

MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS March 5, 2025

The Mayor and City Council's March 4, 2025 meeting was rescheduled to Wednesday, March 5, 2025 due to inclement weather. The meeting was held 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 at the beginning of the meeting, except Councilwoman DiCicco, who arrived late. 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:

Council Member Mickens made a motion to approve the Agenda as prepared. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

III. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2025 AND THE SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2025.

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of February 18, 2025 and the Special Meeting of February 13, 2025. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request for M. Patel to use the Lot behind the City Garage to hold Holi-Day Celebration, to be held on March 13, 2025, with assistance from the Columbus Fire and Rescue personnel.

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 5, 2025

- B. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Chas Price, to attend “Haz-Mat Awareness and Operations (A & O)” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, lodging, use of city vehicle for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses, total estimated cost of \$250.00.
- C. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel: Timothy Birmingham, Dalton Cook, Zachary Anderson and Tavonta Macon, to attend “Emergency Medical Technician (EMS) (Hybrid)” to be held in Jackson, MS and approve payment of registration, lodging, use of a city vehicle for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses, total estimated cost of \$5,000.00.
- D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Cody Cantrell, to attend “Engine Company Operations” to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, lodging, use of a city vehicle for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses, total estimated cost of \$500.00.
- E. Approve permit request submitted by Ryan Munson, on behalf of Munson and Brothers, to hold “St. Patrick’s Day Fun Run” to be held on March 15, 2025, from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., blocking 2nd Avenue North from 5th Street North to 2nd Street North by the Farmers’ Market. *See attached map.*
- F. Approve permit request submitted by Jason Spears, on behalf of Golden Triangle Elite Soccer Club, to host “Columbus Orthopedic Riverwalk Spring Invitational Soccer Tournament” to be held on April 12-13, 2025 from 6:00 a.m. on April 12 until 4:00 p.m. on April 13, 2025, at the Roger Short Soccer Complex, blocking a section of Championship Loop from 2nd Street to Moores Creek Road. *See attached map.*
- G. Approve request for Property and Evidence Technician, Katelyn Smith, and Forensic Scientist Trainee, Joyanna Davis, to attend a “Property and Evidence Management Training” to be held in Opelika, AL, and approve payment of registration, lodging, travel and reimbursement of meal expenses, total estimated cost of \$2,408.00.
- H. Approve request for CPD Officer to attend a “Standardized Field Sobriety Training Course” to be held in Starkville, MS, at no cost to the City.
- I. Approve request for Forensic Scientist Trainee, Joyanna Davis, to attend “Courtroom Testimony Techniques” via on-line webinar, with a registration fee of \$450.00.
- J. Accept letter of resignation from Public Works Truck Driver, Christian Guyton, effective February 20, 2025.

- K. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Michael Walker, to attend "Mississippi Fire Investigations Spring Seminar" to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment of registration, lodging, use of city vehicle for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses, total estimated cost of \$1,041.00.
- L. Approve request from Columbus Municipal School District (Dr. Stanley K. Ellis) to use Sim Scott Community Center on March 13, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., to host a discussion about the school district's Strategic Plan, school closures and openings, grade-span plans and to answer questions.
- M. Approve request from Columbus Municipal School District (Dr. Stanley K. Ellis) to use Townsend Community Center on April 2, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., to host a discussion about the school district's Strategic Plan, school closures and openings, grade-span plans and to answer questions.
- N. Approve request from Columbus Municipal School District (Dr. Stanley K. Ellis) to use Sim Sandfield Community Center on May 6, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., to host a discussion about the school district's Strategic Plan, school closures and openings, grade-span plans and to answer questions.
- O. Approve request from Columbus Municipal School District (Dr. Stanley K. Ellis) to use East Columbus Gym on May 13, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., to host a discussion about the school district's Strategic Plan, school closures and openings, grade-span plans and to answer questions.
- P. Approve request for the HR Director to advertise to fill budgeted full-time vacant Deputy Clerk position in the Municipal Court Division at \$15.00 per hour.
- Q. Approve payment of Debt Service on the ESCO Project Debt in the amount of \$37,891.38.

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

V. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS:

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for March 5, 2025, in the amount of \$1,446,511.77. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion. CFO, Jim Brigham offered an explanation for the large amount, stating the docket contained some debt service payments.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

- A.** Mayor Gaskin thanked everyone that donated cans of soup for the March of the Mayor's Soup initiative. We collected over 1,000 cans of soup and brought 200 boxes of canned goods back that benefited our local Helping Hands agency.

Thanks to citizens who have been attending the Police Department's Town Hall Safety meetings and those who have been actively involved in our election process.

Council Member Jones thanked the Public Works Department and Columbus Light and Water Department for their assistance last night following the storm. We had some trees down and some power outages.

B. Board Vacancies

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

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

1 Vacancy, 3-Year Term, Jay Patel's Term Expires 3/05/2025.
Appointment will be made March 5, 2025.

APPLICANT:

Jay Patel

Council Member Mickens made a motion to reappoint Jay Patel to the Convention & Visitors Bureau for a 3-Year Term, until March 5, 2028.
Council Member Beard seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

Board of Adjustment & Appeals of Development Codes

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

APPLICANTS:

Kevin Stafford

Council Member Beard made a motion to reappoint Kevin Stafford to the Board of Adjustment & Appeals of Development Code for a 1-Year Term, until March 1, 2025. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

TREE BOARD

3 Vacancies, 3-Year Terms

Appointment(s) will be made March 5, 2025.

APPLICANT:

Caleb Aldridge

Council Member Beard made a motion to appoint Caleb Aldridge to the Tree Board for a 3-Year Term, until March 5, 2028. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members present voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 5/0.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA:

Councilwoman DiCicco arrived for the meeting.

A. Ms. Nicole Shelton – RE: Columbus Police Department

Ms. Shelton came before the Mayor and Council to discuss an incident that occurred at her mother's house. Three (3) Police Officers: Antonious Sellers, Demarco Easterwood and Captain Kennedy Meaders, were invited to come to the front. Ms. Shelton thanked the officers for their patience, professionalism, compassion and kindness with her mother. These officers were with her mother for a lengthy period of time and stayed on the scene until she arrived and until she was transported by emergency personnel. They treated her like family. Ms. Shelton presented each of the officers with a token of her appreciation for going beyond the call of duty to protect and serve.

B. Mr. Edmond Green – Oak Manor Apartments

Mr. Edmond Green participated in the meeting via ZOOM to update the Mayor and Council on the progress made to Oak Manor Apartments. He began by stating that more than 50% of the apartments are occupied with good tenants. Building/Inspection Official, Kenny Wiegel, was asked to come to the front and was asked if he thought about 50% of the apartments are occupied. Mr. Wiegel responded, "it doesn't look like a lot of work has been completed, but new roofs have been added. Councilwoman Stewart remarked that she can come in the structures and physically view the progress, but she estimates that only 10% are complete. Mr. Greene stated that 10% is only eight (8) apartments and 60% of the overall construction project is complete. Mr. Green asked the Mayor and Council if the City has any funding to rehab low income property? Mayor Gaskin answered, "No!" Mr. Green was asked what his expected completion date is and he responded, "he can't answer that question at this time." The Building Official asked the property owner for permission to come to the site and inspect. The property owner stated that not without his presence, but he will contact the Building Official.

C. Dr. Stanley K. Ellis – Columbus Municipal School District Restructuring

Dr. Stanley K. Ellis, Columbus Municipal Schools Superintendent, came forward, distributed information to the Mayor and Council and presented a PowerPoint Presentation entailing plans for the Columbus Municipal School District Restructuring and Strategic Plan. Council Members asked questions and Dr. Ellis remarked that meetings have been scheduled to discuss these plans with citizens and stakeholders.

VIII. POLICY AGENDA:

A. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

JOHNNIE B. LATHAM
1220 20th Street North
CASE NUMBER: 25-0023

Property Maintenance Code Violation

The General Counsel called cause number **25-0023**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Beard made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 5, 2025

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

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

PAUL L. / MARY M. ROLLIE
AND/OR HEIRS AT LAW
1606 21st Street South
CASE NUMBER: 25-0027

Accumulation of Rubbish and Garbage

The General Counsel called cause number **25-0027**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Beard made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0

JOHNNY MCGREGORY
2103 Strawberry Street
CASE NUMBER: 25-0029

Property Code Violation

A request was made to remove this property and add it to the Blight Property List.

NAIS JR. / ADDIE B. AUSTIN
722 10th Avenue south
CASE NUMBER: 25-0033

Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 5, 2025

The General Counsel called cause number **25-0033**. Mr. Nais Austin Jr. came forth and requested an extension of time to remediate the property. His truck is in need of repairing and will clean the lot as soon as it is running again. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James recommended giving the property owner a **15-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 **15-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. Council Member Mickens seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

DAVID S. MURRAY
403 17th Street South
CASE NUMBER: 25-0036

The General Counsel called cause number **25-0036**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Beard made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0

RUSSELL LEE TATE
503 23rd Street South
CASE NUMBER: 25-0038

Dilapidated Structure

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 5, 2025

The General Counsel called cause number **25-0038**. No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property was in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code and asked the Mayor and Council to adjudicate the property as such and that an Order be entered to such effect, requested **immediate abatement** and that an Order be issued for the property. Council Member Beard made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, and for an Order stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0

CHARLES L. / PATRICIA BAGGETT
1428 6th Street North

CASE NUMBER: 25-0023

Dilapidated Structure

The General Counsel called cause number **25-0023**. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated that the owner of this property has made substantial improvement to the conditions and recommended giving the property owner a **45-day extension** to remediate the property. The property is in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Beard made a motion to give the property owner a **45-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. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

BARRCO PROPERTIES
c/o Kevin Howard
503 Waterworks Road

CASE NUMBER: 25-0024

Property Maintenance Code Violation

The General Counsel called cause number **25-0023**. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated that the owner of this property has made substantial improvement to the conditions and recommended giving the property owner a **45-day extension** to remediate the property. The property is in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Beard made a motion to give the property owner a **45-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. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

ALBERT JETHROW

1420 5th Avenue North

CASE NUMBER: 25-0031

Property Maintenance Code Violation

The General Counsel called cause number **25-0031**. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated that the owner of this property has made substantial improvement to the conditions and recommended giving the property owner a **45-day extension** to remediate the property. The property is in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Beard made a motion to give the property owner a **45-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. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

CURTIS WEBBER

624 13th Street North

CASE NUMBER: 25-0032 Property Maintenance Code Violation

The General Counsel called cause number **25-0032**. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated that the owner of this property has made substantial improvement to the conditions and recommended giving the property owner a **45-day extension** to remediate the property. The property is in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Beard made a motion to give the property owner a **45-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. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

HANNAH S. MCCRARY

2130 7th avenue North

CASE NUMBER: 25-0028

Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage

The General Counsel called cause number **25-0028**. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated that the owner of this property has made substantial improvement to the conditions and recommended giving the property owner a **15-day extension** to remediate the property. The property is in such a state of uncleanness as to be a menace to the public under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Council Member Beard made a motion to give the property owner a **15-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. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

OSSIE LEE TAYLOR

616 Peach Street

CASE NUMBER: 25-0030

Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage

The General Counsel called cause number **25-0030**. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated that the owner of this property has made substantial improvement to the conditions and recommended giving the property owner a **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. Council Member Beard 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, stating the City may remove dilapidated buildings or dilapidated fences up to six (6) more times in the twelve (12) month period immediately following the Order and cutting grass and weeds and remove rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty-four (24) month period. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members 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 voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

THE LIST FOLLOWS:

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 5, 2025

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

Case # and Violation	Ward	Name and Address	Notes
25-0053 <i>Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage</i>	1	DARRION J. FISHER 2208 10th Avenue South	
25-0056 <i>Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage</i>	4	MCGILL PROPERTIES LLC 2201 3rd Avenue North	

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 5, 2025



FISHER DARRION J.
3409 21ST AVE N
COLUMBUS, MS 39701

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

RE: 2208 10TH AVE S
APN: 61W13-01-07300
Case No. CE-25-0055
Officer: Sasha James - Ward 1

Date: February 20, 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
- [X] The presence of rubbish/garbage and other debris
- [] The presence of abandoned building
- [] The presence of abandoned or dilapidated fence(s)
- [] The presence of burned structure
- [] The presence of dilapidated building(s), slabs or personal property
- [] The presence of property maintenance code violation
- [] The presence of standing water in cesspools
- [] The presence of cistern(s), standing water and cesspools

You are hereby advised that by this correspondence a determination has been made that the condition of property or parcel of land as described is a menace to the public health, safety and welfare of the community, and as such the governing authority of the City of Columbus, if the owner does not do so himself, on or before the 27th day of February, 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:
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.	February 27, 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/are 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: February 20, 2025

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

This Notice was posted at the City Building Inspection Office on: February 20, 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: February 20, 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 21-19-11(2) (a)(6)(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 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 20th day of February, 2025.

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).

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 5, 2025



MCQUILL PROPERTIES LLC
7335 OLD COX PIKE
BON AQUA, TN 37025

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

RE: 2201 3RD AVEN
APN: 61W05-02-04901
Case No: CE-25-0056
Officer: Sasha James - Ward: 4

Date: February 20, 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 include 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 7th day of February, 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.

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 the 20th day of February, 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: February 20, 2025

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

This Notice was posted at the City Building Inspection Office on: February 20, 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: February 20, 2025

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

B. Discuss/Approve Acceptance of the Columbus Fire and Rescue 2025 Annual Compliance Report

Councilwoman DiCicco made a motion to accept the Columbus Fire and Rescue 2025 Annual Compliance Report. Chief Hughes thanked the Code Enforcement Officer, Director of Facilities; the COO and Grant Writer for their assistance in this endeavor. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

C. Discuss/Approve promotion of Landfill Equipment Operator to Heavy Equipment Operator

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to promote Robert Thomas, Landfill Operator to Heavy Equipment Operator at \$18.59 per hour. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

D. Discuss/Approve Grant Administrator's Assistance with the Columbus Redevelopment Authority in administering the T-HUD Grant at no cost.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to utilize the assistance of the Grant Administrator, Susan Wilder, to administer a \$2.2 M dollar grant from HUD for the Redevelopment Authority. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

E. Discuss/Approve Memorandum of Understanding between Mississippi Home Corporation and the City of Columbus.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Mississippi Home Corporation and the City of Columbus. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

THE RESOLUTION FOLLOWS:

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
MISSISSIPPI HOME CORPORATION AND CITY OF COLUMBUS**

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ("MOU") is made and entered into effective as of [REDACTED], 2024 (the "Effective Date"), by and between the City of Columbus, a local unit of government (the "City") and Mississippi Home Corporation, a public body corporate and politic created under the laws of the State of Mississippi ("MHC"). The City and MHC are sometimes each referred to herein as a "Party" or collectively as the "Parties."

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the City has received a \$3 million dollar appropriation (the "HUD Funds") from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"); and

WHEREAS, the City plans to utilize the HUD funds to establish a blight elimination program to acquire and demolish [REDACTED] homes; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to enter into this MOU with MHC to utilize MHC's Corporate Revolving Loan Fund ("RLF") for the construction of [REDACTED] new single family homes on the demolished lots.

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

I. PROVISION OF LOANS

MHC agrees to provide construction loan funds under RLF at a zero percent (0%) interest rate to qualified contractors selected by the City, provided, however, that all loans will be provided in accordance with the program requirements outlined in the RLF Program Guide (the "Guide"), which is incorporated herein and made a part of this MOU (Attachment A). If there is a conflict between the Guide and this MOU, this MOU shall control.

II. TERM

The MOU shall be effective from the Effective Date and shall expire twelve months following the "Period of Performance End Date" of the HUD Funds; provided, however, that MHC may terminate this MOU, upon ten (10) days' written notice, if the City breaches this MOU or for cause which shall include dishonesty, refusal or failure to perform duties in a timely manner and conduct inconsistent and/or in conflict with the City's responsibilities to MHC.

III. OBLIGATION OF THE PARTIES

The Parties agree to the following obligations under this MOU:

- a. MHC agrees to set aside RLF funds in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 as a revolving line of credit to be made available to qualified contractors. The use of the RLF will be restricted to only properties that utilize the HUD Funds from the City for demolition. MHC will require that the City and contractors provide evidence of property acquisition, demolition, and clear title to the property at issue.

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 5, 2025

- b. MHC shall maximize the number of homes a contractor can construct at one time based on the contractor's financial strength.
- c. MHC shall place a five (5) year Land Use Restrictive Agreement (LURA) on each property to ensure affordability for the five-year period.
- d. The City shall utilize the HUD Funds for the acquisition and demolition of each property.
- e. The City shall provide MHC with a list of properties that will utilize the RLF for construction.
- f. The City shall provide MHC with a project timeline to include the proposed dates of acquisition, demolition, construction, and sale of the homes.
- g. The City shall ensure that the state procurement requirements are followed for all demolition and construction activities.
- h. The City shall provide MHC with a list of contractors selected for the construction of homes. A current copy of the contractor's license and insurance must be submitted for all general contractors selected. All contractors must be licensed in the state of Mississippi.
- i. The City shall be responsible for overseeing the construction of homes and ensuring that contractors adhere to all RLF requirements.
- j. ~~The City shall ensure that the RLF loan is repaid upon the sale of the home or by the end of the third year of construction completion, whichever comes first.~~ The contractor will be responsible for the repayment of the RLF Loan. Homebuyers will be prequalified and the homes will be presold.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be duly executed and delivered as of the Effective Date.

CITY OF COLUMBUS

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

MISSISSIPPI HOME CORPORATION

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

F. Discuss/Approve Lobbyist Contract with W. T. Consultants, not to exceed \$72,000.00 for the 2025 Session.

Mr. Saleem Baird, dba W. T. Consultants and Mr. W. T. Thomas, participated in the meeting via ZOOM and shared with the Council the funding they were successful in securing in 2024 and intend to continue the work in 2025. After hearing from W. T. Consultants, Council Member Greene made a motion to hire a Consultant on an “*As Needed*” basis.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Councilwoman Stewart made a substitute motion to renew the Lobbyist Contract with W. T. Consultants for 2025 at \$72,000 annually. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

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

Council Members DiCicco and Greene voted in opposition of the motion.

The motion carried 4/2.

G. Discuss/Approve awarding the Senator Terry Brown Amphitheater bids to the lowest responsive bidder.

Kevin Stafford, dba Neel-Schaffer Inc., distributed the bid tabulation and asked the Council how they wished to proceed. Council Member Jones made a motion to rebid this project. Council Member Beard seconded the motion. Mayor Gaskin asked the Council if there were any questions. Council Member Beard asked about the \$500,000.00 grant. Susan Wilder, Grant Writer came forward and remarked that the MS Arts Grant doesn’t open until July. The CFO remarked that he does not suggest using reserve funds to pay for this project, which will nearly deplete the Capital Improvement Funds. The CFO also stated that he does not recommend borrowing the funds.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION

Council Member Greene made a motion to reject the bids and move forward with the \$1M that we have. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion.

2ND SUBSTITUTE MOTION

Council Member Mickens made a motion to table this matter until a committee is formed, so that the Committee and all stakeholders can discuss further. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion.
All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 5, 2025

The motion carried 6/0.

Kevin Stafford remarked that if we begin using the Amphitheatre today for local events. We could bring in Port-A-Johns and attendees can bring chairs for seating.

BID TABULATION FOLLOWS:



CERTIFIED BID TABULATION

CITY OF COLUMBUS
SENATOR TERRY BROWN AMPHITHEATER - PHASE 3
Monday, February 24, 2025
2:00 P.M.

Pay Item No.	Description	Bid Qty	Unit	Hannon LLC Bid Price	Bid Amount	Weather Construction, Inc. Bid Price	Bid Amount
CONTRACT A - ENTRY, RESTROOM, CONCESSION - BASE BID							
1	Entry Gate/ Element	1	L.S.	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID
2	Restroom	1	L.S.	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID
3	Concessions/ Ticket Office Shell	1	L.S.	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID
Allowance 1	Face Brick (All Buildings)		Per Thousand	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID
Allowance 2	Door Hardware (Installation Not Included)		Per Door Leaf	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID
TOTAL CONTRACT A BASE BID					NO BID		NO BID
ADDITIVE ALTERNATE NO.1							
Add. Alt. #1	Concessions/ Ticket Interior Buildout	1	L.S.	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID
TOTAL ADDITIVE ALTERNATE NO.1					NO BID		NO BID
CONTRACT B - CIVIL SITE - CONTRACT - BASE BID							
1	Civil Site	1	L.S.	\$ 484,945.00	\$ 484,945.00	NO BID	NO BID
TOTAL CONTRACT B BASE BID					\$ 484,945.00		NO BID
ADDITIVE ALTERNATE NO.1							
Add. Alt. #1	Irrigation	1	L.S.	\$ 93,964.50	\$ 93,964.50	NO BID	NO BID
TOTAL ADDITIVE ALTERNATE NO.1					\$ 93,964.50		NO BID
ADDITIVE ALTERNATE NO.2							
Add. Alt. #2	Landscape	1	L.S.	\$ 27,764.50	\$ 27,764.50	NO BID	NO BID
TOTAL ADDITIVE ALTERNATE NO.2					\$ 27,764.50		NO BID
TOTAL BASE BID + ALTERNATES					\$ 606,674.00		NO BID
BASE BID - SEATING - CONTRACT C							
1	Fixed Seating, Per Plans	1083	EA	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID
TOTAL CONTRACT C BASE BID					NO BID		NO BID
ADDITIVE ALTERNATE NO.1							
Add. Alt. #1	Flex Seating Folding Chairs	671	EA	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID
TOTAL ADDITIVE ALTERNATE NO.1					NO BID		NO BID
ADDITIVE ALTERNATE NO.2							
Add. Alt. #2	Box Seating, 4" D Round Table	14	EA	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID
TOTAL ADDITIVE ALTERNATE NO.2					NO BID		NO BID
TOTAL BASE BID + ALTERNATES					NO BID		NO BID
BASE BID - SITE ELECTRICAL - CONTRACT D							
1	Electrical / Lighting	1	L.S.	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID
TOTAL CONTRACT D BASE BID					NO BID		NO BID
BASE BID - FENCE & GATES - CONTRACT E							
1	Fence & Gates	1	L.S.	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID	NO BID
TOTAL CONTRACT E					NO BID		NO BID
BASE BID - TOTAL BID CONTRACT							
1	Senator Terry Brown Amphitheater Phase 3	1	L.S.	NO BID	NO BID	\$ 3,505,000.00	\$ 3,505,000.00
TOTAL CONTRACT F					NO BID	\$ 3,505,000.00	\$ 3,505,000.00

I CERTIFY THAT THIS A CORRECT TABULATION OF ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED ON THE ABOVE DATE.

H. Discuss/Approve adding \$1.1M in Use Tax Funds to 2nd Round of City Paving and Approve to Advertise for Bids.

Council Member Greene made a motion to add \$1.1M in Use Tax Funds for the 2nd Round of City Paving and approve to advertise for Bids. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion, except Council Member Beard, who opposed.

The motion carried 5/1.

I. Discuss/Approve Alexandria Lot in the amount of \$70,000

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to table this request.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION

Council Member Greene made a motion to approve the request to pave Alexandria Lot in the amount of \$70,000. Councilwoman DiCicco seconded the motion. *The \$70,000 for this project will come from the proceeds from the Surplus Auction.*

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

The motion carried 5/1.

J. Discuss/Approve paving Propst Park Pickleball Courts Parking Lot, in the amount of \$13,000.

Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the request to pave Propst Park Pickleball Courts Parking Lot, in the amount of \$13,000. Council Member Greene seconded the motion. CFO Brigham remarked that he should be able to find \$13,000 out of Special Projects.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

MINUTES OF THE
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 5, 2025

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