

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS December 17, 2024

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, December 17, 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, except Councilwoman DiCicco, who was absent. Also present were the General Counsel, the COO, CFO, the Police, HR Director, and all other Department Heads.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION:

Mayor Gaskin called the meeting to order and called on Rev. Leonardo Dismukes to offer the Invocation.

II. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

III. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2024.

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of December 3, 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 request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Clayton Aldridge, to attend the "NFPA 1021-Fire Officer" class to be held in Tuscaloosa, AL, and approve payment of registration, use of City vehicle for travel, and reimbursement of meal expenses and any other expenses in the total estimated cost of \$50.00.

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- B. Approve request for four (4) Fire & Rescue personnel: Michael Hood, Chas Price, Preston Long and Alan Lewis to attend the "MSTAT-Mississippi Trainee Agility Test" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve use of City vehicle for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses, total cost of \$60.00. Chief Joseph Daughtry and Assistant Chief Garland Ward to attend the
- C. Approve request to reimburse tuition for Columbus Fire & Rescue Captain, Ryan Thompson, according to the guidelines of the City of Columbus Continuing Educational Reimbursement Policy, in the amount of \$600.00.
- D. Approve request for the City Grant Administrator, Susan Wilder, to attend the 2025 MS Annual Housing Conference in Biloxi, MS and approve payment of registration, mileage and meals in the estimated cost of \$795.67.
- E. Approve request to renew the Notary Commission for the Secretary of the Office of Planning and Community Development, Loria Porter, and approve payment of necessary Notary supplies.
- F. Approve request for the Code Enforcement Director, Sasha James, to attend the MS Association of Code Enforcement one-day Education Conference to be held in Starkville, MS and approve payment of registration in the amount of \$75.00.

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

V. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS:

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for December 17, 2024, in the amount of \$1,256,385.21. 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. Council Member Mickens wished constituents in Ward 2, as well as all Citizens of Columbus, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mayor Gaskin thanked everyone, including non-profits and all organizations and businesses, for sponsoring events centered around the holidays.

- B.** Mayor Gaskin asked a representative from Atmos Energy, Robert Lawrence, and Fire Chief Duane Hughes to come forward. Chief Hughes thanked Mr. Lawrence and Atmos Energy for the generous donation of \$6,000 that was used to purchase a Positive Pressure Ventilation Fan. Mayor Gaskin echoed thanks and appreciation and remarked that he values the partnership between the public and private sector.

C. Building Inspection Department - November 2024 Monthly Report

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

D. Columbus Fire and Rescue Department – November 2024 Monthly Report

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

E. Community Outreach Department – November 2024 Monthly Report

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

F. Office of Planning & Community Development Department – November 2024 Monthly Report

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

G. Columbus Police Department – November 2024 Monthly Report

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

H. Code Enforcement Department – November 2024 Monthly Report

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

I. Recreation Department – November 2024 Monthly Report

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

J. James M. Trotter Convention Center/Cemeteries - November 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the James M. Trotter Convention/Cemeteries for November 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

K. Garage - November 2024 Monthly Report

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

L. Public Works Department – November 2024 Monthly Report

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

M. Human Resources Department – November 2024 Monthly Report

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

N. Municipal Court Department – November 2024 Monthly Report

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

O. 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, 2025. Glenda Richardson resigned November 20, 2024; her Term expires July 7, 2025..
Appointments will be made January 21, 2025.

APPLICANT:

Reggilond Taylor

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 T. Jackson

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

JARED F. NEVIL
501 Idlewild Road

CASE NUMBER: 24-0386

Overgrown Lot

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 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. Councilwoman Stewart 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. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

**MARTHA A. WASHINGTON &
JERRIE ANN WASHINGTON**

1912 6th Avenue North

CASE NUMBER: 2430320

Burned / Dilapidated Structure

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The General Counsel called cause number **23-0320**. 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. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0

MARGARET G. POWELL
BARBARA MAYFIELD & DURRANT INC.
1508 - 8th Avenue North
CASE NUMBER: 24-0382

Abandoned / Dilapidated Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0382**. Barbara Mayfield came forth and remarked that she didn't think the property was still in her name. Council Member Jones made a motion to give Ms. Mayfield until the next Council Meeting, January 7, 2025 to research ownership. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

PBA 12075 TRUST
724 – 19th Street North
CASE NUMBER: 24-0396

Dilapidated Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0396**. 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

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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

**JOHN RALPH IDOM &
APOLONIA GARCIA
409 – 13th Street North
CASE NUMBER: 24-0398**

Overgrown Lot

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0398**. 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. Councilwoman Stewart 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. 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 Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

