SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF COLUMBUS, MS
AUGUST 5, 2025
4:30 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 as a Special Meeting at 4:30 p.m. for the purpose of National Night Out event. The meeting is held in the Court Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Stephen Jones presided over the meeting, and all Council Members were present. Also present were the COO, CFO, General Counsel, Police Chief, H R Director and all other Department Heads.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Stephen Jones called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to adjourn the recessed meeting of July 30, 2025. Councilman Smith made a motion adjourn the recessed special meeting of the Mayor and City Council of July 30m 2025. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0. The Mayor then called the August 5 meeting to order.

Mayor Jones then called upon Rev. Armondo Adams, pastor of Redemption Fire Church, to offer the Invocation.

II. CONFIRMATION OF/OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Councilman Smith requested to add Permit Request the Consent Agenda as Item “M” to block Lawrence Drive August 9, 2025 for the first East Columbus Festival. The item was added.

Councilwoman Spears requested to remove Item “H” from the Policy Agenda. Item H was removed.

Councilwoman Harris made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion

The motion carried 6/0.

III. APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

A. Approve Minutes for Meeting of July 15, 2025.
B. Approve Minutes for Special Meeting of July 18, 2025.
C. Approve Minutes for Special Meeting of July 30, 2026.

Councilman Spears made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Meeting of July 15, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes of July 18, 2025 and Minutes for Special Meeting of July 30, 2025. Councilwoman Harris seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

IV. APPROVE DOCKET OF CLAIMS

Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the Docket of Claims for August 5, 2025 in the amount of $1,645,097.54. Councilman Spears seconded the motion. CFO Jim Brigham added that some debt service payments are included in this docket of claims.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve request for CPD personnel, Captain Kennedy Meaders, to attend a “NIBRS Symposium” to be held in Pearl, MS and approve use of city vehicle for travel.

B. Approve permit request submitted by T. J. Tate, Jr., on behalf of the American Legion Post #69, to host a “Veterans’ Day Parade and Ceremony” to be held November 8, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. until 10:50 a.m., beginning at the Municipal Complex, 1501 Main Street to 5th Street North to 2nd Avenue North to Lowndes County Courthouse.

C. Ratify approval of request to send seven (7) CPD Officers to the “North Mississippi Law Enforcement Training Center” in Tupelo, MS, with the cost of reimbursable tuition ($4,000.00 per officer), and approve clothing allowance, not to exceed $350.00 per officer, upon completion of the academy.

D. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Justin Martin and Brandon Wade, to attend "*NFPA 1021 Fire Officer training"* to be held in Jackson, MS and approve payment of registration, lodging, use of city vehicle for travel. Books, reimbursement of meal expenses, total estimate cost of $500.00.

E. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Jaquay Sherrod, to attend "NFPA 1035-2 Fire and Rescue Safety Educator (On-line), to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, in the total estimate cost of $275.00.

F. Approve request for Fire and Rescue personnel, Timothy Birmingham, Zachary Anderson, Dalton Cook and Tavonta Macon, to attend "NREMT-B Exam (National Registry)" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, use of city vehicle for travel, in the total estimate cost of $200.00.

G. Approve request of Fire and Rescue personnel, Alan Lewis, to attend "Acadis System Training – Acadis Training Officer Basics" to be held in Jackson, MS, and approve payment of registration, use of city vehicle for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses, estimate cost of $150.00.

H. Approve request for Code Enforcement Director, Sasha James, to attend the 2025 *"Keep Mississippi Beautiful State conference"* to be held in Louisville, MS, and approve payment of lodging, use of city vehicle for travel and reimbursement of meal expenses, estimate cost of $46.00.

I. Approve request for Public Works Director, Casey Bush, and Office Manager, Tabitha Price, to attend the "*MS 811 Damage Prevention Summit"* to be held in Biloxi, MS, and approve payment for travel for Office Manager and use of city vehicle for PW Director, lodging, and reimbursement of meal expenses, total estimated cost of $1,548.19.

J. Accept letter of resignation from CPD personnel, Kevin Smiley, effective August 10, 2025 and approve payment for unused vacation leave, up to 240 hours.

K. Accept letter of resignation from CPD personnel, Jarron Jefferson, effective immediately (August 4, 2025) and approve payment for unused vacation leave, up to 240 hours.

L. Accept resignation (no letter) from Columbus Recreation Site Supervisor at Sim Scott Community Center, Shelby Cole, and authorize the HR Director to begin the normal recruitment process.

M. Approve permit request submitted by Councilman Roderick Smith, to block Lawrence Drive on August 9, 2025, for the first East Columbus Day Festival.

Councilman Spears made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, with the amendment to add Item "M." Councilwoman Harris seconded the motion. Mayor Jones called for discussion, and there being none, all Council Members voted in favor of same, with a unanimous vote.

VI. REPORTS, PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AGENDA:

A. Comments from Mayor and Council

- Councilman Smith announced that the First East Columbus Day Festival will be held at the East Columbus Gym on Saturday, August 9, 2025 and invited the public to attend.

- Mayor Jones reminded citizens that have not voted to exercise their right to vote in the Special Election to elect a State Representative for District 41. Polls will be open until 7:00 p.m.

- Mayor Jones announced that National Night Out On Crime Observance will be held at the Columbus Riverwalk today from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and that

- Today is Attorney Jeff Turnage's Anniversary and tomorrow, August 6, 2025 is his birthday. Happy Birthday Jeff!

B. Presentation of Certificates of Completion

Chief Daughtry came forth and presented certificates of completion to five (5) CPD personnel for successful completion of FBI Command College that covers budgeting and managing skills, which prepares supervisors for leadership roles.

- Sgt. Mark Underwood
- Sgt. Kutenia Brooks
- Sgt. Johnny Vaughn
- Sgt. Christopher Ware
- Cpl. Kimberly Hayes

C. BOARD VACANCIES

COLUMBUS HOUSING AUTHORITY
1 Vacancy, 5-Year Term. Bo Harrison's Term Expired July 7, 2025.
Appointment will be made September 2, 2025.

APPLICANTS:
Velma Woodard
Jackie Exxum

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
1 Vacancy, 4-Year Term that Expires 6/20/2027. Tiffany Turner resigned July 9, 2025.
Appointment to fill the unexpired term will be made August 19, 2025.

APPLICANT
Frances Glenn

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
1 Vacancy, 3-Year Term that Expires 3/03/2026. Whirlie Byrd resigned June 17, 2025.
Appointment to fill the unexpired term will be made August 5, 2025.

APPLICANT
Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to appoint David Armstrong to the Convention & Visitor's Bureau board to fill the unexpired term until March 03, 2026. Councilwoman Harris seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD
1 Vacancy, 5-Year Term that Expires 9/05/2027. Jason Spears resigned June 27, 2025.
Appointment will be made August 5, 2025.

APPLICANTS
Marcus Hunter
Robert Cooper
William Strauss
Joseph Paige

Councilman Spears made a motion to appoint Robert Cooper to the Redevelopment Authority Board to fill the unexpired term vacated by Jason Spears, until 9/05/2027. Councilwoman Harris seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

VII. CITIZENS INPUT AGENDA

VIII. POLICY AGENDA

A. Discuss/Approve Derelict Property Docket

IRMA GRAY HENDERSON
LIFE ESTATE
819 Railroad Street
CASE NUMBER: 25-0256 **Dilapidated Structure**
Property Maintenance Code Violation
Overgrown Lot

The General Counsel called cause number **25-0256**. 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. Councilman Jefferson 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. Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

FIVE PROPERTY SOLUTIONS LLC
2611 4th Avenue North
CASE NUMBER: 25-0262 **Dilapidated Structure**
Property Maintenance Code Violation

Overgrown Lot

The General Counsel called cause number **25-0262.** No one appeared. Code Enforcement Officer Sasha James stated the property has been **remediated** by the owner, and it is her recommendation to enter the proposed Order under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code, finding that this property was in such a state of uncleanliness as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community. This Order should provide for such re-entry as the Statute allows. Councilwoman Stewart made a motion in accordance with Section 21-19-11,and for an Order stating the City may remediate the property with respect to cutting grass and weeds and removing rubbish, personal property and other debris no more than twelve (12) times in a twenty- four (24) month period immediately following the Order, with further notice to the owner as required by law. Costs are to be assessed as allowed under Section 21-19-11 of the Mississippi Code. Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

SAMUEL JACKSON
208 Robinwood Circle
CASE NUMBER: 25-0274 Graffiti

This Case was removed from the Docket.

