

# **MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS December 3, 2024**

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Keith Gaskin presided over the meeting. All Council Members were present, with the exception of Council Member Mickens, who participated via telephone and voted on at least one (1) matter. Also present were the General Counsel, the CFO, Police Chief, HR Director, and all other Department Heads. The COO participated via ZOOM.

## **I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION:**

Mayor Gaskin called the meeting to order and called on Chief Duane Hughes to offer the Invocation.

## **II. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

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

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

## **III. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 2024.**

Councilwoman DiCicco made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of November 19, 2024. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

## **IV. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approve permit request for five (5) Fire and Rescue personnel to attend "Graduation" at the State Fire Academy in Jackson, MS and approve use of City vehicle for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses.

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- B. Accept letter of resignation from CPD Officers Melvin Shirley, Jr. for November 28, 2024 and Jacob Parker for December 5, 2024.
- C. Accept request for payment of webmaster's service in the amount of \$658.34.
- D. Accept letter of resignation from Public Works personnel, Courtney Beckwith, effective December 3, 2024 and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.

Council Member Greene made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, all Council Members present voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote, 5/0.

**V. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS FOR DECEMBER 3, 2024:**

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for December 3, 2024 in the amount of \$719,463.16. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:**

**A. Mayor Gaskin made the following announcements:**

- The Annual Christmas Parade will be held tonight at 7:00 p.m.
- Lighting of the Christmas Tree will be held Friday, December 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The Mayor's Youth Council will be serving hot chocolate and cookies.
- The Wassail Fest will be held Friday night, December 6, 2024 following the lighting of the Christmas Tree.
- Mayor Gaskin encouraged citizens to attend these and other Christmas events.
- Mayor Gaskin offered condolences to Vice-Mayor Mickens and his family during the loss of his brother-in-law.

Mayor Gaskin then asked the Council if they had any announcements or observations. There were none.

**B. Board Vacancies**

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

**COLUMBUS HOUSING AUTHORITY**

2 Vacancies, 5-Year Terms, Greg Lewis resigned November 20, 2024. His Term Expires July 5, 2028. Glenda Richardson resigned November 20, 2024. Her Term Expires July 17, 2025.

Appointment will be made January 20, 2025.

General Counsel Turnage confessed that this was an oversight on his part. Greg Lewis was appointed to the Columbus Housing Authority Board prior to the Recreation Authority coming under the City of Columbus and when Glenda Richardson was appointed, she was not an employee. Attorney Turnage remarked that after closely reading the Housing Authority Guidelines, he has learned that there is a prohibition preventing City employees from serving on this board.

**GOLDEN TRIANGLE REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

2 Vacancies, 4-Year Terms, Lesia Jackson's Term Expires December 20, 2024. Kathy Goodwin's Term Expires December 31, 2024.

Appointments will be made January 7, 2025.

**APPLICANT:**

Lesia Jackson

**CITY PLANNING COMMISSION:**

3 Vacancies, 3-Year Terms

- Quincy Harris' Term Expires December 1, 2024
- Emily Johnson's Term Expires December 1, 2024
- Melissa Smith's Term Expires December 4, 2024

Appointments will be made December 3, 2024.

**APPLICANTS:**

Emily Johnson  
Stephen McBride  
Bo Harrison  
Melissa Smith  
Quincy Harris

Council Member Beard made a motion to reappoint Quincy Harris and Emily Johnson to the City Planning Commission for a 3-Year Term, Until December 1, 2027 and Melissa Smith to be reappointed to the City Planning

Commission for a 3-Year Term, until December 4, 2027. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS & APPEALS**

1 Vacancy, 3-Year Term, Stephen McBride's Term Expires December 4, 2024.

Appointment will be made December 3, 2024.

