

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
February 3, 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 Meeting of January 20, 2026.

P. Mitchell B. Approve Minutes for Special Meeting of January 28, 2026.

IV. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS.

J. Brigham A. Approve Docket of Claims for February 3, 2026

V. CONSENT AGENDA

J. Garrett A. Approve request for Mayor to attend the Mississippi Black Caucus Summer Conference in Biloxi, MS on June 27, 2026 (in conjunction with MML) and approve payment of registration fee in the amount of \$225.

J. Garrett B. Approve payment of 2025-2026 Appropriation for Hitching Lot Farmers' Market in the amount of \$17,472.00.

J. Garrett C. Approve payment of 2025-2026 Appropriation for Main Street Columbus in the amount of \$22,000.

J. Garrett D. Approve payment of 2025-2026 Appropriation for Safe Haven, Inc. in the amount of \$7,500.00.

C. Gilman E. Approve request for the Forensic Lab Director and Forensic Trainees to attend guest lecture on March 31st in Starkville, MS (MSU) for Dr. Florencia Meyer's Intro to Forensic Science (BCH 2013) course.

G. Lewis F. Approve request for Recreation Director to attend the 95th Annual MML Conference in Biloxi, MS with estimated amount of \$1,140.00.

G. Irby G. Approve request for Interim Planning Director to attend the 95th Annual MML Conference in Biloxi, MS with estimated amount of \$1,515.22.

D. Hughes H. Approve request for three (3) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, travel, meals, and other expenses in the amount of \$4,200.00

D. Hughes I. Approve request for one (1) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "(Engine Company Operations)" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, travel, meals, and other expenses in the amount of \$485.00

D. Hughes J. Approve request for one (1) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "(Engine Company Operations)" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, travel, meals, and other expenses in the amount of \$485.00.

- D. Hughes** K. Approve request for one (1) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend “(Vehicle Extrication Technician)” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, travel, meals, and other expenses in the amount of \$485.00
- D. Hughes** L. Approve request for one (1) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend “(Advanced ARFF Extrication Technician)” to be held in Tupelo, MS, and approve payment of registration, travel, meals, and other expenses in the amount of \$0.00
- J. Daughtry** M. Accept letter of resignation from one (1) CPD personnel effective January 29, 2026.
- J. Daughtry** N. Approve request for one (1) CPD personnel to attend the "2026 USPCA Region 26 Street Scenario Training Seminar" to be held in Madison, Mississippi and approve payment for registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses in the estimated amount of \$1,195.00.
- J. Daughtry** O. Approve request for one (1) CPD personnel to attend "Writing Reports NIBRS Style" via online webinar and approve payment of registration fees in the amount of \$299.00.
- J. Daughtry** P. Approve request for two (2) CPD personnel renewal and payment of notary commission, bond and all necessary notary supplies in the estimated amount of \$400.00.
- C. Bush** Q. Accept letter of resignation from one (1) Public Works employee, effective February 5, 2026, and authorize the HR director to begin the normal recruitment process.
- R. Bonner** R. Approve *Facility Usage Request* by Main Street Columbus, Inc. Downtown Open House at the Leadership Plaza. 10am to 4pm on March 6-7, 2026. Encouraging the public to shop in participating downtown businesses. Photos with the Easter Bunny and other activities.
- R. Bonner** S. Approve *Facilities Usage Request* submitted by Main Street Columbus, Inc. Free photos with the Easter Bunny at the Leadership Plaza. 11 am to 1 pm on March 28, 2026.
- R. Bonner** T. Approve *Facilities Usage Request* submitted by Keep Columbus Beautiful and the Columbus Recreation Department 5K Earth Day Run at the Columbus Riverwalk Park Stage. 7am to 3pm on April 18, 2026.
- R. Bonner** U. Approve *Facility Usage Request* submitted by the Columbus Arts Council's 55th Anniversary at the Riverwalk Pedestrian Bridge. 4pm to 8pm on April 18, 2026.
- R. Bonner** V. Approve *Facility Usage Request* submitted by Main Street Columbus, Inc. Annual Partnership and Awards Celebration at the Leadership Plaza. 5:30pm to 7:30 pm on April 23, 2026.
- S. Wilder** W. Approve the Grant Writer to submit a Mississippi Office of Homeland Security State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Application in an amount yet to be determined based on computer equipment needed with no matching fund requirement.
- N. Katona** X. Approve temporary road closure of Pine Avenue for cleanup of illegal dumping.
- J. Brigham** Y. Approve renewing Mt. Vernon Mills Lease at \$5,000 annually.
- J. Sansing** Z. Approve Proposed Change Order # 1 - ARPA Drainage Improvements.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

- A. Comments from Mayor & Council
- J. Garrett** B. Board Vacancies

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

2 Vacancies Melodie Cunningham & David Armstrong,
3-Year Terms, Both Expire 03/03/2026.

Appointments will be made March 3, 2026.

David Armstrong

Melodie Cunningham

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS & APPEALS

1 Vacancy, Chris Chain's 3-Year Term, Expires 03/03/2026.
Appointment will be made March 3, 2026.

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

Errolyn Gray

Sedrick Fenster

**GOLDEN TRIANGLE REGIONAL WASTE
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

1 Vacancy since Dec. 2024 when Kathy Goodwin's Term expired.
Appointment will be made February 3, 2026.

Nicholas Milam

Sedrick Fenster

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

- J. Garrett** A. Mississippi Municipal League Statewide Youth Leadership Summit - Mayor's Youth Council
Chairman Michael Musa

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

- N. Katona** A. Discuss/Approve Planning Commission item, 115 Waverly Road planned unit development.
- K. Stafford** B. Discuss/Approve advertising for competitive bids under 31-7-13 for the installation of light poles and fixtures for field lighting on the upper turf baseball fields in Propst Park.
- J. Garrett** C. Discuss/Approve *Resolution* designating the Columbus Forensic Laboratory request of \$1,000,000 as the priority initiative, the Northeast Mississippi Crime Center request of \$2,000,000 and the Environmental Remediation/Demolition of Sanderson Plumbing request of \$1,000,000 as secondary initiative for state funding.
- J. Garrett** D. Discuss/Approve *Resolution* designating the Watershed request in the amount of 20,000,000 as the priority initiative, and a Disaster Shelter request of \$5,000,000 as a secondary initiative for federal funding.
- S. Wilder** E. Discuss/Approve rescinding permission to apply for a Mississippi Humanities Council America250 grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 for Keep Columbus Beautiful's Earth Day celebration and in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the Parks and Recreation Department to host a Veteran's Day concert.
- J. Brigham** F. Discuss/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 to be taken from 001-004-750-001.
- P. Mitchell** G. Discuss/Approve Adoption of Nepotism Policy.
- P. Mitchell** H. Discuss/Approve Revision to the Extreme Weather Policy in the Employee Personnel Rules Handbook.

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| J. Sansing | I. | Discuss/Approve Cullum Construction LLC. Payment Request No. 5 for drainage improvements from December 21, 2025 to January 20, 2026 in the amount of \$198,130.81. |
| G. Lewis | J. | Discuss/Approve artist payment in the amount of \$1,500 to Heritage Quilter, Stephany Brown to be taken from funding for the Mississippi Arts Commission Grant. |
| R. Smith | K. | Discuss/Approve the purchase of an indoor basketball/multisport scoreboard in the amount of \$3,985. |
| J. Garrett | L. | Discuss /Approve sponsorship request for the Legacy & Leadership Gala. |
| J. Garrett | M. | Approve request for Mayor, City Council and Interim City Planner to attend the Retail Live Southeast Conference in Orlando, Florida on April 1, 2026, and approve payment of registration fee, lodging, travel and meal expenses in the estimated amount of \$1,546 per person. |
| J. Brigham | N. | Approve proclamation extending the deadline for penalties on unpaid property taxes to March 3, 2026. |

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. Personnel Matters (2)