

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS February 4, 2025

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 4, 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. 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:

COO, Jammie Garrett requested to remove Policy Agenda Item "D" to be discussed at a later date.

Councilwoman Stewart requested to move Consent Agenda Item "G" to the Policy Agenda.

Council Member Beard recommended removing the word "Discuss" for Consent Agenda "H."

Councilwoman DiCicco made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

III. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 2025.

Councilwoman DiCicco made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of January 21, 2025. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel: Jaquay Sherrod and Jamie Adams to attend the “NFPA 1041 – Fire Service Instructor” class to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, lodging, use of city vehicle for travel, reimbursement of meal expenses and any other expenses in the total estimated cost of \$950.00.
- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Weston Lowery, to attend the “NFPA 1001 I – II Basic Firefighter” training to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, lodging, use of city vehicle for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses, total cost of \$2,200.00.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Alan Lewis, to attend “NFPA 1041 – Fire Service Instructor 2” class to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, lodging, use of city vehicle for travel, reimbursement of meal expenses and any other expenses , total cost of \$500.00.
- D. Approve permit request submitted by Ron Thornton, on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club of Golden Triangle, to host a fundraiser “Blues at Sunset” 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 at 2nd Avenue North and 3rd Avenue North adjacent to the Farmers’ Market and also request to sell alcohol..
- E. Approve request for Recreation Department Director, Greg Lewis, and Sports Coordinator, Amber Bobo, to attend the “Mississippi Recreation and Park Association’s 2025 Conference” to be held in Natchez, MS, on February 10 – 13, 2025, and approve payment of registration, lodging, travel, reimbursement of meal expenses and any other expenses, total cost of \$1,980.62.
- F. Approve payment of invoices for towing services submitted by TC Towing in the amount of \$1,350.00.
- G. Approve payment in the amount of \$1,500.00 to Eric Thomas’ *Open Heart Foundation* in support of a social and community service organization. **THIS ITEM WAS MOVED TO THE POLICY AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION.**
- H. Approve Stephen Chapel M. B. Church usage fee as a polling precinct in the amount of \$500.00.

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 4, 2025

- I. Approve Townsend Park Blues-Southside Festival Funding in the amount of \$15,000 per the 2% Restaurant Tax Agreement to fund festivals in the City of Columbus.
- J. Accept letter of resignation from Tammy Stanley, Staff Accountant, effective February 6, 2025 and approve compensation for any unused vacation leave.
- K. Approve request for Facilities Director to attend "MS Farmers Market Manager Workshop" to be held in Jackson, MS and approve payment of registration, use of city vehicle and any other expenses, total cost of \$90.00.

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

V. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS:

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for February 4, 2025, in the amount of \$3,206,444.56. Council Member Greene seconded the motion. CFO, Jim Bringham offered gave an explanation for the large amount, stating the docket contained some debt service payments, airport grant payments, more than \$300,000.00 for the jail/meals bill from Lowndes County, etc.

Councilwoman DiCicco asked the CFO if the City budgeted \$11,000 for MLK Day and the CFO responded, it was budgeted in special projects.

Mayor Gaskin reminded the Council and Department Heads that we need to be mindful of our cash flow when applying for grants that we must pay up front and wait for reimbursement.

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

The motion carried 5/1.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

- A. Mayor Gaskin thanked everyone that donated cans of soup for the March of the Mayor's Soup Drive that will continue through February 21, 2025. Cans of soup can be dropped off at City Hall, the Municipal Complex or Fire

Station Number 1. The goal is to collect 1,000 cans of soup. We are competing with other cities in Mississippi who are collecting other items.

Council Member Jones sent out Birthday wishes to Mrs. Rosie L. Harris, who turned 102 years old today. The Mayor, Council and all in attendance sang Happy Birthday.

Council Member Jones also encouraged Chief Daughtry to stay focused and keep up the good work despite negative comments made in the Packet.

B. Swearing in of four (4) CPD Officers

**DEMARCO BAILEY
KUTENIA BROOKS
JALAHNIO MADURO
DIJON SHIELDS**

Chief Daughtry, Assistant Chiefs Ward and Johnson came forward and presented Police Officers Demarco Bailey, Kutenia Brooks, Jalahnio Maduro and Dijon Shields. Mayor Gaskin swore in the CPD Officers as they recited the Oath of Office.