**Applicant:**

Stephen McBride

Council Member Beard made a motion to reappoint Stephen McBride to the Zoning Board of Adjustments & Appeals for a 3-Year Term, until December 4, 2027. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**UPDATE ON COLUMBUS CULTURAL FOUNDATION:**

The CFO was asked to give a report on the Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation regarding the matching portion of the grant from the City. CFO Jim Brigham reported that the Columbus Cultural Foundation has received \$204,857.00 with \$100,000 remaining in invoices to be paid. As soon as Ms. Nancy Carpenter receives documents from MDAH, she will forward them, but it appears that the matching funds have been properly spent.

**VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:**

**A. Tony Woodfin – 2<sup>nd</sup> Chances**

Mr. Woodfin did not show up for the meeting.

**VIII. POLICY AGENDA:**

**A. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket**

**ERIC GREEN**

**705 15<sup>th</sup> Street North**

**CASE NUMBER: 24-0372**

**Burned/Dilapidated Structure**

**Property Maintenance Code Violation**

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0372**. 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 Greene 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 present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**WILLIAM ANDERSON**  
**810 Railroad Street**  
**CASE NUMBER: 24-0376**

**Abandoned Structure**

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0376**. 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 Greene 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 present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**SYLVESTER MARKS**  
**212 Conway Drive**  
**CASE NUMBER: 24-0377**

**Overgrown Lot**

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The General Counsel called cause number **24-0377**. 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 Greene 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 present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**ETHEL HATTON**  
**1818 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**  
**CASE NUMBER: 24-0383**

**Property Maintenance Code Violation**

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0383**. 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 Greene 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 present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**WASHCRAW ENTERPRISES LLC/  
CHRISTOPHER WASHINGTON**  
**823 21<sup>st</sup> Street North**

**CASE NUMBER: 24-0373**

**Abandoned Structure**

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0373**. 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 present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**MARK D. WALLS / PAULA G. WALLS**

**823 Cannon Trace**

**CASE NUMBER: 23-0375**

**Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage**

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0375**. 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 Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**ROBERT E. WOODS III / ALYSSA NELSON**  
**1818 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**  
**CASE NUMBER: 24-0378     Property Maintenance Code Violation**

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0378**. 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 **3-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 Beard made a motion to give the property owner a **3-day extension** to remediate the property (add barrier to top and bottom of stairs saying DO NOT USE). 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. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**\$250.00 OR LESS CASES:**

Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, presented two (2) cases, \$250.00 or less for adjudication. Council Member Greene made a motion to accept the notices for property clean-up of properties \$250.00 and less to be adjudicated according to statute. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**THE LIST FOLLOWS:**

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**\$250 OR LESS Derelict Properties for December 3, 2024 Mayor and City Council Meeting**

| <b>Case # and Violation</b>                                            | <b>Ward</b> | <b>Name and Address</b>                                            | <b>Notes</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>24-0384</b><br><br><i>Accumulation of<br/>Rubbish &amp; Garbage</i> | 2           | EMM PROPERTIES LLC<br>120 Robinwood Circle                         |              |
| <b>24-0391</b><br><br><i>Overgrown Lot</i>                             | 5           | DANIEL JR. / MARY A. WILLIAMS<br>702 19 <sup>th</sup> Street North |              |
|                                                                        |             |                                                                    |              |

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NUISANCE PROPERTY NOTICE TO OWNER - PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 21-19-1 (2) OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE (Effective 7/1/2022)

EMM PROPERTIES LLC  
P. O. BOX 111  
COLUMBUS, MS 39702

RE: 120 ROBINWOOD CIR  
APN: 62W15-01-10100  
Case No: CE-24-0384  
Officer: Sasha James - Ward: 2

Date: November 14, 2024

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus (the "Governing Authority"), having a population over one thousand five hundred (1500), has authorized the City of Columbus Code Enforcement Director and/or her assistant to determine whether the property or parcel of land is in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health, safety and welfare of the community when the fee or cost to clean property or a parcel of land that is one (1) acre or less does not exceed Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00), excluding administrative costs.

The particular condition(s) as determined by the authorized municipal employee existing as of the date of this notice is/are one or more of the following:

- [ ] The presence of overgrowth of weeds, grass or other vegetation
- [X] The presence of rubbish/garbage and other debris
- [ ] The presence of abandoned building
- [ ] The presence of abandoned or dilapidated fence(s)
- [ ] The presence of burned structure
- [ ] The presence of dilapidated building(s), slabs or personal property
- [ ] The presence of property maintenance code violation
- [ ] The presence of standing water in cesspools
- [ ] The presence of cistern(s), standing water and cesspools

You are hereby advised that by this correspondence a determination has been made that the condition of property or parcel of land as described is a menace to the public health, safety and welfare of the community, and as such the governing authority of the City of Columbus, if the owner does not do so himself, on or before the 21st day of November, 2024, shall proceed to clean the land by the use of municipal employees or by contract, by cutting grass and weeds, filling cisterns, removing rubbish, abandoned or dilapidated fences, outside toilets, abandoned or dilapidated buildings, slabs, personal property, which removal of personal property shall not be subject to the provisions of Section 21-39-21, and other debris; and draining cesspools and standing water therefrom.

| Code Section                                | Corrective Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Compliance Date   |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 307.1 - Accumulation of Rubbish and Garbage | Remove all trash and debris from the property. All equipment, appliance, and/or material must be stored away from public view and/or stored in an enclosed structure. Generally, any equipment, materials or furnishings that would ordinarily not be used outdoors may not be stored outdoors. | November 21, 2024 |

YOU ARE ADVISED THAT A FINDING BY THE MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL THAT THE PROPERTY OR PARCEL OF LAND IS IN NEED OF CLEANING WILL AUTHORIZE THE MUNICIPALITY TO REENTER THE PROPERTY OR PARCEL OF LAND FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL'S DETERMINATION WITHOUT ANY FURTHER HEARING OR ACTION IF NOTICE IS POSTED ON THE PROPERTY OR PARCEL OF LAND AND AT CITY HALL OR ANOTHER PLACE IN THE MUNICIPALITY WHERE SUCH NOTICES ARE GENERALLY POSTED AT LEAST SEVEN (7) DAYS BEFORE THE PROPERTY OR PARCEL OF LAND IS REENTERED FOR CLEANING. A COPY OF THE REQUIRED NOTICE MAILED AND POSTED AS REQUIRED BY MCA SECTION 21-19-1(2) (a)(ii) SHALL BE RECORDED IN THE MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HEARING REQUIRED BY SAID SECTION.

Thereafter, the governing authority shall by resolution adjudicate the actual cost of cleaning the property under this provision, provided the same does not exceed Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) and may also impose a penalty not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or one hundred percent (100%) of the actual cost of cleaning the property, whichever is more.

The cost and any penalty imposed may become a civil debt against the property owner, and/or, at the option of the governing authority, an assessment against the property. The "cost assessed against the property" means either the cost to the municipality of using its own employees to do the work or the cost to the municipality of any contract executed by the municipality to have the work done, and additionally may include administrative costs of the municipality not to exceed Fifty Dollars (\$50.00). For subsequent cleaning within the one-year period, upon seven (7) days' notice posted both on the property or parcel of land adjudicated in need of cleaning and at city hall or another place in the municipality where such notices are generally posted, and consistent with the municipal official's determination as authorized, a municipality may reenter the property or parcel of land to maintain cleanliness without further notice or hearing no more than six (6) times in any twelve-month period with respect to removing abandoned or dilapidated buildings, slabs, dilapidated fences and outside toilets, and no more than twelve (12) times in any twenty-four-month period with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris on the land, and the expense of cleaning of the property shall not exceed an aggregate amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per year. The governing authority may assess the same actual costs, administrative costs, and penalty for each time the property or land is cleaned as otherwise provided. The penalty provided herein shall not be assessed against the State of Mississippi upon request for reimbursement under Section 29-1-145, nor shall a municipality clean a parcel owned by the State of Mississippi without first giving notice. Upon written authority from the Secretary of State's office, for state-owned properties, a municipality may forgo the notification process that is prescribed in this subsection and proceed to clean the properties and assess costs as prescribed in this subsection, except that, penalties shall not be assessed against the State of Mississippi. A determination made by an appropriate municipal employee under this subsection (2) that the state or condition of property or a parcel of land is a menace to the public health, safety and welfare of the community shall not subsequently be used to replace a hearing if Section 21-19-1(1) is later utilized by a municipality when the prerequisites of Section 21-19-1(2) are not satisfied.

An appeal of this decision may be made to the Governing Authority of the City of Columbus and such appeal shall be in writing, state the basis for the appeal and be filed with the city clerk no later than seven (7) days from the latest date of notice required under MCA 21-19-1(2).

For any questions, please call Sasha James, the Code Enforcement Director for the City of Columbus at 662-245-5063 or 662-245-5070.

This is the 14th day of November, 2024.  
Sasha James,  
City of Columbus Director of Code Enforcement

A copy of this notice shall be recorded in the minutes of the governing authority in conjunction with MCA Section 21-19-1 (2).

At least seven (7) days before the date of cleaning, this notice is required to be posted on the property or parcel of land identified herein AND at city hall or such other place in the municipality where such notices are posted AND is required to be mailed, via United States Mail, postage prepaid, to the address of the property or parcel of land identified herein except where the land or structure(s) is apparently vacant. AND to the address where the ad valorem tax notice for the property or parcel of land identified herein is sent by the office charged with collecting ad valorem taxes for the subject property or parcel of land identified herein.

This Notice was posted on the subject property on: November 14, 2024

By: Sasha James, City of Columbus Director of Code Enforcement

This Notice was posted at the City Building Inspection Office on: November 14, 2024

By: Sasha James, City of Columbus Director of Code Enforcement

This Notice was mailed via United States Mail, postage prepaid, to each address identified above on: November 14, 2024

By: Sasha James, City of Columbus Director of Code Enforcement

MINUTES OF THE  
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
DECEMBER 3, 2024



NUISANCE PROPERTY NOTICE TO OWNER - PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 21-19-1(2) OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE (Effective 7/1/2022)

WILLIAMS DANIEL JR/MARY A  
P O BOX 2573  
WOODSTOCK, GA 30188

RE: 702 19TH ST N  
APN: 61W06-01-07101  
Case No: CE 24-0391  
Officer: Sasha James - Ward: 5

Date: November 20, 2024

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus (the "Governing Authority"), having a population over one thousand five hundred (1500), has authorized the City of Columbus Code Enforcement Director and/or her assistant to determine whether the property or parcel of land is in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health, safety and welfare of the community when the fee or cost to clean property or a parcel of land that is one (1) acre or less does not exceed Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00), excluding administrative costs.

The particular condition(s) as determined by the authorized municipal employee existing as of the date of this notice is/are one or more of the following:

- [X] The presence of overgrowth of weeds, grass or other vegetation  
The presence of rubbish/garbage and other debris  
The presence of abandoned building  
The presence of abandoned or dilapidated fence(s)  
The presence of burned structure  
The presence of dilapidated building(s), slabs or personal property  
The presence of property maintenance code violation  
The presence of standing water in cesspools  
The presence of cistern(s), standing water and cesspools

You are hereby advised that by this correspondence a determination has been made that the condition of property or parcel of land as described is a menace to the public health, safety and welfare of the community, and as such the governing authority of the City of Columbus, if the owner does not do so himself, on or before the 7th day of November, 2024, shall proceed to clean the land, by the use of municipal employees or by contract, by cutting grass and weeds, filling cisterns, removing rubbish, abandoned or dilapidated fences, outside toilets, abandoned or dilapidated buildings, slabs, personal property, which removal of personal property shall not be subject to the provisions of Section 21-19-21, and other debris, and draining cesspools and standing water therefrom.

| Code Section:         | Corrective Action:                                                                    | Compliance Date:  |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 302.4 - Overgrown Lot | Cut, trim, and maintain overgrown grass, hedges, shrubs, trees, and other vegetation. | November 27, 2024 |