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THE LIST FOLLOWS:

\$250 OR LESS Derelict Properties for December 17, 2024 Mayor and City Council Meeting

Case # and Violation	Ward	Name and Address	Notes
24-0395 <i>Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage</i>	4	FLOYD WELLS 1329 21 st Street North	
24-0397 <i>Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage</i>	1	RODRIQUEZ DISMUKE 1331 5 th Street South	

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DISMUKE RODRIGUEZ
251 PICKENSVILLE RD
COLUMBUS, MS 39702

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

RE: 1331 5TH ST S
APN: 61W17-03-04500
Case No: CE-24-0397
Officer: Sasha James - Ward: 1

Date: November 25, 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 uncleanness 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
- ☒ 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 2nd day of December, 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.	December 2, 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) 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 forego the notification process that is provided 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 662-243-5053 or 662-243-5070.

This the 25th 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 25, 2024

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

This Notice was posted at the City Building Inspection Office on: November 25, 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 25, 2024

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

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WELLS FLOYD
405 HOLLY HILLS RD
COLUMBUS, MS 39705

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

RE: 1329 21ST ST N
APN: 56W19-02-00990
Case No: CE-24-0395
Officer: Sasha James - Ward 4

Date: November 21, 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 28th 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 28, 2024

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 21, 2024

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

This Notice was posted at the City Building Inspection Office on: November 21, 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 21, 2024

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

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)&(b) 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 require 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 the 21st 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).

**B. Discuss/Approve Recommendations from the December 9, 2024
Planning Commission meeting**

Rezoning Case No. 24 - 10

Edwin Jamal Bridges, Owner

320 19th Street North

Tax Parcel 61W06-03-12200

R-1 – Single Family and C-1 Neighborhood Commercial Districts

Request: Rezone property from R-1 to C-1 for indoor event venue and multi-purpose outdoor activities, including live music

By a majority of 5 to 2, the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the request.

Finding of facts:

The Commission based their decision on a mistake in the original zoning.

Mr. Edwin Bridges came before the Mayor and Council and remarked that he purchased the property, which was at one time derelict, and brought it up to code. Mr. Bridges was commended for improving the property. Ms. C. Richardson, who is a neighbor and owner of adjoining property, came forward and offered comments in objection of this rezoning request. She also offered recommendations if the Council approves the request.

Council Member Beard moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to rezone property at 320 – 19th Street North from R-1 to C-1 for indoor event venue and multi-purpose outdoor activities, including live music be approved. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion. Council Member Beard suggested to Mr. Bridges that he meets with the neighbors, as they have lived in the area for many years. There followed discussion, consideration, and review by the Council of the issues and facts presented by this request and the action taken by the City of Columbus Planning Commission.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

Permitted Use Case No. 24-04

Edwin Jamal Bridges, Owner
320 19th Street North

Tax Parcel 61W06-03-12200

R-1 – Single Family and C-1 Neighborhood Commercial Districts

Request: Allow use of existing building as an event space and allow the rear yard area to be used for various functions such as a farmers' market, flea market, and in some cases, live music.

By a majority of 5 to 2, the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the request.

Finding of the Facts:

The Commission based their decision on the request being appropriate with regard to transportation and access, undue traffic congestion nor creating a public hazard, and as being in harmony with the orderly and appropriate development of the district.

Councilwoman Stewart moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to allow use of existing building as an event space and allow the rear yard area to be used for various functions such as a farmers' market, flea market, and in some cases, live music be approved. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. There followed discussion, consideration, and review by the Council of the issues and facts presented by this request and the action taken by the City of Columbus Planning Commission.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

C. Discuss/Approve recommendation to negotiate contract for professional services (surveyor).

Council Member Greene made a motion to accept the Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) from Neel-Schaffer Engineers and engage in negotiation to award a contract for survey services for the FY2023 Dilapidated Housing Initiative, Grant #B-23-CP-MS-0917. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

D. Discuss/Approve recommendation to negotiate a contract for professional services (appraiser).

Council Member Greene made a motion to accept the proposal from William Blair and engage in negotiation to award a contract for appraisal services for the FY2023 Dilapidated Housing Initiative, Grant #B-23-CP-MS-0917. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

E. Discuss Approve Award to the Lowest Responsive Bidders for Propst Park Tennis and Pickle ball Rehabilitation to Weathers Construction, Inc. for the Courts in the amount of \$423,250.00 and Paradigm Contractor, LLC for the Fencing in the amount of \$81,000.00.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to Award to the Lowest Responsive Bidders for Propst Park Tennis and Pickle ball Rehabilitation to Weathers Construction, Inc. for the Courts in the amount of \$423,250.00 and Paradigm Contractor, LLC for the Fencing in the amount of \$81,000.00. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

F. Discuss/Approve request to hire a Maintenance Technician for the Recreation Department, pending successful completion of all preliminary testing.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to hire Curtis Cunningham as a Maintenance Technician for the Recreation Department at \$15.00 per hour, pending successful completion of all preliminary testing. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

G. Discuss/Approve hiring of one (1) Custodian at the Columbus Police Department, pending successful completion of all preliminary testing.

