

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

**OCTOBER 4, 2022
5:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 4, 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 COO, CFO, Interim 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 Elder Casey Bush, Member of Greater Mt. Zion M. B. Church, to offer the Invocation.

II. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Council Member Mickens made a motion to adopt the Agenda as presented. 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 Special Meeting of August 30, 2022**
- B. Approve Minutes for Special Meeting of September 1, 2022**
- C. Approve Minutes for Special Meeting of September 15, 2022**
- D. Approve Minutes for Meeting of September 20, 2022**

Council Member Stewart made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Special Meetings of August 30, September 1 & 15, 2022, and Minutes for the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2022. Council Member Diccio seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

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- A. Approve request for Forensic Scientist Trainee, Kristina Zwerg, to attend the on-line webinar "*Basic Fingerprint Distortion*" on October 12, 2022 and pay registration fee of \$125.00.
- B. Approve request for Forensic Scientist Trainee, Kristina Zwerg, to attend the on-line webinar "*Discriminating Power of Friction Ridge Arrangements*" on October 26, 2022 and pay registration fee of \$125.00.
- C. Approve request for Forensic Scientist, Hunter Mooney, and Forensic Scientist Trainee, Kristina Zwerg, to attend the on-line webinar "*Tonal Transitions: Causes and Visual Effects*" on October 19, 2022 and pay registration fee of \$250.00.
- D. Approve request for Forensic Scientist, Shanna Cunningham, to attend the on-line webinar "*Advanced Fingerprint Distortion*" on October 27, 2022 and pay registration fee of \$125.00.
- E. Approve request for CPD Captain, Anthony Nelson, to attend the "*Executive Leadership Institute Seminar*" to be held in Columbus, MS, and approve payment of registration cost of \$695.00.
- F. Approve permit request submitted by Ann Sparkman, on behalf of Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, to host a "Loaves and Fishes Fundraiser Take-Out Drive Thru Dinner Pick Up" to be held on October 20, 2022 from 4:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Annunciation Catholic Church Activity Center, 9th Street South entrance, blocking 9th Street South at Main Street and College Street.
- G. Approve permit request submitted by Linda Neal, on behalf of Faith, Love and Food Ministry, to host a "Food Ministry" to be held on October 23, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. in Sim Scott Park.
- H. Approve permit request submitted by Michael Cruse, on behalf of Victory Tabernacle Church, to host a "*Fall Block Party*" to be held on October 16, 2022 from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at 324 5th street South. *See attached map.*
- I. Approve request from Fire and Rescue personnel, Kameron Pearson, to attend "*Driver/Operator Aerial*" class to be held at the Alabama Fire College at no cost to the City.
- J. Approve request Fire and Rescue personnel, Sally Kerstetter, to attend "*NFPA 1001 I-II Basic Fire Fighter Training*" to be held in Pearl, MS, and approve payment of \$600.00 for registration, use of City vehicle for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses with total cost estimated to be \$1,015.00.

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- K. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel: Todd Graham and Michael Walker, to attend the “*MS Training Officer Conference*” to be held in Gulfport, MS, and approve payment of \$300.00 each for registration, use of City vehicle for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses with total cost estimated to be \$1,750.00.
- L. Approve request for Columbus Fire and Rescue personnel: Chief Duane Hughes, Training Chief Mike Chandler, Battalion Chiefs Robert Kain and Todd Graham to attend “Graduation” to be held in Pearl, MS and authorize use of City vehicle for travel.
- M. Approve request for six (6) Fire and Rescue personnel for NREMT Exam Vouchers at \$98.00 each and twenty-two (22) Fire and Rescue personnel for NREMT Recertification Vouchers at \$25.00 each, totaling \$1,138.00.
- N. Approve permit request submitted by Irene McClain, on behalf of Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi, to host the “*Mississippi’s Walk for Diabetes*” to be held on October 23, 2022 from 10:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Riverwalk. See *attached map*.
- O. Approve permit request submitted by Naomi Edmonds, on behalf of First United Methodist Early Learning Center, to host a “*Boo Parade*” to be held on October 28, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. See *attached map*.
- P. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow, on behalf of Main Street Columbus, Inc., to host the “*Christmas Parade*” to be held on December 4, 2022 from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. See *attached map*.
- Q. Approve request for Public Works Assistant Director, Bennie Coleman, and Office Manager, Tabitha Price, to attend he “*MS 811 Damage Prevention Summit*” to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of registration, lodging, travel and reimbursement of meal expenses, total cost estimated at \$1427.67.
- R. Approve request for Public Works Director, Casey Bush, to attend the “*Mississippi Public Works Association Fall Conference*” to be held in Gulfport, MS, and approve payment of \$225.00 for registration, \$300.00 for lodging, \$99.33 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses, total cost estimated at \$762.33.
- S. Approve permit request submitted by Shanaya Phinizee to host a “*Halloween Street Carnival*” to be held on October 29, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at 810 Fir Street, blocking Fir Street at Redwood Street and Gaylane Drive.

- T. Approve request for Parks & Recreation Director, Greg Lewis, and Director of Programs, Chanda Williams, to attend "*Sim Scott Senior Citizen Group's Fall Trip to Memphis, TN*" October 19 – 21, 2022 and approve reimbursement of meal expenses.
- U. Approve request to perform in-house training on policies, procedures and goals of the department on October 17, 2022 to improve services for FY2022-2023 Budget, from 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- V. Approve request to extend Woody's on the Water Closing to October 31, 2022.
- W. Approve Stewart Stafford as the appraiser for the Blight Elimination Program, in the amount of \$550.00 or less per unit.

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 there being none, all Council Members voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote.

V. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for October 4, 2022, in the amount of \$500,886.31. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion, except Council Member Diccico.

The motion carried 5/1.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA

A. Mayor Gaskin asked if any Council Members had any comments/announcements.

Councilman Jones expressed concerns about garbage pick-up and asked the COO to facilitate a meeting with Golden Triangle Waste Management.

Mayor Gaskin made the following announcements/observations:

- Congratulations to the Columbus Municipal School District for the "C" rating!
- Congratulations to Firefighter Josh Connors on being selected as Columbus Fire and Rescue Firefighter of the Year!

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- Thank you to all the sponsors, volunteers, supporters of all the festivals/events held this past weekend—The 7th Avenue Heritage Festival; The Burns Bottom Arts Festival and the Oktoberfest Run and Fun.
- The Lowndes County Sheriff Department is hosting A National Night of Fun this evening from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the New Hope Community Center.
- Thank you to the NAACP President Lavonne Latham Harris and the Lowndes County NAACP Chapter for putting on the 19th Annual Freedom Banquet since we last met.

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND:

- Angel Babies Wave of Light Ceremony (*in honor of babies lost thru miscarriages, stillbirth and infant deaths*) will be Saturday, October 15 at 5:30 p.m. at EMCC, Golden Triangle Campus.
- Columbus High Homecoming parade will be Thursday, October 20 at 5:00 p.m., followed by a Community PEP Rally on the football field at 6:00 p.m.
- An All-Inclusive Obstacle Course will be held October 22 at the Soccer complex at 9:00 a.m. This event is sponsored by the Rowdy Foundation.
- MUW Welty Weekend begins October 28
- The Annual Roast N Boast Main Event will be October 28-29 at the Columbus Fairgrounds.
- The Columbus Benefit Committee and Lowndes County Sheriff Department will host The Purge Fundraiser at the Fairgrounds on October 28 – 31, 2022.
- Columbus Parks and Recreation Fall Festival will be October 29. More details coming soon.

B. Presentation of Commendation to CPD Officer Justin Robinson

(Officer Robinson could not be present).

C. Board vacancies

Ms. Jammie Garrett, COO, announced vacancies on various boards and remarked that two (2) appointments will be made tonight.

COLUMBUS-LOWNDES LIBRARY BOARD

1 Vacancy, 5-Year Term, Clyde Hollis' Term Expired 9/30/2022.
Appointment will be made October 4, 2022.

APPLICANT:

Jerry Fortenberry

Council Member Jones made a motion to appoint Jerry Fortenberry to the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library for a 5-Year Term, until 9/30/2027. Council Member Diccico seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

2 Vacancies, 3-Year Terms, Chuck Bigelow's & MacArthur Inge's Terms Expire on 10/04/2022.

Appointments will be made on October 4, 2022.

