

MAYOR
KEITH GASKIN

CITY COUNCIL
ETHEL TAYLOR
STEWART
JOSEPH W. MICKENS,
SR.
RUSTY GREENE
PIERRE BEARD SR.
STEPHEN JONES
JACKIE DICICCO

**CHIEF OPERATIONS
OFFICER**
JAMMIE GARRETT

City of Columbus
POST OFFICE BOX 1408, COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI 39703

**MEETING OF
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS
April 1, 2025**

**CFO/SECRETARY-
TREASURER**
JAMES BRIGHAM

POLICE CHIEF
JOSEPH M. DAUGHTRY,
SR

FIRE CHIEF
DUANE HUGHES

**HUMAN RESOURCES
DIRECTOR**
PATRICIA MITCHELL

**INTERIM CITY PLANNING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
GEORGE IRBY

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

II. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

III. APPROVE MINUTES FOR PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

A. Approve Minutes of March 18, 2025 Meeting

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- D. Hughes** A. Approve request for one (1) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "Firefighter Intervention Rescue Survival Techniques" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, hotel, travel, books, meal expenses, and any other expenses in the amount of \$500.00.
- D. Hughes** B. Approve request for two (2) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "NFPA 1033-Fire Investigator" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, hotel, travel, books, meal expenses, and any other expenses in the amount of \$1,500.00.
- D. Hughes** C. Approve request for one (1) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "Machine Rescue" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, hotel, travel, books, meal expenses, and any other expenses in the amount of \$500.00.
- D. Hughes** D. Approve request for five (5) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "Graduation-NFPA 1001-Basic Firefighter" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, hotel, travel, books, meal expenses, and any other expenses in the amount of 150.00.
- D. Hughes** E. Approve request for one (1) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "FDIC International Fire Conference" to be held in Indianapolis, IN, and approve the use of a city vehicle and fuel cost in the amount of \$250.00.
- J. Daughtry** F. Approve request for two (2) CPD personnel to attend the "2025 MS Association of Chiefs of Police Summer Educational Conference" to be held in Biloxi, MS and approve payment for registration, travel, lodging and meal expenses at the estimated cost of \$2,641.91.
- J. Daughtry** G. Approve request for two (2) CPD personnel to attend "Mississippi Command College" to be held in Oxford, MS and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel and meals at the estimated cost of \$2,670.00.
- J. Daughtry** H. Approve permit request submitted by Mary Coleman, on behalf of We Are Southside, to host a "Southside Homecoming Parade" to be held on July 4, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. starting at Mitchell Elementary School, 15th Street South to Hank Aaron Park, 11th Avenue South. See attached map.
- J. Daughtry** I. Approve permit request submitted by Joyce Dumas, on behalf of the Family Advocacy Program, to host a "Child Abuse Awareness Parade with Stokes Beard Elementary School" to be held on April 17, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. starting at Stokes Beard

Elementary School, 311 South MLK, Jr. Drive, right on Highway 182, right on 24th Street North, right on 5th Avenue North and back to 311 MLK, Jr. Drive.

- J. Daughtry** J. Approve permit request submitted by Johnathan West, on behalf of Carter's Funeral Services, to host "VPC Memorial and Community Fellowship" to be held on April 19, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at 602 - 14th Street North, blocking 14th Street North at 6th Avenue North and 7th Avenue North.
- R. Bonner** K. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow, on behalf of Main Street Columbus, Inc., to host "Annual Partnership and Awards Celebration" to be held on April 17, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Leadership Plaza, the 400 Block of College Street and to serve beer/wine on a complimentary basis. See attached map.
- R. Bonner** L. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow, on behalf of Main Street Columbus, Inc., to host "Market Street Festival" to be held on May 3, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. in downtown Columbus and to sell beer during the festival. See attachments.
- R. Bonner** M. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow, on behalf of Main Street Columbus, Inc., to host "Armed Forces Appreciation Day" to be held on May 17, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Leadership Plaza.
- R. Bonner** N. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow, on behalf of Main Street Columbus, Inc., to host "Lemonade Day & Summer Sidewalk Sale" to be held on June 14, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Leadership Plaza.
- R. Bonner** O. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow, on behalf of Main Street Columbus, Inc., to host "Downtown Art Walk" to be held on October 11, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Leadership Plaza.
- R. Bonner** P. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow, on behalf of Main Street Columbus, Inc., to host "Downtown Christmas Open House" to be held on November 7-9, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Leadership Plaza.
- R. Bonner** Q. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow, on behalf of Main Street Columbus, Inc., to host "Small Business Saturday" to be held on November 29, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Leadership Plaza.
- R. Bonner** R. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow, on behalf of Main Street Columbus, Inc., to host "Wassail Fest" to be held on December 5, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Leadership Plaza.
- R. Bonner** S. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow, on behalf of Main Street Columbus, Inc., to host "Game Day Kick-Off" to be held on August 23, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Leadership Plaza.
- R. Bonner** T. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow, on behalf of Main Street Columbus, Inc., to host "Let's Flamingle Downtown" to be held on July 11, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Leadership Plaza.
- R. Bonner** U. Approve permit request submitted by Sharon Johnson, on behalf of Columbus-Lowndes Convention & Visitors Bureau, to host a Memorial Day Event to be held on May 24, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Riverside Park Stage.
- J. Garrett** V. Approve Annual Market Street Festival Funding in the amount of \$15,000.00 pursuant to the Inter-local Agreement.

V. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS.

- J. Brigham** A. Approve Docket of Claims for April 1, 2025

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

- A. Comments from Mayor & Council

E. Stewart/S. Jones B. Shirley Ann Verdell - 58 Years of Service to Headstart

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

J. Garrett A. Tony L. Woodfin, Jr. - Fathers' Rights

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

- S. James** A. Discuss / Approve Derelict Property Docket
- K. Stafford** B. Discuss/Approve the installation of two speed humps on 11th Avenue between North 18th Street and North 20th Street.
- K. Stafford** C. Discuss/Approve professional services contract for Drainage Easement Creation and Acquisition Services in the amount of \$64,954.61.
- K. Stafford/G. Lewis** D. Discuss/Approve closeout change order items for the Propst Park Softball Field contracts.
- G. Lewis** E. Discuss/Approve applying for LCF Grant for the Columbus Recreation Department Fossil Park in the amount of \$20,000 with no match.
- G. Lewis** F. Discuss/approve applying for the Mississippi Recreational Trails Grant for the Propst Park Fossil Park in the amount of \$90,353 with a 20% match in the amount of \$17,526.60.
- G. Lewis** G. Discuss / Approve one (1) seasonal worker for grass cutting at the Columbus Recreation Department and six (6) summer workers to supervise children at the community centers during the summer for the Columbus Recreation Department.
- C. Bush** H. Approve request to purchase flowers from Murray's Nursery for \$9,205.00.
- J. Daughtry** I. Discuss/Approve request to hire six (6) entry-level officers, three (3) certified officers and one (1) lateral transfer with rank contingent upon successful completion of preliminary testing.
- P. Mitchell** J. Discuss/Approve extending Healthy Workplace Health Fair Incentive of twelve (12) hours with pay to be taken by May 31, 2025 for those employees who received an annual wellness check.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: