

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

December 17, 2024
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors Travis L. Chambers, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, Byron Hickey, Bruce Huff and Toyia Tucker (arrived at 9:06 a.m.). City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis, Deputy Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore and Deputy Clerk Pro Tem Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: Councilor Judy W. Thomas was absent.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) Muscogee County Sheriff's Office Park Patrol Presentation; (2) CACC/PAWS Negotiation City Presentation; (3) FY24 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) Presentation; (4) CACC/PAWS Negotiation Presentation; (5) Former GA State Farmer's Market History & Restrictions Presentation

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) CACC/PAWS Negotiation City Presentation and Proposed Agreement

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Pastor John Burnett – Hilton Terrace Baptist Church of Columbus, Georgia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson

NOTE: Councilor Tucker arrived at 9:06 a.m.

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the December 10, 2024 Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Thomas being absent from the meeting.

PRESENTATION:

2. Muscogee County Sheriff's Office Park Patrol (Presented by Sheriff Greg Countryman)

Councilor Glenn Davis shared his appreciation and admiration for the work done by the Muscogee County Sheriff's Department for their diligence in addressing crime in the community. He explained that the initiative Sheriff Countryman is going to speak about is Council driven based on several areas

of concern, such as the local parks; and members of Council asked Sheriff Countryman to design a plan to address these concerns.

Muscogee County Sheriff Greg Countryman approached the rostrum to provide a presentation on the creation and implementation of the MCSO Park Patrol, that would be comprised of 10 deputies and 2 sergeants to provide a strong presence to provide families a sense of comfort when using these amenities. He explained having an increase in concentrated patrols will aid in reducing criminal activity in the parks with the help of technology such as drones and tag readers, and equipment such as four wheelers and motorized bikes. Sheriff Countryman stated the cost to provide these valuable services are estimated at \$927,440.00 for salaries, \$69,840.00 for uniforms/equipment, and \$840,000.00 for a one-time capital outlay purchase of vehicles.

Councilor Davis made a motion to amend the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office FY2025 Budget by the amount in the presentation to implement the MCSO Park Patrol for a total cost of \$1,837,280.00, seconded by Councilor Cogle and opened for further discussion.

City Attorney Clifton Fay reminded Council of Ordinance No. 21-057, that gives the City Manager, in consultation with the Chief of Police or the Department of Public Health, the authority to change the hours of any public park or playground when warranted by public safety or public health concerns. He explained the Sheriff would need to be added to the ordinance and the budget amendment could come at mid-year, both of which can be handled in January.

Councilor Crabb made a motion to add Sheriff Countryman to Ordinance No. 21-057, seconded by Councilor Cogle and opened for further discussion.

Muscogee County Prison Warden Herbert Walker, III approached the rostrum to explain that he was present for the meetings after the incidents took place at Lakebottom Park and Shirley B. Winston, and he could not stand by and not offer any assistance. He explained his staff knows how to handle criminal situations, so they provided aid to Parks & Recreation in locking up parks and being present when other facilities were closing to ensure employees were getting to their vehicles safely.

Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis called attention to the two motions still on the floor, at which time, Councilor Davis and Councilor Crabb withdrew their motions.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

11. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Update on CACC/PAWS Negotiations - Isaiah Hugley, City Manager

City Manager Isaiah Hugley approached the rostrum to provide an update on the agreement negotiations with PAWS Humane Society, Inc./PAWS to operate and manage the Columbus Animal Care & Control Center/CACC Facility, as well as programs and services for the community. (*NOTE: This update was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item 11 "A"*) After the negotiation team members were introduced, City Manager Hugley shared the recommended budget that has been negotiated for an annual cost of \$3,292,536.00, with a one-time cost of \$100,000.00 for capital improvements to the CACC Facility. He then broke down the various elements of expenses included for personnel, animal care and operations. Lastly, the next steps were provided to include a review of PAWS Humane financials, a public meeting for community input, presentation to Council on January 7, 2025, for approval of agreement, and the transfer of all CACC operations to PAWS Humane, Inc. effective no later than February 1, 2025.

Columbus Police Chief Stoney Mathis came forward to speak on behalf of Assistant Chief Debroah Kennedy, who was part of the negotiations and shared her thoughts with him.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (24-070) - 2nd Reading-** REZN-10-24-2164: An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **988 Farr Road** parcel # 089-022-002) from General Commercial (GC) Zoning District to Single Family Residential – 4 (SFR4) Zoning District with Conditions. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Huff) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Thomas being absent from the meeting.
2. **Ordinance (24-071) - 2nd Reading-** An ordinance amending the budgets for the Fiscal Year 2024 by appropriating amounts in each fund for various operational activities. (Final amendment) (Budget Review Committee) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Thomas being absent from the meeting.
3. **Ordinance (24-072) - 2nd Reading-** An ordinance to revise and clarify certain provisions of Chapter 19 of the Columbus Code which provide for business activities not covered by this chapter; and for other purposes. (as amended on 1st Reading) (Mayor Pro-Tem) Councilor Tucker made a motion to allow Councilors Chambers and Crabb to recuse themselves, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Thomas being absent from the meeting. Councilor Garrett made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by seven members of Council, with Councilors Chambers and Crabb recusing, and Councilor Thomas being absent from the meeting.
4. **1st Reading-** An ordinance amending Section 11-17.15 of the Columbus Code, to amend certain provisions pertaining to the position of division chief within the Columbus Department of Fireman and Emergency Services; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem) (**Public Hearing Held**)
5. **1st Reading-** An ordinance amending Section 2-69 of the Columbus Code pertaining to the duties of the internal auditor, to clarify an additional duty; and for other purposes. (Councilor Tucker) (**Public Hearing Held**)

Councilor Hickey made a motion to put the Internal Auditor under the City Council, seconded by Councilor Crabb and opened for discussion.

City Attorney Clifton Fay recommended doing that as a separate ordinance; since, this would be a restructuring and a major change.

Human Resources Director Reather Hollowell came forward stating all new hires are informed of their rights and responsibilities, for example the hotline that is available. She also shared that quarterly

emails are sent out to all employees regarding the fraud and waste hotline and this information is also provided in the bi-monthly newsletter.

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen stated for the record, the system is already in place and information is provided several times a year to employees to educate them on how it works and that they would remain anonymous.

Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis reminded Council that the first meeting of 2025 is scheduled for January 7th at 9:00 a.m. and called attention to the motion on the floor from Councilor Hickey, who then withdrew his motion.

Ms. Theresa El-Amin came forward to make comments regarding the proposed ordinance on 1st Reading. She shared her thoughts and opinions on the strife faced by whistleblowers who complain on their employers and could potentially face retaliation.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY:

- Wants it stated by ordinance that all whistleblowers are protected not only by State Law, but also by CCG policy, so that all whistleblowers are aware that they are protected and only answers to the Internal Auditor. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Add hotline information to employee paystubs. *(Request of Mayor Pro Tem Allen)*

- Ensure that the whistleblower guidelines are included in the employee handbook. *(Request of Councilor Chambers)*

- Provide posters/flyers with whistleblower guidelines to be put up in conspicuous locations, such as breakrooms, etc. *(Request of Councilor Chambers)*

RESOLUTION:

6. Resolution (473-24) - A resolution authorizing the Tax Commissioner to accept checks and other methods of payment. (Request of Tax Commissioner Elect) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Thomas being absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Rev. Johnny Flakes, III, Re: Questions regarding the Internal City Auditor.
2. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Upcoming lobby days in Georgia Legislature on Ending Mass Incarceration and the Death Penalty and on Housing Justice in February 2025. Asking support from Council in January 2025.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

5. TSPLOST Project Budgets, TIA 2

Resolution (474-24) - A resolution to proceed with project development if preliminary estimates exceed the project budget by either electing to locally fund possible overruns or make selective adjustments to the scope of the project to remain within the allocated TIA 2 budgeted funds. Councilor Davis made a motion to amend the resolution by adding “any such adjustments will be approved by Council”, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Thomas being absent from the meeting. Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution as amended, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Thomas being absent from the meeting. *(Councilor Garrett requested his vote be cast in the affirmative upon returning to his respective seat.)*

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge approached the rostrum to clarify that this resolution is being presented for approval at the request of the TIA/GDOT Office. She went on to explain the purpose of the resolution is to state that there is a TSPLOST budget for each project listed, and if the cost of that project exceeds that budget, then it is the responsibility of the local municipality to cover the difference. She stated that approval of this resolution would allow them to proceed with the conceptional design work being done with the consultants, but they would have to come back to Council for approval if the actual construction costs exceed that of the TSPLOST budget.

1. Infantry Drive Supplemental Agreement No. 1 and Construction Agreement

Resolution (475-24) - A resolution to enter into a supplemental agreement and a construction agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to receive additional funding for the preliminary engineering and construction phases of the Infantry Road and Follow Me Trail Extension Project. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Thomas being absent from the meeting. *(Councilor Garrett requested his vote be cast in the affirmative upon returning to his respective seat.)*

2. Acquisition of GDOT Property - 6th Street and 6th Avenue

Resolution (476-24) - A resolution to submit an application to acquire excess property from the Georgia Department of Transportation located at 6th Street and 6th Avenue. 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 Thomas being absent from the meeting. *(Councilor Garrett requested his vote be cast in the affirmative upon returning to his respective seat.)*

3. Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Services for Outdoor Lighting Systems

Resolution (477-24) - A resolution to execute a lighting service agreement with Georgia Power for the maintenance of the Bradley Park Drive DDI Outdoor Lighting System. 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 Thomas being absent from the meeting. *(Councilor Garrett requested his vote be cast in the affirmative upon returning to his respective seat.)*

4. Bulldog Bait and Tackle – Lease Amendment and Extension

Resolution (478-24) - A resolution to execute a lease amendment and extension through December 31, 2029, with Bulldog Bait and Tackle for the purpose of leasing space at 1300 Victory Drive. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Thomas being absent from the meeting.

In response to a question from Councilor Hickey, **City Manager Isaiah Hugley** stated the lease term that authorizes the City to terminate the lease at anytime with a 60-day written notice is standard language that is included in all leases for City owned facilities.

7. 2024-2025 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant – District Attorney

Resolution (479-24) - A resolution to submit an application, on behalf of the District Attorney and, if approved, to accept a VOCA Grant of \$144,246 or as otherwise awarded from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council of Georgia along with \$132,077 from the 5% Crime Victim Assistance Surcharge Fund allocated in the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, and, amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by like amount. 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 Thomas being absent from the meeting.

8. FY25 - FY26 – Solicitor General Crime Victim Assistance Grant

Resolution (480-24) - A resolution to accept a VOCA Grant Award of \$57,483 or as otherwise awarded to operate the Solicitor General’s Victim Witness Assistance Program from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025 with no local match required, and amend the Multi-Governmental Fund 0216 by the amount awarded. 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 Thomas being absent from the meeting.

9. Georgia Trauma Commission – Georgia Trauma Care Network Grant

Resolution (481-24) - A resolution to accept a grant of \$10,679.90, or as otherwise awarded, from the Georgia Trauma Commission – Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission Grant, with no local match requirement and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount award. Funds will be utilized for the purchase of trauma equipment to aid the citizens of Columbus and surrounding counties. 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 Thomas being absent from the meeting.

NOTE: Councilor Davis left the Council Chambers and was present via teleconference at 11:51 a.m.

6. Allowance of the Insolvent List

Resolution (482-24) - A resolution authorizing the allowance of the insolvent lists of Tax FiFas by the Tax Commissioner. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Thomas being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council Davis indicated to Mayor Henderson the affirmative vote of Councilor Davis)*

Tax Commissioner Lula Huff approached the rostrum to explain that Tax Commissioner's Office is responsible and has fiduciary responsibility to safeguard the assets of the City of Columbus, as it pertains to real and personal property. She stated the way personal property is disposed of or removed from the digest is to have an insolvent list, which is made up of personal property such as inventory of businesses or homeowners' personal property with the taxing value starting over \$7,500. She explained once all efforts to locate the personal property have been exhausted; it remains on the records and needs to be accounted for; then, an insolvent list is made to allow the Tax Assessor's Office to remove this property from the digest once approved by Council.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley acknowledged that this would be the Tax Commissioner's last Council Meeting with her officially retiring on December 31, 2024.

10. PURCHASES

A. First-In Alerting System for Fire & EMS – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (483-24) - A resolution authorizing the purchase of the First-in-Alerting Smart Station System from Westnet, LLC (Hunting Beach, CA) in the amount of \$109,408.50. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Sourcewell Contract #042021-WNT. 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 Thomas being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council Davis indicated to Mayor Henderson the affirmative vote of Councilor Davis.)*

B. Repair of Caterpillar D7E Bulldozer for Public Works

Resolution (484-24) - A resolution authorizing payment to Yancey Brothers (Fortson, GA), in the amount of \$192,067.97, for the repair of a Caterpillar D7E Bulldozer, Vehicle #11467. 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 Thomas being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council Davis indicated to Mayor Henderson the affirmative vote of Councilor Davis.)*

C. Repair of Caterpillar 330F Excavator for Public Works

Resolution (485-24) - A resolution authorizing payment to Yancey Brothers (Fortson, GA), in the amount of \$109,856.94, for the repair of a Caterpillar 330F Excavator, Vehicle #11622. 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 Thomas being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council Davis indicated to Mayor Henderson the affirmative vote of Councilor Davis.)*

D. Contract Extension for Alcohol Management Services for Columbus Civic Center Locations (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 18-0020

Resolution (486-24) - A resolution authorizing extension of the annual contract with Ovation Food Services, LP d/b/a OVG Hospitality (Philadelphia, PA), through March 31, 2025, to provide alcohol management services for Columbus Civic Center Locations. 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 Thomas being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council Davis indicated to Mayor Henderson the affirmative vote of Councilor Davis.)*

E. Contract Extension for Recycling Services for Public Works – Resolution No. 457-23

Resolution (487-24) - A resolution authorizing extension of the agreement with AmWaste of Georgia, LLC (West Point, GA) to provide recycling services for the Public Works Department for a period of three (3) months, beginning January 8, 2025, through April 8, 2025. 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 Thomas being absent from the meeting. (*Clerk of Council Davis indicated to Mayor Henderson the affirmative vote of Councilor Davis.*)

11. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Update on CACC/PAWS Negotiations - Isaiah Hugley, City Manager

(NOTE: This update, as provided by City Manager Isaiah Hugley, was called upon earlier in the meeting during the Mayor's Agenda.)

B. Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) Update - Rob Scott, Director, Community Reinvestment

Community Reinvestment Director Rob Scott approached the rostrum to provide an update on the department's Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). He shared information on the various programs and resources the Community Reinvestment Department has been a part of or implemented in the community.

C. Recycling Center Update - Drale Short, Director, Public Works

(NOTE: This update was delayed by City Manager Isaiah Hugley to be presented with a presentation on Integrated Waste planned for January 2025.)

D. Farmers Market Update - Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager, Finance, Planning & Development

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge approached the rostrum to provide a presentation on the history of the former Georgia State Farmer's Market and the use restrictions on the property. She explained the City of Columbus acquired the property in 2018 with the approval of Resolution No. 458-18, which was initiated by a letter from the Riverdale-Porterdale Cemetery Foundation, Inc. She went on to explain other funding that came from CDBG funds for costs associated with closing, remediation, and demolition of existing structures; and included the deed restrictions stating that if the property does not remain for public use, then it shall revert back to the State of Georgia. Deputy City Manager Hodge shared some of the questions her and staff have regarding the property being used for the Columbus Futbol Club, Inc.

Councilor Joanne Cogle made statements regarding her request for a resolution to enter into a lease agreement with Columbus Futbol Club, Inc. regarding this property. She stated the Woodruff Farm Soccer is steadily gaining popularity with a waiting list for kids, the fields need a break, and there is nothing available for soccer in the Uptown Area.

City Attorney Clifton Fay stated the restrictions shared by Deputy City Manager Hodge regarding the deed restrictions and CDBG funds being utilized are correct. He recommended asking the Columbus Futbol Club, Inc. what public programs or usage of the fields would be available if the City were to enter into a lease agreement with the organization.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Have a conversation with the Columbus Futbol Club, Inc. to gain clarification on the questions and bring back to Council for further discussion at the January 7, 2025 Council Meeting. (*Request of Councilor Cogle*)

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: December 10, 2024

SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFQs

December 18, 2024

1. Muscogee County Jail Roof Project – RFB No. 25-0006

Scope of Bid

Provide all labor, equipment, and materials to remove the existing roof system at the Muscogee County Jail and install a new TPO roof system as specified, in full compliance with the project manual.

A mandatory Site Visit is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Friday, November 22, 2024. Vendors shall convene at the Muscogee County Jail, which is located at 700 E 10th St, Columbus, GA 31901.

December 20, 2024

1. Stage Curtains for Columbus Civic Center – RFB No. 25-0008

Scope of Bid

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia (the City) is requesting bids for a total of twenty-three (23) stage curtains, consisting of fourteen (14) side curtains and nine (9) middle stage curtains for the Columbus Civic Center arena. The curtains will be used as backdrops, to keep out sunlight, and to block backstage activity during shows. ***The curtains must meet or exceed specifications for DD 9919 Nirvana B.O.B.***

2. Single Stream Recycling Materials Processing (Re-Bid) (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 25-0013

Scope of RFP

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia (the City) invites qualified and interested parties to receive recycling materials delivered by Public Works collection vehicles and serve as a processor, as well as an end market, for recycling materials. This contract is needed while the City prepares its facility to receive recycling materials, which may take approximately 2 years.

Please Note: The receiving of this material must be on the property of the proposer. The City's current facility, 8001 Pinegrove Way, will not be available for this purpose. The Public Works Department will be working with a consultant to purchase and install recycling equipment for the City's recycling facility in preparation for future processing.

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - INFORMATION ONLY

1. Recommendations submitted by Clerk of Council Sandra Davis for the restructuring and composition of certain city boards, commissions, committees and authorities.

Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis stated if the Council does not have any objections to the recommendations submitted, she plans on bringing the restructuring and composition for the Recreation Advisory Board mission and membership. She explained the changes to the membership would add a representative of the Columbus Aquatics Center and dissolve the Columbus Aquatics Commission.

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

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

Board of Tax Assessors, #40-24

Columbus Golf Course Authority, October 22, 2024

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Thomas being absent from the meeting. (*Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Davis.*)

3. **RESOLUTION (488-24)** - A resolution excusing Councilor Judy Thomas from the December 17, 2024 Council Meeting. (**Add-On**) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Thomas being absent from the meeting. (*Councilor Davis' vote was cast in the affirmative.*)

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

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

A. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Alex Griggs (*Rotating off the board*) for a term expiring on January 31, 2025, as an Architect Representative on the Historic & Architectural Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED FROM AN ORGANIZATION / AGENCY:

A nominee for the seat of Toney Johnson (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on January 31, 2025, as the Historic District Preservation Society Representative on the Historic & Architectural Review Board (*Nomination from the Historic District Preservation Society – Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Tyler J. Pritchard (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on January 31, 2025, as the Historic Columbus Foundation Representative on the Historic & Architectural Review Board (*Nomination from the Historic Columbus Foundation – Council’s Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Jonathan K. Pelletier (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on January 31, 2025, as the Columbus Homebuilders Association Representative on the Historic & Architectural Review Board (*Nomination from the Columbus Homebuilders Association – Council’s Appointment*). There were none.

Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis explained she is in the process of contacting the various organizations for a nominee.

B. PERSONNEL REVIEW BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Dennis Walsh (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2024, as Alternate Member 1 on the Personnel Review Board (*Council’s Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Willie L. Belfield, Jr. (*Appointed to Regular Member seat*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2024, as Alternate Member 2 on the Personnel Review Board (*Council’s Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Donna D. Baker (*Appointed to Regular Member seat*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2024, as Alternate Member 3 on the Personnel Review Board (*Council’s Appointment*). There were none.

C. VALLEY PARTNERSHIP JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:

A nominee for the seat of Monte Galbraith (*Resigned*) for a term expiring on June 30, 2026, on the Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority (*Council’s Appointment*). There were none.

COUNCIL HEARINGS:

1. Request for Refund of Penalty and/or Interest submitted by Mr. Chandra Chikkakalbalu – Owner of AARC HOLDINGS LLC on (5) Real Property Parcels.

Mr. Chandra Chikkakalbalu approached the rostrum to request a refund of penalty and/or interest for property taxes of five rental properties. He explained the struggle to collect rent from tenants facing financial hardships after receiving rental assistance from the State of Georgia in 2021 and 2022 due to COVID-19; and for this reason, he was unable to meet the deadline for the 2023 property taxes.

Tax Commissioner Lula Huff approached the rostrum to summarize the request submitted by Mr. Chikkakalbalu. She stated the request listed inflation, high interest rates, tenants’ inability to make rent payments, tenant evictions, and required renovations as the reasons for the property tax payments not being paid in a timely manner. She stated Mr. Chikkakalbalu has paid all the taxes due and upon her investigation, there was no gross or willful neglect in paying the property taxes due in accordance with the law.

NOTE: Councilor Davis exited the meeting via teleconference at 12:40 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the refund of penalties and interest in the amount of \$2,185.26, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote, and Councilor Thomas being absent from the meeting.

2. Request for Refund of Penalty and/or Interest submitted by Mr. Philip Losonsky on (1) Real Property Parcel.

Mr. Philip Losonsky approached the rostrum to request a refund of penalty and/or interest for property taxes for the years 2021 and 2022. He explained during that period he suffered the loss of his father, wife and brother and it was never his intention to neglect to pay his property taxes.

Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the refund of penalties and interest in the amount of \$684.06 for 2021 and \$1,435.68 for 2022, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote, and Councilor Thomas being absent from the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss matters of property acquisition and disposal as requested by City Attorney Fay earlier in the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote, Councilor Thomas being absent from the meeting, and the time being 12:49 p.m.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 1:23 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in executive session to discuss matters of property acquisition and disposal; however, there were no votes taken.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Garrett to adjourn the December 17, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Davis and Tucker being absent for the vote, Councilor Thomas being absent from the meeting, and the time being 1:24 p.m.

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