

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS October 15, 2024

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Keith Gaskin presided over the meeting and all Council Members were present. Also present were the General Counsel, the COO, CFO, Police Chief, HR Director, and all other Department Heads.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION:

Mayor Gaskin called the meeting to order and called on Chief Joseph Daughtry to offer the Invocation.

II. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Council Member Beard requested to move Item "H" on the Consent Agenda to the Policy Agenda as Item "C."

Councilwoman DiCicco made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

III. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MEETING OF OCTOBER 1, 2024.

Councilwoman DiCicco made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of October 1, 2024. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Accept letter of resignation from Fire and Rescue Firefighter, effective October 17, 2024 and approve compensation of any unused vacation leave.

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- B. Approve request for the Fire and Rescue personnel, Clayton Aldridge, to attend the “Fire and Emergency Service Peer Support Member” to be held in Gulf Shores, AL, and approve payment of registration, lodging, use of a City vehicle for travel, books and reimbursement of meal expenses in the estimated total cost of \$200.00.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Lukas Borntrager and Brandon McKay, to attend “Smoke Diver” class to be held in Gulf Shores, AL, and approve payment of registration, lodging, use of a City vehicles for travel and reimbursement of meals in the estimated total cost of \$1,290.00.
- D. Approve permit request submitted by Shanaya Roberts to host a “3rd Annual Fall Festival” to be held on October 19, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. at 810 Fir Street, blocking Fir Street at Redwood Street and Catalpa Street.
- E. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Custodian, Louise Patmon, effective October 10, 2024.
- F. Accept letter of resignation from Public Works Laborer, Dwight Wilson, effective October 31, 2024.
- G. Approve request for Public Works Office Manager, Tabitha Price, to attend “MS811 Summit Web Portal and Mobile App Workshop” to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of lodging, travel and reimbursement of meal expenses in the estimated total cost of \$923.75.
- H. MOVED TO POLICY AGENDA
- I. Approve 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 \$144,311.54 to Columbus Visitors Bureau, all disbursements totaling \$223,478.20.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Council Member Greene seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, all Council Members voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote.

V. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS:

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for October 15, 2024, in the amount of \$696,314.51. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion, except Councilwoman DiCicco, who opposed.

The motion carried 5/1.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

A. Mayor Gaskin asked members of the Council if they had any announcements.

- Mayor Gaskin announced that Columbus Municipal School District will host a parade on October 17, 2024 in recognition of the school district achieving an A and B rating. The parade will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m.
- Keep Columbus Beautiful will hold a "Tire Pick-Up" event on Saturday, October 18, 2024, beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- The Welthy Symposium will be held the week of October 21, 2024 and the Gala will be held Friday night, October 25.
- The Recreation Department will hold a Fall Festival on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
- Council Member Jones commended his spouse, Stephanie Jones, for Zumba in Pink. All proceeds will be donated to the Columbus Imaging Center for women who can't afford to pay for a mammogram.

B. SWEARING-IN OF TWO (2) CPD OFFICERS

Mayor Gaskin swore in two (2) CPD Officers: Sergeant Johnny Vaughn and Officer Mack Smith, as they recited the Oath of Office.

C. COMMAND COLLEGE COMPLETION

Chief Daughtry came before the Mayor and Council and recognized: Sgt. Samuel Jackson, P. I. Officer Bryan Moore, Lt. Christopher Smith and Lt. Kelvin Burdine for completion of the FBI Command College and presented them with certificates of completion.

CIT COMPLETION

Chief Daughtry recognized Officers Antonious Sellers, Noah Thompson, Benjamin Perryman and Latessa Moore for successfully completing CIT (Critical Intervention Training) class and presented them with certificates of completion.

Less Lethal Instructor Completion

Chief Daughtry recognized P.I. Officer Bryan Moore and Investigator Darnell Madison for successful completion of the Less Lethal Instructor Class and presented them with a certificate of completion.

Mayor Gaskin asked the Council if they had questions for Department Heads about their Monthly Reports.

