

Chapter 5. Procurement and Disposition of Property

Sec. 7-500. Contracting procedures.

The Council shall prescribe by ordinance rules and regulations to be followed in the making of contracts in order to bind the consolidated government. All contracts and all ordinances or resolutions which make or authorize contracts shall be approved by the City Attorney. Except where otherwise provided by law or by ordinance, all contracts of the consolidated government shall be signed by the Mayor or by some person designated by him or her with the approval of the Council and shall be authenticated by the Clerk of Council.

Sec. 7-501. Sale and disposition of property.

- (1) The Council shall be authorized to sell any real or personal property owned or held by the consolidated government for governmental or other public purposes under such rules and regulations as the Council may establish; provided, however, that any public utility owned by the consolidated government may only be sold when such sale has been approved by a majority vote of the electors of Columbus, Georgia, voting in a regular or in a special election called for such purpose. Except as otherwise provided by this Charter, any sale of real property shall be made only after the receipt of sealed bids and due advertisement of such sale by posting on the consolidated government web-site and published digitally or in print in at least one newspaper of general circulation in Columbus, Georgia, once a week for a period of two weeks preceding the date at which such sale is to be made. All sales of real property shall be subject to confirmation by the Council.
- (2) The Council is empowered to authorize the following transactions:
 - (a) A transfer of any real or personal property owned by the consolidated government to another governmental entity upon a finding that such transfer is in the public interest;
 - (b) A sale of any such property to another governmental entity; and
 - (c) An exchange of such property for property that is owned either privately or by some other governmental entity.

In each such instance, when the property is sold or exchanged or transferred, a statement shall be posted on the consolidated government web-site at least fourteen calendars in advance of the proposed transaction and published digitally or in print in at least one newspaper of general circulation, on each Monday of the two weeks which precede the week in which such transaction is to be concluded. Such statement shall contain a description of the property or properties involved and the prices and estimated values as to each item of property.

- (3) The consolidated government may quitclaim any rights it may have in property not needed for public purposes, upon a report by the Mayor and the adoption of a resolution by the Council finding that the property is not needed for public purposes and that the interest of the consolidated government therein has no appreciable monetary value.
- (4) Whenever in opening, extending or widening any street, avenue, alley or public place of Columbus, Georgia, a small parcel or tract of land is cut off and is not needed by the consolidated government, Council may authorize the execution and delivery in the name of the consolidated government of a deed conveying said cut-off or separate parcel or tract of land to an abutting or adjoining property owner or owners in exchange

for rights-of-way in said street, avenue, alley or public place or in settlement of any alleged damages sustained by said abutting or adjoining property owners or for other consideration.

- (5) The consolidated government may authorize the transfer of property to an adjacent landowner upon a report by the Mayor and the adoption of a resolution by the Council finding that the property is not needed for public purposes and that the adjacent landowner will pay fair market value for the property as shown by at least one appraisal. All other adjoining landowners will be given written notice of the proposed transfer, and a statement of the proposed transaction shall be posted on the City web-site and published digitally or in print in at least one newspaper of general circulation in Columbus, Georgia, on each Monday of the two weeks which precede the week in which such transaction is to be concluded. Such statement shall contain a description of the property or properties involved and the prices and appraised value as to each item of property.

(HB 415, § 9, 4-24-13; Ref. of 11-8-22)