

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS March 19, 2024

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 19 2024 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, except Council Member Beard. Also present were the General Counsel, the COO, CFO, Police Chief, HR Director, and all other Department Heads.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION:

Mayor Gaskin called the meeting to order and called on Minister Belinda Morris to offer the Invocation.

II. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Councilwoman DiCicco made a motion to move Items “O, P, & Q” from the Consent Agenda to Policy Agenda as Items “J, K, & L.” Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

III. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MARCH 5, 2024 AND THE SPECIAL MEETINGS OF MARCH 12 & 14, 2024.

Councilwoman DiCicco made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of March 5, 2024 and the Special Meetings of March 12 & 14, 2024. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request for Code Enforcement Director, Sasha James, to attend the 2024 M.A.C.E. Educational Conference, to be held August 14 – 16, 2024 in

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Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$175.00 for registration, \$417.00 for lodging, \$112.64 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses, all totaling \$796.64.

- B. Approve request made by M. Patel to use lot behind the City Garage for Holiday Celebration on March 24, 2024, with assistance from Columbus Fire & Rescue Department.
- C. Approve request for five (5) Fire & Rescue personnel to attend “F0455 Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations” to be held in Starkville, MS, and approve use of city vehicle for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- D. Approve request for Fire & Rescue personnel, Marco Rodriguez, to attend “Norfolk Southern Safety Train” to be held in Tuscaloosa, AL, and approve use of city vehicle and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- E. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Jaquay Sherrod, to attend “L-105 Public Information Basics Course” to be held in Hattiesburg, MS, and approve payment of registration, lodging, travel, books and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- F. Approve request for CPD Chief Joseph Daughtry to attend the “2024 MACP Summer Educational Conference” to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of \$350.00 for registration, \$599.95 for lodging, \$100.00 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses, total cost estimated at \$1,279.95.
- G. Approve request for Victims Advocate, Dorothy Sanders, to attend the “Women of Color – The Healing Guide Seminar” to be held in Southaven, MS, and approve payment of \$230.48 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses, total cost estimated at \$322.48.
- H. Approve permit request submitted by Shane Cruse, on behalf of Victory Tabernacle Church, to host an “Easter Block Party” to be held on March 30, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Victory Tabernacle Church, 324 – 5th Street South. *See attached map.*
- I. Approve permit request submitted by Colin Krieger to host a “Pilot Partner Welcome” to be held on April 9, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at 527 Military Road, at the 900 block of 6th Avenue North.
- J. Approve permit request submitted by Colin Krieger to host a “Neighborhood Gathering” to be held on March 29, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at 527 Military Road, at the 900 block of 6th Avenue North.

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- K. Approve permit request submitted by Salem Gibson, on behalf of the Columbus Arts Council, to host "Tennessee Williams Stella Yell" to be held on April 6, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. *See attached map.*
- L. Approve permit request submitted by Salem Gibson, on behalf of the Columbus Arts Council, to host "Porch Fest & Burns Bottom Arts Festival" to be held on April 13, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. *See attached map.*
- M. Approve request for the Landfill Scale Operator to attend the Solid Waste Spring Conference, to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment \$350.00 for registration, \$290.00 for lodging, \$351.08 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- N. Approve recommendation from the January 8, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting for Permitted Use Request 24-01. This request is on behalf of Crossroads of Columbus, 125 Yorkville Road West, Tax Parcel 69W22-00-16100. The Planning Commission recommends approval to allow existing former church building to be used as a drug and alcohol rehabilitation living facility and the former parsonage be used as where the Director or Staff will stay. The Commission based their decision on a public need and no significant objection from the neighbors in the immediate vicinity.

ITEMS "O. P. & Q" WERE MOVED TO THE POLICY AGENDA.

