

MAYOR
STEPHEN JONES

CITY COUNCIL
ETHEL STEWART
RODERICK SMITH
RUSTY GREENE
LAVONNE HARRIS
GREGORY JEFFERSON
JASON SPEARS

**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
November 18, 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.

P. Mitchell A. Approve Minutes for Special Meeting of October 29, 2025.

P. Mitchell B. Approve Minutes for Meeting of November 4, 2025.

IV. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS.

J. Brigham A. Approve Docket of Claims for November 18, 2025

V. CONSENT AGENDA

J. Brigham A. Request to approve for Grant Writer/Administrator to travel April 12-15, 2026 to the Main Street America conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma as part of the Science Discovery on Main Street Implementation Grant at no cost to the City.

D. Hughes B. Accept letter of resignation from one (1) Fire and Rescue Firefighter, effective November 17, 2025, and approve compensation for any unused vacation leave.

C. Gilman C. Approve request for one (1) Forensic Chemist Trainee to attend the "Expert Witness Testimony: Advanced Skills for Forensic Science Professionals" webinar and approve registration expense of \$179.00.

J. Daughtry D. Approve permit request submitted by Colin Krieger to host a "Block Party" to be held on November 22, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. at 527 Military Road blocking the 900 block of Sixth Avenue North.

J. Daughtry E. Approve permit request submitted by Frances Glenn, on behalf of the Columbus - Lowndes Convention & Visitors Bureau, to host "Catfish in the Alley" to be held on April 11, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. with streets being blocked on Friday, April 10, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 11, 2026. See attached map.

J. Daughtry F. Accept letter of resignation from two (2) CPD personnel, effective November 6, 2025 and November 15, 2016 and approve compensation for any unused vacation leave.

J. Daughtry G. Approve permit request submitted by James Allen, on behalf of Annunciation Catholic Church, to host "Columbus Sings Messiah" to be held on December 9, 2025, from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Annunciation Catholic Church, 802 College Street blocking 8th Street South next to the church.

R. Bonner H. Approve Facility Usage Permit submitted by Sharon Johnson, on behalf of the Columbus-Lowndes Convention & Visitor Bureau to host the Catfish in the Alley Festival on April 10, 2026 from 12:00pm to 2:00pm

- R. Bonner** I. Approve Facility Usage Permit submitted by Sharon Johnson, on behalf of the Columbus-Lowndes Convention & Visitor Bureau to host the 2nd Annual Memorial Day Traditions, Taste and Tune on May 22, 2026 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm
- R. Bonner** J. Approve Facility Usage Permit submitted by Eric Thomas, on behalf of the Eric Thomas Open Heart Foundation to host the E.T. Heart Walk/Health Fair on February 28, 2026 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

- A. Comments from Mayor & Council
- S. Jones** B. Special Recognition
Mariah Beckom - Miss Black Rodeo USA
- J. Spears** C. Status Update of the FY23 Audit
- J. Spears** D. Discussion of each department's organizational chart.
- J. Spears** E. WT Consultants Termination/Mayor's Veto/Resignation
- G. Lewis** F. Columbus Recreation Department - October 2025 Report
- C. Gilman** G. Forensic Lab - October 2025 Report
- D. Hughes** H. Columbus Fire and Rescue - October 2025 Report
- P. Mitchell** I. Human Resources - October 2025 Report
- R. Bonner** J. Facilities - October 2025 Report
- W. Langford** K. Garage - October 2025 Report
- G. Irby** L. Planning & Community Development - October 2025 Report
- C. Bush** M. Public Works - October 2025 Report
- L. Erby** N. Municipal Court - October 2025 Report
- N. Katona** O. Building Inspection & Code Enforcement - October 2025 Report
- J. Daughtry** P. Columbus Police Department - October 2025 Report
- G. Drake** Q. Information Technology - October 2025 Report
- J. Brigham** R. Finance - October 2025 Report
- J. Garrett** S. Board Vacancies

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

1 Vacancy, Jarvis Fenster's 3 Year Term Expires 11/19/2025
Appointment will be made November 18, 2025.

Jarvis Fenster

COLUMBUS-LOWNDES LIBRARY BOARD

1 Vacancy, Sameca Gaines 5 Year Term Expired 10/16/2025.
Appointment will be made November 18, 2025.

Libby Robertson

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

- | | | |
|--------------------|----|--|
| D. Hughes | A. | Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) Entry Level Firefighter pending successful completion of a pre-employment physical exam and drug screen. |
| J. Daughtry | B. | Discuss/Approve request to hire one (1) entry-level officer contingent upon successful completion of preliminary testing. |
| J. Turnage | C. | Discuss/Consider engaging James O. Turner for before and after analysis of appraisal reports at \$2,500 each, expert testimony at \$250 per hour, and travel and expenses for Easement/Eminent Domain cases. |
| G. Irby | D. | Discuss/Approve Blight Program Advisory Committee. |
| G. Irby | E. | Discuss/Approve purchase of five (5) properties for Blight Program. |
| P. Mitchell | F. | Discuss/Approve request to hire one (1) Municipal Court Judge contingent upon successful completion of preliminary testing. |
| P. Mitchell | G. | Discuss/Approve Amendment to FMLA Policy in the Employee Personnel Rules Handbook. |
| J. Spears | H. | Discuss/Reconsider allocating Internet Sales Tax funds from Municipal Building Roof Repairs to paving projects. |

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. Personnel Matters (2)