D. Columbus Recreation Department – September 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for September 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

E. Columbus Fire and Rescue Department – September 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Fire and Rescue Department for September 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

F. Building Inspection – September 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Building Inspection Department for September 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

G. Human Resources – September 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Human Resources Department for September 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

H. Public Works Department – September 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Public Works Department for September 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

I. Community Outreach – September 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Community Outreach Department for September 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

J. Columbus Police Department - September 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Police Department for September 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

K. James M. Trotter Convention Center – Friendship/Sandfield Cemeteries – September 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the James M. Trotter Convention Center – Friendship/Sandfield Cemeteries – September 2024 Monthly Report was presented. No action was taken.

L. Code Enforcement Department – September 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Code Enforcement Department for September 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

M. Garage – September 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Garage for September 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

N. Office of Planning and Community Development Department – September 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Office of Planning and Community Development Department for September 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

O. Municipal Court Department – September 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Municipal Court Department for September 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

P. Finance – May 2024 Monthly Report

Jim Brigham, CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report for September 2024 that includes the General Fund cash balance of \$9,388,489.31, which is an increase of \$1,723,551.10 compared to the same time last year. The Sales Tax Receipts for September are \$969,968.00, which is a decrease of \$6,116.00, compared to the previous year. No action was taken.

Q. Board Vacancies

Jammie Garrett, COO announced vacancies on various boards, as follows:

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD

1 Vacancy, 5-Year Term, Dennis Erby's Term expires October 15, 2024. Appointment will be made October 15, 2024.

APPLICANT:

Dennis Erby

Council Member Jones made a motion to reappoint Dennis Erby to the Redevelopment Authority Board for a 5-Year Term, until October 15, 2029. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

ADAMENT INVESTMENTS, LP

512 11th Street North

CASE NUMBER: 24-0282

Property Maintenance Code Violation

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0282**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is her recommendation to enter the proposed Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property was in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council Member Greene made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may remediate the property with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

ANDERSON TATE, JR. AND

SHIRLEY TATE AND/OR

ANY HEIRS AT LAW OF ANDERSON

TATE, JR. AND SHIRLEY TATE

208 15th Street North

CASE NUMBER: 24-0283

Rubbish and Garbage

This case was removed from the docket. An heir was present and said the property has been **remediated**.

EDD GRIFFIN AND CASSIE GRIFFIN

420 16th Street North

CASE NUMBER: 24-0285

Rubbish and Garbage

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0285**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Beard made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0

LULA MAE JAMES

1119 6th Avenue North

CASE NUMBER: 24-0287

**Vegetation, Rubbish and Garbage
Property Maintenance Code Violation**

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0287**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is her recommendation to enter the proposed Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council Member Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may remediate the property with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

ROSE COLEMAN

1113 6th Avenue North

CASE NUMBER: 24-0288 Vegetation, Rubbish and Garbage

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0288**. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated that the owner of this property has made substantial improvement to the conditions and recommended giving the property owner a **10-day extension** to remediate the property. The property is in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Jones made a motion to give the property owner a **10-day extension** to remediate the property. Ms. James also recommends that an Order be issued for the property in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and remove rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

SAMUEL D. GIVHAN, JR. AND

DEBORAH L. GIVHAN

15th Street North

CASE NUMBER: 24-0291 Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0291**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in

a twenty-four (24) month period. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0

TRAVIS LEWIS

**503 11th Street North
1019 5th Avenue North**

CASE NUMBER: 24-0295

Rubbish and Garbage (2 properties)

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0295**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0

KARLITA SMITH AND

KARON SMITH

923 4th Avenue North

CASE NUMBER: 24-0296 Rubbish and Garbage

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0296**. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated that the owner of this property has made substantial improvement to the conditions and recommended giving the property owner a **30-day extension** to remediate the property. The property is in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Jones made a motion to give the property owner a **30-day extension** to remediate the property. Ms. James also recommends that an Order be issued for the property in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6)

more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and remove rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