- O. Approve request for the Annual Juneteenth Festival funding in the amount of \$15,000.00 per the 2% Restaurant Tax Agreement to fund festivals in the City of Columbus.
- P. Approve request for the Annual 7th Avenue Heritage Festival to be held at Propst Park and funding in the amount of \$15,000.00 per the 2% Restaurant Tax Agreement to fund festivals in the City of Columbus.
- Q. Approve request for the 28th Annual Market Street Festival funding in the amount of \$15,000.00 per the 2% Restaurant Tax Agreement to fund festivals in the City of Columbus.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, all Council Members voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote of those present, 5/0.

V. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS:

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for March 19, 2024, in the amount of \$646,910.30. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

- A.** Mayor Gaskin asked members of the Council if they had any announcements.

Council Member Jones thanked our Lobbyists and Cornerstone for working diligently and being successful in helping the City receive additional grant funds.

Council Member Jones also wished Yolanda Smith a speedy recovery from a recent surgical procedure.

- Mayor Gaskin requested MUW President, Ms. Nora Miller to come forward and thanked her for efforts in Jackson to keep MUW open. He continued by reading a presentation in recognition of “W” Day and went on to present Ms. Miller with a Proclamation declaring March 12 – 31, 2024 as “W” Day.
- Chief Daughtry came forward and recognized two (2) CPD Officers, Demarco Easterwood and Jacorius Hammond for successfully completing 2024 Motor Officer Class. Chief Daughtry presented the two (2) Officers with certificate of completion and motor wings. They can now operate the City motorcycles.

B. Building Inspection - February 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for February 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

C. Columbus Fire & Rescue - February 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire & Rescue Department for February 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

D. Columbus Police Department – February Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for February 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

E. Convention Center/Friendship Cemetery - February Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Convention Center/Friendship Cemetery/Property Manager for February 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

F. City Garage - February 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the City Garage for February 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

G. Human Resources Department – February 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Human Resources Department for February 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

H. Code Enforcement – February 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for February 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

I. Community Outreach Department – February 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Community Outreach Department for February 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

J. Public Works Department – February 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from Public Works Department for February 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

K. Office of Planning and Community Development Department – February 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Office of Planning and Community Development Department was presented. No action was taken.

L. Municipal Court Division – February 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Division for February 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

M. Columbus Recreation Department – February 2024 Monthly report

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for February 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

N. Information Technology Department – February 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Information Technology Department for February 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

O. Finance – February 2024 Monthly Report

Jim Brigham, CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report for February 2024, which includes the General Fund cash balance of \$10,845,139.55 and is an increase of \$3,122,078.39 compared to the same time last year. The Sales Tax Receipts for February are \$829,827.00, which is a decrease of \$35,282.00 compared to the previous year. The first Modernization Tax Receipt was received on January 25, 2024 and totals \$1,135,749.35. The remaining balance of ARPA Funds is \$3,069,968.93. The balance in the Bridge Repair Fund is \$2,375,277.20 and the Recreation Improvement Fund is \$3,940,894.49. The CFO also distributed an Expenditure Report by department. No action was taken.

P. Board Vacancies

Jammie Garrett, COO announced vacancies on various boards, as follows:

GOLDEN TRIANGLE REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

1 Vacancy, 4-Year Term, position has been vacant since December 2022. Term expires 12/31/2026.
Appointment will be made March 19, 2024.

APPLICANT:

Julie Goodin

Council Member Jones made a motion to appoint Julie Goodin to the Golden Triangle Regional Waste Management Authority Board for the remainder of a 4-Year Term, until December 31, 2026. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

A. GTE SC Columbus Orthopedic Riverwalk Spring Invitational – Jason Spears

Mr. Jason Spears came forward and announced that the 1st Annual GTE SC Columbus Orthopedic Riverwalk Spring Invitational Soccer Tournament will be held April 13-14, 2024 and noted the value of this tournament.

