August 2, 2022. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 16, 2022**

- A.** Approve request for Council Member Mickens and any other Council Member who would like to attend the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation 51st Annual Legislative Conference, to be held in Washington, DC, September 28, 2022 thru October 1, 2022, and approve payment of \$200.00 for registration, \$465.00 for travel, \$100.00 for taxi service, \$151.25 for and reimbursement for the meal expenses.
- B.** Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Sally Kerstetter, to attend "Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations online course, to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$160.00 for registration, \$50.00 for travel, and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- C.** Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Thomas Parsons, to attend "NFPA 1002: drive and Operator" course to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$675.00 for registration, \$100.00 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- D.** Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Frederon Steele, to attend "Emergency Medical Technician NREMT" class to be held at EMCC, Mayhew, MS, and approve payment of \$2,500.00 for registration, \$50.00 for travel, and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- E.** Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Clayton Aldridge, to attend "Hazardous Materials Technician II" course to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$150.00 for registration, \$50.00 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- F.** Approve a request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Brandon McKay, to attend "NFPA 1001 I-II: Basic Firefighter Certification" class to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$500.00 for registration, \$350.00 for travel, and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- G.** Discuss/Approve hiring four (4) entry-level Firefighters: Jarvis Dearing, James Dunnam, John McRight and Montrell Neal, pending successful completion of a pre-employment physical exam and drug screen.
- H.** Approve request for CPD Sergeant, Samuel Jackson, to attend the "Command Leadership Course" to be held in Columbus, MS, and approve payment of \$695.00 for registration.
- I.** Ratify permit request submitted by Randy Vibrock, on behalf of MS University for Women Police Department, to host "MSMS Field Day" that was held on August 13, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. (*See attached map*).

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 16, 2022**

- J.** Approve permit request submitted by Julie Wolff, on behalf of Phoenix Race OCR, Addix Companies LLC, to host the “Possum Town Triathlon” to be held on August 20, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. (*See attached map*).
- K.** Approve request to renew Notary Bond for Alice Byars and pay for all expenses, not to exceed \$200.00.

Council Member Mickens 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 AUGUST 16, 2022

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for August 16, 2022, in the amount of \$1,218,183.32. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion. (*This amount does not include \$897.00 for the Commercial Dispatch*).

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.

Council Member Beard announced that the last Monday of each month, beginning Monday, August 29, 2022, second floor in City Hall, he will host State of the Ward Meeting at 6:00 p.m. and invited everyone to attend.

Council Member Jones thanked everyone that attended and supported the “Last Call” in honor of Chief Frederick Shelton.

Council Member Stewart congratulated Ms. Jammie Garrett, COO, for initiating “Reclaiming Our Youth” project this summer.

Mayor Gaskin offered the following observations/remarks:

- *Mayor began by asking Ms. Sharon Jones to come forward and presented her with a certificate of appreciation for her active role in helping keep*

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 16, 2022**

Ward VI beautiful by planting flowers and picking up litter in the neighborhood. Congratulations and thank you for your service, Ms. Jones!

- We welcome back all our area college students and hope you have a successful academic year.*
- I'd like to thank April Penny of Youth Against Gang Activity for the Stop the Violence Rally that was held August 13th at Sim Scott Park.*
- The United Way's Live United Drive Results event will take place on Thursday, August 25, from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Hitching Lot at the Farmer's Market. There will be food trucks and live music. Everyone is invited.*
- A representative from Senator Roger Wicker's office will visit City Hall on Friday, August 19 to discuss Columbus' CDS requests and provide a tour of the areas targeted for improvement.*
- City Hall will be closed on September 5, 2022 in observance of Labor Day.*
- Contact Helpline will host a 5K Race and Memory Walk on Saturday, September 10 at 8:00 a.m. at Columbus Soccer Complex. This is in honor of World Suicide Prevention Day.*
- Pick-It-Up Possum Town has planned its next community clean-up event for September 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This will focus on Hwy. 45 business corridor area.*
- I'd also like to remind everyone about our City Prayer Walks that are held the first Saturday in each month at 10:00 a.m. The meeting place is the Columbus Police Station. The next Prayer Walk will be held on September 3rd.*
- Please be reminded that forms such as Citizens Input, Board Applications, Permits to hold community events and/or blocking off streets, along with several other forms are found on our website, thecityofcolumbusms.org. These forms can also be picked up from the table at the front entrance of City Hall.*

MONTHLY REPORTS:

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

B. Monthly Report from the Forensic Lab for July 2022

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

C. Monthly Report from the Fire and Rescue Department for July 2022

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 16, 2022**

The Monthly Report from the Fire and Rescue Department for July 2022 was presented. No action was taken.

D. Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Department for July 2022

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Department for July 2022 was presented. No action was taken.

E. Monthly Report from the Building/Inspection Department for July 2022

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

F. Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for July 2022

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

G. Monthly Report from the Planning and Community Development Department for July 2022

The Monthly Report from the Planning and Community Development Department for July 2022 was presented. No action was taken.

H. Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for July 2022

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

I. Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for June 2022

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

J. Monthly Report from the Human Resources Department for July 2022

The Monthly Report from the Human Resources Department for July 2022 was presented. No action was taken.

K. Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for July 2022

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 16, 2022**

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

L. Monthly Report from the Trotter Convention Center/Friendship Cemetery for July 2022

The Monthly Report from the Trotter Convention Center/Friendship Cemetery for July 2022 was presented. No action was taken.

M. Monthly Report from the City Garage for July 2022

The Monthly Report from the City Garage for July 2022 was presented. No action was taken.

N. Monthly Financial Report

Jim Brigham, CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report, which includes the General Fund balance of \$5,512,184.52, which is an increase of \$2,059,016.59 compared to the same time last year. Total Sales Tax Receipts for July 2022 are \$967,872.53 and YTD collections are \$8,994,002.56.

O. Board Vacancies

Jammie Garrett, COO, announced a vacancies on two (2) boards and remarked that the vacancy on one (1) of the boards can be filled tonight..

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

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

APPLICANT:

- Rita Felton

Council Member Jones made a motion to reappoint Rita Felton to the Civil Service Commission for a 4-Year Term, until August 15, 2026. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 16, 2022**

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD

1 Vacancy, 5-Year Term, Mark G. Alexander Sr.'s Term expires 9/05/2022.

Appointment will be made September 6, 2022.

APPLICANTS:

- Joseph Bragg
- Jerry Fortenberry

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

A. Ms. Lavonne Lathan Harris, RE: Soccer Registration and Overview Committee

Ms. Lavonne Lathan Harris came before the Mayor and Council with concerns about Soccer Registration for Propst Park, stating that she contacted the Columbus Recreation Department Director about this matter. Parents and grandparents would like to see their children play soccer in the City league in Propst Park and not with the CSO league. The announcement regarding registration was not uploaded on the City's website; however, it was announced on the banner at Propst Park. Greg Lewis, Columbus Recreation Director came forward, offered apologies for the confusion and remarked that it is too late to begin a league. All registrations will be refunded. No action was taken.

Ms. Harris then asked about the status of the Police Department Overview Committee. The Committee has not met since prior to COVID. Some of the members that served on the Committee resigned. Ms. Harris asked if a member from the Overview Committee was selected to serve on the Police Selection Committee. Mayor Gaskin asked Ms. Garrett and Council Members to work together in forming a 10-member Committee for the selection of applicants for Police Chief.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA

A. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

**KATHERINE CLAYBORN
2406 3rd Avenue South
CASE NUMBER: 22-0196**

Overgrown Lot

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0196**. No one appeared. Code

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 16, 2022**

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 uncleanness 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.

**Estate of John T. Thompson
And Janice Louise Thompson
1801 Washington Avenue
CASE NUMBER: 22-0201**

**ABANDONED STRUCTURE/BUILDING
OVERGROWN LOT**

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0201**. 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 uncleanness 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.

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 16, 2022

**Estate of Alfredo Chavez Ponthier and
Daniel Lemus Gutierrez**

117 22nd Street South

CASE NUMBER: 22-0200

OVERGROWN LOT

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0200**. 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 uncleanness 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.

R. E. WASHINGTON

322 22nd Street South

CASE NUMBER: 22-0199

ABANDONED STRUCTURE/BUILDING

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0199**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, remarked that the property was in such a state of uncleanness 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.

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 16, 2022

The motion carried 6/0.

B. Discuss/Approve recommendations from the August 8, 2022 Planning Commission meeting.

(Kenny Wiegel could not be present. A Planning Committee member, Kevin Stafford, presented these requests).

P/C Docket No. 22-01

On behalf of Danny Osborne
2124 Bell Avenue
Tax Parcel 61W14-00-00100
R-1 Single-Family Residential District

Request to rezone the property from R-1 Single Family Residential District to C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District.

The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of request to rezone the property from R-1 Single Family Residential District to C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District.

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 rezone property located at 2123 Bell Avenue from R-1 Single Family Residential District to C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District be approved. Council Member Greene seconded the motion. Kevin Stafford 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.

P/C Docket No. 22-02

On behalf of Robert Rhett
420 31st Avenue North
Tax Parcel 56W09-00-00700
R-1 Single Family Residential District

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 16, 2022

Request to rezone the property from R-1 Single Family Residential District to C-1-R Neighborhood Commercial Restricted District.

The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the above request. The Commission based their decision on a possible error in zoning, a public need, and felt it would be in character with the immediate neighborhood.

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 rezone the property from R-1 Single Family Residential District to C-1-R Neighborhood Commercial Restricted District be approved. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion. Kevin Stafford 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 Clearing of Masonic drainage in the amount of \$2,850.00.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the clearing of Masonic drainage in the amount of \$2,850.00. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

D. Discuss/Approve Resolution Supporting the Efforts of the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District in the Formation of a Rural Transportation Planning Organization for the Seven County Golden Triangle in Mississippi.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve Resolution Supporting the Efforts of the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District in the Formation of a Rural Transportation Planning Organization for the Seven County Golden Triangle in Mississippi. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 16, 2022**

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS ON THE NEXT PAGE:

(THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY)

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 16, 2022

RESOLUTION

Supporting the Efforts of the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District in the Formation of a Rural Transportation Planning Organization for the Seven County Golden Triangle in Mississippi

WHEREAS, Columbus, Mississippi has certain pressing Economic and Community needs, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation has certain available funds under the Rural Surface Transportation Program, and

WHEREAS, Columbus, Mississippi is located in the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, and

WHEREAS, the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District (GTPDD) intends to pursue the possibilities of establishing a Rural Transportation Planning Organization;

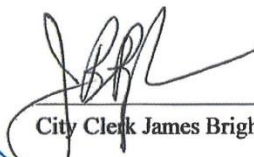
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Columbus Mayor and City Council of Columbus, Mississippi:

- (1) That Columbus, Mississippi wishes to be a part of and participate in the planning, development, and organization of Rural Transportation Planning Organization through the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District;
- (2) That upon approval of said organization each participating entity will be eligible to receive assistance in funding of certain highway, bridge, or tunnel projects that are eligible under programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation; and
- (3) That Keith Gaskin in the official capacity as the Mayor of Columbus, Mississippi is hereby authorized to sign all necessary documents for the said municipality, upon approval of said organization by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

SO ORDERED THIS the 16th day of August 2022, by the Columbus Mayor and City Council of Columbus, Mississippi in a regular meeting.



Mayor Keith Gaskin



City Clerk James Brigham



**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 16, 2022**

E. Discuss/Approve Search Committee, job description and salary increase for Chief of Police

Human Resources Director, Pat Mitchell, remarked that a draft of the job description for the vacant position of Police Chief has been distributed to all Council Members. The suggested salary range is \$74,000 - \$90,000. A survey was conducted and salaries from seven cities in Mississippi were considered.

Council Member Stewart requested that the COO be added on bottom of Page 1, next to the last bullet. The Council engaged in a discussion concerning the development an organizational chart for the City of Columbus

Ms. Jammie Garrett, COO, announced the Selection Committee Members, who are:

Mayor Keith Gaskin	Vice-Mayor Joseph Mickens
Councilman Rusty Greene	Councilman Stephen Jones
COO Jammie Garrett	H R Director Pat Mitchell
District Attorney Scott Colom	Public Defender Amanda Meadows
Civil Service Commissioner Rita Felton	
Former City of Columbus Police Chief Pete Bowen	

Police Chief Salary:

Council Member Green made a motion to approve the salary range for the position of Police Chief to \$74,000 - \$90,000. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried 5/1.

Police Chief Job Description and Selection Committee:

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Job Description for the position of Police Chief and the recommended Selection Committee pursuant to the list above. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried 5/1.

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 16, 2022**

Council Member Mickens exited the meeting.

F. Discuss/Approve Proposed Budget Calendar

COO Jammie Garrett distributed a Budget Calendar to discuss the FY 2022-2023 Budget and Millage rate. The schedule follows:

Thursday, August 18	The Columbus Packet	Publish 1 st Notice of Public Hearing to consider Tax Levies and Budget
Tuesday, August 23	10:00 a.m. - City Hall	Budget Workshop w/Department Heads
Thursday, August 25	The Columbus Packet	Publish 2 nd Notice of Public Hearing to consider Tax Levies and Budget
Tuesday, August 30	6:00 p.m. – Trotter Convention Center	Public Hearing
Thursday, September 1	5:00 p.m. – Trotter Convention Center	Public Hearing to Adopt Millage Levy and Discuss Budget
Tuesday, September 6	5:00 p.m. Municipal Complex	City Council Meeting – Adopt Budget
Thursday, September 15	The Columbus Packet	Publish Resolution and Millage Setting Tax Levies

Council Member Jones made a motion to follow the Budget Calendar listed above. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

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 of all Council Members present, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

Approved by: _____
Keith Gaskin, Mayor

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