

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS January 21, 2025

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 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, but participated electronically. Also present were the General Counsel, the COO, CFO, the Police Chief, HR Director, and all other Department Heads.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION:

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

II. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Councilwoman Stewart requested to move Consent Item "B" to the Policy Agenda as Item "L."

Council Member Mickens made a motion to table Item "F" on the Consent Agenda for further discussion. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

Council Members Stewart, Mickens, Greene and DiCicco voted in favor of the motion. Council Members Beard and Jones opposed the motion.

The motion carried 4/2

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, all Council Members voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote, 6/0.

III. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2025, MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETINGS OF DECEMBER 23, 2024 AND JANUARY 2, 2025.

Councilwoman DiCicco made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of January 7, 2025, Minutes for the Special Meeting of December 23, 2024 and January 2, 2025. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request for the Mayor, City Council, COO, CFO, Court Administrator, Interim City Planner, and Police Chief to attend the Mississippi Municipal League 94th Annual Summer Conference to be held in Biloxi, MS and approve payment of registration, lodging, travel and meal expenses.
- B. Approve request for payment of professional services to Waggoner Engineering in the amount of \$12,688.44. **MOVED TO POLICY AGENDA**
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Clayton Aldridge, to attend "NFPA 1021 Fire Officer" to be held in Tuscaloosa, AL, and approve payment of registration, use of city vehicle for travel and meal expenses at the total cost of \$50.00.
- D. Approve request for CPD personnel, Jeremy Fortney, to attend a "Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Recertification Course" to be held in Olive Branch, MS at no cost to the City.
- E. Accept letters of resignation from CEP Recruit, Eboney Jones, effective January 7, 2025 and CPD Officer, Traveon Williams, effective January 12, 2025.
- F. Approve permit request submitted by Ron Thornton, on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club of Golden Triangle, to host "Brews and Blues" and approve the sale of alcohol, to be held on June 14, 2025, from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at the Farmers' Market, blocking 3rd Street North and 2nd Avenue North and 3rd Avenue North adjacent to the Farmers' Market. **TABLED**

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion. The Mayor called for discussion, and there being none, all Council Members voted in favor of same, with the exception of Councilwoman DiCicco, who participated electronically and could not be heard, 5/1.

V. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS:

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for January 21, 2025, in the amount of \$1,893,297.42. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

Council Member Jones asked a question about various invoices on the Docket and made a **Substitute Motion** to approve the Docket of Claims minus \$1,520.00 (T. C. Express, LLC) until an explanation is received. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion with the exception of Councilwoman DiCicco, who participated electronically and could not be heard.

The motion carried 5/1.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

- A.** Mayor Keith Gaskin asked Council Members if they had announcements or comments.

Mayor Gaskin then thanked everyone for coming out on January 20 for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration and also thanked everyone that worked hard in coordinating this event.

- Mayor Gaskin reminded the public that we are expecting some very cold weather and reminded everyone about the warming shelter at Genesis Church. They are still in need of volunteers. Please contact the Golden Triangle Homeless Coalition.
- The Columbus Police Department is sponsoring a series of Neighborhood Watch Meetings. The first one will be held Monday, January 27, at 6:00 p.m. in Ward 2 at the East Columbus Gym. Additional meetings will be hosted in each ward going forward. This will provide a platform for Citizens to come, ask questions and voice concerns.
- We will once again participate in March of the Mayors event, beginning today through February 21, 2025. We will be collecting cans of soup that can be dropped off in City Hall or at the Fire Station #1. We will be competing with other cities in North Mississippi who will be collecting other items. At the end of the event, Helping Hands in Columbus will be the beneficiary of a variety of the foods collected.
- Mrs. Vanessa Walker, wife of Fire Marshal Michael Walker, is very active in the community and plays a vital role at the Housing Authority, will be

sponsoring a Play that will be held at the Rent Auditorium on February 15. Show times are Noon and 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00 in advance and \$30.00 at the door.

- I want to remind the public that the City of Columbus is holding a Surplus Auction, which begins January 22, with over 200 items. The listing is on the City's website.
- Council Member Mickens announced that on Monday, January 27, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., the Columbus Police Department will hold the first Neighborhood Watch Meeting at the East Columbus Gym and everyone is invited to come out.
- REMINDER: The Public Review Meeting to discuss the Parks & Rec. Study will be held Tuesday night at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level of the Convention Center. This was a grant that the City of Columbus and Lowndes County received. The results of the study will be discussed and recommendations will be made. The public is invited to attend.

