

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS April 2, 2024

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 2, 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. 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 Rev. Victor Salter, Pastor of Greater Immanuel Temple of Jesus Christ, to offer the Invocation.

II. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Vice-Mayor Mickens requested to move Consent Agenda Items “K, M, N, O, & P” to the Policy Agenda as Items “N, O, P, Q & R” for discussion.

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

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

III. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2024:

Councilwoman DiCicco made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of March 19, 2024. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Dorothea Tompkins, to attend “*Emergency Services Administrative Professional Association (ESAP)*” to be held in Natchez, MS, and approve payment of \$50.00 for membership dues, \$200.00

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 2, 2024

for registration, \$400.00 for lodging, travel, and reimbursement of meal expenses, all expenses estimated to cost \$800.00.

- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Joe Denton, to attend "*NFPA 1041 Fire Service Instructor*" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$600.00 for registration, use of City vehicle for travel and reimbursement of meals, all expenses estimated to cost \$1,075.00.
- C. Approve request for two (2) Fire and Rescue personnel: Marco Rodriguez and Damon Estes, to attend "*Vehicle Extraction & Rescue Technician*" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of \$800.00 for registration, use of City vehicle for travel, reimbursement of meals, all expenses estimated to cost \$1,310.00.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Jaquay Sherrod, to attend "*NCPA 1035 Public Information Officer Exam*" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve use of City vehicle for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses, all expenses estimated to cost \$75.00.
- E. Approve request for Parks & Recreation Director, Greg Lewis, to attend the Mississippi Municipal League 93rd Annual Summer Conference, to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of registration, lodging, travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.
- F. Accept letter of retirement from Public Works Laborer, Leonard Ellis, effective March 28, 2024, and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.
- G. Approve request for Public Works personnel, Tabitha Price, to attend "*Administrative Professional Day Conference*" to be held in Athens, GA, and approve payment of \$239.00 for registration, \$430.00 for lodging, \$440.70 for travel and reimbursement of meals, all expenses estimated to cost \$1,286.70.
- H. Approve request for the 28th *Annual Market Street Festival* funding in the amount of \$15,0000.00 per the 2% Restaurant Tax Agreement to be held in the City of Columbus.
- I. Approve request for the *Annual Juneteenth Festival* funding in the amount of \$15,0000.00 per the 2% Restaurant Tax Agreement to be held in the City of Columbus.
- J. Approve request for the *Annual Heritage Festival* funding in the amount of \$15,0000.00 per the 2% Restaurant Tax Agreement to be held in the City of Columbus.

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 2, 2024

- K. Approve request to sell beer in Sim Scott Park on June 14 & 15, 2024 for the *Annual Juneteenth Festival*. **MOVED TO THE POLICY AGENDA**
- L. Approve permit request submitted by Jason Spears, on behalf of Golden Triangle Elite Soccer Club/Columbus Recreation Department, to host a “Columbus Orthopedic Riverwalk Spring Invitational” to be held on April 13 – 14, 2024, from 6:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Soccer Complex, blocking a section of Championship Loop from 2nd Street North to Moores Creek Road.
- M. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow, on behalf of Main Street Columbus, to host the “Market Street Festival” to be held on May 3-4, 2024 from 5:00 a.m. May 3, 2024 until 12:00 p.m. May 5, 2024; on Friday at the Soccer Complex and on Saturday the remainder of the festival is in downtown Columbus. *See attachments*. **MOVED TO THE POLICY AGENDA**
- N. Approve permit request submitted by Leroy Brooks, on behalf of Juneteenth – Columbus, Inc., to host a “Musical festival” to be held on June 14, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and June 15, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. in Sim Scott Park. **MOVE TO THE POLICY AGENDA**
- O. Approve permit request submitted by Leroy Brooks, on behalf of Juneteenth – Columbus, Inc., to host the “Juneteenth Festival” to be held on June 15, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., blocking 20th Street North at 8th avenue North and 10th Avenue North. **MOVE TO THE POLICY AGENDA**
- P. Approve permit request submitted by Leroy Brooks, on behalf of Juneteenth – Columbus, Inc., to host the “Juneteenth Parade” to be held on June 15, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. assembling at the Soccer Complex, proceed up 3rd Avenue North to Main Street to the Municipal Complex. **MOVED TO THE POLICY AGENDA**
- Q. Ratify permit request submitted by Freddie Porter, on behalf of Northside M. B. Church, to host a “Pre-Easter Resurrection Day” held on March 30, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. blocking 15th Street North at 9th Avenue North and 10th Avenue North.
- R. Approve request for three (3) CPD Officers to attend the “Less-Lethal Instructor Course” to be held in Pearl, Mississippi and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses in the estimated amount of \$3,559.00.

Councilwoman Stewart 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, 6/0.

V. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS:

Council Member Greene made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for April 2, 2024 in the amount of \$563,152.28. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried 5/1.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

- A.** Mayor Gaskin asked the Council Members if they had any comments or announcements. There were no comments or announcements.

Mayor Gaskin began with the following comments:

- I hope everyone had a Happy Easter! We are moving into a busy time of year for our city. I encourage our citizens to take part in the many events such as Pilgrimage, Tales from the Crypt, upcoming festivals such as Catfish in the Alley, which is April 6, as well as MUW's Homecoming, school functions, church events, etc. I also would like to take this time to ask our citizens to help us keep our city as clean as possible. We are asking all business owners and property owners to make sure their properties are clean and in compliance. If you notice an unkempt property, please be sure to contact our Code Enforcement Department. Also, Public Works Department now handles deceased animals instead of Animal Control. We like to keep our city clean, not only for visitors, but for our citizens as well.
- Everyone is requested to support Blue & Green Day Mid-South, April 12 for Organ and Tissue donation awareness (part of April as National Donate Life Month). There are currently more than 100,000 Americans on the national organ transplant waiting list. More than 4,000 live in the Mid-South. We encourage people to register as organ and tissue donors so more lives can be saved in the communities we serve.

Council Member Beard congratulated the Columbus High School Boys' Basketball Team for making it to the first round playoffs and is scheduled to play tonight in Jackson, MS.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

Vanita Phinisey – Golden Triangle Tennis, along with Tayla Clay and Langston Lipscomb

Mr. Vanita Phinisey came before the Mayor and Council with a request from the Council for financial support for an upcoming event that will be held at CHS Tennis Court and MUW Tennis Court. They expect a large crowd from other areas that will boost the economy in Columbus. Master Langston Lipscomb and Miss Tayla Clay participated in the presentation. Following discussion, Council Member Jones I moved to approve the expenditure of \$1,000.00 from 001-004-695 (Advertising City Resources) 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. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

Dr. Stanley K. Ellis – Columbus Municipal School District, May 14, 2024 School Bond Election

Dr. Stanley K. Ellis, Superintendent of Columbus Municipal School District and Ms. Holley Rogers, Chief Financial Officer, came before the Mayor and Council regarding the May 14, 2024 School Bond Election. Dr. Ellis provided a slideshow of some of the necessary improvements that are proposed to be made to upgrade buildings and facilities. Dr. Ellis also remarked that the district wants to float a bond in the amount of \$36,000,000.00 for these improvements. Ms. Holley Rogers remarked that taxes will not increase. Some improvements are necessary at the track as well as the parking area at the football field. Mayor Gaskin announced scheduled meeting and locations to answer questions that citizens may have. No action was taken.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

DANIEL WILLIAMS JR. / MARY A. WILLIAMS

702 19th Street North

CASE NUMBER: 24-0064

Property Maintenance Code Violation

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 2, 2024

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0064**. 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 Beard made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

MARIO MURRAY

917 17th Street North

CASE NUMBER: 24-0065

Property Maintenance Code Violation

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0065**. 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 Beard made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

CHARLIE JOHNSON / TAMAKA JOHNSON

1801 Washington Avenue

CASE NUMBER: 24-0070

**Property Maintenance Code Violation
Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage
Abandoned Structure**

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0070**. 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 Beard made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

RICHARD FANT / WENDYLYN FANT

1103 Waterworks Road

CASE NUMBER: 24-0067

Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0067**. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James remarked that the property owners requested an extension of time to remediate the property she recommended a **45-Day Extension**. The property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Beard made a motion give the property owner a **45-day extension** to remediate the property, and that an Order be issued for the property in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and remove rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

\$250.00 OR LESS CASES:

Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, presented two (2) cases, \$250.00 or less for adjudication. Council Member Beard made a motion to accept the

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 2, 2024

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 voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

THE LIST OF PROPERTIES FOLLOWS:

\$250 OR LESS Derelict Properties for April 2, 2024 Mayor and City Council Meeting

Case # and Violation	Ward	Name and Address	Notes
24-0072 <i>Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage</i>	5	DISMUKE DEVELOPMENT 1319 9 th Avenue North	
24-0074 <i>Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage</i>	5	CURTIS WEBBER 624 13 th Street North	

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 2, 2024



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

DISMUKE DEVELOPMENT
2189 E MINNIE VAUGHN RD
COLUMBUS, MS 39702

RE: 1319 9TH AVE N
APN: 61W07-01-12000
Case No: CE-24-0072
Officer: Sasha James - Ward 5

Date: March 14, 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.

This 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 21st 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 21-39-21, and other debris, and draining cesspools and standing water therefrom.

Code Section:	Corrective Action:	Compliance Date:
307.1 - 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 21, 2024

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 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 14th 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).

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 14, 2024.

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

This Notice was posted at the City Building Inspection Office on: March 14, 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 14, 2024.

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

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 2, 2024



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

WEBBER CURTIS
3901 PATS CT
FT WASHINGTON, MD 20744

RE: 624 13TH ST N
APN: 61W07-03-01900
Case No: CE-24-0074
Officer: Sasha James - Ward 5

Date: March 18, 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 25th 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 21-39-21, and other debris, and draining cesspools and standing water therefrom.

Code Section:	Corrective Action:	Compliance Date:
307.1 - 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 25, 2024

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 as 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 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 (or 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 662-245-5065 or 662-245-5070.

This 18th 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).

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 18, 2024

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

This Notice was posted at the City Building Inspection Office on: March 18, 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 18, 2024

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

B. Discuss/Approve the installation of four (4) sets of handrails in the 500 block of 2nd Avenue North, and consider the recommendation from the Columbus Historic Preservation Commission to remove or relocate the one installed in front of 506 2nd Avenue North

Council Member Jones made a motion to ratify the installation of three (3) sets of handrails in the 500 block of 2nd Avenue North, and table the request from the Columbus Historic Preservation Commission to remove or relocate the one installed in front of 506 2nd Avenue North. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

C. Discuss/Approve promotion of two (2) CPD Corporals to Sergeant

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to promote Christopher Ware and Mark Underwood to the position of Sergeant with the proper pay increase, effective April 8, 2024. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

D. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) Entry-Level Police Officer, contingent upon successfully completing all preliminary testing.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the hire of Nicholas Brown as an Entry-Level Police Officer, contingent upon successfully completing all preliminary testing. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

E. Discuss/Approve Submission of the Columbus Fire and Rescue Fire and Emergency Services Self-Assessment Manual/Strategic Plan (FESSAM) document required for continued International Accreditation.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the Submission of the Columbus Fire and Rescue Fire and Emergency Services Self-Assessment Manual/Strategic Plan (FESSAM) document required for continued International Accreditation. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

F. Discuss/Approve promotion of one (1) Public Works Laborer to Crew Leader, effective April 8, 2024.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to promote Stephen Shelton, Public Works Laborer to Crew Leader with a pay increase to \$13.39 per hour, effective April 8, 2024. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

G. Discuss/Approve request to hire one (1) Grounds Maintenance Technician/Laborer for the Recreation Department, pending successful completion of all preliminary testing.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to hire Dwight Smith, Jr. as Grounds Maintenance Technician/Laborer for the Recreation Department, pending successful completion of all preliminary testing. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

H. Discuss/Approve Accepting the FY2024 Safe Streets and Roads For All Grant with a match in the amount of \$40,000.00.

Council Member Jones made a motion to accept the FY2024 Safe Streets and Roads For All Grant with a match in the amount of \$40,000.00. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

I. Discuss/Approve request to replace a full-time Deputy Clerk with a Part-Time Bailiff position and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the advertisement.

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to approve the request to replace a full-time Deputy Clerk with a Part-Time Bailiff position and authorize the Human Resources Director to begin the advertisement. Council Member Jones seconded the motion..

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

J. Discuss/Approve Acceptance of Bank Depository Bid

CFO Jim Bringham remarked that the City advertised for bids for Bank Depository services and received responses from three (3) banks. After careful review, he recommended that the bid be awarded to Regions Bank. Council Member Beard made a motion to award the Bank Depository bid to Regions Bank. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

K. Discuss/Approve payment of \$6,000 towards the cost of a new HVAC Unit for Columbus-Lowndes Public Library.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the payment of \$6,000 towards the cost of a new HVAC Unit for Columbus-Lowndes Public Library. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried 5/1.

L. Discuss/Approve awarding the Bypass cutting to S & S Landscaping & Nursery, LLC in the amount of \$99,000.00

Council Member Greene made a motion to approve the request to award the Bypass cutting to S & S Landscaping & Nursery, LLC in the amount of \$99,000.00 and approve a MOU between the City of Columbus and Lowndes County Board of Supervisors to split the cost. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

M. Discuss/Approve the Interim IT Director contract with Interel Technologies, LLC at \$6,698.00 per month until the permanent position is filled.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Interim IT Director contract with Interel Technologies, LLC at \$6,698.00 per month until the permanent position is filled. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

The next five (5) Items were moved from the Consent Agenda.

N. Discuss/Approve request to sell beer in Sim Scott Park on June 14 & 15, 2024 for the *Annual Juneteenth Festival*.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to sell beer in Sim Scott Park on June 14 & 15, 2024 for the *Annual Juneteenth Festival*. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried 5/1.

O. Discuss/Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow, on behalf of Main Street Columbus, to host the “Market Street Festival” to be held on May 3-4, 2024 from 5:00 a.m. May 3, 2024 until 12:00 p.m. May 5, 2024; on Friday at the Soccer Complex and on Saturday the remainder of the festival is in downtown Columbus. See *attachments*.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow, on behalf of Main Street Columbus, to host the “Market Street Festival” to be held on May 3-4, 2024 from 5:00 a.m. May 3, 2024 until 12:00 p.m. May 5, 2024; on Friday at the Soccer Complex and on Saturday the remainder of the festival is in downtown Columbus. See *attachments*. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

Chief Daughtry came forward and remarked that he has a scheduled meeting later this week, but is devising a plan to provide security without causing too much overtime.

P. Discuss/Approve permit request submitted by Leroy Brooks, on behalf of Juneteenth – Columbus, Inc., to host a “Musical festival” to be held on June 14, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and June 15, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. in Sim Scott Park.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the permit request submitted by Leroy Brooks, on behalf of Juneteenth – Columbus, Inc., to host a “Musical festival” to be held on June 14, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and June 15, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. in Sim Scott Park. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

Q. Discuss/Approve permit request submitted by Leroy Brooks, on behalf of Juneteenth – Columbus, Inc., to host the “Juneteenth Festival” to be held on June 15, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., blocking 20th Street North at 8th avenue North and 10th Avenue North.

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to approve the permit request submitted by Leroy Brooks, on behalf of Juneteenth – Columbus, Inc., to host the “Juneteenth Parade” to be held on June 15, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. assembling at the Soccer Complex, proceed up 3rd Avenue North to Main Street to the Municipal Complex. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

Discuss/Approve request to not permit any agency to use the Trotter Convention Center and Regal Hall free, except for official governmental functions.

The Mayor and Council discussed this matter at length. Supervisor Leroy Brooks came forward and remarked that he has reserved the Convention Center for 2025 and would like to know if he will be required to pay a deposit at this time. He was told that he had some flexibility to pay the deposit. Following discussion, Council Member Mickens made a motion to not permit any agency to use the Trotter Convention Center and Regal Hall free of

charge, except for official governmental functions. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

R. Discuss/Approve permit request submitted by Leroy Brooks, on behalf of Juneteenth – Columbus, Inc., to host the “Juneteenth Parade” to be held on June 15, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. assembling at the Soccer Complex, proceed up 3rd Avenue North to Main Street to the Municipal Complex.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve permit request submitted by Leroy Brooks, on behalf of Juneteenth – Columbus, Inc., to host the “Juneteenth Parade” to be held on June 15, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. assembling at the Soccer Complex, proceed up 3rd Avenue North to Main Street to the Municipal Complex. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

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

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 2, 2024