

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS June 18, 2024

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 18 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 Stewart, who was absent. Council Member Beard had not arrived at this time. Also present were the General Counsel, the COO, CFO, 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 on Rev. Leonardo Dismukes to offer the Invocation.

II. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Councilwoman DiCicco made a motion to move the agenda as prepared. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 4/0.

III. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JUNE 4, 2024 AND THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 6, 2024.

Councilwoman DiCicco made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of June 4, 2024 and the Special Meeting of June 6, 2024. Councilwoman Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 4/0.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request for four (4) Fire and Rescue personnel: Shay Boyd, Kaelan Browstein, Brandon McKay and Josh Nolt, to attend “*NFPA 1002 – Driver Operator*” class to be held in Starkville, MS, and approve payment of \$523.76 for

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 18, 2024

registration, use of city vehicle for travel, reimbursement for meals with all costs estimated to be \$2123.76.

- B. Approve request for Dorothy Sanders, Victims Advocate, to attend the *"Women of Color, for the Culture Seminar"* to be held in Biloxi, Mississippi and approve payment of \$343.04 for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses with total costs estimated to be \$435.04.
- C. Approve request for the HR Director to begin advertising and recruitment process to fill the Sports Coordinator position for the Recreation Department.
- D. Accept letter of retirement from three (3) Fire and Rescue Firefighters, effective July 1, 2024, and approve compensation of 240 hours of accrued vacation leave for those that requested it and return remaining leave to PERS.
- E. Approve request for Mayor Gaskin and City Council Members to attend the Mississippi Policy Conference to be held in Tunica, MS and approve payment of registration, lodging, meals and travel expenses, estimated to cost \$1,325.86 per person.
- F. Approve request for Mayor Gaskin and City Council Members to attend the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Conference to be held in Point Clear, AL, and approve payment of registration, lodging, meals and travel expenses, estimated to cost \$1,319.04 per person.
- G. Approve request for Grant Administrator, Susan Wilder, and Interim Director of Planning, George Irby, to attend the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Conference to be held in Point Clear, AL, and approve payment of registration, lodging, meals and travel expenses, estimated to cost \$1,319.04 per person.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as prepared. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, all Council Members voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote from those present, 4/0.

V. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS:

Council Member Greene made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for June 18, 2024, in the amount of \$1,654,523.05. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. Mayor Gaskin asked if there were questions or discussion. Council Members ask the CFO questions about the total. The CFO responded

that there are debt service payments and the first loan payment for the Recreation Improvement Project included.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion, except Councilwoman DiCicco, who opposed.

The motion carried 3/1.

Council Member Beard arrived for the meeting.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

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

- Mayor Gaskin offered condolences and prayer to Municipal Court Administrator, Wendy Blunt, and her family during the loss of her brother.
- Council Member Jones announced the birthday of his colleague, Council Member Beard, and everyone sang "*Happy Birthday*" to him.

Mayor Gaskin asked the Council if they had questions about the Department Heads' Monthly Reports.

B. Building Inspection - May 2024 Monthly Report

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

C. Garage – May 2024 Monthly Report

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

D. Code Enforcement – May 2024 Monthly Report

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

E. James M. Trotter Convention Center/Friendship Cemetery – May 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the James M. Trotter Convention Center/Friendship Cemetery for May 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

F. Columbus Fire & Rescue - May 2024 Monthly Report

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

G. Columbus Police Department – May Monthly Report

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

H. Office of Planning and Community Development Department – May 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Office of Planning and Community Development Department for May 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

I. Human Resources Department – May 2024 Monthly Report

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

J. Columbus Recreation Department – May 2024 Monthly report

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for May 2024 was presented. Councilwoman DiCicco asked the Director of Parks if he plans on securing sponsorship. She also asked about the Playgrounds in Northaven Woods Park. The Director responded to these questions. No action was taken.

K. Finance – May 2024 Monthly Report

Jim Brigham, CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report for May 2024, which includes the General Fund cash balance of \$10,601,962.05 which is an increase of \$1,383,922.45 compared to the same time last year. The Sales Tax Receipts for May are \$937,911.00, which is a decrease of \$18,208.00 compared to the previous year. The Modernization Use Tax balance is \$5,618,570.29. The remaining balance of ARPA Funds is \$3,965,292.00. The balance in the Bridge Repair Fund is \$1,730,675.57 and the Recreation Improvement Fund is \$2,893,564.50. The CFO also distributed an Expenditure Report by department. No action was taken.

L. Community Outreach Department – May 2024 Monthly Report

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

M. Municipal Court Division – May 2024 Monthly Report

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

N. Information Technology Department – May 2024 Monthly Report

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

O. Public Works Department – May 2024 Monthly Report

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

P. 2021 Audit Report

Ms. Wanda Holley, dba Watkins, Ward, Stafford Accounting Firm, came forth and presented the 2021 Audit Report for Council review. She discussed the report, 101 pages, section by section, the findings and a corrective action plan. No action was taken.