B. Presentation of Commendation to Officer Dijon Shields

Chief Daughtry presented a Certificate of Commendation to Officer Dijon Shields, who on December 18, 2025, played a vital role in the apprehension of two (2) predators (Human Trafficking) by utilizing training and observation skills which were instrumental in apprehending the suspects as he and his Field Training Officer were conducting parking lot checks. Officer Shields' dedication to duty, selfless service, training and outstanding professional ability contributed to the successful apprehension of these suspects and save an unknown number of victims from the horror of human trafficking.

Mayor Gaskin asked the Council if they had questions for the Department Heads.

C. Finance – December 2024 Monthly Report

Jim Bringham, CFO, distributed the Monthly Financial Report for December 2024 that includes the General Fund cash balance of \$7,876,553.30, which is an increase of \$742,520.42 compared to the same time last year. The Sales Tax Receipts for December were \$939,777, which is a decrease of \$24,728.00 compared to the same time last year. The balance in the Major Project is \$3,350,029.10. The City-wide Park Improvement project has a balance of \$2,582,657.43. The Modernization Use Tax has a balance of \$4,565,263.50. The balance in the Pedestrian Bridge Repair fund is

\$265,949.57 and the Amphitheater balance is \$1,000,000.00. No action was taken

D. Building Inspection Department - December 2024 Monthly Report

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

E. Community Outreach Department – December 2024 Monthly Report

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

F. Columbus Fire and Rescue Department – December 2024 Monthly Report

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

G. Columbus Fire and Rescue Department – Annual Report for 2024

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

H. Columbus Recreation Department – December 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the Columbus Recreation Department for December 2024 was presented. Greg Lewis, Director, updated the Mayor and Council on improvements currently being made at the East Columbus Gym. No action was taken.

I. Code Enforcement Department – December 2024 Monthly Report

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

J. Columbus Police Department – December 2024 Monthly Report

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

K. Public Works Department - December 2024 Monthly Report

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

L. James M. Trotter Convention Center/Friendship & Historic Sandfield Cemeteries – December 2024 Monthly Report

The Monthly Report from the James M. Trotter Convention Center/Friendship & Historic Sandfield Cemeteries for December 2024 was presented. No action was taken.

M. Garage – December 2024 Monthly Report

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

N. Human Resources Department – December 2024 Monthly Report

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

O. Municipal Court Department – December 2024 Monthly Report

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

P. Board Vacancies

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

COLUMBUS MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1 Vacancy, 5-Year Term, Telisa Young's Term Expires 3/03/2025.
Appointment will be made February 18, 2025.

There are no applicants at this time.

TREE BOARD

2 Vacancies, 3-Year Terms, Expired January 2, 2025.
Appointment may be made January 21, 2025.

There are no applicants at this time.

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 7, 2025.

Appointments will be made January 21, 2025.

APPLICANT:

Reggilond Taylor
Whirlie Byrd
Bo Harrison
Lillian Granderson-Daughtry
Deborah Johnson
Velma J. Woodard

Council Member Beard made a motion to appoint Whirlie Byrd to the Columbus Housing Authority to fill Greg Lewis' unexpired term, until July 5, 2028. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

Councilwoman DiCicco made a motion to appoint Bo Harrison to the Columbus Housing Authority to fill Glenda Richardson's unexpired term, until July 7, 2025. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Council Member Beard made a substitute motion to appoint Reggilond Taylor to the Columbus Housing Authority to fill Glenda Richardson's unexpired term, until July 7, 2025. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

Council Members Stewart, Beard and Jones voted in favor of the motion. Council Members Mickens, Greene and DiCicco opposed the motion. Mayor Gaskin voted in opposition of the motion.

The motion failed 3/4.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Council Member Beard made a substitute motion to appoint Lillian Granderson-Daughtry to the Columbus Housing Authority to fill Glenda Richardson's unexpired term, until July 7, 2025. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

Council Members Stewart, Beard and Jones voted in favor of the motion. Council Members Mickens, Greene and DiCicco opposed the motion. Mayor Gaskin voted in opposition of the motion.

The motion failed 3/4.

INITIAL MOTION:

Council Members Mickens, Greene, Jones and DiCicco voted in favor of motion to appoint Bo Harrison to the Columbus Housing Authority to fill Glenda Richardson's unexpired term, until July 7, 2025. Councilwoman Stewart opposed the motion.

