

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
January 20, 2026**

**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/Work Session of December 30, 2025.

P. Mitchell B. Approve Minutes for meeting of January 6, 2026

P. Mitchell C. Approve Minutes for Special Meeting/Work Session of January 12, 2026.

IV. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS.

J. Brigham A. Approve Docket of Claims for January 20, 2026

V. CONSENT AGENDA

D. Hughes A. Approve request for one (1) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "Airport Firefighter (ARFF) NFPA 1010" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, hotel, travel, books, meal expenses, and any other expenses in the amount of \$50.00.

D. Hughes B. Approve request for one (1) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "Firefighter Intervention Rescue and Self Rescue 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 \$485.00.

D. Hughes C. Approve request for one (1) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "Hazardous Materials Technician Level 2" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, hotel, travel, books, meal expenses, and any other expenses in the amount of \$235.00.

G. Lewis D. Approve request for Columbus Recreation Director, Sports Coordinator and Program Director to attend the Mississippi Recreation and Parks Association Annual Conference in Biloxi, MS on March 2-4, 2026, and approve payment for registration fees, lodging, travel, and meal expenses in the estimated total amount of \$3,411.78.

C. Bush E. Accept letter of resignation from one (1) Landfill employee, effective January 10, 2026, and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.

J. Daughtry F. Approve request for two (2) CPD personnel to attend "Crisis Intervention Team Training" to be held in West Point, Mississippi and approve travel in a city-owned vehicle.

J. Daughtry G. Approve request for one (1) CPD personnel to attend "Expert Witness Testimony" via online webinar with the registration fee of \$450.00.

- J. Daughtry** H. Approve request for two (2) CPD personnel to attend a "MOS Instructor Workshop" in Columbus, Mississippi, approve registration fees in the amount of \$500.00 each and approve travel in a city-owned vehicle.
- J. Garrett** I. Approve the extension of the Interim Court Administrator appointment through March 2026, or until the position is permanently filled, whichever occurs first.
- J. Garrett** J. Approve Townsend Park Blues-Southside Festival Funding in the amount of \$15,000.00 per the 2% Restaurant Tax Agreement to fund festivals in the city of Columbus.
- J. Garrett** K. Approve request for Mayor, City Council, CFO, COO and General Counsel to attend the Mississippi Municipal League 95th Annual Summer Conference June 29-July 1, 2026 in Biloxi and approve payment of registration, lodging, travel and meals.
- J. Garrett** L. Approve Rita Felton Coaching and Consulting, LLC *Leadership Workshop Agreement* in the amount of \$940.00 for Strategic Planning Workshops on January 21-22, 2026.
- P. Mitchell** M. Approve request to advertise to fill the vacant positions of Fire Chief & Human Resources Director and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process for department head positions.
- N. Katona** N. Approve agreement for Mechanical Engineering Services with W Design Services for completion of bid specifications on Trotter Convention Center rooftop AC replacements.
- J. Garrett** O. Approve request to compensate the Public Information Officer in the amount of \$1,000 for public relations and communications services rendered from January 6-20, 2026.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

- A. Comments from Mayor & Council
- D. Hughes** B. Columbus Fire and Rescue Department – December 2025 Report
- D. Hughes** C. Columbus Fire and Rescue Department – Annual Report 2025
- J. Daughtry** D. Columbus Police Department - December 2025 Report
- N. Katona** E. Building Inspection - December 2025 Report
- N. Katona** F. Code Enforcement and Action Center - December 2025 Report
- G. Irby** G. Planning & Community Development - December 2025 Report
- R. Bonner** H. Facilities — December 2025 Report
- G. Lewis** I. Columbus Recreation Department — December 2025 Report
- J. Brigham** J. Finance - December 2025 Report
- W. Langford** K. Garage - December 2025 Report
- C. Bush** L. Public Works - December 2025 Report
- C. Gilman** M. Forensic Lab — December 2025 Report
- P. Mitchell** N. Human Resources - December 2025 Report
- G. Drake** O. IT Department - December 2025 Report
- J. Garrett** P. Board Vacancies

TREE BOARD

1 Vacancy, Carol Boggess, 3-Year Term Expires 02/07/2026.
Appointment will be made February 3, 2026.

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD

1 Vacancy, Remainder of Brenda Lathan's 5-Year Term, Expires 9/1/2028
Appointment will be made February 3, 2026.

Ghulam Fani

Errollyn Gray

Sedrick Fenster

**GOLDEN TRIANGLE REGIONAL WASTE
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

1 Vacancy since Dec. 2024 when Kathy Goodwin's Term expired.
Appointment will be made January 20, 2026.

Nicholas Milam

Sedrick Fenster

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

- J. Garrett** A. The MSU Geoscience students and Dr. Renee Clary will make a presentation on the Dr. John "Jack" Kaye Cretaceous Fossil Park.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

- K. Stafford** A. Discuss/Approve awarding striping changes for Main Street in the amount of \$27,577.60 to the lowest responsive bidder, J.C. Cheek Contractors, Inc.
- K. Stafford** B. Discuss/Approve applying for US Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) FY26 grant for Main Street and 5th Street Improvement Project (~\$12.3M, no match), and approve costs for grant preparation, including LIA proposal for \$12,600 (hourly, NTE).
- N. Katona** C. Discuss/Approve the recommendation from the January 12, 2026 Planning Commission Meeting
- N. Katona** D. Discuss/Approve request to fill vacant position of Action Center Clerk / Code Enforcement Officer, pending successful completion of all preliminary testing.
- N. Katona** E. Discuss/Approve request to fill vacant position of Code Enforcement Clerk, pending successful completion of all preliminary testing.
- N. Katona** F. Discuss/Approve request to transition maintenance van purchase from 'Lease' to 'Direct Purchase'
- N. Katona** G. Discuss and accept lowest and best bid of Arrowhead Industries in the amount of \$414,000.00 to remove and replace Municipal Complex roofing. The lowest bid listed was rejected due to not following the requirements of the bid per Mississippi bid law.
- N. Katona** H. Approve the lowest and best bid of Viking Steel Structures in the amount of \$47,826 to provide and install the metal building for the Garage Storage Building.
- N. Katona** I. Approve the lowest and best bid of Otis Williams and Sons LLC in the amount of \$48,000 to complete the dirt work and concrete for the Garage Storage Building.
- N. Katona** J. Approve the lowest and best bid of Malone Electric of Columbus LLC in the amount of \$7,325.00 to provide and install the lighting and electrical work for the Garage Storage Building.
- G. Lewis** K. Discuss/Approve Concession Contract for the 2026 Basketball Season at East Columbus Gym in the amount of \$300 for two months.
- J. Daughtry** L. Discuss/Approve request to hire three (3) entry-level officers and one (1) certified officer contingent upon successful completion of preliminary testing.

- R. Bonner** M. Discuss/Approve request to fill vacant Maintenance Technician position for the Convention Center pending successful completion of all preliminary testing.
- S. Wilder/C. Williams** N. Approve the Grant Writer/Administrator to apply for a Mississippi Humanities Council America250 grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be matched 1:1 with corporate donations for Keep Columbus Beautiful's Earth Day celebration.
- S. Wilder/D. Duston** O. Approve the Grant Writer/Administrator to submit a Mississippi Humanities Council America250 Legacy Grant in the amount of \$20,000.00 to be matched 1:1 with \$10,000.00 from the City and \$10,000.00 from the Lowndes County Board of Supervisors to enhance and expand the contents of the local Alva Temple Museum at the Columbus/Lowndes County Airport.
- S. Wilder/G. Lewis** P. Approve the Grant Writer/Administrator to submit a Mississippi Humanities Council America250 Program Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the Parks and Recreation Department to host a Veteran's Day concert on Saturday, November 7, 2026, after the Veteran's Day Parade with the City of Columbus matching the grant with \$10,000.00.
- S. Wilder/F. Glenn** Q. Approve the Grant Writer/Administrator to write a Mississippi Humanities Council America250 Program Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau for America250 Fireworks on the Water 2026.
- S. Wilder/G. Lewis** R. Discuss/Approve request to apply for the MS Hills National Heritage Area Small Grant for the amount of \$2,500-\$5,000 for signage for the Cretaceous Walking Trail with a 1:1 match.
- S. Wilder, G. Lewis** S. Discuss/Approve acceptance of the MS Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund Grant (MOSTF) for the Dr. John "Jack" Kaye Cretaceous Fossil Park's Cretaceous Kayak/Canoe Launch in the amount of \$536,950 with a match of \$95,000 (\$80,000 - In-Kind Services from Burns Dirt, \$5,000 - In-Kind Services from Public Works/Recreation Department and \$10,000 from Main Street Columbus Luxi Fundraiser).

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. Personnel Matter (1)