APPLICANTS:

- Chuck Bigelow
- MacArthur Inge
- Eric Thomas

Council Member Stewart made a motion to reappoint Chuck Bigelow and MacArthur Inge to the City Planning Commission for 3-Year Terms, until 10/04/2025. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

**D. Edmond Green, SB Property Management Global, LLC, Oak Manor
Renovation and Revitalization Plan**

Mr. Edmond Green, dba SB Property Management Global, LLC, came before the Mayor and Council to discuss Oak Manor property. Mr. Green introduced his Property and Project Manager, Lorenzo Francis, and apprised the Council of his intent to renovate 90% of the property and bring it up to standard code. He has received three (3) estimates to perform the renovation work, which will include construction, landscaping, roofing, aluminum pane windows that are free of lead. His plan is not to displace any current tenants, but to relocate them to renovated units permanently. When the work is completed, there will be twenty-one (21) one-bedroom apartments and eight (8) two-bedroom apartments. He will hire a Property Manager or Project Manager and a Maintenance Supervisor locally. Mr. Green stated that he received a proposal for some of the work from licensed contractor, Tom Hatcher. Mr. Hatcher came forward and estimated the cost to renovate each

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unit to be between \$20,000.00 - \$25,000.00. This will be close to a \$1.6 million dollar project. Mr. Green stated that he was unaware that this property was in abatement when he purchased it. The Council engaged in discussion and following discussion, Council Member Beard made a motion to rescind the abatement order of this property. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

A. Minister Belinda Morris, RE: Outreach Opportunities

Minister Belinda Morris came before the Mayor and Council to discuss the growing desperate need for displaced citizens to have a safe place to live until they can find gainful employment. This will be a temporary program with a minimum and maximum number of days.

Kerr McGee/Tronox Lawsuit:

Minister Morris stated that she has received numerous calls and concerns regarding Kerr-McGee/Tronox Lawsuit and residents in the area that were impacted with debilitating health issues and illnesses have yet to receive any money and requested the Mayor and City Attorney to research the matter.

City Utility Bills:

Minister Morris' last statement involves the comparison of Columbus Light and Water and 4-County's electric bills. The City's electric bills were considerably higher and this concerns her because many of her neighbors are living on a fixed income and must compromise meals or utilities.

These items were taken under consideration.

B. Diamonz Brown, RE: 50 Shades of Fall Weekend

Ms. Diamonz Brown, entrepreneur, came before the Mayor and Council, discussed her business and an upcoming event, 50 Shades of Fall Weekend, slated to convene November 5 & 6, 2022. 50 Shades of Fall will be held November 5, 2022 and Ms. Brown estimates 20 – 50 vendors will be on site. Ms. Brown has also planned a 50 Shades of Fall Fashion Show, scheduled for November 6 and requested the Council extend the use of the Trotter Convention Center for this event, free of charge. Council Member Jones remarked that the Council has adopted a policy about donating the Convention Center and cannot donate it for this cause, but suggested that she collaborate with the COO, Ms. Garrett, for use of the Farmers Market. No action was taken.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA

A. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

JOHN T. THOMPSON

4th Avenue North

CASE NUMBER: 22-0205 OVERGROWN LOT

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0205**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is her recommendation to enter the proposed Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council Member Stewart made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may remediate the property with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty- four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

WYLLIE DORIAN

2316 College Street

CASE NUMBER: 22-0256 OVERGROWN LOT

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0256**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is her recommendation to enter the proposed Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council Member Stewart made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may remediate the property with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty- four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

GRANDVIEW INVESTMENTS LLC
2400 Hwy. 45 North
CASE NUMBER: 22-0235 OVERGROWN LOT

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0235**. No one appeared, but Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James reported that the property owner requested some additional time to remediate the property. She concurred with the request and recommended a **10-day extension**. 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. Council Member Diccico made a motion give the property owner a **10-day extension** to remediate the property, and that an Order be issued for the property in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and remove 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.

THOMAS E. AND ELOISE ROBERTSON
607 18th Street North
CASE NUMBER: 22-0259 OVERGROWN LOT

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0059**. 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 Greene 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 Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

ROBERT L. JONES

414 19th Street South

CASE NUMBER: 22-0222

OVERGROWN LOT

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0222**. 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 Greene 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 Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

JOHNNY CLEMMONS

230 Taylor Street

CASE NUMBER: 22-0219

BURNED STRUCTURE

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0019**. 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 Greene 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.

CHRISTOPHER BROWN
904 2nd Avenue North
CASE NUMBER: 22-0288

OVERGROWN LOT

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0288**. 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 Greene 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.

LAWRENCE WILSON
317 23rd Street North
CASE NUMBER: 22-0241 BURNED STRUCTURE

The General Counsel called cause number **22-0241**. Mr. Lawrence Wilson, property owner appeared and requested additional time to have the structure demolished. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James concurred with the request and recommended a **45-day extension**. 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. Council Member Greene made a motion give the property owner a **45-day extension** to remediate the property, and that an Order be issued for the property in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and remove rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

B. Discuss/Approve the promotion of one (1) Columbus Fire & Rescue personnel from Captain to Battalion Chief, effective October 4, 2022.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the request to promote one (1) Columbus Fire & Rescue personnel, Captain Wes Mims, to the vacant position of Battalion Chief with the appropriate pay increase, effective October 4, 2022. Council member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

C. Discuss/Approve purchase of one (1) Rosenbauer Aerial, complete with Rosenbauer Commander chassis and Rosebauer Viper Aerial in the amount of \$975,000.00.

Fire Chief Hughes came before the Mayor and Council regarding the purchase of one (1) Rosenbauer Aerial Fire Apparatus in the amount of \$975,000.00, The City received \$350,000 in grant funds from the State of Mississippi to be applied to a the purchase of a fire apparatus. Fire Rebate funds will also be utilized to help pay for the equipment. The scheduled delivery date is August 2023 with payment due upon delivery. Chief Hughes also reported that the cost has increased since the City decided to purchase it. The CFO stated that this item was not budgeted in the FY2022-2023 budget. An option to pay for this equipment is a short-term loan. The City has spent less in 2022 than what was budgeted. Fire Rebate Funds can be used to purchase fire trucks and equipment. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to purchase one (1) Rosenbauer Aerial Fire Apparatus at \$975,000.00. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Council Member Mickens made a motion to table this matter for further discussion. The substitute motion failed.

INITIAL MOTION:

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion to approve the purchase one (1) Rosenbauer Aerial Fire Apparatus, except Council Member Mickens, who opposed.

The motion carried 5/1.

D. Discuss/Approve Premium Pay Resolution/Affidavit for Mississippi Law Enforcement and Firefighters Premium Pay Program.

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General Counsel Turnage apprised the Mayor and Council of a Premium Pay Resolution and remarked that the Mississippi Legislature passed Mississippi House Bill 1427 and Mississippi House Bill 1542, creating the “Mississippi Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Premium Pay Program,” in its 2022 Regular Legislative Session, and that these bills were subsequently signed into law by Governor Tate Reeves. The City must authorize the CFO to execute the Affidavit about the program and for individuals to receive brief training on COVID 19 regarding the policies and procedures. Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Premium Pay Resolution pursuant to the language above. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion. The Mayor called for vote and recorded the votes as follows:

Council Member Taylor Stewart	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Mickens	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Greene	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Beard	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Jones	<u>YES</u>
Council Member DiCicco	<u>YES</u>

THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

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PREMIUM PAY RESOLUTION

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF LOWNDES**

On the 4th day of October, 2022, at a meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi, held at the Municipal Complex of the City of Columbus, Mississippi, in Lowndes County, with a quorum of council members present, the following matters were taken into consideration:

I. **WHEREAS**, this governing body acknowledges and understands that the Mississippi Legislature passed Mississippi House Bill 1427 and Mississippi House Bill 1542, creating the “Mississippi Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Premium Pay Program,” in its 2022 Regular Legislative Session, and that these bills were subsequently signed into law by Governor Tate Reeves.

II. **WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Program is to, among other things, to distribute monies to municipalities, who, before July 1, 2022, paid premium pay to law enforcement officers and fire fighters employed by them from funds received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act for reimbursement to those government entities for not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) that the governmental entity paid to each eligible law enforcement officers and firefighters who were serving the local governments, for their efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic. See 2022 Mississippi House Bill 1427 Section 2, subparagraph (2)(d).