- 52 Teams are registered from all areas. They will be staying in our hotels, eating in our restaurants and shopping in our stores.
- We appreciate the City's partnership as the City and the event grow.
- There will be a Food Truck
- We request to block off some streets
- We request to place a banner.
- The Columbus Recreation Department will assist with set-up.
- Columbus Fire & Rescue will be on stand-by in case of emergencies.
- We invite the Mayor and Council to attend this event.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to hang a banner. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

B. KERR-MCGEE LAWSUIT – Belinda Morris & Cliff Johnson

Ms. Belinda Morris and Mr. Cliff Johnson came forward with concerns about the Kerr-McGee Lawsuit. Ms. Morris read a Mission Statement and made statements about allegations of wrong doing and stated that the City of Columbus Elected Officials and a Lowndes County Supervisor were aware. The Mayor denied the statement, but remarked that he will schedule a meeting so that they can sit and discuss the Kerr-McGee Lawsuit. No action was taken.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

EVENING STAR COL. MASONIC

918 – 17th Street North

CASE NUMBER: 24-0051

Dilapidated Structure

Property Maintenance Code Violation

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0051**. 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

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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 Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0

GEORGE O. RUSH, JR.

1504 7th Avenue North

CASE NUMBER: 24-0054

Abandoned Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0054**. Mr. George O. Rush, Jr. came forward and remarked that he has spent his life's savings trying to revitalize this structure and every time he make progress, someone breaks in and steals personal belongings. Mr. Rush was asked to give his contact information to CPD. Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, stated that Mr. Rush needs to secure the door. No action was taken.

\$250.00 OR LESS CASES:

Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, presented one (1) cases, \$250.00 or less for adjudication. Council Member Greene made a motion to accept the notices for property clean-up of properties \$250.00 and less to be adjudicated according to statute. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

THE LIST FOLLOWS:

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\$250 OR LESS Derelict Properties for March 19, 2024 Mayor and City Council Meeting

Case # and Violation	Ward	Name and Address	Notes
24-0063 <i>Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage</i>	5	ANNIE SYKES 905 17 th Street North	



SYKES ANNIE
1827 WEST 64TH ST
LOS ANGELES, CA 90047

Date: March 6, 2024

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus (the "Governing Authority"), having a population over one thousand five hundred (1500), has authorized the City of Columbus Code Enforcement Director and/or her assistant to determine whether the property or parcel of land is in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public health, safety and welfare of the community when the fee or cost to clean property or a parcel of land that is one (1) acre or less does not exceed Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00), excluding administrative costs.

The particular condition(s) as determined by the authorized municipal employee existing as of the date of this notice is/are one or more of the following:

- X The presence of overgrowth of weeds, grass or other vegetation
- X The presence of rubbish/garbage and other debris
- X The presence of abandoned building
- X The presence of abandoned or dilapidated fence(s)
- X The presence of burned structure
- X The presence of dilapidated building(s), slabs or personal property
- X The presence of property maintenance code violation
- X The presence of standing water in cesspools
- X The presence of cistern(s), standing water and cesspools

You are hereby advised that by this correspondence a determination has been made that the condition of property or parcel of land as described is a menace to the public health, safety and welfare of the community, and as such the governing authority of the City of Columbus, if the owner does not do so himself, on or before the 13th day of March, 2024, shall proceed to clean the land, by the use of municipal employees or by contract, by cutting grass and weeds, filling cisterns, removing rubbish, abandoned or dilapidated fences, outside toilets, abandoned or dilapidated buildings, slabs, personal property, which removal of personal property shall not be subject to the provisions of Section 21-19-21, and other debris, and draining cesspools and standing water therefrom.

Code Section:	Corrective Action:	Compliance Date:
107.1 - Accumulation of Rubbish and Garbage	Remove all trash and debris from the property. All equipment, appliance, and/or material must be stored away from public view and/or stored in an enclosed structure. Generally, any equipment, materials or furnishings that would ordinarily not be used outdoors may not be stored outdoors.	March 13, 2024

At least seven (7) days before the date of cleaning, this notice is required to be posted on the property or parcel of land identified herein AND at city hall or such other place in the municipality where such notices are posted AND is required to be mailed, via United States Mail, postage prepaid, to the address of the property or parcel of land identified herein except where the land or structure(s) is apparently vacant, AND to the address where the ad valorem tax notice for the property or parcel of land identified herein is sent by the office charged with collecting ad valorem taxes for the subject property or parcel of land identified herein.