AIR-LOOM, LLC

405 10th Street North

CASE NUMBER: 24-0297

Vegetation

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0297**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is her recommendation to enter the proposed Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property was in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council Member Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may remediate the property with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

Anastatius Mitchell

1006 10th Avenue South

CASE NUMBER: 24-0298

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0298**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is her recommendation to enter the proposed Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property was in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Council Member Jones made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11, and for an Order stating the City may remediate the property with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish,

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personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

**HATTIE WILLIAMS AND/OR
HEIRS AT LAW OF HATTIE WILLIAMS
18th Street North
CASE NUMBER: 24-0299**

Rubbish and Garbage

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0299**. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated that the owner of this property has made substantial improvement to the conditions and recommended giving the property owner a **30-day extension** to remediate the property. The property is in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Jones made a motion to give the property owner a **30-day extension** to remediate the property. Ms. James also recommends that an Order be issued for the property in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and remove rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

\$250.00 OR LESS CASES:

Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, presented eleven (11) cases, \$250.00 or less for adjudication. Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to accept the notices for property clean-up of properties \$250.00 and less to be adjudicated according to statute. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

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\$250 OR LESS Derelict Properties for October 15, 2024 Mayor and City Council Meeting

Case # and Violation	Ward	Name and Address	Notes
24-0300 <i>Overgrown Lot</i>	5	ROCKWOOD PROPERTY GROUP 1525 3rd Avenue North	
24-0302 <i>Overgrown Lot</i>	5	MARY RUSH ETAL 818 16th Street North	
24-0303 <i>Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage</i>	5	MARY RUSH ETAL 818 16th Street North	
24-0304 <i>Overgrown Lot</i>	5	JONES AND MESINA ENTERPRISE LLC 16th Street North	
24-0305 <i>Overgrown Lot</i>	5	JEFFEY CARYTER ENTERPRISES LLC 1513 13th Avenue North	
24-0310 <i>Overgrown Lot</i>	5	JONES AND MESINA ENTERPRISE LLC 723 16th Street North	
24-0316 <i>Overgrown Lot</i>	5	S & R PROPERTY CO LLC 1406 8th Avenue North	
24-0317 <i>Overgrown Lot</i>	5	ROBERT AND KRISTIE JONES 8th Avenue North	

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24-0318 <i>Overgrown Lot</i>	5	FULL CIRCLE LLC 8th Avenue North	
24-0321 <i>Overgrown Lot</i>	1	HENRY LEE JONES 10th Avenue South	
24-0324 <i>Overgrown Lot</i>	5	ALMA SUMMERVILLE 15th Street North	

B. Discuss/Approve listing surplus property (Old Fire Station #4) for sale with licensed real estate broker, Jeffrey Carter.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to list of surplus property (Old Fire Station #4) for sale with licensed real estate broker, Jeffrey Carter. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

The next item was moved from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

C. Approve request for sponsorship of the Columbus Bassmaster Opens in the amount of \$15,000 for the purpose of advertising and bringing into favorable notice the opportunities, possibilities and resources of the City of Columbus.

Ms. Frances Glenn, representing the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau (CCVB), came before the Mayor and City Council and requested financial support for this event. The full cost of Columbus Bassmaster Opens is \$35,000.00. CCVB contributed \$5,000 and requested the City and Lowndes County to partner with them for the purpose of advertising and bringing into favorable notice the opportunities, possibilities and resources of the City of Columbus. Council Member Beard moved to approve the expenditure of \$15,000.00 from 001-004-695 (Advertising City Resources) and find that said amount is a legitimate expense that will advertise and bring into favorable notice the opportunities, possibilities and resources of the City of Columbus. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Mayor then asked if there was any other business to come before the Mayor and City Council. There being none, Council Member Beard moved that the meeting be adjourned. Upon second by Councilwoman Stewart and unanimous vote, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

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Approved by: _____
Keith Gaskin, Mayor

James “Jim” Brigham
CFO/Secretary-Treasurer/Clerk

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