

City of Columbus

MAYOR
STEPHEN JONES

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GENERAL COUNSEL
JEFF TURNAGE

CITY COUNCIL
ETHEL STEWART WARD 1
RODERICK SMITH WARD 2
RUSTY GREENE WARD 3
LAVONNE HARRIS WARD 4
GREGORY JEFFERSON WARD 5
JASON SPEARS WARD 6

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS March 17, 2026

CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER
JAMMIE GARRETT

CFO/SECRETARY-TREASURER
JAMES "JIM" BRIGHAM

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 from Meeting of February 25, 2026

P. Mitchell B. Approve Minutes from Meeting of March 3, 2026

V. Stewart C. Approve Minutes from Special Meeting of March 5, 2026

IV. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- J. Daughtry** A. Approve permit request submitted by Frances Glenn, on behalf of Columbus-Lowndes Convention & Visitors Bureau, to host "Tales from the Crypt" to be held on April 8, 10, 15 and 17, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. each date at Friendship Cemetery. See attached map.
- J. Daughtry** B. Approve permit request submitted by Cynthia Mutch, on behalf of Frank P. Phillips Memorial YMCA, to host "Healthy Kids Day Fun Run/Walk" to be held on April 25, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. See attachments.
- J. Daughtry** C. Approve permit request submitted by Barbara Bigelow, on behalf of Main Street Columbus, to host the "Market Street Festival" to be held on May 2, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m. in downtown Columbus and sell beer during the festival. See attachments.
- J. Daughtry** D. Accept letter of resignation from one (1) CPD personnel effective March 9, 2026.
- J. Daughtry** E. Approve request for one (1) CPD personnel to attend the "NOBLE 50th Annual Training Conference" to be held in Dallas, Texas July 23-29, 2026 and approve payment for registration, travel, lodging and meal expenses in the estimated amount of \$2,710.00 and provide funds for parking fees prior to travel.
- R. Bonner** F. Approve Fulgham Tree Preservation to conduct a tree inventory at Friendship Cemetery in the amount of \$9,500.00 to be paid from the Mississippi Forestry Commission Grant.
- L. Erby** G. Approve request for Victim's Advocate to attend the Sexual Assault Subgrantee Training to be held in Jackson, MS on March 17, 2026 and payment for travel in the amount of \$223.30
- G. Lewis** H. Approve request for one (1) Columbus Recreation Employee to attend the Mobile Parks and Recreation, Science Technology Recreation, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STREAM) Program March 21, 2026. Only cost to the city is the use of city vehicle and gas.
- G. Lewis** I. Discuss request to install two dinosaur-themed sculptures promoting the Dr. John "Jack" Kaye Cretaceous Park at no cost to the city.
- C. Gilman** J. Approve one (1) Forensic Scientist Trainee attending Columbus High School College and Career Fair on March 26m 2026.

- C. Gilman** K. Approve applying for the FY25 Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center Initiative.
- C. Gilman** L. Approve applying for the FY26 Mississippi Office of Homeland Security (MOHS) Grant Program.
- J. Brigham** M. Approve the 2% Tourism Tax Payment of \$25,000 to Lowndes County, \$20,833.33 to Golden Triangle Development LINK, \$33,333.33 to the City of Columbus and \$129,411.52 to Columbus Convention Visitors Bureau, in the total amount of \$208,578.18.
- J. Brigham** N. Approve request to place 1095-C Tax Notice on City's Website.
- J. Daughtry** O. Approve permit request submitted by Phillip Morris, the Columbus High School Boys Basketball Coach, to host "Championship Parade/Block Party" to be held on March 26, 2026 from 5:00p.m. until 8:00p.m. on Main Street from the Municipal Complex to 5th Street. See attached.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

- A. Comments from Mayor & Council
- S. Jones** B. Recognition — Columbus High School Boys Basketball Team 5A State Championship
- L. Erby** C. Municipal Court — February 2026 Report
- N. Katona** D. Building Inspection/Code Enforcement — February 2026 Report
- R. Bonner** E. Facilities — February 2026 Report
- C. Bush** F. Public Works — February 2026 Report
- G. Irby** G. Planning & Community Development - February 2026 Report
- J. Daughtry** H. Columbus Police Department — February 2026 Report
- D. Hughes** I. Columbus Fire & Rescue — February 2026 Report
- C. Gilman** J. Forensic Lab — February 2026 Report
- J. Brigham** K. Finance — February 2026 Report
- G. Lewis** L. Columbus Recreation Department — February 2026 Report
- G. Drake** M. IT - February 2026 Report
- P. Mitchell** N. Human Resources — February 2026 Report
- W. Langford** O. Garage - February 2026 Report
- J. Garrett** P. Board Vacancies

TREE BOARD

1 Vacancy, Mildred Munroe's 3-Year Term Expires 04/18/2026.
Appointment will be made April 21, 2026.

Mildred Munroe

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

2 Vacancies, Mac Arthur Inge didn't seek reappointment in Oct. 2025, 3-Year Term.
Quincy Harris resigned Feb. 10, 2026, Remainder of Term Expires Dec. 1, 2027.
Appointments are scheduled to be made March 17, 2026.

Lakeysucha Bailey

Pierre Beard

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

J. Garrett A. Kevin Stafford, Main Street Columbus Fossil Park Drawing

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

- K. Stafford** A. Discuss/Approve request to apply for FY2027 MDOT Multimodal Grant for the CLCA South Hangar Taxilane Extension.
- K. Stafford** B. Discuss/Approve Neel-Schaffer Engineering to conduct a topographical survey of the permitted Landfill site using an aerial drone technology to establish existing conditions in the amount of \$5,000.
- N. Katona** C. Discuss/Approve recommendations from the March 9, 2026, Planning Commission public meeting.
- J. Garrett** D. Discuss/Approve Recommendation to Award Demolition Contracts for Blight Elimination Program for 1113 5th Street South to G6 Construction in the amount of \$5,800, 915 16th Street North to G6 Construction in the amount of \$4,500 and 1610 8th Avenue North to JMorgan Construction in the amount of \$6,415.
- J. Turnage** E. Discuss *Resolution* declaring certain municipal property as Surplus and authorizing the sale of said property pursuant to Mississippi Code 21-17-1 (2)(a).
- J. Garrett** F. Discuss/Approve Hall of Fame Sports Sponsorship in the amount of \$1,000 as advertising and bringing into favorable notice the opportunities, possibilities and resources of the City of Columbus, MS.
- J. Brigham** G. Discuss/Approve *Resolution to approve the 2026 COLA Payment* as outlined in Mississippi Code Annotated in 21-29-247 9 (3) and (5).
- S. Wilder** H. Discuss/Approve request to approve *Resolution Authorizing Request to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks for Recreational Trails Program (RTP)* funding to be utilized for the Master Gardener's Butterfly Garden Accessibility Trail Project.
- J. Daughtry** I. Discuss/Approve request to hire four (4) entry-level Officers and three (3) certified officers contingent upon successful completion of preliminary testing.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: