

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

November 30, 2021
9:00 AM
Consent Agenda/Work Session

C O N S E N T A G E N D A / W O R K S E S S I O N

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III, and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, John M. House, Toyia Tucker, and Evelyn "Mimi" Woodson (arrived at 9:02 a.m.). City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis, and Deputy Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore were present.

ABSENT: Councilors Bruce Huff and Judy W. Thomas were absent.

<p><u>The following documents were distributed to the members of Council:</u> (1) Demand Response Service to the Robert S. Poydasheff Veterans Affairs Clinic Presentation; (2) Waste Collection Update Presentation; (3) Comprehensive Camera Project Update Presentation; (4) Evictions Update Presentation; (5) American Rescue Plan Update Presentation.</p>

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Reverend Jeffery B. Cooper II at Allen Temple AME Church of Columbus, Georgia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the November 16, 2021, Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

UPDATE:

2. An update on COVID-19

Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson gave a brief update on the impact of COVID-19 on the community. He explained the increase in positive cases after the Thanksgiving Holiday has been minimal, but the numbers will continue to be monitored as the holiday season continues and with the discovery of a new strain of COVID. He encouraged unvaccinated citizens to discuss the vaccine with their primary care physicians.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION

1. **Resolution (432-21):** A resolution authorizing the Mayor of Columbus, Georgia, a consolidated city-county government, to execute the Participation Agreement for Subdivision Settlement with McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health, Inc., and AmerisourceBergen Corporation (“Settling Distributors”) and Johnson & Johnson, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., OrthoMcNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Janssen Pharmaceutica, Inc. (“Janssen”) pursuant to the Georgia Memorandum of Understanding regarding the pursuit and use of potential opioid litigation settlement funds and consistent with the material terms of the July 21, 2021 proposed National Opioid Settlement Agreements available at <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/>. (Mayor Pro-Tem) Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

WORK SESSION AGENDA

- I. Transportation Service to VA Clinic - Rosa Evans, METRA Director

City Manager Isaiah Hugley announced that the new VA (Veterans Affairs) Clinic will be named in honor of the late Former Mayor Robert S. Poydasheff. The new facility is scheduled to open in March of 2022 and would provide medical services to veterans.

METRA Director Rosa Evans then approached the rostrum to provide a presentation on the demand response services that will be made available for transportation to the new Robert S. Poydasheff Veterans Affairs Clinic that is anticipated to be opening in the Spring or Summer of 2022. She stated the hourly service will be from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, which overlaps with the VA Clinic’s hours of operation.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Give a presentation when it comes closer to the opening of the VA Clinic, providing information on the various transportation options that will be available by CCG, Fort Benning, and the other organizations. *(Request of Councilor Woodson)*
- Provide information and links for the transportation options available for patients of the VA Clinic. *(Request of Councilor Woodson)*
- Look at cutting back the right-of-way on Mobley Road to help with the visibility for drivers. *(Request of Councilor Davis)*
- Make sure the plants and hedges are planted between the VA Clinic and the neighborhood on the backside of the property. *(Request of Councilor Davis)*
- Due to the growth of the area, move forward with the traffic improvement projects planned for Whitesville Road to help manage the traffic and safety on the roadway. *(Request of Councilor Davis)*

II. Yard Waste Collection Update - Lisa Goodwin, Deputy City Manager

Interim Public Works Director Drale Short came forward to provide an update on the delay in yard waste collection. She provided the priority order for waste collection pick up, with the order being household garbage, recycling, yard waste, am waste, and bulk waste. She explained there are one to ten open routes daily due to staffing shortages, yard waste currently has two part time employees and one supervisor running the four routes, and bulk waste drivers are substituted for household and recycling vacancies. She also provided information on the future use of automated waste pick up, stating the distribution of carts will be February 2022.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Provide an update on the status of waste pick up within a few months to reassure Council the schedule is caught up before Spring. (*Request of Councilor Crabb*)
- Look at providing bulk waste pickup for a fee like the Tree for Fee Program. (*Request of Councilor Crabb*)

III. Comprehensive Camera Update - Lisa Goodwin, Deputy City Manager

Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin approached the rostrum to introduce the comprehensive camera update. She provided the timeline of the project, stating the resolution will be listed for approval on the agenda for the December 7, 2021, Council Meeting.

Vice President Jake Hagler (Adapt to Solve) stated there was a survey conducted on seventy-five Columbus Consolidated facilities and locations to assess the camera needs. He explained the system that will be provided is not only a camera system, but also an artificial intelligence system that will allow law enforcement to search for vehicles and persons of interest.

Southeast Director Shelly Stone (Verkada) provided a visual of the cloud that will be accessible in the camera system provided by Verkada. She explained and demonstrated the camera's capability to narrow down specific characteristics of images captured by the camera system, which will help law enforcement during investigations.

Solutions Engineer Nate Whitfield (Verkada) explained that all of the cameras that will be installed have night vision capabilities. He showed multiple examples of the clarity of the images captured by the camera system.

IV. Eviction Update - Lisa Goodwin, Deputy City Manager

Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin came forward to give an update on the eviction process. She explained there were meetings held with landlords and other interested parties regarding the process. She stated during these meetings, it was determined that most landlords wanted thirty days to come up with a solution that will be acceptable to the city in lieu of the preferred option to dispose of bulk waste leftover from an eviction. She explained the preferred option is for the city to pay a bulk waste vendor \$500 to clean up after the 25th hour and will invoice landlords for payment to be paid within 10 days of receipt of invoice. She stated if the invoice is not paid, the landlord will be subject to enforcement action for violation of city ordinance and be subject to a lien placed on the property.

V. ARP and SPLOST Update - Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge approached the rostrum to provide an update on funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). She explained the various uses of the ARP funds that have been received and plans going forward. She stated the SPLOST Election was certified on November 8, 2021, and sales tax collections will begin on April 1, 2022. She explained \$400 million will be allocated for various projects and \$200 million in general obligations bonds to be issued for the new Judicial Center.

VI. Comprehensive Pay Plan Study Update - Reather Hollowell, Human Resources Director

Human Resources Director Reather Hollowell came forward to provide a brief update on the comprehensive pay plan study. She explained the RFP for consultants was put out in September, and they are hoping to present a recommendation at the January 11, 2022 Council Meeting.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Look at offering language differential pay to public safety and general government employees.
(*Request of Councilor Woodson*)

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to adjourn the November 30, 2021 Consent Agenda/Work Session, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the eight members present with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent for the meeting, and the time being 11:38 a.m.

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