Council Member Beard made a motion to hire Genevia Buckhalter as Custodian at the Columbus Police Department at \$15.00 per hour, pending successful completion of all preliminary testing. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

H. Discuss/Approve Request to fill four (4) Laborer positions at the Public Works Department, pending successful completion of all preliminary testing.

Council Member Beard made a motion to hire four (4) Laborers for the Public Works Department: Franciose Kyles, Niles O'Neal, Fredrick Ross, and Jimmie Weatherspoon, at \$15.00 per hour, pending successful completion of all preliminary testing. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

I. Discuss/Approve Property, Casualty and Liability Insurance Renewal

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the Property, Casualty and Liability Insurance Renewal in the amount of \$518,530.00, not including the Cyber Security Insurance. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

The Renewal Documents follow:

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City of Columbus. MS Insurance Employers Mutual/MMSC Proposal 12/21/2024 to 12/31/2025

<u>Property</u>	<u>Employers Mutual</u>		<u>Employers Mutual</u>		<u>MMSC Value</u>	<u>Premium</u>
	<u>Exp. Value</u>	<u>Exp. Premium</u>	<u>Proposed Value</u>	<u>Proposed Premium</u>		
Blanket Buildings	\$38,571,865	\$101,218	\$41,807,468	\$119,817		
*Business Personal Property						
*Per Schedule of Property						
Streetlights	\$3,400,000	Included	\$3,400,000	Included		
Deductible \$25,000 90% co-insurance						
Wind/Hail Ded. \$50,000 per occurrence						
<u>Inland Marine (Equip. Coverage)</u>						
Scheduled Items	\$2,750,640	\$ 10,701	\$2,849,885	\$11,617		
Deductible \$1,000						
Scheduled Items - ACV						
<u>Crime (Employment Theft Dishonesty)</u>	\$100,000	\$ 619	\$100,000	\$ 524		
Deductible \$1,000						
<u>Cyber Solutions</u>	\$100,000	\$ 992	\$100,000	\$ 917		
Deductible \$1,000						
<u>Auto</u>						
Auto Liability \$1,000,000 Subject to						
Mississippi Tort Statutory Can of						
Uninsured Motorists						INCLUDED
Medical Payments						
Physical Damage Coverage	234 Units \$120,483		229 Units	\$116,938		
\$2,000 Deductible Comp & Coll	\$14,084,524		\$14,081,529			
<u>General Liability</u>						
Each Occurrence						\$500,000
General Aggregate						
Subject to the MS Tort Statutory Cap of						
Limited Pollution						
Cemetery Liability						
Medical Expense						
Personal and Advertising Injury						
Employee Benefits Liability						INCLUDED
(\$1,000 Deductible)						
<u>Law Enforcement Liability</u>						
Each Wrongful Act						\$500,000
Annual Aggregate						
Retroactive Date 12/11/2017						Deductible \$0
<u>Public Official Management Liability</u>						
<u>And Employment Practices Liability</u>						
Each Wrongful Act						\$500,000
Annual Aggregate						
Retroactive Date 7/1/1993						Deductible \$0
<u>Cyber</u>	\$1,000,000	\$19,642	Cyber Premium TBD awaiting the completed Cyber App			
	\$100,000 Ransomware					
	\$25,000 Deductible					
	Expiring EMC Total	\$234,013			EMC Total	\$249,813
	Expiring Cowbell Cyber	\$ 19,642			Cowbell Cyber	TBD
*Includes Agency Fee	Expiring MMSC Total	\$265,194			MMSC Total	\$268,717
	Expiring Total Premium	\$518,849			Total Annual	\$518,530

Disclosure: This outline is a synopsis of coverage and implies no terms and conditions of the actual Contract. No coverage can be construed by the synopsis. Please refer to the actual contract. Cancellations after binding are subject to eleven percent retainage plus cancellation provisions of the Insurance contract. Quote is valid until 12/31/2024. Actual premium may change based upon Confirmation of schedules. All commissions and fees are fully earned.