C. 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 March 4, 2025.

APPLICANT:

Telisa Young

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

1 Vacancy, 3-Year Terms, Jay Patel's Term Expire 3/05/2025.
Appointment will be made March 4, 2025.

APPLICANT:

Jay Patel

Board of Adjustment & Appeals of Development Codes

1 Vacancy, 3-Year Terms, Kevin Stafford's Term Expires 3/01/2025.
Appointment will be made March 4, 2025.

APPLICANTS:

Kevin Stafford

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

WILLIE J. TAYLOR

415 15th Street South

CASE NUMBER: 25-0008

Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage

The General Counsel called cause number **25-0008**. Mr. Taylor was present and requested an extension to remove the old tires. He is disabled and members in the audience volunteered to help him with this project. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated that the owner of this property has made improvements to the conditions of the property and recommended giving the property owner a **10-day extension** to remediate the property. The property is in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Beard made a motion to give the property owner a **10-day extension** to remediate the property. Ms. James also recommends that an Order be issued for the property in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and remove rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

\$250.00 OR LESS CASES:

Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, presented three (3) 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 6/0.

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 4, 2025

THE LIST FOLLOWS:

\$250 OR LESS Derelict Properties for February 4, 2025 Mayor and City Council Meeting

Case # and Violation	Ward	Name and Address	Notes
25-0011 <i>Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage</i>	1	MARCELL HILL SR. 401 17 th Street South	
25-0013 <i>Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage</i>	5	ROLAND COLOM 12 th Street North	
25-0015 <i>Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage</i>	1	MARY THORNTON 10 th Avenue South	

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 4, 2025



HILL MARCELL SR.
100 BEN MORGAN DR.
COLUMBUS, MS 39705

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

RE: 401 17TH ST S
APN: 61W11-02-10200
Case No: CE-25-0011
Officer: Sasha James - Ward 1

Date: January 14, 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:

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

You are hereby advised that by this correspondence a determination has been made that the condition of property or parcel of land as described is a menace to the public health, safety and welfare of the community, and as such the governing authority of the City of Columbus, if the owner does not do so himself, on or before the 21st day of 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.

Code Section:	Corrective Action:	Compliance Date:
107.1 - 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.	January 21, 2025

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 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 39-1-145, 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 14th 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 21-19-1(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: January 14, 2025

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

This Notice was posted at the City Building Inspection Office on: January 14, 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 14, 2025

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

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 4, 2025



COLOM ROLAND F
907 MILITARY RD
COLUMBUS, MS 39701

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

RE: 12TH ST N
APN: 61W07-01-09700
Case No: CE-25-0013
Officer: Sasha James - Ward: 5

Date: January 14, 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 21st 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)&(b) SHALL BE RECORDED IN THE MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HEARING REQUIRED BY SAID SECTION.

This Notice was posted at the City Building Inspection Office on: January 14, 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 14, 2025

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

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 generally posted, and consistent with the municipal official's determination as authorized, a municipality may 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 the 14th 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 14, 2025

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

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 4, 2025



THORNTON MARY
2029 CENTER ST
RACINE, WI 53403

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

RE: 16TH AVE S
APN: 61W13-01-06100
Case No: CE-25-0013
Officer: Sasha James - Ward: 1

Date: January 22, 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 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
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- ☐ The presence of property maintenance code violation
- ☐ The presence of standing water in cesspools
- ☐ The presence of cistern(s), standing water and cesspools

You are hereby advised that by this correspondence a determination has been made that the condition of property or parcel of land as described is a menace to the public health, safety and welfare of the community, and as such the governing authority of the City of Columbus, if the owner does not do so himself, on or before the 7th day of 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 21-39-2, 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.	January 29, 2025

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 22, 2025

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

This Notice was posted at the City Building Inspection Office on: January 22, 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 22, 2025

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 generally posted, and consistent with the municipal official's determination as authorized, a municipality may reenter the property or parcel of land to maintain cleanliness without further notice or hearing no more than six (6) times in any twelve-month period with respect to removing abandoned or dilapidated buildings, slabs, dilapidated fences and outside toilets, and no more than twelve (12) times in any twenty-four-month period with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris on the land, and the expense of cleaning of the property shall not exceed an aggregate amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per year. The governing authority may assess the same actual costs, administrative costs, and penalty for each time the property or land is cleaned as otherwise provided. The penalty provided herein shall not be assessed against the State of Mississippi upon request for reimbursement under Section 29-1-145, nor shall a municipality clean a parcel owned by the State of Mississippi without first giving notice. Upon written authority from the Secretary of State's office, for state-owned properties, a municipality may forgo the notification process that is prescribed in this subsection and proceed to clean the properties and assess costs as prescribed in this subsection, except that, penalties shall not be assessed against the State of Mississippi. A determination made by an appropriate municipal employee under this subsection (2) that the state or condition of property or a parcel of land is a menace to the public health, safety and welfare of the community shall not subsequently be used to replace a hearing if Section 21-19-1(1) is later utilized by a municipality when the prerequisites of Section 21-19-1(2) are not satisfied.

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

For any questions, please call Sasha James, the Code Enforcement Director for the City of Columbus at 662-243-5063 or 662-243-5070.

This the 22nd 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 21-19-1 (2).

B. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) Certified Police Officer, contingent on successful completion of preliminary testing.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to rehire Justin Robinson as a certified Police Officer, contingent on successful completion of preliminary testing. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

C. Discuss/Approve hiring one (1) Property & Evidence and Crime Scene Technician, contingent upon successful completion of preliminary testing.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to hire Katelyn Smith as Property & Evidence and Crime Scene Technician, contingent upon successful completion of preliminary testing. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

D. Discuss/Approve Historic Resources Survey Contract in the amount of \$58,500 for up to 700 parcels and for \$85 per parcel above 700 parcels, not to exceed \$64,450.

DELETED

E. Discuss/Approve request to readvertise for Request for Qualifications for Legal Services for FY2023 Community Funding Program Grant.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the request to readvertise for Request for Qualifications for Legal Services for FY2023 Community Funding Program Grant. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

F. Discuss/Approve applying for the Coalition for Green Capital's Municipal Investment Fund Market Building Grant in the amount of \$250,000, with no match.

Susan Wilder, Grant Writer/Administrator came forth and offered information about this grant, which is Phase I with a deadline date of February 5, 2025 to submit. Council Member Mickens made a motion to table this request.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Councilwoman DiCicco made a substitute motion to submit the application for the Coalition for Green Capital's Municipal Investment Fund Market Building Grant in the amount of \$250,000. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

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

The motion failed 2/4 to not submit the grant application.

G. Discuss/Approve awarding the flooring bid for East Columbus Gym to the lowest responsive bidder, Covington Flooring Company, in the amount of \$82,252.00.

Greg Lewis, Recreation Director, came forth and remarked that two (2) bids were received. The higher bid that came in at \$115,000 is for hard wood athletic floors. The lower bid of \$82,952 is for synthetic athletic surface. He recommends the lower bid amount due to funding constraints and stated that the Council can view this type flooring at Starkville Academy. Council Member Beard made a motion to award the flooring bid for East Columbus Gym to the lowest responsive bidder, Covington Flooring Company, in the amount of \$82,252.00. Council Member Greene seconded the motion. *Mr. Lewis was told not to add the flooring until the roof has been repaired.*

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

H. Discuss/Approve promotion of one (1) CPD Sergeant to Lieutenant, effective February 5, 2025.

Council Member Beard made a motion to promote Sgt. Samuel Jackson to the rank of Lieutenant, effective February 5, 2025. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

I. Discuss/Approve the Installation of one (1) Speed Hump on Maple Street between Lawrence Drive and Poplar Street

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to approve the Installation of one (1) Speed Hump on Maple Street between Lawrence Drive and Poplar Street. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

Item “G” was moved from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

J. Discuss/Approve payment in the amount of \$1,500.00 to Eric Thomas’ *Open Heart Foundation* in support of a social and community service organization.

Councilwoman Stewart asked how will we address future requests, is there consistency? Council Member Jones asked how Mr. Thomas plans on using the money. COO, Jammie Garrett remarked that he gives scholarship funds and has already raised more than the \$1,500.00 It was suggested that Mr. Thomas submit documentation. Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the payment in the amount of \$1,500.00 to Eric Thomas’ *Open Heart Foundation* in support of a social and community service organization. Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion, with the exception of Council Member Greene, who opposed.

The motion carried 5/1.

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