This Notice was posted on the subject property on: March 6, 2024

By: Sasha James, City of Columbus Director of Code Enforcement

This Notice was posted at the City Building Inspection Office on: March 6, 2024

By: Sasha James, City of Columbus Director of Code Enforcement

This Notice was mailed via United States Mail, postage prepaid, to each address identified above on: March 6, 2024

By: Sasha James, City of Columbus Director of Code Enforcement

YOU ARE ADVISED THAT A FINDING BY THE MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL THAT THE PROPERTY OR PARCEL OF LAND IS IN NEED OF CLEANING WILL AUTHORIZE THE MUNICIPALITY TO REENTER THE PROPERTY OR PARCEL OF LAND FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL'S DETERMINATION WITHOUT ANY FURTHER HEARING OR ACTION IF NOTICE IS POSTED ON THE PROPERTY OR PARCEL OF LAND AND AT CITY HALL OR ANOTHER PLACE IN THE MUNICIPALITY WHERE SUCH NOTICES ARE GENERALLY POSTED AT LEAST SEVEN (7) DAYS BEFORE THE PROPERTY OR PARCEL OF LAND IS REENTERED FOR CLEANING. A COPY OF THE REQUIRED NOTICE MAILED AND POSTED AS REQUIRED BY MCA SECTION 21-19-11(2) (a)&(b) SHALL BE RECORDED IN THE MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HEARING REQUIRED BY SAID SECTION.

Thereafter, the governing authority shall by resolution adjudicate the actual cost of cleaning the property under this provision, provided the same does not exceed Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) and may also impose a penalty not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or one hundred percent (100%) of the actual cost of cleaning the property, whichever is more.

The cost and any penalty imposed may become a civil debt against the property owner, and/or, at the option of the governing authority, an assessment against the property. The "cost assessed against the property" means either the cost to the municipality of using its own employees to do the work or the cost to the municipality of any contract executed by the municipality to have the work done, and additionally may include administrative costs of the municipality not to exceed Fifty Dollars (\$50.00). For subsequent cleaning within the one-year period, upon seven (7) days' notice posted both on the property or parcel of land adjudicated in need of cleaning and at city hall or another place in the municipality where such notices are generally posted, and consistent with the municipal official's determination as authorized, a municipality may reenter the property or parcel of land to maintain cleanliness without further notice or hearing no more than six (6) times in any twelve-month period with respect to removing abandoned or dilapidated buildings, slabs, dilapidated fences and outside toilets, and no more than twelve (12) times in any twenty-four-month period with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris on the land, and the expense of cleaning of the property shall not exceed an aggregate amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per year. The governing authority may assess the same actual costs, administrative costs, and penalty for each time the property or land is cleaned as otherwise provided. The penalty provided herein shall not be assessed against the State of Mississippi upon request for reimbursement under Section 29-1-145, nor shall a municipality clean a parcel owned by the State of Mississippi without first giving notice. Upon written authority from the Secretary of State's office, for state-owned properties, a municipality may forgo the notification process that is prescribed in this subsection and proceed to clean the properties and assess costs as prescribed in this subsection, except that, penalties shall not be assessed against the State of Mississippi. A determination made by an appropriate municipal employee under that subsection (2) that the state or condition of property or a parcel of land is a menace to the public health, safety and welfare of the community shall not subsequently be used to replace a hearing if Section 21-19-11(1) is later utilized by a municipality when the prerequisites of Section 21-19-11(2) are not satisfied.

An appeal of this decision may be made to the Governing Authority of the City of Columbus and such appeal shall be in writing, state the basis for the appeal and be filed with the city clerk no later than seven (7) days from the latest date of notice required under MCA 21-19-11(2).

For any questions, please call Sasha James, the Code Enforcement Director for the City of Columbus at 662-245-3063 or 662-245-5070.

This 6th day of March, 2024,
Sasha James,
City of Columbus Director of Code Enforcement

A copy of this notice shall be recorded in the minutes of the governing authority in conjunction with MCA Section 21-19-11 (2).