III. **WHEREAS**, these establishing laws shall took effect on July 1, 2022, and the Program shall be administered by the Mississippi Department of Public Safety.

IV. **WHEREAS**, this governing body acknowledges and understands that the Mississippi Department of Public Safety seeks to work with municipalities and law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and other law enforcement entities to efficiently administer the hazard premium

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payments in accordance with the guidelines set forth in 2022 Mississippi House Bill 1427, 2022 Mississippi House Bill 1542, and all related Mississippi and federal law.

V. **WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus have no known means of being reimbursed for the expenses in question from any source of funds, including insurance proceeds, other than from the Department of Public Safety as authorized by the aforesaid Mississippi House Bills.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

I. **RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi fully support the efforts of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety to distribute these premium payment reimbursements, as provided in Section 2 of 2022 Mississippi House Bill 1427, subparagraph (2)(d) to the City of Columbus, because the City of Columbus, Mississippi did, before the effective date of House Bill 1427, pay premium payments to law enforcement officers and firefighters employed by the City of Columbus; and be it further

II. **RESOLVED** the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi fully support the efforts of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety to distribute these premium payment reimbursements and support the provisions of 2022 Mississippi House Bill 1542, while also adhering to the guidelines provided in all corresponding legislation; and be it further

III. **RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Council did authorize premium payments from its American Rescue Plan Act, State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds in the amounts of \$3,000 to each of the City's _____ [fill in total number here] full-time law enforcement officers and firefighters, and that such payments were made on June 30, 2022, before the effective date of 2022 Mississippi House Bill 1427; and be it further

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IV. **RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi are authorized under the act to be reimbursed by the Department of Public Safety for the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) per law enforcement officer and firefighter and is therefore seeking _____ dollars (\$_____) in reimbursement from the Mississippi Department of Public Safety; and be it further

V. **RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi by this resolution ask that the payments administered by the Mississippi Department of Public Safety under the “Mississippi Law Enforcement and Firefighters Premium Pay Program,” be distributed to the City of Columbus for purposes of reimbursing the City of Columbus for not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) of the amount of premium pay that City of Columbus, Mississippi paid to each eligible full time Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter in its employ at the time the premium payments were made on June 30, 2022 using American Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal and Local Recovery Funds; and be it further

VI. **RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi understand and acknowledge the conditions of receiving and expending the funds appropriated under 2022 Mississippi House Bill 1427 and 1542; and be it further

VII. **RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi hereby certify that any funds received by the Mississippi Department of Public Safety for hazard premium payments shall be expended in compliance with the guidelines, guidance, rules, regulations and/or other criteria, as may be amended from time to time, of the United States Department of the Treasury regarding the use of monies from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund established by the American Rescue Plan Act; and be it further

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VIII. **RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi request a petition for such distribution of moneys made directly from the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, on behalf of the State of Mississippi, to the City of Columbus, pursuant to Section 2(2)(d) of House Bill 1427 to reimburse the City of Columbus for not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) in premium payments that the City of Columbus, Mississippi paid to each recipient Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter from such State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. The above resolution was passed by a majority of those members present and voting in accordance with applicable laws, bylaws, policies, and procedures of this governing body; and be it further

IX. **RESOLVED** that the Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to execute an entity affidavit in the form attached hereto for the City of Columbus, Mississippi to seek reimbursement under the Mississippi Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Premium Pay Program as specified in 2022 Mississippi House Bills 1427 and 1542.

The above and foregoing Resolution was motioned for adoption by Council Member _____ JONES _____ and was seconded by Council Member _____ STEWART _____. Thereafter, the Mayor called for discussion on the motion and after the Council considered the pros and cons of the motion, and upon deliberation thereof, the Mayor called for vote and recorded the votes as follows:

Council Member Taylor Stewart	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Mickens	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Greene	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Beard	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Jones	<u>YES</u>
Council Member DiCicco	<u>YES</u>

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 2022

The Resolution, having received a majority of the vote then and there cast was pronounced by
the Mayor as passed and approved.

This the 4TH day of October, 2022.