Q. Board Vacancies

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

CITY UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 Vacancy, 5-Year Term, Michael Tate's Term expires June 30, 2024.
Appointment will be made July 2, 2024.

APPLICANTS:

None at this time

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

1 Vacancy, 3-Year Term, Elizabeth Terry's Term expires July 3, 2024.
Appointment will be made July 2, 2024, 2024.

APPLICANTS:

Jace Ferraez
Bonita Smith
Elizabeth "Liz" Terry

COLUMBUS HOUSING AUTHORITY

1 Vacancy, 5-Year Term, Kedgra Gray's Term expires July 16, 2024.
Appointment will be made July 16, 2024.

APPLICANT:

Kedgra Gray

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

1 Vacancy, remainder of Bryan Brown's Term that expires 5/18/2025.
Appointment will be made June 18, 2024.

APPLICANT:

Jerry Fortenberry

Council Member Jones made a motion to appoint Jerry Fortenberry to the Historic Preservation Commission for the remainder of Bryan Brown's term, until May 18, 2025. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

A. Will Sanders, CPA – Accountability in Municipal Government and the Audit Function.

Mr. Will Sanders, CPA, came forward and distributed a document regarding the importance of audit committees and went on to question the Council about the City's obligation to ensure that the firm contracted to audit the city's books are being held accountable and are in full compliance. Following his comments about the 2021 audit and auditors, the Council asked him a series of questions. No action was taken.

B. Eric Thomas – Columbus Elite Financial Support

Mr. Eric Thomas, Head Coach of the Columbus Elite, 10 and under baseball team, who have advanced to the World Series that will be held in Southaven, MS the week of June 24 – 27, 2024 requested financial support to assist with lodging and other needs. Council Member Jones moved to approve the expenditure of \$1,500.00 from 001-004-703 (Advertising City Resources) as authorized by Section 17-3-1 of the Mississippi Code, and find that said

amount is a legitimate expense that will advertise and bring into favorable notice the opportunities, possibilities and resources of the City of Columbus. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried 4/1.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

JIMMIE PERKINS

707 Industrial Street

CASE NUMBER: 24-0148

**Dilapidated Structure
Overgrown Lot**

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0148**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated 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 Beard made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0

LOVIE J. FUQUA ESTATE

1408 Military Road

CASE NUMBER: 24-0175

Overgrown Lot

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0175**. 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 5/0.

GENEVA C. HODGES LIFE ESTATE

1905 4th Avenue North

CASE NUMBER: 23-0181

**Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage
Overgrown Lot**

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0181**. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated that the heirs to this property have made substantial improvement to the conditions and recommended giving the property owner a **15-day extension** to remediate the property. The property is in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Beard made a motion to give the property owner a **15-day extension** to remediate the property. Ms. James also recommends that an Order be issued for the property in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, 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. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

MARIO MURRAY

701 16th Avenue South

CASE NUMBER: 24-0185

Property Maintenance Code Violation

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0185**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 18, 2024

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 present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0

MARCO HARRISON

106 Maple Street

CASE NUMBER: 24-0188

Overgrown Lot

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0188**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0

\$250.00 OR LESS CASES:

Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, presented four (4) cases, \$250.00 or less for adjudication. Council Member Beard made a motion to accept the notices for property clean-up of properties \$250.00 and less to be adjudicated according to statute. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 18, 2024

The motion carried 5/0.

THE LIST FOLLOWS:

\$250 OR LESS Derelict Properties for June 18, 2024 Mayor and City Council Meeting

Case # and Violation	Ward	Name and Address	Notes
24-0182 <i>Overgrown Lot</i>	4	DEMETRIUS BENNETT Cherry Street	
24-0183 <i>Overgrown Lot</i>	1	JEFFREY CARTER 1425 7 th Street South	
24-0184 <i>Overgrown Lot</i>	1	JEFFREY CARTER 701 15 th Avenue South	
24-0193 <i>Overgrown Lot</i>	2	MARY SHELTON 1908 Short Main Street	

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 18, 2024



BENNETT DEMETRIUS J
709 FORREST BLVD
COLUMBUS, MS 39702

NUISANCE PROPERTY NOTICE TO OWNER - PURSUANT TO
SECTION 21-19-11 (2) OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE (Effective 7/1/2022)

RE: CHERRY ST
APN: 61W06-03-08800
Case No: CE-24-0182
Officer: Sasha James - Ward: 4

Date: May 29, 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 assistants 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:

- ☒ The presence of overgrowth of weeds, grass or other vegetation
- ☐ The presence of rubbish/garbage and other debris
- ☐ The presence of abandoned building
- ☐ The presence of abandoned or dilapidated fence(s)
- ☐ The presence of burned structure
- ☐ The presence of dilapidated building(s), slabs or personal property
- ☐ The presence of property maintenance code violations
- ☐ The presence of standing water in cesspools
- ☐ 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 5th day of June, 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 21-59-21, and other debris, and draining cesspools and standing water therefrom.

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 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 this 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 662-245-5063 or 662-245-5070.

This the 29th day of May, 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).

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 notices 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: May 29, 2024

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

This Notice was posted at the City Building Inspection Office on: May 29, 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: May 29, 2024

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

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 18, 2024



CARTER JEFFREY W
P O BOX 8774
COLUMBUS, MS 39705

NUISANCE PROPERTY NOTICE TO OWNER - PURSUANT TO
SECTION 21-19-11(2) OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE (Effective 7/1/2022)

RE: 1425 7TH ST S
APN: 61W180112000
Case No: CE-24-0183
Officer: Sasha James - Ward: 1

Date: June 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:

- ☒ The presence of overgrowth of weeds, grass or other vegetation
- ☐ The presence of rubbish/garbage and other debris
- ☐ The presence of abandoned building
- ☐ The presence of abandoned or dilapidated fence(s)
- ☐ The presence of burned structure
- ☐ The presence of dilapidated building(s), slabs or personal property
- ☐ The presence of property maintenance code violation
- ☐ The presence of standing water in cesspools
- ☐ 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 18th day of June, 2026, 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 21-39-21, and other debris, and draining cesspools and standing water therefrom.

Code Section:	Corrective Action:	Compliance Date:
302.4 - Overgrown Lot	Cut, trim, and maintain overgrown grass, hedges, shrubs, trees, and other vegetation.	June 18, 2026

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 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 this 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 662-245-5063 or 662-245-5070.

This the 6th day of June, 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).

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: June 6, 2024

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

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

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

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 18, 2024



CARTER JEFFREY W
P O BOX 8774
COLUMBUS, MS 39705

NUISANCE PROPERTY NOTICE TO OWNER - PURSUANT TO
SECTION 21-19-1(2) OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE (Effective 7/1/2022)

RE: 701 15TH AVES
APN: 61W180112001
Case No: CE-24-0184
Officer: Sasha James - Ward: 1

Date: May 29, 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 uncleanliness 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:

- ☒ The presence of overgrowth of weeds, grass or other vegetation
- ☐ The presence of rubbish/garbage and other debris
- ☐ The presence of abandoned building
- ☐ The presence of abandoned or dilapidated fence(s)
- ☐ The presence of burned structure
- ☐ The presence of dilapidated building(s), slabs or personal property
- ☐ The presence of property maintenance code violation
- ☐ The presence of standing water in cesspools
- ☐ 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 to himself, on or before the 5th day of June, 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 21-39-21, and other debris; and draining cesspools and standing water therefrom.

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 21-19-1(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 or 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 assets costs determination made by an appropriate municipal employee under this 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 21-19-1(1) is later utilized by a municipality when the prerequisites of Section 21-19-1(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 21-19-1(2).

For any questions, please call Sasha James, the Code Enforcement Director for the City of Columbus at 662-245-5063 or 662-245-5070.

This the 29th day of May, 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 21-19-1(2).

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 in 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: May 29, 2024

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

This Notice was posted at the City Building Inspection Office on: May 29, 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: May 29, 2024

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

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 18, 2024



SHELTON MARY
1908 SHORT MAIN
COLUMBUS, MS 39701

NUISANCE PROPERTY NOTICE TO OWNER - PURSUANT TO
SECTION 21-19-1(2) OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE (Effective 7/1/2022)

RE: 1908 SHORT MAIN
APN: 61W11-01-15200
Case No: CE-24-0193
Officer: Sasha James - Ward: 2

Date: May 30, 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 uncleanliness 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:

- ☒ The presence of overgrowth of weeds, grass or other vegetation
- ☐ The presence of rubbish/garbage and other debris
- ☐ The presence of abandoned buildings
- ☐ The presence of abandoned or dilapidated fence(s)
- ☐ The presence of burned structure
- ☐ The presence of dilapidated building(s), slabs or personal property
- ☐ The presence of property maintenance code violation
- ☐ The presence of standing water in cesspools
- ☐ 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 6th day of June, 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 21-39-21, and other debris, and draining cesspools and standing water therefrom.

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 21-19-1(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 forego 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 this 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 21-19-1(1) is later utilized by a municipality when the prerequisites of Section 21-19-1(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 21-19-1(2).

For any questions, please call Sasha James, the Code Enforcement Director for the City of Columbus at 662-245-5063 or 662-245-5070.

This the 30th day of May, 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 21-19-1(2).

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/are 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: May 30, 2024

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

This Notice was posted at the City Building Inspection Office on: May 30, 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: May 30, 2024

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

B. Discuss/Approve promotion of one (1) Public Works Truck Driver to Assistant Foreman.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to promote one (1) Public Works Truck Driver, Lonnie Hill, to Assistant Foreman, from \$15.45 per hour to \$16.00 per hour. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

C. Discuss/Approve request to purchase bulletproof vests with fifty percent (50%) of the funds to be reimbursed by the Bureau of Justice for the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to purchase bulletproof vests with fifty percent (50%) of the funds to be reimbursed by the Bureau of Justice for the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion. Susan Wilder, the City's Grant Writer/Administrator, offered comments and remarked that the grant expires 6/30/2024.

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