B. Discuss/Approve Recommendations from the March 11, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting.

Docket 24-02

William Ferguson, Property Owner
2700 block of Military Road
Tax Parcel 55W09-00-01000

A request to name a private drive off Military Road as “Margie Lane”

The Planning Commission recommends approval of request.

The Commission based their decision on the fact that there were no issues concerning duplication, or similarity, with the proposed road name per City & County Street Directory.

Council Member Greene 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 grant the request to name a private drive off Military Road as “Margie Lane” be approved. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

Permitted Use Request 24-03

Monika Willis, Property Owner
1702 7th Street North
Tax Parcel 56W18-01-05900

A request to establish an Elderly Residential Living Facility

With a non-binding vote, due to lack of a quorum, the Planning Commission voted four to zero to recommend denial to use this single-family home as an elderly residential assisted living facility. NOTE: There were four members present and one on the phone for the beginning of this case, making a quorum, but he was lost sometime before the vote and attempts to reconnect for his vote were unsuccessful.

The Commission based their decision on an objection from a neighbor in the immediate vicinity, this use would not be a good fit for the neighborhood, and it may set an unwanted precedent.

Council Member Jones made a motion to return this case back to the Planning Commission when there is a binding vote and a full quorum. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

Permitted Use Request 24-08

Lauretta Tucker, (Future Property Owner)
225 Byrnes Circle
Tax Parcel 61W05-01-00600

A request to assume ownership and operation of an existing child daycare.

With a non-binding vote, due to lack of a quorum, the Planning Commission voted four to zero to recommend approval for the new owner to continue this daycare operation.

The Commission based their decision on no objections from neighbors in the immediate vicinity and the fact that this was an existing child daycare facility.

Council Member Jones made a motion to return this case back to the Planning Commission when there is a binding vote and a full quorum. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

C. Discuss/Approve Passage of Muffler Noise Ordinance

The General Counsel and Council discussed this request and resolved that the current Noise Ordinance covers muffler noise; therefore, no approval is necessary.

D. Discuss/Approve hiring two (2) entry-level Police Officers and two (2) Certified Police Officers, contingent on successful completion of preliminary testing.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the hiring of Michael Frierson and Brian Cantrell as Entry-Level Police Officers and Kahlan Harris and Michael Lay as Certified Police Officers, contingent on successful completion of preliminary testing. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

E. Discuss/Approve awarding the Bid for Grounds Maintenance of Friendship Cemetery and Historic Sandfield Cemetery to BAMS LL.

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to award the Bid for the rounds Maintenance Contract for Friendship Cemetery to BAMS LL in the amount of \$126,291.00 for 33 cuts and \$22,275.00 for Historic Sandfield Cemetery for 33 cuts. Council Member Jones seconded the motion..

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

(BID TABULATION FOLLOWS)

**CITY OF COLUMBUS PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI**

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

BID TABULATION

February 29, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

VENDOR	FRIENDSHIP CEMETERY	HISTORIC SANDFIELD CEMETERY	33 CUTS	BID BOND	TOTAL BID
BAMs LL SAMMY L. BROWN, JR. P. O. BOX 2097 COLUMBUS, MS 39704 662.251.0897	\$3,827.00 PER CUT	\$675.00 PER CUT	YES 33 CUTS FOR EACH CEMETERY	YES	\$126,291.00 \$ 22,275.00 \$148,566.00
CLEAN CUT LAWN CARE LLC Richard Caradine 1412 S. Matubba Aberdeen, MS 39730 662.542.7945	COMBINED	COMBINED	YES 33 CUTS FOR EACH CEMETERY	YES	\$100,000.00 TOTAL BID FOR BOTH CEMETERIES
CUT SCHEDULE: November – February: 1 cut per month = 4 cuts March: 2 cuts = 2 cuts April – September: 4 cuts per month = 22 cuts (24) cuts (May vary, due to temperature and amount of rain) October: 3 cuts = 3 cuts TOTAL CUTS: 33 (35) (May vary if there are five weeks in the month, as well as temperature and rain.					
BAMs LL is the current Contractor. He supplied all requested information in detailed form, including an itemized list of equipment and staff members by name and their position. Clean Cut Lawn Care LLC supplied requested information, but only submitted pictures of four (4) pieces of mowers and a picture of weed eaters. The number of staff members was not submitted. <i>Based on historical bids, which included Friendship Cemetery ONLY, no former bidder could complete the task as required for \$100,000.00. They either requested an increase or requested to end the contract.</i>					

F. Discuss/Approve Implementation of the Conflict Resolution & Counseling Pretrial Diversion Program

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Implementation of the Conflict Resolution & counseling Pretrial Diversion Program, which is designed to offer conflict resolution skills and strategies in a mental health setting and include support group and individual counseling for expanding intervention as a form of alternative sentencing options. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

G. Discuss/Approve resolution to approve the 2024 COLA Payment

Council Member Jones made a motion to adopt the Resolution approving the 2024 COLA Payment. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

The foregoing Resolution was read, considered and voted upon section by section and as a whole, the vote of each and all of the sections, and upon the Resolution as an entirety, was taken by “yea” and “nay” vote with the following results:

Council Member Ethel Taylor Stewart	voted:	<u>YEA</u>
Council Member Joseph Mickens, Sr.	voted:	<u>YEA</u>
Council Member Russell Greene	voted:	<u>YEA</u>
Council Member Pierre Beard, Sr.	voted:	<u>YEA</u>
Council Member Stephen Jones	voted:	<u>YEA</u>
Council Member Jacqueline DiCicco	voted:	<u>YEA</u>

The motion having received the affirmative vote of all Council Members present, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted.

ADOPTED, APPROVED AND PASSED this the 19th day of March, 2024.

THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS ON THE NEXT PAGE:

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI
REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT
SYSTEM OF MISSISSIPPI TO MAKE PAYMENT
OF THE 2024 COLA**

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus is required to fund the necessary payment for the City of Columbus Police and Fire Disability and Relief Fund and the 2024 payment will become due at the end of 2024, and the funds are available to make such payments.

IT IS THEREFORE, Resolved and Ordered that the City of Columbus does hereby adopt the Resolution request that the 2024 COLA payment be timely made.

THE ABOVE RESOLUTION, having been first reduced to writing, was introduced by Council Member JONES, who moved for its adoption. It was seconded by Council Member GREENE.

The foregoing Resolution was read, considered and voted upon section by section and as a whole, the vote of each and all of the sections, and upon the Resolution as an entirety, was taken by "yea" and "nay" vote with the following results:

Council Member Ethel Taylor Stewart	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Joseph Mickens, Sr.	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Russell Greene	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Pierre Beard, Sr.	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Stephen Jones	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Jacqueline DiCicco	voted: <u>YES</u>

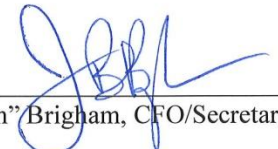
The motion having received the affirmative vote of all Council Members present, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted.

ADOPTED, APPROVED AND PASSED this the 19th day of March, 2024.



Keith Gaskin, Mayor

ATTEST:



James "Jim" Brigham, CFO/Secretary-Treasurer



- H. Discuss/Approve Memorandum of Understanding, IRS form W9, Letter requesting transfer of funds: HB603 Verification Form and Bond Advisory Contact Form for the receipt of \$2,000,000.00 from the Department of Finance and Administration for the Burns bottom Urban Renewal Project and authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute and deliver same.**

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding, IRS form W9, Letter requesting transfer of funds: HB603 Verification Form and Bond Advisory Contact Form for the receipt of \$2,000,000.00 from the Department of Finance and Administration for the Burns bottom Urban Renewal Project and authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute and deliver same. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOLLOW:

(THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY)

Government

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter the "MOU") is entered into between the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration (hereinafter the "DFA") and the City of Columbus (assist Columbus Redevelopment Authority with Park View-Burns Bottom Project) for the purpose of establishing the agreed upon conditions under which the DFA may disburse funds to assist the City of Columbus in paying costs associated with the local project (hereinafter the "Project") specified in Section 28(nx) of House Bill 603, 2023 Regular Legislative Session, Laws of 2023, (hereinafter the "Act"). This MOU is entered into in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. Section 27-104-351, also known as the Line-Item Appropriation Transparency Act, and pursuant to, and subject to the terms of the Act, which authorizes an amount not to exceed (\$3,000,000.00) (hereinafter the "Project Funds"), for the Project. **(PLEASE NOTE THAT IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SPEND THE FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE STATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACT AS WELL AS ALL STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS.)**

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Section 28 of House Bill 603, 2023 Regular Legislative Session, authorized expenditures from the 2023 Local Improvements Projects Fund for certain projects; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 28(nx) of House Bill 603, 2023 Regular Legislative Session, Laws of 2023, the Legislature has appropriated funds to the City of Columbus to pay the costs of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Act authorizes the DFA to disburse monies in the 2023 Local Improvements Projects Fund to pay the costs of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus shall maintain the Project Funds in a separate bank account; and

WHEREAS, the DFA has requested the City of Columbus to maintain on file the documentation listed in "Exhibit A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, to the extent the City of Columbus is subject to the State's procurement laws; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus agrees to expend the funds within thirty-six (36) months from the date of receipt from the DFA; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus agrees that if any proceeds from the Project Funds are remaining at the completion of the Project, the City of Columbus will immediately notify and consult with the DFA regarding the disposition of the funds, and said funds shall be directed in accordance with the Act; and

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WHEREAS, the City of Columbus agrees to provide quarterly notarized reports to the DFA which describe and itemize the expenditure of the Project Funds and also provide an update on the status of the Project including future expenditure of the funds. The quarterly reports must be provided on a form designated by the DFA and must include all invoices and bank statements associated with the reported expenditures. The quarterly reports shall be provided within thirty (30) days of each calendar quarter end. The City of Columbus shall also provide to the DFA a final report no more than thirty (30) days after final expenditure of funds, summarizing the expenditures and use of the Project Funds upon completion of the Project. All invoices that have not previously been submitted, shall be submitted upon completion of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the DFA finds that it is in the best interest of the DFA and the City of Columbus that the funds on deposit in the 2023 Local Improvements Projects Fund for the City of Columbus (assist Columbus Redevelopment Authority with Park View-Burns Bottom Project) should be disbursed to the City of Columbus and that the City of Columbus shall directly administer the expenditure of such funds for the Project.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS MUTALLY AGREED BY THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION AND THE CITY OF COLUMBUS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The DFA, pursuant to the Act, shall disburse the Project Funds from the 2023 Local Improvements Projects Fund upon written request of the City of Columbus to pay the costs associated with the Project.

Section 2. The City of Columbus certifies and agrees to make every effort to expend all funds received from the 2023 Local Improvements Projects Fund within thirty-six (36) months from the date of receipt and **solely** for the costs of the Project as set forth in the Act and upon the terms and provisions of this MOU. Failure of the City of Columbus to adhere to any provision within this MOU may result in immediate action by the State to recover project funds.

Section 3. The City of Columbus agrees to procure any necessary construction, goods, and services for the Project in accordance with State procurement laws to the extent the City of Columbus is subject to same. Failure to adhere may cause the DFA to withhold all sums for the Project and seek recovery of same. Further, the City of Columbus agrees to maintain on file the documentation listed in "Exhibit A" attached hereto and incorporated herein, in accordance with State law and the recitals of this MOU.

Section 4. The City of Columbus agrees to provide the DFA quarterly notarized reports as set forth hereinabove, in a format designated by the DFA. The quarterly reports shall be provided within thirty (30) days of each calendar quarter end. The City of Columbus shall also provide the DFA with a final report summarizing the

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expenditures and use of the Project Funds no more than thirty (30) days after final expenditure of the Project Funds.

Section 5. The City of Columbus agrees to maintain copies of all invoices, bank statements, and similar documentation for each expenditure of all funds received from the 2023 Local Improvements Projects Fund sufficient to satisfy and confirm, to the DFA's satisfaction, that such funds have been expended **solely** for the costs of the project as authorized and provided by the Act.

Section 6. The City of Columbus agrees that if any proceeds from the Project Funds are remaining at the completion of the Project, the City of Columbus will immediately notify and consult with the DFA regarding the disposition of the funds and said funds shall be directed in accordance with the Act.

Section 7. The City of Columbus agrees that Project Funds shall be expended in accordance with all State and Federal laws and regulations, and that failure to do so may cause the DFA to withhold funds for the Project or seek recovery of same.

Section 8. All notices or information pursuant to this MOU shall be provided as follows:

City of Columbus
Attn: Keith Gaskin, Mayor
523 Main Street
Columbus, Mississippi 39701
Phone: 662-244-3500
Email: james.brigham@columbusms.org

Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration
Attention: Gilda Reyes, Bond Advisory Director
501 North West Street, Suite 1301
Jackson, Mississippi 39201
Telephone: 601-359-5516
Email: Gilda.Reyes@dfa.ms.gov

Section 9. This MOU shall be effective from and after the final signature date.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have affixed their signatures on the dates indicated below.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

By: _____
Liz Welch, Executive Director

Date: _____

CITY OF COLUMBUS

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By: _____ Date: _____
Keith Gaskin, Mayor

EXHIBIT A

The City of Columbus (assist Columbus Redevelopment Authority with Park View-Burns Bottom Project) shall maintain on file, the following items in relation to the Project:

1. Proof of Advertisement (i.e. copy of the advertisement, MPTAP and/or procurement portal posting, etc.) for any Request for Qualification (RFQ), Request for Proposals (RFP), or Invitation for Bid (IFB).
2. The Program of Work for the Project.
3. All solicitation documents (RFQ, RFP, IFB, etc.).
4. A list of bidders/respondents, including the Bid Tabulation Form/Register of Proposals. For construction awards, include recommendation of the Professional for the award of contract. For items procured by RFQ or RFP, include evaluation committee tally sheets/overall scoring in support of award decision.
5. A copy of all payment requests or invoices for said construction, goods, and services. In the case of construction contractor payment applications, include Professional's approval of payment.
6. All contracts awarded for the Project.
7. All bank statements.
8. Any and all other documentation which may be required to document, to the DFA's satisfaction, that the Project funds are expended **solely** for the costs of the Project as set forth in the Act and upon the terms and provisions of this MOU.

I. Discuss/Approve accepting the FY2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant with a 20% match in the amount of \$40,000.00.

Kevin Stafford dba Neel-Schaffer, Inc. came forward and apprised the Mayor and Council of the specifics of this grant. The grant is for \$160,000.00 and requires a \$40,000.00 match, which would not be due this fiscal year. The purpose of this grant is for the City to develop a comprehensive safety action plan for the City of Columbus to improve road safety for all user. In recognition of the risks to life and safety, the roads in Columbus present for citizens, the City of Columbus is committed to develop a safety action plan to improve everyday life with robust public & stakeholder input, safety analysis and equity analysis. Council Member Greene made a motion to table this matter. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

THE NEXT THREE (3) ITEMS WERE MOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION.

J. Approve request for the Annual Juneteenth Festival funding in the amount of \$15,000.00 per the 2% Restaurant Tax Agreement to fund festivals in the City of Columbus.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to table this matter until the next meeting. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

K. Approve request for the Annual 7th Avenue Heritage Festival to be held at Propst Park and funding in the amount of \$15,000.00 per the 2% Restaurant Tax Agreement to fund festivals in the City of Columbus.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to table this matter until the next meeting. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

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- L. Approve request for the 28th Annual Market Street Festival funding in the amount of \$15,000.00 per the 2% Restaurant Tax Agreement to fund festivals in the City of Columbus.**

Council Member Mickens made a motion to table this matter until the next meeting. Council Member Greene 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, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

Approved by: _____
Keith Gaskin, Mayor

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

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