YOU ARE ADVISED THAT A FINDING BY THE MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL THAT THE PROPERTY OR PARCEL OF LAND IS IN NEED OF CLEANING WILL AUTHORIZE THE MUNICIPALITY TO REENTER THE PROPERTY OR PARCEL OF LAND FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL'S DETERMINATION WITHOUT ANY FURTHER HEARING OR ACTION IF NOTICE IS POSTED ON THE PROPERTY OR PARCEL OF LAND AND AT CITY HALL OR ANOTHER PLACE IN THE MUNICIPALITY WHERE SUCH NOTICES ARE GENERALLY POSTED AT LEAST SEVEN (7) DAYS BEFORE THE PROPERTY OR PARCEL OF LAND IS REENTERED FOR CLEANING. A COPY OF THE REQUIRED NOTICE MAILED AND POSTED AS REQUIRED BY MCA SECTION 21-19-1(2) (a)(8)(i) SHALL BE RECORDED IN THE MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HEARING REQUIRED BY SAID SECTION.

Thereafter, the governing authority shall by resolution adjudicate the actual cost of cleaning the property under this provision, provided the same does not exceed Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) and may also impose a penalty not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or one hundred percent (100%) of the actual cost of cleaning the property, whichever is more.

The cost and any penalty imposed may become a civil debt against the property owner, and/or, at the option of the governing authority, an assessment against the property. The "cost assessed against the property" means either the cost to the municipality of using its own employees to do the work or the cost to the municipality of any contract executed by the municipality to have the work done, and additionally may include administrative costs of the municipality not to exceed Fifty Dollars (\$50.00). For subsequent cleaning within the one-year period, upon seven (7) days' notice posted both on the property or parcel of land adjudicated in need of cleaning and at city hall or another place in the municipality where such notices are generally posted, and consistent with the municipal official's determination as authorized, a municipality may reenter the property or parcel of land to maintain cleanliness without further notice or hearing no more than six (6) times in any twelve-month period with respect to removing abandoned or dilapidated buildings, slabs, dilapidated fences and outside toilets, and no more than twelve (12) times in any twenty-four-month period with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris on the land, and the expense of cleaning of the property shall not exceed an aggregate amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per year. The governing authority may assess the same actual costs, administrative costs, and penalty for each time the property or land is cleaned as otherwise provided. The penalty provided herein shall not be assessed against the State of Mississippi upon request for reimbursement under Section 29-1-145, nor shall a municipality clean a parcel owned by the State of Mississippi without first giving notice. Upon written authority from the Secretary of State's office, for state-owned properties, a municipality may forgo the notification process that is prescribed in this subsection and proceed to clean the properties and assess costs as prescribed in this subsection, except that, penalties shall not be assessed against the State of Mississippi. A determination made by an appropriate municipal employee under this subsection (2) that the state or condition of property or a parcel of land is a menace to the public health, safety and welfare of the community shall not subsequently be used to replace a hearing if Section 21-19-1(1) is later utilized by a municipality when the prerequisites of Section 21-19-1(2) are not satisfied.

An appeal of this decision may be made to the Governing Authority of the City of Columbus and such appeal shall be in writing, state the basis for the appeal and be filed with the city clerk no later than seven (7) days from the latest date of notice required under MCA 21-19-1(2).

For any questions, please call Sasha James, the Code Enforcement Director for the City of Columbus at 662-245-5063 or 662-245-5079.

This the 20th day of November, 2024.

Sasha James,  
City of Columbus Director of Code Enforcement

A copy of this notice shall be recorded in the minutes of the governing authority in conjunction with MCA Section 21-19-1(2).

At least seven (7) days before the date of cleaning, this notice is required to be posted on the property or parcel of land identified herein AND at city hall or such other place in the municipality where such notices are posted AND is required to be mailed, via United States Mail, postage prepaid, to the address of the property or parcel of land identified herein except where the land or structure(s) is apparently vacant, AND to the address where the ad valorem tax notice for the property or parcel of land identified herein is sent by the office charged with collecting ad valorem taxes for the subject property or parcel of land identified herein.