KEITH GASKIN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JAMES BRIGHAM, CITY CLERK & SECRETARY/
TREASURER

CITY SEAL

Notary Public

NOTARY SEAL

**Entity Affidavit for Mississippi Law Enforcement
and Fire Fighters Premium Pay Program**

State of Mississippi
County of Lowndes

I, JAMES BRIGHAM, MUNICIPAL CLERK FOR THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI do hereby swear under oath that, to the best of my knowledge and belief:

1. Premium payments were previously been dispersed on June 30, 2022 to all qualifying certified, full-time law enforcement officers and certified full-time fire fighters serving in the respective departments of the City of Columbus, in the State of Mississippi.

2. The above entity has fully provided the Mississippi Department of Public Safety with all required documentation confirming that the aforementioned payments took place and agrees to produce additional documentation if required.

3. The above entity has not received reimbursement from any other form of federal monies that could be used for payment for duties performed during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

4. All individuals employed by the above entity have completed COVID-19 substantially in conformity with the required DPS training before premium payments were made.

5. The above entity has read the program summary in full and agrees to all the terms listed including, but not limited to the guideline referring to the repayment of misspent funds.

Date _____

Official Signature _____

This date personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, in and for Lowndes County, State of Mississippi, the above named employee, who, being first duly sworn, state on their oath that the above facts are true and correct. Given under my hand and official seal, this the _____ day of October, 2022.

JAMES BRIGHAM, MUNICIPAL
CLERK, CITY OF COLUMBUS

NOTARY PUBLIC SIGNATURE

NOTARY SEAL

Individual Affidavit for Mississippi Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Premium Pay Program

State of Mississippi
County of Lowndes

I, _____, of _____, being:

[place a check mark in the appropriate box below

___ a certified firefighter for the City of Columbus as of June 30, 2022; or

___ a certified law enforcement officer for the City of Columbus as of June 30, 2022;

do hereby swear under oath that:

1. I am or was a certified, full-time or part-time law enforcement officer and/or a certified fulltime or part-time fire fighter serving in the State of Mississippi, and I was so serving as of June 30, 2022.

2. I have not received hazard pay from the Governor's discretionary funds authorized by the Legislature from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act.

3. I received receive a premium payment from the City of Columbus related to COVID-19 on June 30, 2022 totaling more than \$1,000.

4. I am in full compliance according to the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training and/or the Mississippi Insurance Department.

5. I have completed the required COVID-19 training or training substantially including all the requirements of the DPS COVID-19 training.

6. I have read the program summary in full and agree to all of the terms listed, including, but not limited to, the guideline referring to the repayment of misspent funds.

Date _____ Officer Signature _____ This date personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, in and for Lowndes County, State of Mississippi, the above named employee, who, being first duly sworn, state on their oath that the above facts are true and correct.

Given under my hand and official seal, this the 4TH day of October, 2022.

Signature

Notary Public

E. Discuss/Approve Taking Actions regarding Sandfield Cemetery (East)

General Counsel Turnage reported that at the present time, it is still unclear who the titled owner of Sandfield Cemetery (East) is. In his research, he did not find where Prince Edward transferred the deed to anyone. Approximately three (3) years ago, the Legislature authorized the entrance in Cemeteries to perform maintenance. If you do not wish to Eminent Domain the cemetery, but want to maintain it, you will still have the issue of someone continuing to sell plots and burying people and possibly stacking burials. If you want to control it, you will have to own it, otherwise you can just go in and perform maintenance. If you want to own the Cemetery, the recommendation is to have the property surveyed, I assume by Neel-Schaffer, Inc. so you will have a legal description of the property to put in the complaint in case any heirs of Prince Edwards surface. Council Member Jones made a motion to research Eminent Domain of the cemetery, continue to perform maintenance on the property and authorize the General Counsel to prepare the necessary documents. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

General Counsel remarked that he added an Addendum to Woody's on the Water closing documents and the date has been extended until October 31, 2022.

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 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 CFO, the Interim Police Chief, and the HR Director, exited the meeting.

Mayor Gaskin apprised the Council of three (3) Personnel matter involving the job performance of an employee in the Police Department and two (2) employees in the Finance & Administration Department and remarked that these matters warrant being heard in Executive Session.

Council Member Diccico made a motion to go in Executive Session to discuss three (3) Personnel matters. 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 three (3) Personnel matters.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Approved by: _____
Keith Gaskin, Mayor

James "Jim" Brigham
CFO/Secretary-Treasurer/City Clerk

(THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY)