

COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers
C. E. "Red" McDaniel City Services Center- Second Floor
3111 Citizens Way, Columbus, GA 31906

October 24, 2023
5:30 PM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Tyson Begly, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, Bruce Huff, Judy W. Thomas and Toyia Tucker. City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis, and Deputy Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore were present.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) Columbus Water Works FY 2023-24 Public Forum Presentation; (2) Columbus, Georgia Convention & Trade Center FY23 Review Presentation; (3) Sheriff's Administration Building Presentation

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) Proposed Judicial Center Information Packet Submitted by the Springer Opera House; (2) DEK Hockey Rink at Frank Chester Recreation Center Information

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III, Presiding

INVOCATION: Offered by Pastor Vince Allen, Faith Nation of Columbus, Georgia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the October 10, 2023, Council Meeting and Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Davis and opened for discussion. Councilor Crabb made a motion to amend the minutes to remove the wording that reflects that Item #17 on the Legislative Agenda was a carryover item, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council. Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

Councilor Charmaine Crabb stated Item #17 on Legislative Agenda at the October 10, 2023, Council Meeting was listed as a carryover item from the previous year, yet it was not such. During the discussion, she stated as a realtor and property manager, she can assure Council that rent control will not benefit affordable housing but will do the opposite.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to reconsider the vote on Item #17 on the Legislative Agenda (Resolution 373-23), seconded by Councilor Thomas and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

Councilor Davis then made a motion to rescind Resolution 373-23, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried by a nine-to-one vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Barnes, Begly, Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Garrett, Huff and Thomas voting in favor, and Councilor Tucker voting in opposition.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Water and Sewer Rate Study (Presented by Steve Davis, President Columbus Water Works)

President Steve Davis, Columbus Water Works, approached the rostrum to outline a presentation on the Water and Sewer Study.

Chief Financial Officer Carl Robinson, Columbus Water Works, approached the rostrum to provide information on the financial planning aspect of the Columbus Water Works. He stated the Columbus Water Works expects to spend over \$150 million in capital investment by 2028, which is required to maintain safe, reliable services. He stated there is an expected 4.95% increase for 2024.

Vice President Joe Crea, Raftelis Financial Consultants, approached the rostrum to provide information on the recommended rates for 2024. He stated the proposed 4.95% rate increase will add approximately \$2.42 to most customers monthly bill and less than \$3.29 to over 80% of customers' bills.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **2nd Reading- REZN-06-23-0111**: An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **119 Bascom Court** (parcel # 073-027-003) from Residential Office (RO) Zoning District to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District with conditions. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (continued on 1st Reading from 9-12-23) (as amended 10-10-23) (Councilor Davis) Councilor Davis made a motion to deny the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.
2. **Ordinance (23-051) - 2nd Reading- REZN-09-23-0017**: An ordinance amending the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) of the Columbus Code to revise the text of a definition in Chapter 13. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Mayor Pro-Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Thomas and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.
3. **Ordinance (23-052) - 2nd Reading- REZN-08-23-0159**: An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **3617 2nd Avenue** (parcel # 008-009-010) from Residential Office (RO) Zoning District to Single Family Residential - 4 (SFR4) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Garrett) Councilor Garrett made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

4. **Ordinance (23-053) - 2nd Reading- REZN-04-23-0630:** An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **910 Talbotton Road** (parcel# 016- 027-016) from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District to Residential Office (RO) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Cogle) Councilor Cogle made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.
5. **Ordinance (23-054) - 2nd Reading-** An ordinance providing for the demolition of various structures located at: 1) **923 39th Street** (Douglas & M Elliott, Owner); 2) **353 Marlboro Avenue** (Wallace Biggers, Owner); 3) **815 Hardegree Drive** (Valencia Melvin, Owner); 4) **529 Chesterfield Avenue** (Hiawatha Covington, Owner); 5) **318 24th Street** (Leonard III & Lorenzo Brown, Owner); 6) **1544 11th Avenue** (Jean Rodgers, Owner); and 7) **2015 5th Avenue** (Lewis P. Green Jr., Owner) and for demolition services for the Inspections and Code Department in accordance with the attached Tabulation of Bid sheet. (as amended) (Mayor Pro-Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.
6. **Ordinance (23-055) - 2nd Reading-** An ordinance amending Section 2-296 of the Columbus Code to add two members to the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board; and for other purposes. (Councilor Cogle) Councilor Huff made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Thomas and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.
7. **1st Reading-** An ordinance suspending the enforcement of penalties and interest on business and occupational tax due and owing for years 2023 and prior through December 31, 2023; and for other purposes. (Councilors Cogle, Crabb, Davis and Garrett)

City Attorney Clifton Fay explained after adoption of this ordinance the enforcement of penalties and interest on business and occupational tax will be suspended from November 7, 2023 through December 31, 2023, and will not accrue during this time period. He also explained if the Council wants to waive penalties and interest for any particular year, that will require additional action.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REQUEST:

Councilor Cogle made a motion as per Code Section 4-307(5) of the Charter requesting the City Manager to personally provide a three-to-five-page executive summary on what is going on in the Finance Department/Occupational Taxes/Business License Department, their status, the management failures and systemic problems that have occurred and are reoccurring, the practices and authorizations of citations and/or delinquency notices directed at businesses, who issued and authorized those notices, why businesses who were not delinquent were contacted, why we are delayed in collections, and the report should be finished and provided in writing no later than the close of business on October 30, 2023, seconded by Councilor Davis and opened for discussion.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley stated it is known that there is an internal audit going on in the Finance Department with some members of Council bringing in the Troutman Pepper Firm as outside resources to aid in the audit, and he heard the word “investigation” used. He stated that with there being an internal audit being conducted on the Finance Department, he will be happy to have the Finance Director bring the three-to-five-page executive summary. He then explained the process typically followed when an internal audit is being conducted starting with an entrance interview, ongoing communication throughout the process, and then an exit interview upon completion of the

audit; all of which the Finance Director, Deputy City Managers nor himself have been contacted or provided any information.

Councilor Joanne Cogle responded to City Manager Hugley by stating pursuant to Code Section 4-307(5) and the Finance Department falling under him, members of the Council would prefer the executive summary being requested to come directly from him.

Councilor Begly made a substitute motion to delay the request made by Councilor Cogle until the third party involved with the internal audit has given their guidance on whether it is appropriate to ask this of the City Manager, seconded by Councilor Huff, opened for further discussion, and later withdrawn after a referral was made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY:

- Contact 3rd party auditors for direction on whether to move forward with the request from Councilor Cogle for the City Manager to provide an executive summary. (*Request of Mayor Pro Tem Allen*)

RESOLUTION

8. Resolution (393-23): A resolution approving the employment of two temporary non-classified employees to serve as the Project Manager and Quality Assurance Manager (Mayor Pro-Tem) Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Barnes being absent for the vote.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mr. Timothy Veals, Re: Cleanup of the neighborhood.
2. Mr. Norman Easterbrook, representing River Center for the Performing Arts, Re: Plans for the new Judicial Building.
3. Mr. Jose V. Ruiz, Re: A request to reduce / eliminate mandatory parking minimums.
CANCELLED
4. Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: Vetting citizens' presentations appearing before City Council.
5. Mr. Paul Pierce, representing Springer Opera House, Re: Judicial Center Design.
6. Mr. Trinidad Villegas, representing Outdoor Solutions, Re: The Purchasing Division.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

9. PURCHASES

- B. Grounds Maintenance Services II (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 24-0008 (*NOTE: No motion was made to approve this item at this point in the meeting but was later approved before the meeting adjourned.*)

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum to present this item as requested by Councilor Tucker and to respond to the comments made by Mr. Trinidad Villegas on the Public

Agenda. (*NOTE: This item was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item 9 "B"*) She stated it was brought to the attention of the Finance Department that Public Works was having issues with this vendor and in September 2022, a plan of action from the vendor was requested to address the issues, which was provided in tandem to the RFP.

Purchasing Manager Andrea McCorvey approached the rostrum to explain the RFP process. She stated it is not the Finance Department that makes the vendor recommendation to Council for approval, it is the committee that evaluates the vendors.

Public Works Director Drale Short approached the rostrum to address the issues with the previous vendor, Outdoor Solutions. She stated when she took over Public Works as Director, she instructed her staff to document the quality of services provided by vendors to ensure they are following contract.

City Attorney Clifton Fay explained the disclosure requirements of employees and elected officials who would have a financial interest in contractual agreements with the Columbus Consolidated Government. He stated an employee can bid on an RFP, but they must disclose that they are an employee of the Columbus Consolidated Government.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- In the future make sure to provide feedback to the vendors holding contracts of any issues regarding the services they are providing before a new RFP comes around for those services. (*Request of Councilor Tucker*)

- 7. Mr. Jack Rosenhammer, representing Columbus Street Hockey, Re: Proposal for a ball hockey rink to be built at Frank Chester Recreation Center.

- 8. Mrs. Audrey Holston Palmore, Re: Vacant housing- demolitions providing information concerning heir property in the city.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Schedule of dates for demolition of properties. Specifically looking for the status of the demolition of 1209 Carmel Court, Columbus, GA 31907. (*Request of Councilor Tucker*)

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) grant request for electric bus charging and maintenance equipment at METRA's campus located at 814 Linwood Blvd.

Resolution (394-23): A resolution authorizing the submission of an application to Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) in an amount up to \$277,958 or as otherwise awarded, and if awarded, amend the Transportation Fund by the amount of the grant award. There is no local match requirement. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

2. 2023 Brownfield Assessment Grant Re-Write

Resolution (395-23): A resolution authorizing the application and acceptance if awarded and amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount awarded up to \$500,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency to fund Brownfield Assessments of Properties within the City of Columbus. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

3. BOOST Grant 2023 YEAR 3

Resolution (396-23): A resolution authorizing the City to apply for the After School Boost Grant and, if awarded, accept the funds granted by the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Program Network “Building Opportunities for Out of School Time” Boost Grant Year 2 with no local match requirement and it will amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount awarded. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

5. Bright from the Start – Snack Grant

Resolution (397-23): A resolution authorizing the acceptance of a grant of \$67,989.00, or as otherwise awarded, from the Georgia Department of Early Childcare and Learning Bright from the Start to continue the Child and Adult Care Food Program and amend the Multi-Governmental Grant funds by the amount awarded. The grant will cross over 2023 and 2024. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

6. Georgia Department of Natural Resources Grant, Recreational Trails Program

Resolution (398-23): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for, and if awarded, accept a grant in the amount of \$200,000.00, or otherwise awarded, from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Recreational Trails Program with no local match requirement and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the applicable amount. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

4. Maximus, Inc. for Georgia’s Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) Program of the Bright from the Start Program.

Resolution (399-23): A resolution authorizing the city to apply for the funding and if awarded, accept the monies provided by Maximus, Inc. for the Georgia Childcare and Parent Services Program for the 2022/2023 Fiscal Year. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

7. Donation of Supplies – Columbus Police Department

Resolution (400-23): A resolution authorizing the Columbus Police Department to accept building materials from the Home Depot for the construction of K-9 Training Aids. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

8. Bingo Machine Donation

Resolution (401-23): A resolution authorizing the City to approve and accept the donation of a bingo machine to be used at Frank Chester Senior Center. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

9. PURCHASES

- A. Retail Space for Park & Ride on Manchester Expressway (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 24-0003

Resolution (402-23): A resolution authorizing the contract with Blitz 45 Fitness (Columbus, GA), to occupy the retail space within the (Rails-to-Trails) Fall Line Trace Park and Ride location at 3690 Manchester Expressway. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

Councilor Charmaine Crabb stated she would like to see the rent collected for this retail space to go back into the maintenance of the park that shares this location. She explained that she has noticed that the park equipment needs to be updated.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley explained typically rental proceeds are deposited into the General Fund and if there were any needed maintenance the funding would come from the respective department's budget. He suggested continuing doing what is currently being done with rental proceeds and not set a precedence.

- B. Grounds Maintenance Services II (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 24-0008

(NOTE: No motion was made to approve this item at this point in the meeting but was later approved before the meeting adjourned.)

- C. Mental Health Services for Muscogee County Prison

Resolution (403-23): A resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with New Horizons Community Service Board d/b/a New Horizons Behavioral Health (Columbus, GA) for mental health services for inmates at Muscogee County Prison for a one-year period. New Horizons Behavioral Health will provide five telephone consultations and contract administration in the amount of \$500.00 per month. Provider services will be \$150.00 per hour; clinician services will be \$100.00 per hour; psychologist services will be \$100.00 per hour; and additional consultations beyond the five monthly telephone consultations will be \$50.00 per call. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

- D. Repair of Compactor for Public Works Department

Resolution (404-23): A resolution authorizing payment to Yancey Brothers (Fortson, GA), in the amount of \$73,882.35, for the repair of a 2012 Aljon large compactor, vehicle #11354. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

10. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Trade Center Update – Hayley Tillery, Executive Director, Columbus Convention & Trade Center

Columbus Convention & Trade Center Director Hayley Tillery approached the rostrum to provide an update on the Columbus Convention & Trade Center. During the presentation she shared information on the various events held, the revenue collected, and the positive economic impact of some events choosing to be held in Columbus, Georgia.

B. Sheriff's Office Administration Building Update – Ryan Pruett, Director, Inspections & Code

Inspections & Code Director Ryan Pruett approached the rostrum to provide a brief update on the plans for the new Sheriff's Office Administration Building. During the presentation he shared information on what was not included in the plans for the Administration Building due to lack of available funding in the project budget. He explained the current budget does not accommodate the requested courtroom at a cost of \$1,687,314.53 and other additional needs at a cost of \$1,835,294.59. He stated the additional needs include (1) garage for storage of equipment and processing of vehicles for evidence, (2) fitness center including locker room and showers, (3) canopy to provide covered parking, (4) IBIS Room, (5) enhanced AV Systems for Situation Room and Media Room, (6) perimeter fencing to provide secure parking for a portion of the parking lot.

Muscogee County Sheriff Greg Countryman approached the rostrum to respond to questions from Councilor Tucker and to further explain the needs of the Muscogee County Sheriff's Department that were not included in the plans. After providing his explanation, he requested the help of the City Council in providing the necessary funding to add these needs to the project.

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum to respond to a question from Councilor Thomas by stating they are expecting \$4.2 million in unassigned OLOST Infrastructure Reserves. She requested the members of Council not to make a motion since it would come back on the purchasing agenda to amend the contract to include the additional items.

Councilor Thomas made a motion to add to the new Sheriff's Office Administration Building plans (1) garage for storage of equipment and processing of vehicles for evidence, (2) fitness center including locker room and showers, (3) canopy to provide covered parking, (4) IBIS Room, (5) enhanced AV Systems for Situation Room and Media Room, (6) perimeter fencing to provide secure parking for a portion of the parking lot, and (7) courtroom, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: October 24, 2023

November 8, 2023

1. **1st Avenue Sidewalk Improvement Project – RFB No. 24-0014**

Scope of Bid

The scope of work includes clearing, excavation and removal, earthwork and grading, pavement and miscellaneous site improvements, soil erosion control measures, landscaping and tree planting.

This is a U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded project, which utilizes Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. The awarded contractor shall adhere to all HUD and CDBG project requirements, including Section 3. The requirements are listed on pages 15 - 35 of the Request for Bids (RFB) document.

November 17, 2023

1. **Ambulance Billing and Collection Services for Columbus Fire & EMS Department (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 24-0004**

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) invites qualified vendors to provide ambulance billing and collection services for the Columbus Fire & EMS Department. The services are required to enhance and develop an internal revenue cycle and will be procured on an as-needed basis.

The initial term of the contract will be for two years, with the option to renew for three additional twelve-month periods. Contract renewal shall be contingent upon the mutual agreement of the City and the Contractor.

REFERRALS:

Referrals: 10.10.23

CLERK OF COUNCIL’S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. **Minutes of the following boards:**

Board of Elections & Registration, July 6, and August 3, 2023

Board of Tax Assessors, #34-23

Civic Center Advisory Board, September 21, 2023

Land Bank Authority, August 9, and September 13, 2023

Pension Fund, Employees’ Board of Trustees, April 12, May 10, and June 21, 2023

River Valley Regional Commission, August 23, 2023

Tree Board, October 24, 2022 and February 9, 2023

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS- ACTION REQUESTED:

2. **COUNCIL APPOINTMENT- READY FOR CONFIRMATION:**

A. **BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS:** Mr. Todd Hammons was nominated to serve another term of office. (*Councilor Crabb’s nominee*) Term expires: December 31, 2029. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

3. **COUNCIL APPOINTMENT: NOMINATION FROM THE COMMISSION AND MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:**

A. **AIRPORT COMMISSION:**

A nominee for the seat of James Barker (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2023, on the Airport Commission (*Council’s Confirmation*). Clerk of Council Davis stated the

Columbus Airport Commission has submitted its nominee of James Barker to serve another term of office. Councilor Crabb made a motion to confirm the reappointment of James Barker, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

4. **COUNCIL NOMINATIONS- THREE NOMINEES ARE SENT TO THE AUTHORITY FOR SELECTION:**

A. **THE MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:**

A nominee for the seat of John Bucholtz (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2023, on the Medical Center Hospital Authority of Columbus (*Council's Nomination*). Clerk of Council Davis explained the Council submits three (3) nominees to the Medical Center Hospital Authority for each seat and the Medical Center Hospital Authority selects the successor for Council's confirmation and recommendations for the seat of John Bucholtz are John Bucholtz, Tracy L. Sayers, and Murray Solomon. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to submit the three recommendations to the Medical Center Hospital Authority for selection, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

A nominee for the seat of Fredrick McKnight (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2023, on the Medical Center Hospital Authority of Columbus (*Council's Nomination*). Clerk of Council Davis explained the Council submits three (3) nominees to the Medical Center Hospital Authority for each seat and the Medical Center Hospital Authority selects the successor for Council's confirmation and recommendations for the seat of Fredrick McKnight are Fredrick McKnight, Tracy L. Sayers, and Murray Solomon. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to submit the three recommendations to the Medical Center Hospital Authority for selection, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

5. **COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS WOULD BE LISTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING:**

A. **BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION:**

A nominee for the seat of Edwin Roldan (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2023, on the Board of Elections & Registration (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Crabb renominated Edwin Roldan to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Margaret Jenkins (*Rotating off the board*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2023, on the Board of Elections & Registration (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Tucker nominated Annette Williams to succeed Margaret Jenkins.

A nominee for the seat of Diane Scrimshire (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2023, on the Board of Elections & Registration (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Crabb renominated Diane Scrimshire to serve another term.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE MAYOR:

- Provide a proclamation for Margaret Jenkins honoring her twenty-eight years of services on the Board of Elections & Registration. (*Request of Councilor Thomas*)

B. BOARD OF HEALTH:

A nominee for the seat of Sylvester McRae (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2023, on the Board of Health (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Huff renominated Sylvester McRae to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of James Lopez (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2023, on the Board of Health (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

C. BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS:

A nominee for the seat of Clint W. Cox (*No longer a resident of Muscogee County*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2023, on the Board of Water Commissioners (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Thomas nominated Nick Smith to succeed Clint W. Cox.

D. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Lawanna Williams (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2023, on the Cooperative Extension Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). Clerk of Council Davis advised that Ms. Williams does not desire to serve another term. There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term expiring on December 31, 2028, on the Cooperative Extension Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

E. LAND BANK AUTHORITY:

A nominee for the seat of Chris Phillips (*No longer a resident of Muscogee County*) for a term expiring on October 31, 2026, on the Land Bank Authority (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Begly nominated Carson Cummings, Jr. to fill the unexpired term of Chris Phillips.

F. TREE BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Farah Dewsbury (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2023, as an At-Large Member on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Crabb renominated Farah Dewsbury to serve another term. Clerk of Council Davis stated the board members that are eligible to succeed themselves will be contacted regarding their interest in serving another term and would be listed on the agenda for November 7, 2023.

A nominee for the seat of Robert Hecht (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2023, as a Commercial or Industrial Development Representative on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Crabb renominated Robert Hecht to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Chris Henson (*Does not desire reappointment*) for a term that expired on July 1, 2022, as the Environmental Advocacy Representative on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Troy Keller (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expired on December 31, 2020, in the Educator Seat on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Frank Tommey (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expired on December 31, 2020, in the Residential Development Seat on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

Clerk of Council Davis advised that Councilor Cogle is nominating Amy J. Spencer for a seat on this board, and we would outline for the next meeting the appropriate seat.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE MAYOR:

- Put together a committee of Councilors to look at all the boards, committees, and commissions to see about making changes. She explained there is an issue with Councilors being able to find younger citizens that are willing to serve on these boards due to lack of time. (*Request of Councilor Thomas*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilor Jerry “Pops” Barnes reminded everyone of the Veterans Day Parade to be held on November 11, 2023, to begin at 9:30 a.m. After the parade, there will be a “Thank You” to Veterans, starting at 12:30 p.m., as well as, a show consisting of national artists.

Councilor Jerry “Pops” Barnes then thanked Columbus State University for nominating him for the Thomas Y. Whitley Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Councilor Toyia Tucker announced a collaboration with the Department of Parks & Recreation, Public Safety Departments and others to host Trunk of Treat, on Saturday, October 28, 2023, at the Shirley B. Winston Park, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC AGENDA (continued) 3 Additional Minutes:

4. Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: Vetting citizens’ presentations appearing before City Council.
6. Mr. Trinidad Villegas, representing Outdoor Solutions, Re: The Purchasing Division.
8. Mrs. Audrey Holston Palmore, Re: Vacant housing- demolitions providing information concerning heir property in the city.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss matters of litigation, personnel, and real estate acquisition and disposal as requested earlier in the meeting by City Attorney Fay. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council, with the time being 9:26 p.m.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 10:16 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in executive session to discuss matters of litigation, personnel, and property acquisition and disposal; however, there were no votes taken.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REQUEST:

Councilor Cogle restated her earlier motion as per Code Section 4-307(5) of the Charter requesting the City Manager to personally provide a three-to-five-page executive summary on what is going on in the Finance Department/Occupational Taxes/Business License Department, their status, the

management failures and systemic problems that have occurred and are reoccurring, the practices and authorizations of citations and/or delinquency notices directed at businesses, who issued and authorized those notices, why businesses who were not delinquent were contacted, why we are delayed in collections, and the report should be finished and provided in writing no later than the close of business on October 30, 2023, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried by an eight-to-two vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Begly, Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Garrett, Thomas and Tucker voting in favor, and Councilors Barnes and Huff voting in opposition.

9. PURCHASES

B. Grounds Maintenance Services II (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 24-0008

Resolution (405-23): A resolution authorizing the execution of annual contracts with Four Seasons Lawn Care (Columbus, GA) for areas 1 and 6, and Landscape Workshop Columbus (Columbus, GA) for 8 for routine grounds maintenance services on weekly, monthly, and yearly schedules. The Public Works Department budgets approximately \$2,400,000.00 annually for services in all nine (9) grounds maintenance areas. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried by a seven-to-three vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Barnes, Begly, Davis, Garrett, Huff and Tucker voting in favor, and Councilors Cogle, Crabb and Thomas voting in opposition.

Purchasing Manager Andrea McCorvey approached the rostrum to respond to a question from Councilor Thomas by stating if approved this contract would become effective starting tomorrow.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to adjourn the October 24, 2023 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council, with the time being 10:22 p.m.

Sandra T. Davis, CMC
Clerk of Council
Council of Columbus, Georgia