$250.00 OR LESS CASES:

Code Enforcement Officer, Sasha James, presented eighteen (18) cases, $250.00 or less for adjudication. Councilman Greene made a motion to accept the notices for property clean-up of properties $250.00 and less to be adjudicated according to statute. Councilwoman Stewart seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

THE LIST FOLLOWS:

(Property Description – 18 pages will be included in the minute book).

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$250 OR LESS Derelict Properties for August 5, 2025 Mayor and City Council Meeting

Case # and Violation	Ward	Name and Address	Notes
25-0265 *Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage*	4	DOROTHY ROSEBURGH **1513 26th Street North**	
25-0267 *Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage*	4	ADAMENT INVESTMENTS LLP **1106 Ashe Street**	
25-0269 *Overgrown Lot*	2	CECIL / VIRGINIA ROBERTSON **215 Robinwood Circle**	
25-0278 *Overgrown Lot*	1	RENITA SPEIGHTS **1907 4th Avenue South**	
25-0281 *Overgrown Lot*	4	JONES & MESINA ENTERPRISE LLC **806 20th Street North**	
25-0283 *Overgrown Lot*	4	JONES & MESINA ENTERPRISE LLC **816 20th Street North**	
25-0284 *Overgrown Lot*	4	JONES & MESINA ENTERPRISE LLC **814 20th Street North**	

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Case # and Violation	Ward	Name and Address	Notes
25-0285 *Overgrown Lot*	1	CAL JOHNSON **302 19th Street South**	
25-0286 *Overgrown Lot*	1	AARON ANDERSON **1812 3rd Avenue South**	
25-0288 *Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage*	4	ANTHONY ROLAND **2404 6th Avenue North**	
25-0290 *Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage*	2	MM BROOKS VENTURES **133 Brown Street**	
25-0292 *Overgrown Lot*	2	MARILYN FRANCES NORRIS **113 King Street**	
25-0294 *Overgrown Lot*	1	CHARLIE / GEORGIA ROGERS **805 10th Avenue South**	
25-0305 *Overgrown Lot*	4	CECIL WEIR **903 Shady Street**	
25-0306 *Overgrown Lot*	4	RICKEY MCCULLUM **917 Shady Street**	

Case # and Violation	Ward	Name and Address	Notes
25-0311 *Overgrown Lot*	5	MARY GUIN c/o CARL GUIN **411 11th Street North**	
25-0313 *Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage*	5	CHRISTOPHER / ELAINE WALKER **1003 3rd Avenue North**	
25-0315 *Overgrown Lot*	5	MJK PROPERTIES LLC **1723 5th Avenue North**	

B. Discuss/Approve recommendations from the July 14, 2025 Planning Commission Meeting.

<u>Permitted Use Request 25-05</u>
On Behalf of A T & T
390 Wilkins-Wise Road
A-1 General Agricultural District

Request is to install a 155-foot tall monopole telecommunication tower.

With a unanimous vote of 5 to 0, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the request.

Finding of Facts:
The Commission based their decision on the request being in harmony with the orderly and appropriate development of the district and there was no objection from the neighboring property owners.

Councilman Greene moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to allow the installation of a 155-foot-tall monopole telecommunication tower be approved. Councilman Smith seconded the motion.
Mayor Jones called for anyone attending to come forward and be heard if there was objection. Nobody Appeared. 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.

<u>Permitted Use Request 25-06</u>
Jody Davis on behalf of Christine and David Montgomery
317 – 19th Street South
R-1 Single Family Residential District

Request to allow operation of short-term rental.

With a unanimous vote of 5 to 0, the Planning Commission recommends approval of the request.

***Finding of Facts*:**

The Commission based their decision on the request being in harmony with the district and there was no objection from the neighboring property owners.

Councilman Spears moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to allow the operation of short-term rental at 317 – 19th Street South 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.

The motion carried 6/0.

Permitted Use Request 25-07
Jody Davis on behalf of P2717 Capital, LLC
1004 Clardy Drive
R-1 Single Family Residential District

Request to allow operation of both residences as short-term rentals.

With a unanimous vote of 5 to 0, the Planning Commission recommends denial of the request.

***Finding of Facts*:**
The Commission based their decision on the objection calls and letters received from the neighborhood; this request is not in harmony with the neighborhood; and the use causes undue traffic problems.

Councilman Greene 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 request to allow operation of both residences at 1004 Clardy Drive as short-term rentals be approved. Councilman Spears 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.

<u>Permitted Use Request 25-08</u>
Jody Davis on behalf of Hal Owens
607 16th Avenue North
R-1 Single Family Residential District

Request is to allow operation of residence as a short-term rental.

With a unanimous vote of 5 to 0, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the request.

Finding of Facts:
The Commission based their decision on the request being in harmony with the district and there was no objection from the neighboring property owners.

Councilman Spears moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to allow the operation of residence as a short-term rental be approved. Councilwoman Harris 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.

<u>Permitted Use Request 25-09</u>
Jody Davis on behalf of Thomas C. Peterson
790 Moore's Creek Road
R-1 Single Family Residential District

Request to allow operation of residence as a short-term rental.

With a unanimous vote of 5 to 0, the Planning Commission recommended approval of request.

Finding of Facts:
The Commission based their decision on the request being in harmony with the district and there was no objection from the neighboring property owners.

Councilman Spears moved that the facts and findings of the Planning Commission be adopted as the facts and findings of the Mayor and City Council, and that the recommendation of the Planning Commission to allow the operation of residence as a short-term rental be approved. Councilman Jefferson 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.

C. Discuss/Approve the Installation of one speed hump on 18th Street North between 12th Avenue North and 11th Avenue North.

Councilman Jefferson made a motion to approve the Installation of one speed hump on 18th Street North between 12th Avenue North and 11th Avenue North. Councilwoman Harris seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

D. Discuss/Approve the hiring of one (1) Forensic Lab Technician, pending successful completion of all preliminary testing.

Councilman Spears made a motion to approve the request to hire **Chloe Shaffer,** as Forensic Lab Technician, at $15.75 per hour, pending successful completion of all preliminary testing. Councilwoman Harris seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

E. Discuss/Approve request to purchase property for Blight Program

George Irby, Director of Community Development requested to purchase a parcel of property, located at 98 Gardenia Drive with a total value of $2,960.00. The property has been burned and has no value. It will need to be demolished. This is the first of seventeen properties. Councilman Greene made a motion to proceed with the purchase of this property. Councilwoman Harris seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

F. Discuss/Approve request to apply for the Mississippi Arts Community's Building for the Arts Grant, in the amount of $500,000 with a 40% match in the amount of $333,333.00, with the total budget of $833,333.00 for the Senator Terry Brown Amphitheater.

Councilwoman Stewart made a motion to approve the request to apply for the Mississippi Arts Community's Building for the Arts Grant, in the amount of $500,000 with a 40% match in the amount of $333,333.00, with the total budget of $833,333.00 for the Senator Terry Brown Amphitheater. CFO Brigham remarked that the matching funds are in the Capital Improvement plan. Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

G. Discuss/Approve Public Information Officer Contract

The Mayor and Council engaged in discussion of the request to approve Public Information Officer Contract. Following discussion, Councilwoman Harris made a motion to table this request. Councilman Spears seconded the motion.

All Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried 6/0.

H. REMOVED

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Approved by: ______________________________ ______________________________

Stephen Jones, Mayor **James "Jim" Brigham**
CFO/Secretary-Treasurer/Clerk

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