This Notice was posted on the subject property on: November 20, 2024

By: Sasha James, City of Columbus Director of Code Enforcement

This Notice was posted at the City Building Inspection Office on: November 20, 2024

By: Sasha James, City of Columbus Director of Code Enforcement

This Notice was mailed via United States Mail, postage prepaid, to each address identified above on: November 20, 2024

By: Sasha James, City of Columbus Director of Code Enforcement

**B. Discuss/Approve applying for MDOT Strategic Multi-Modal Investments Fund (SMIF) grant for Columbus Lowndes County Airport Hangar.**

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to apply for MDOT Strategic Multi-Modal Investments Fund (SMIF) grant for Columbus Lowndes County Airport Hangar. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**C. Discuss/Approve Memorandum of Understanding between United States Department of Veterans Affairs, G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center Police and Columbus Mississippi Police Department.**

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding between United States Department of Veterans Affairs, G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center Police and Columbus Mississippi Police Department. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**The MOU follows:**

**(This space left blank intentionally)**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, G.V. (Sonny)  
MONTGOMERY VA MEDICAL CENTER POLICE  
AND  
COLUMBUS MISSISSIPPI POLICE DEPARTMENT**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center (GVSMVAMC) and the Columbus Police Department, hereinafter referred to as "Parties."

**1. PURPOSE.** To establish a general working relationship between the GVSMVAMC Police Service and the city of Columbus Police Department as a means of reinforcing interagency coordination and responsibility concerning law enforcement, emergency response, requests for assistance, and physical security and access control operations at GVSMVAMC, Columbus VA Clinic located at 824 Alabama Street. Columbus, MS, 39702.

**2. REFERENCES.**

- a. VA Directive 0730, *Security and Law Enforcement*, 12 December 2012
- b. VA Handbook 0730, *Security and Law Enforcement*, 11 August 2000
- c. The G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center and Veterans Memorial National Cemetery are under concurrent jurisdiction.

**3. GENERAL.**

- a. The G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center is located in the City of Jackson providing primary, specialty, and extended care to Veterans throughout the State of Mississippi. The mission of the GVSMVAMC is to provide timely, efficient, ethical, safe, compassionate, and quality health care to veteran patients.
- b. The Medical Center has concurrent jurisdiction with the Federal Government over GVSMVAMC hospital's properties. This jurisdiction grants local police agencies the authority to jointly enforce Federal and state laws with VA Police on GVSMVAMC properties.

**4. RESPONSIBILITIES.**

- a. GVSMVAMC Police Service will:
  - (1) Maintain law and order and enforce Federal and state laws and VA regulations, at the GVSMVAMC, including the hospital building and designated parking lots, for the protection of property owned or occupied by the VA and persons on the property.

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- (2) Provide primary initial response to any and all incidents or emergency situations at the GVSMVAMC.

b. Columbus Police Department:

- (1) Respond to the Columbus VA Clinic under the following situations:
  - (A) Armed hostage taking situations that would require an armed response to assist VA Police in containing the situation until appropriate federal agencies (such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation - FBI) can respond to assume control.
  - (B) Crimes involving armed robberies of funds, drugs, or properties where the individuals committing the crimes leave VA police jurisdiction.
- (2) Provide additional officers when needed to assist with the physical arrest of a violent/disorderly person(s) who poses a serious threat to VA patients, visitors, medical staff, or themselves.
- (3) Provide assistance in the transportation of prisoner(s) who have been arrested at the Columbus location when there are no VA police officers on duty.
- (4) Authorize access to and use of the Columbus PD and patrol units in the field to assist VA Police. The parties agree that the access and use of such resources is solely limited to official law enforcement purposes and that the process of reprogramming VA radios would be at no cost to the Columbus Police Department.
- (5) Should any VA Police Officer be involved in a shooting, the FBI will be notified immediately. If the FBI declines investigation, or if the FBI response is delayed, GVSMVAMC Police will reach out to the Columbus Police Department for investigative assistance. This assistance may range from establishing, preserving, and controlling the crime scene, to performing as the lead investigative agency.
- (6) COMPACT ACT Section 205 Police Crisis Intervention Training for VA Police requires that each VA medical center police service develop a plan to enter into partnerships with local mental health organizations and experts, veteran community organizations, as well as local police departments to share training resources on Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT). This assistance may range from collaborated training and sharing law enforcement to coordinated intervention tactics when there is an extreme crisis involving one or more veterans.