The motion carried 5/1.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

ERIC THOMAS – “Open My Heart Foundation” Walk 2025

This year the organization will be selling Lawn posters for \$45.00 each that can be displayed during the event. A special sign will be displayed in memory of former Councilman Gene Taylor. No contributions were given for this cause in 2024. Council Member Jones made a motion to contribute up to \$1,500.00 to this cause pursuant to Section 21-19-65 of the Mississippi Code from the municipal general fund to match any other funds for the purpose of supporting social and community service programs with the finding that the organization is a social and community service program. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion with the exception of Councilwoman DiCicco, who participated electronically and could not be heard.

The motion carried 5/1.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

**FRANK SHELTON / WILLIE B. SHELTON
AND ANY HEIRS AT LAW**

1700 22nd Street North

CASE NUMBER: 24-0414 Accumulation of Rubbish and Garbage

The General Counsel called cause number **24-0414**. Frank Shelton was in attendance. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated that the Mr. Shelton has made substantial improvement to the conditions of the property and recommended giving the him a **7-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. Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to give the property owner a **7-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,

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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 Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0

\$250.00 OR LESS CASES:

Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, presented two (2) cases, \$250.00 or less for adjudication. Council Member Beard 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 6/0.

THE LIST FOLLOWS:

\$250 OR LESS Derelict Properties for January 21, 2025 Mayor and City Council Meeting

Case # and Violation	Ward	Name and Address	Notes
24-0001 <i>Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage</i>	3	JEFFREY W. CARTER 225 Tuscaloosa Road	
24-0004 <i>Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage</i>	4	DEMETRIUS J. BENNETT Cherry Street	

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CARTER JEFFREY W
P.O. BOX 8774
COLUMBUS, MS 39705

NUISANCE PROPERTY NOTICE TO OWNER - PURSUANT TO
SECTION 21-19-11(2) OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE (Effective 7/1/2022)

RE: 225 TUSCALOOSA RD
APN: 55W15-00-08600
Case No: CE-25-0001
Officer: Sasha James - Ward: 3

Date: January 2, 2025

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 9th day of January, 2025, 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 stalling water therefrom.

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 21-19-11(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, 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 the 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 21-19-11(1) is later utilized by a municipality when the prerequisites of Section 21-19-11(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 21-19-11(2).

For any questions, please call Sasha James, the Code Enforcement Director for the City of Columbus at 662-245-5053 or 662-245-5070.

This the 2nd day of January, 2025.

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 21-19-11 (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 January 2, 2025

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

This Notice was posted at the City Building Inspection Office on January 2, 2025

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 January 2, 2025

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

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JANUARY 21, 2025



BENNETT DEMETRIUS J
709 FORREST BLVD
COLUMBUS, MS 39702

NUISANCE PROPERTY NOTICE TO OWNER - PURSUANT TO
SECTION 21-19-11(7) OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE (Effective 7/1/2022)

RE: CHERRY ST
APN: 61W06-03-0800
Case No: CE-25-0004
Officer: Sasha James - Ward 4

Date: January 2, 2025

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
- ☒ 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 9th day of January, 2025, 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.

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 21-19-11(2) (a)(6) 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 21-19-11(1) is later utilized by a municipality when the prerequisites of Section 21-19-11(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 21-19-11(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 2nd day of January, 2025.

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 21-19-11 (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: January 2, 2025

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

This Notice was posted at the City Building Inspection Office on: January 2, 2025

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: January 2, 2025

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

B. Discuss/Approve Engineering Agreement for Columbus-Lowndes County Airport Automatic Weather Observation System project.

Zach Foster dba Neel-Schaffer, Inc. came forward and presented a cost for engineering services for this project in the amount of \$43,400.00. Council Member Greene made a motion to approve Engineering Agreement for Columbus-Lowndes County Airport Automatic Weather Observation System project. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOLLOW:

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MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 21, 2025



January 14, 2025

City of Columbus
Honorable Mayor Keith Gaskin
P. O. Box 1408
Columbus, MS 39703

**REFERENCE: COLUMBUS-LOWNDES COUNTY AIRPORT
FAA AIP GRANT FUNDING - FY 2025
AUTOMATIC WEATHER OBSERVATION SYSTEM**

Dear Mayor Gaskin:

Neel-Schaffer, Inc. (NSI) is pleased to offer engineering services for the above referenced project for the following lump sum fees:

AUTOMATIC WEATHER OBSERVATION SYSTEM (AWOS):

Engineering Design	\$ 27,500.00
Construction Administration	\$ 6,400.00
Grant Administration	\$ 9,500.00
Total	\$ 43,400.00

This fee is based on the scope of services attached as Exhibit A. All services proposed herein will be performed in accordance with the General Terms and Conditions in the Master Contract dated July 7, 2021. NSI will bill you monthly based on the amount of work completed and withhold 10% retainage as required by FAA.

This Letter Agreement, consisting of two pages; Exhibit A, consisting of five pages, and the Master Contract represent the entire agreement between Neel-Schaffer, Inc. and the City of Columbus. This Letter Agreement and the exhibits may only be modified or amended by a duly executed written document.

landscape architects
environmental scientists
surveyors
planners
engineers

P: 662.328.4547 | F: 662.328.8552
2310 Martin Luther King Junior Drive
Columbus, MS 39705
www.neel-schaffer.com



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MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 21, 2025

If the terms of this Agreement are acceptable, please execute the original and the copy and return the copy to us. We appreciate the opportunity to provide services to you and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

NEEL-SCHAFFER, INC.



Zach Foster, P.E.
Vice President

Attachments

ACCEPTED: CITY OF COLUMBUS

BY: _____

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____



**EXHIBIT A
SCOPE OF WORK**

General

The purpose of this Exhibit is to provide guidance related to the Scope of Work for Type 3 Services specific to the design of the project titled "Install Automatic Weather Observation System" at the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport. General Provisions for Type 3 Services are contained in the Master Contract dated July 7, 2021.

Project Description

This Project will construct a new Automatic Weather Observation System (AWOS) at the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport.

Design Development Phase

CONSULTANT will complete all Design Development work for the AWOS project. This phase will include topographic survey, preliminary plans, specifications, and pay items (including any additive alternates).

Final Plan Design Phase

CONSULTANT will prepare a 100% final design, including necessary calculations, construction drawings, opinions of probable cost, and contract documents for the AWOS Construction project at the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport. These plans, specifications, and estimates shall be for the project described in this Scope of Work.

CONSULTANT will provide City with three (3) sets of final plans for use.

Construction Drawings

The following drawings are expected to be included in the Construction Drawings:

- Cover
- Index and Summary of Quantities
- General Notes
- Construction Safety Notes
- Construction Safety and Phasing Plans
- Construction Safety and Phasing Details
- Existing Conditions and Demolition Plan
- AWOS Drawings and Details
- Grading Drawings
- Typical Sections

Technical Specifications

ENGINEER shall develop Technical Specifications for construction materials and methods using FAA AC 150/5370-10H, Standards for Specifying Construction on Airports. For construction items not included in this AC, ENGINEER shall use MDOT standards or other acceptable standards to develop "Technical Supplements".



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Contract Documents

ENGINEER shall develop Contract Documents suitable for advertising the project for public bid. ENGINEER shall use General Provisions found in FAA AC 150/5370-10H, Standards for Specifying Construction on Airports. In addition to the General Provisions, ENGINEER shall use SPONSOR's current document format or develop documents for:

- Notice To Contractors
- Instructions to Bidders
- Proposal Form
- Form of Bid Bond
- Form of Agreement
- Form of Payment Bond
- Form of Performance Bond
- Form of Insurance Certificate
- Form of Sponsor Attorney Certification
- Supplemental Safety Information
- Required Contract Provisions for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Projects
- Mississippi Employment Protection Act
- Project Record Documents Requirements

Bidding Phase

CONSULTANT will assist the City with advertising and bidding of the Project.

CONSULTANT will conduct a pre-bid conference (if necessary), will respond to contractors, and issue needed addenda.

CONSULTANT will assist the City with Bid Opening, evaluate bids received, and present the bids to the City for consideration to award a construction contract.

Construction Phase Services

- Providing interpretations and clarifications of the Contract Documents to the SPONSOR and Contractor during all phases of construction.
- Represent the Airport at the preconstruction conference.
- Attend periodic progress meetings during the project to review the overall project schedule, weather or other unforeseen delays, work completed during the previous period, discuss work phasing and safety requirements for the upcoming period, and review test reports and estimated quantities.
- ENGINEER shall observe the work in progress periodically and provide reports to the SPONSOR.
- Review and approve shop drawings submitted by the Contractor for compliance with the design concept.
- Review, analyze, and approve laboratory testing reports of material and equipment used in the work.
- Prepare and negotiate change orders and supplemental agreements related to the original scope of work for construction.
- Observe or review performance tests required by the specifications.



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- Review and approve periodic (monthly) requests for partial payment submitted by the Contractor for work performed.
- Review certified payrolls for compliance with the Davis Bacon Act and retain copies of the certified payrolls on behalf of the SPONSOR.
- Review DBE documents from Contractor for compliance with the Contract Documents, including review of subcontract agreements, review applications for payment pertinent to DBE sub-contractors and suppliers, verifying that listed DBE's are performing commercially useful functions, verifying prompt payment, and certifying DBE compliance at construction completion.
- Make a substantial completion inspection and final inspection and prepare a punch list and report of work performed to the Owner and Contractor
- Receive and review "Record Drawings" from the Contractor and transmit them to the Airport.
- Prepare closeout documents for the AIP and MDOT Grants related to the Work.
- Other services as required by the provisions of the Prime Agreement.

Resident Project Representation

ENGINEER will provide a Resident Project Representative (RPR) at critical times of the project construction period. Tasks to be performed by the RPR include:

- Observation of construction.
- Coordination with the Engineer regarding quality of construction and Contractor's compliance with the contract documents.
- Prepare a report of daily construction activities performed while on site.
- Record photographs of construction progress.
- Prepare MDOT and/or FAA reports of construction activities.
- Examination of periodic requests for partial payment and confirmation of in place quantities.

Grant Administration Services

This work is to include coordination with FAA Airport District Office (ADO), Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport Advisory Board, City of Columbus, and Lowndes County for issues concerning the current grant and for grant applications for the upcoming fiscal year including:

- Technical assistance with AIP grant applications.
- Attendance of Board Meetings.
- Provide preliminary construction cost estimates.
- Preparation of AIP grant (FAA and MDOT matching grant) reimbursement request packages.
- Grant closeout.



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Exclusions

The following items are specifically excluded from the Scope of Work

- Full time inspection services
- Geotechnical investigation
- Environmental Studies/Permitting
- Property Acquisition/Boundary Survey

If required or requested, these additional services can be provided at an hourly, as-needed rate.



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U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Airports District Office
10 Canebrake Blvd., Suite 100
Flowood, Mississippi 39232

December 18, 2024

Ms. Jammie Garrett
Chief Operating Officer
City of Columbus, Mississippi
jammie.garrett@columbusms.org

Mr. Jay Fisher
County Commissioner
Lowndes County, Mississippi
jfisher@lowndescountymiss.com

Subject: Initiation of Work of Proposed FY 2025 AIP and BIL AIG Projects

Dear Ms. Garrett and Mr. Fisher:

This fiscal year, the FAA is considering the following projects for \$150,000 (AIP) and \$75,000 (BIL) at the Columbus-Lowndes County Airport and are asking that you get started now. This is not a guarantee of funding, nor is the value of the project considered a final determination by the FAA. The Congressional notification of funding, if issued, will serve as your official announcement that funding is actually available for your location. We ask that you portray all work activities performed prior to Congressional release of funds as a sponsor initiative as opposed to a confirmation of Federal funding. The planned Federal participation rate is 95 percent.

Project Items
Install AWOS III (AIP)
Construct Hangar, Phase 2 (BIL)

Grant applications for entitlement only grants are due April 28, 2025.

To compete for funding this fiscal year, you will need to complete the following actions:

- Review your estimate of probable costs and contact our office if there is a significant increase or decrease in the required Federal share.
- Evaluate your progress in meeting your 3-year DBE Program goal. If you have any questions regarding your DBE Program, contact Ms. Herlinda Bradley at (216) 505-1406 or herlinda.j.bradley@faa.gov.
- Initiate actions that require long lead times.

Environmental: Any environmental documentation that is required. Contact your Program Manager for details. Environmental clearance is required for all projects prior to any FAA action to process a funding request.

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Safety Plan: If your proposed FY 2025 project includes development on the airside of the airport, it will require submission of a safety plan. If you have not already submitted your safety plan, please do so as soon as possible. You should file your plan electronically at <https://ocaaa.faa.gov/ocaaa/external/portal.jsp>. Make sure you indicate that the construction is "on airport" so it will be coordinated with this office.

Plans and Specifications: A certification of the plans and specifications is required for all construction and equipment purchase projects. AIP certification forms are available at the following web site: <https://www.faa.gov/airports/resources/forms/?sect=aip>

In addition, a general review of the plans and specifications will be required in accordance with *FAA Review of Construction Plans and Specifications for AIP Funded Projects* memorandum dated August 2, 2016 located at this web site: <https://www.faa.gov/airports/resources/sops/>.

Prior to developing your project plans and specifications, please remember to check the latest Errata Sheet for an FAA Advisory Circular (AC) to ensure you are using the most current guidance.

RSA Determination: Runway safety area determinations are required for projects that have a triggering action as identified in FAA ARP Standard Operating Procedure number 8.00.

Proposed Schedule of Sponsor Actions

Please complete the following actions no later than the date proposed. Contact me if you cannot meet these deadlines.

Submit Engineering Agreement by	1/15/2025
Submit 90% Engineer's Report, Plans, Specifications, and safety plan by	3/1/2025
Open Bids by	4/21/2025
Submit Grant Application by.....	4/28/2025

Contact me if you no longer plan to accomplish this work this year, the scope has changed, or the cost estimate has changed significantly.

Please note, all grant recipients must be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) and the correct DUNS number shown on all project applications. Registration must be renewed annually at <https://www.sam.gov>.

It is important that you take all actions that will enable you to submit a grant application for your project by April 28, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact me at (769)-268-6962 or cole.b.farris@faa.gov.

Sincerely,

Cole Farris, P.E.
Program Manager

e-copy:

Zach Foster, Neel-Schaffer, Inc. (consultant)
Josh Stubbs, MDOT Aeronautics

C. Discuss/approve Change Order No. 1 for CLCA's Box Hangar Construction project.

Council Member Greene made a motion to approve Change Order No. 1 for CLCA's Box Hangar Construction project in the amount of \$19,380.33 for additional earthwork & geotextile fabric for unstable areas encountered within building pad and add translucent wall panels to south side of hangar for natural light. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

D. Discuss/Approve recommendation from the January 13, 2025 Planning Commission meeting

Permitted Use Case No. 24-11 (*This case was originally heard on December 9, 2024.*)

Lowndes County, Owner
Patton Hahn, Presenter
703 2nd Street North
Tax Parcel 60W05-00-06300
C-3 Highway Commercial

Request: Install a 155-foot tall monopole, telecommunication tower for Cingular Wireless (AT&T)

With a vote of 5 to 1, the Planning Commission recommended denial of the request.

Finding of the Facts:

The Commission based their decision on a large public outcry and approval would not be in harmony with the community.

Council Member Beard moved that the Council send this Permitted Use Case back before the Planning Commission. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion with the exception of Councilwoman DiCicco, who participated electronically and could not be heard.

The motion carried 5/1.

Permitted Use Case No. 25-01

James Thompson, Owner
1302 Gardner Blvd.

Tax Parcel 62W07-00-01800

A-1 – General agricultural and C-3 Highway Commercial

Request: Establish a recreational vehicle park with a maximum capacity of forty-four (44) parking pads

With a unanimous vote, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the request.

Finding of the Facts:

The Commission based their decision on the request being a best use for property in a floodway. .

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 establish a recreational vehicle park with a maximum capacity of forty-four (44) parking pads be approved. Councilwoman DiCicco 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 voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

Rezoning Case No. 25 - 01

Will David Hill, Jr., Owner
Leander Williams, Presenter and Applicant
700 Block of 8th Street South

Tax Parcel 61W16-02-00600

I-2 Light Industrial

Request: Rezone property from I-2 Light Industrial to R-3 Multi-Family Residential for townhomes

With a unanimous vote, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the request.

Finding of facts:

The Commission based their decision on a change in the character of the neighborhood and a public need.

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 the 700 block of 8th Street South from I-2 Light Industrial to R-3 Multi-Family Residential for townhomes be approved. Councilwoman Stewart 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 voted in favor of the motion with the exception of Councilwoman DiCicco, who participated electronically and could not be heard.

The motion carried 5/1.

Rezoning Case No. 25-02

**ShamBria and Johnny Beamon, Owners
and presenters
365 Boone Lane
Tax Parcel 55W12-00-02000
R-1 – Single Family Residential**

Request: Rezone property from R-1 Single Family Residential to R-5 Mobile Homes and Mobile Home Parks for an RV park with a maximum capacity of twenty (20) pads

With a majority vote of 7 to 1, the Planning Commission recommended denial of the request.

Finding of facts:

The Commission based their decision on no change in the character of the neighborhood, insufficient infrastructure concerns, and public outcry.

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 deny the rezoning of property at 365 Boone Lane from R-1 Single Family

Residential to R-5 Mobile Homes and Mobile Home Parks for an RV park with a maximum capacity of twenty (20) pads be denied by the Council as well. Council Member Greene 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 voted in favor of the motion with the exception of Councilwoman DiCicco, who participated electronically and could not be heard.

The motion carried 5/1.

E. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) Certified Police Officer.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to hire a Certified Police Officer, Kutenia Brooks. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion with the exception of Councilwoman DiCicco, who participated electronically and could not be heard.

The motion carried 5/1.

F. Discuss/Approve acceptance of the Columbus Fire and Rescue 2024 Annual Program Appraisal

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the acceptance of the Columbus Fire and Rescue 2024 Annual Program Appraisal. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

G. Discuss/Approve Cyber Security Insurance under the current policy in the amount of \$19,240.65.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the Cyber Security Insurance under the current policy in the amount of \$19,240.65. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0. **(The supporting documents will be attached to the 2025 Policy folder.**

- H. Discuss/approve Historic Resources Survey Contract in the amount of \$58,000 for up to 700 parcels and for \$85 per parcel over and above 700 parcels, not to exceed \$64,450.00.**

George Irby came forth and explained the Historic Resources Survey.

TABLED

- I. Discuss/Approve *Resolution* designating the North East Mississippi Area Crime Center (NEMACC) request of \$2,000,000 as the priority initiative and watershed-based flooding request of \$2,000,000 and the 5th Street Project request of \$835,000 as secondary initiatives for legislative funding**

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Resolution designating the North East Mississippi Area Crime Center (NEMACC) request of \$2,000,000 as the priority initiative and watershed-based flooding request of \$2,000,000 and the 5th Street Project request of \$835,000 as secondary initiatives for legislative funding. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion. After discussion by the Mayor and City Council of the proposed Resolution, the Mayor put the question to a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

Council Member Ethel Stewart	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Joseph Mickens, Sr.	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Rusty Greene	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Pierre Beard	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Stephen Jones	voted: <u>YES</u>
Council Member Jacqueline DiCicco	voted: <u>YES</u>

The motion having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted, on this the 21st day of January, 2025.

THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

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The Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus, Mississippi (the "City"), took up for consideration, the matter of its legislative funding requests and their level of priority. After a discussion of the subject, Council Member Stephen Jones offered and moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE NORTH EAST MISSISSIPPI AREA CRIME CENTER (NEMACC) REQUEST OF \$2,000,000 AS THE PRIORITY INITIATIVE AND WATERSHED-BASED FLOODING REQUEST OF \$2,000,000 AND THE 5th STREET PROJECT REQUEST OF \$835,000 AS SECONDARY INITIATIVES FOR LEGISLATIVE FUNDING

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, MS is looking to elevate its crime fighting capabilities by pairing advanced technology and cutting edge software to improve the efficiency and accuracy of investigations as well as enhance officer and public safety;

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus is unique in that it is surrounded by several smaller cities and towns that deal with various levels of recorded criminal activity. Like other cities, Columbus understands that negative press damages the reputation of a thriving and successful retail sector and because of this the most effective approach would be to reduce crime throughout the Golden Triangle Area and the Northeast Mississippi region;

WHEREAS, to achieve this end; the city of Columbus desires to establish the North East Mississippi Area Crime Center (NEMACC);

WHEREAS, NEMACC would enhance response time to emergency situations through the integration of several different systems and a team of agents solely dedicated to monitoring and investigating crimes as they occur, NEMACC would offer invaluable resources that would otherwise be inaccessible to law enforcement. Local, state and federal agencies would be able to see live what is going on at the scene of a crime and adjust their response appropriately;

WHEREAS, agencies would be able to provide vital information for a variety of cases, such as locating missing persons, identifying and apprehending burglary suspects, producing suspects in homicide investigations and offering crucial support to school resource officer programs;

WHEREAS, NEMACC would allow Law Enforcement Officers to regularly monitor IP cameras throughout the region and assign resources as necessary. In extraordinary circumstances, additional agencies could utilize NEMACC to address anything ranging from special events to disaster relief;

WHEREAS, the driving edge behind NEMACC would be the Columbus Forensic Laboratory (CFL). Currently there are only five (5) drug labs in the State of Mississippi. However, CFL serves more than thirty (30) municipalities across the State of Mississippi. Agencies seek out CFL because of the slow turnaround from other forensic labs especially in the controlled substances section. NEMACC stands to advance Mississippi Jurisprudence by assuring that municipalities/agencies comply with the Sixth Amendment, which affords the accused in all

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criminal prosecutions, the right to a speedy and public trial, understanding that drug cases have a statute of two (2) years;

WHEREAS, NEMACC will feature four distinct spaces: a briefing room, a 16-desk employee work area, and operation center with eight stations facing a 5x3 55” LCD video wall and the Columbus Forensic Lab. Video processors will manage each incoming signal from NEMACC’s various workstations alongside video feeds throughout the region. The video wall technology is ideal for the needs of the Columbus Police Department and other agencies as they must have eyes on hundreds of IP cameras strategically positioned throughout the region as well as mobile camera trucks designated for special event coverage. If an incident is observed, dispatchers can then reference visual resources, such as real-time maps displayed on the video wall, to direct available units to the scene. By quickly accessing cameras in each area, vital information can be relayed to officers, firefighters, and emergency workers arriving to the scene. This mission-critical information can provided better coordination between law enforcement agencies and prove lifesaving for all first responders;

WHEREAS, failure to invest in innovation creations like NEMACC can not only discourage economic development and healthy property values but increase crime in a manner that will result in a reduction in the capacity of law enforcement to prevent, respond to and effectively investigate criminal activity;

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus is requesting \$2,000,000 to establish NEMACC as a means of reducing crime in the Golden Triangle Area/Northeast Mississippi Region.

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus has had several reviews of drainage issues over the past five decades, the most extensive being a city-wide drainage master plan done in 1971. This study identified over \$100,000,000 worth of drainage priorities. Some issues have been addressed over the years; however, some of the study priorities are more critical than others;

WHEREAS, in 2023, our Public Works Department identified nine (9) areas with chronic flooding issues which they either could not perform routine maintenance in-house and/or deserved heavier construction improvements, and almost all areas were in underserved and distressed communities;

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus prioritized \$3,000,000 in ARPA funds with another \$3,000,000 state match to begin addressing these drainage issues, however, this funding was not enough to cover all nine (9) priority areas;

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus is requesting \$2,000,000 to continue Columbus’ short term drainage revitalization efforts.

WHEREAS, in 2022, the City of Columbus and Lowndes County were awarded a MDOT TAP Grant for pedestrian and bike improvement along 5th Street to make it truly multi-modal accessible. While that project identified many known issues that needed upgrades, once it got into design, several other needs were identified to further enhance the community needs of this

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corridor. These added improvements were not included with the original project budget and/or are not allowed with the MDOT TAP funding;

WHEREAS, Columbus Light & Water identified several signal upgrade needs as signal controller replacement, upgrades of detection from loops to radar controlled, and the addition of emergency response vehicle detection;

WHEREAS, Columbus Redevelopment Authority has completed its masterplan for Burns Bottom Redevelopment just west of this improvement and it calls for the closure of 7th Avenue North onto 5th Street and adds sidewalk additions connecting 5th Street to the new development and soccer complex. This closure would also allow the expansion of one center island which would also increase the landscaping and aesthetic of this corridor.

WHEREAS, City of Columbus and Columbus Main Street would like to extend the new addition of string lighting to carry downtown aesthetics and motifs into this doorstep entry to Columbus' historic downtown.

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus is requesting \$835,000 to enhance the community needs of this downtown corridor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Mayor and the City Council hereby designates the North East Mississippi Area Crime Center request of \$2,000,000 as its priority initiative, and the watershed-based flooding request of \$2,000,000 and the 5th Street Project request of \$835,000 as its secondary initiatives for legislative funding.

Following the reading of the foregoing Resolution, Council Member Mickens, seconded the motion for its adoption. After discussion by the Mayor and City Council of the proposed resolution, The Mayor put the question to a roll call vote, and the result was as follows:

Council Member Ethel Stewart
Council Member Joseph Mickens, Sr.
Council Member Rusty Greene
Council Member Pierre Beard
Council Member Stephen Jones
Council Member Jacqueline DiCicco

voted: Yes
voted: Yes
voted: Yes
voted: Yes
voted: Yes
voted: Yes

The motion having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted, on this the 21st day of January, 2025.

Term Falk
MAYOR, CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI

ATTEST:

[Signature]
SECRETARY-TREASURER
COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI

- J. Discuss/Approve applying for the USTA Mississippi Grant for \$5,000.00 to resurface two (2) tennis courts at Propst Park with \$5,000.00 in matching funds to come from the Propst Park Improvement budget.**

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to apply for the USTA Mississippi Grant for \$5,000.00 to resurface two (2) tennis courts at Propst Park with \$5,000.00 in matching funds to come from the Propst Park Improvement budget. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

- K. Discuss/Approve request to Award Contract for Legal Services for FY2023 Community Funding Program Grant.** **TABLED**

Council Member Jones made a motion to table this request. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried 5/1.

The next Item was moved from the Consent Agenda.

- L. Approve request for payment of professional services to Waggoner Engineering in the amount of \$12,688.44.** **TABLED**

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to table this request until the amount can be discussed with the CFO. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried 5/1.

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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