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CHANGES IN COVERAGE TO RENEWAL

Auto Deductible increases to \$2000 Comp and \$2,000 Collision

All locations Limitations on Coverage for Roof Surfacing Form CP7370 – at the time of a loss if it is determined that the roof is 15 years or older, Actual Cash Value applies. At time of loss, if roof is less than 15 years Replacement Cost will apply.

Increased values on buildings and Business personal property.

There is no difference in coverage between Blanket 1 and Blanket 2. Blanket 1 is Building and BPP locations, and Blanket 2 is just building locations.

Streetlights are listed under location #43

SAME AS LAST POLICY TERM

Property Deductible \$25,000 with a \$50,000 wind/hail deductible.

110% margin clause on the blanket coverages.

****** We marked 13 different companies for competitive quotes. Receiving a quote only from the incumbent Employers Mutual Company.**

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

THIS ENDORSEMENT CHANGES THE POLICY. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.

ROOF SURFACING VALUATION LIMITATION

This endorsement modifies insurance provided under the following:

BUILDING AND PERSONAL PROPERTY COVERAGE FORM

Roof Age (years):

A. The following is added to Paragraph E. Loss Conditions, Subparagraph 7. Valuation:

- f. With respect to loss or damage by a Covered Cause of Loss (including wind and hail if covered) to any covered building or structure described in this policy, Replacement Cost Coverage (if otherwise applicable to such property) does not apply to "roof surfacing" if any of the damaged portion of the roof is determined to be older than the Roof Age listed above or shown in the declarations as of the date on which the direct physical loss or damage occurred. Instead, we will determine the value of "roof surfacing" at actual cash value as of the time of loss or damage.

- B. For the purpose of this endorsement, "roof surfacing" refers to the shingles, tiles, cladding, metal, or synthetic sheeting, sheathing, or similar materials covering the roof and includes all materials used in securing the roof surface and all materials applied to or under the roof surface for moisture protection, as well as roof flashing.

All other terms and conditions of this Policy remain unchanged.

Information required will be shown in the Declarations.

- J. Discuss/Approve Memorandum of Understanding between the City Council, Mayor and Planning and Community Development Department Administrator of Columbus, MS to obligate funds from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act for the Blight Elimination Program, in the amount of \$100,000.00.**

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City Council, Mayor and Planning and Community Development Department Administrator of Columbus, MS to obligate funds from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act for the Blight Elimination Program, in the amount of \$100,000.00. 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)

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into by and between the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Columbus, Mississippi, and the Planning and Community Development Department Administrator hereinafter referred to as the Parties. In consideration of those mutual undertakings, the Parties agree as follows:

WHEREAS, the City Council, is designated to accept and administer funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA"), sections 602 and 603 of the Social Security Act as added by section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (the "Act"), Pub. L. No. 117-2 (Mar. 11, 2021); and

WHEREAS, the Mayor is tasked with overseeing the day to day operations of the Municipality, and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Community Development Department Administrator is tasked with overseeing the administration of the Blight Elimination Program; and

WHEREAS, the Board must approve the Municipality's budget and the Mayor executes the expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to enter into this MOU to memorialize their understanding of the mutual advantages of this cooperative relationship.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree to the terms and conditions set forth below:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to memorialize an agreement to obligate the Municipality's ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds ("Funds") for the purpose set forth in the Grant Agreement between the City of Columbus and the Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"), FY23 Community Project Funding Grant Agreement No. B-23-CP-MS-0917 and set forth in Attachment "A" hereby adopted and incorporated by reference herein, along with any current or future modifications thereto ("HUD Grant Agreement").

II. CONDITIONS AND SCOPE

The Council agrees to appropriate and the Mayor agrees to expend the Funds to perform the "Scope of Work," as set forth in Attachment A.

III. AMOUNT

The City Council agrees to provide and obligate the Funds in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

IV. TERM

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The MOU shall be effective from the date executed below and shall expire on January 1, 2027.

V. BINDING EFFECT

The MOU shall be binding upon the Parties hereto and upon any respective successors and assigns of the Parties.

VI. OBLIGATION OF THE PARTIES

The Parties agree to the following obligations under this MOU:

- a. The City Council agrees to provide the Mayor the Funds set forth in the HUD Grant Agreement.
- b. The Mayor shall expend the Funds in an amount to pay for the cost of the Scope of Work necessary to implement the Project.
- c. The Mayor shall follow federal and state procurement and expenditure requirements as required by and set forth in the HUD Grant Agreement.
- d. The Mayor shall ensure a complete procurement file for each contract necessary to perform the Scope of Work in the Grant Agreement is submitted to HUD with reimbursement requests in accordance therewith.
- e. The Planning and Community Development Department Administrator shall administer the Blight Elimination Program.

VII. Applicable Law

This MOU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with federal laws.

Agreed to this the 18th day of December, 2024.



Planning & Community Development, Administrator



Vice Mayor/Mayor Pro Tem, City Council/Board



Mayor

(All 23 pages will be included in the official minute book).

K. Discuss/Approve Memorandum of Understanding between the City Council, Mayor and Finance Department Administrator of Columbus, MS to obligate funds from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act for vehicles and equipment, in the amount of \$400,000.00.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City Council, Mayor and Finance Department Administrator of Columbus, MS to obligate funds from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act for vehicles and equipment, in the amount of \$400,000.00. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

THE MOU FOLLOWS:

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MINUTES OF THE
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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into by and between the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Columbus, Mississippi, and the Planning and Community Development Department Administrator hereinafter referred to as the Parties. In consideration of those mutual undertakings, the Parties agree as follows:

WHEREAS, the City Council, is designated to accept and administer funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA"), sections 602 and 603 of the Social Security Act as added by section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (the "Act"), Pub. L. No. 117-2 (Mar. 11, 2021); and

WHEREAS, the Mayor is tasked with overseeing the day to day operations of the Municipality, and

WHEREAS, the Finance Department Administrator is tasked with overseeing the administration of the City Budget and Purchasing, and

WHEREAS, the Board must approve the Municipality's budget and the Mayor executes the expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to enter into this MOU to memorialize their understanding of the mutual advantages of this cooperative relationship.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree to the terms and conditions set forth below:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to memorialize an agreement to obligate the Municipality's ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds ("Funds") for the purpose set forth in the City of Columbus 2025 Budget as set forth in Attachment A, hereby adopted and incorporated by reference herein, along with any current or future modifications thereto,

II. CONDITIONS AND SCOPE

The Council agrees to appropriate and the Mayor agrees to expend the Funds to perform the "Scope of Work," as set forth in Attachment A.

III. AMOUNT

The City Council agrees to provide and obligate the Funds in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 as set forth in the 2025 City Budget, the Mayor agrees to expend the Funds in such amount and the Finance Administrator agrees to administer the Purchasing program.

IV. TERM

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
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The MOU shall be effective from the date executed below and shall expire on January 1, 2027.

V. BINDING EFFECT

The MOU shall be binding upon the Parties hereto and upon any respective successors and assigns of the Parties.

VI. OBLIGATION OF THE PARTIES

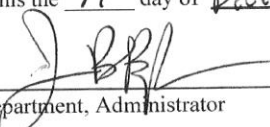
The Parties agree to the following obligations under this MOU:

- a. The City Council agrees to provide the Mayor the Funds set forth in the 2025 City Budget.
- b. The Mayor shall expend the Funds in an amount to pay for cost of the Purchases necessary to implement the Project.
- c. The Mayor shall follow federal and state procurement and expenditure requirements.
- d. The Mayor shall ensure a complete procurement file for each equipment purchase.
- e. The Finance Department Administrator shall administer the purchases.

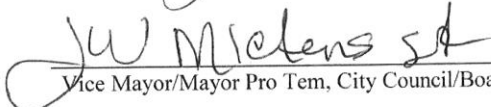
VII. Applicable Law

This MOU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Mississippi.

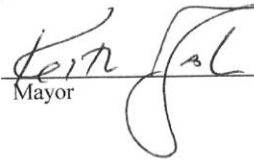
Agreed to this the 17 day of December, 2024.



Finance Department, Administrator



Vice Mayor/Mayor Pro Tem, City Council/Board



Mayor

12-17-24

"
A
"

ARPA Spending

▶ Watershed Projects	\$2,950,000	
▶ Tennessee Williams House	54,059	
▶ Blight Elimination	100,000	
▶ One-Time Capital Requests:		
◦ High Speed Scanners	\$20,000	
◦ CID Used Police Cars (5)	\$100,000	
◦ Police Passenger Vans (2)	\$80,000	
◦ Fire Department SUV	\$80,000	
◦ NOLA Cameras	\$20,000	
◦ Parks & Rec Utility Vehicle	\$20,000	
◦ IT Computers/Equip	<u>\$80,000</u>	<u>400,000</u>

.L. Discuss/Approve advertising for Request for Proposals for Auditing Services for FY2023

CFO, Jim Brigham, asked the Council for direction in preparing RFPs for Auditing Services for FY2023. Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to remain with Watkins, Ward & Stafford Accounting Firm to conduct the FY2023 audit. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

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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