**5. ACCEPTANCE & RATIFICATION**

- a. The provisions of this MOU are effective upon the last date of signature as indicated below and will remain in effect for a period of three (3) years.

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- b. This agreement may be unilaterally suspended or cancelled by either side upon giving at least 180 days written notice to the other party.
- c. This Agreement shall comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations which may govern this agreement, without reference to conflict of laws principles.
- c. This MOU does not create additional jurisdiction or limit or modify existing jurisdiction vested in the parties. This MOU is intended exclusively to provide guidance and documents an agreement for general support between the parties. Nothing contained herein creates or extends any right, privilege, or benefit to any person or entity.
- d. Other areas of mutual interest may arise where services and support from one party of this MOU is required by the other party of this MOU. This MOU is not meant to limit those instances nor prohibit cooperation outside the above listed situations set forth and agreed upon.

**FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**MICHAEL KILBURN** Digitally signed by MICHAEL KILBURN  
Date: 2024.10.09 14:37:39 -05'00'

MICHAEL S. KILBURN  
Chief of Police, U.S. Dept. Veterans Affairs  
G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**MICHAEL RENFROW** Digitally signed by MICHAEL  
RENFROW  
Date: 2024.10.29 15:16:14 -05'00'

MICHAEL B. RENFROW, MPS, MA  
Interim Medical Center Director  
U.S. Department Veterans Affairs  
G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**FOR COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI POLICE DEPARTMENT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JOSEPH M. DAUGHTERY, Sr.**  
Chief of Police  
Columbus Police Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**D. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) Entry-Level Police Officer and three (3) Certified Police Officers, contingent upon successful completion of preliminary testing.**

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to approve the request to hire one (1) Entry-Level Police Officer, **Alexander Vaughn**, and three (3) Certified Police Officers, **DeMarco Bailey, Ricco Carter and David Fair**, contingent upon successful completion of preliminary testing. Council Member Beard seconded the motion. Mayor Gaskin asked if there was any discussion. Council Member Jones asked the Chief about recruiting and questions about other aspects of CPD Operations.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**E. Discuss/approve request to hire one (1) Laborer for the Public Works Department, pending successful completion of all preliminary testing.**

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to hire **Michael Frierson** as a Laborer for the Public Works Department, pending successful completion of all preliminary testing. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**F. Discuss/Approve Request to apply for Science Discovery on Main Street Grant.**

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to apply for Science Discovery on Main Street Grant in the amount of \$12,500.00. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**G. Discuss/Approve Columbus Recreation Department to accept TVA Grant in the amount of \$30,000.00 to be used for the Propst Park Lighting Project.**

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the acceptance of the TVA Grant in the amount of \$30,000.00 to be used for the Propst Park Lighting

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Project. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion. Mayor Gaskin asked if there was any discussion. Council Member Jones asked about lighting at the Field of Dreams and the Pickle ball bids and Greg Lewis, Director of Parks came forward and remarked that he will fast tract the lights for the Field of Dreams; he was wanted all the lights to be the same, but because of the delay, he will purchase some that will be of the same quality, but slightly different. The Pickle ball bids have been opened and came in slightly over budget. We hope to prepare a recommendation for the next Council Meeting.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Mayor then asked if there was any other business to come before the Mayor and City Council. There being none, the Mayor announced that the meeting was ADJOURNED.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Keith Gaskin, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
James "Jim" Brigham  
CFO/Secretary-Treasurer/Clerk

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