

COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING **MINUTES**

Columbus Civic Center
400 4th Street, Arena Floor
Columbus, Georgia 31901

September 22, 2020
5:30 PM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors R. Walker Garrett, John M. House, Bruce Huff, Toyia Tucker and Evelyn "Mimi" Woodson. 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 Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis and Judy W. Thomas were absent.

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) U.S. Census- Road to Recovery Presentation; (2) CARES Act Presentation; (3) Payroll Tax Deferral Presentation; (4) Boyz 2 Men Development, Inc. Program Information.

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Pastor Sharon at New Covenant Church of Columbus, Georgia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the September 8, 2020 Council Meeting and Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

UPDATES:

2. An update on COVID-19

Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson gave an update on COVID-19, stating the City of Columbus is experiencing a decrease in the number of positive cases of COVID-19. He stated the hospitalization rate has stayed at a plateau of forty to fifty cases.

UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

B. CARES Act Update - Angelica Alexander, Finance Director.

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum to give an update on the CARES Act Funding. She explained the \$24 million for Phase II and Phase III will be utilized for expenses incurred by CCG (Columbus Consolidated Government) during the pandemic and for the Community COVID-19 Grants. She also stated the CCG allocations and the other CARES Act allocations within the community total \$108.7 million. (*NOTE: This update was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item 7 "B"*)

3. Census 2020

Census Partnership Specialist Gloria Strode approached the rostrum to give an update on the 2020 Census and where Muscogee County stands regarding participation, which is currently at 58.8%. She explained the importance for every household to complete their Census and the funding that could or could not be allocated to Columbus as a result. She also thanked Mayor Henderson and City Manager Hugley for coming out and knocking on the doors of citizens, encouraging them to complete their Census.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley asked for the churches in the City of Columbus to encourage their members to complete their 2020 Census.

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION MEDIATION COMMITTEE:

Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson explained the Mediation Committee for the Public Safety Advisory Commission met early in the day. He explained the next meeting will be on October 6, 2020, at 11:00 a.m., and it is open to the public.

REQUESTS FOR AUTHORIZATION:

4. Request Authorization for Departmental Audit of the District Attorney's Office- John Redmond, Internal Auditor & Compliance Officer

Internal Auditor John Redmond came forward to request a Departmental Audit of the District Attorney's Office. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the audit, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

5. Request Authorization for Departmental Audit of the Columbus Golf Authority- John Redmond, Internal Auditor & Compliance Officer

Internal Auditor John Redmond came forward to request a Departmental Audit of the Columbus Golf Authority. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the audit, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES:

- 1. 2nd Reading - REZN-05-20-1775:** An ordinance rezoning 0.13 acres located at 2900 11th Avenue (parcel id # 015-010-006). The current zoning is SFR4 (Single Family Residential 4). The proposed zoning is RMF1 (Residential Multifamily 1). The proposed use is Triplex. The Planning Advisory Commission recommends denial based on the Staff Report and previous rezoning of the property; and the Planning Department recommends denial based on previous rezoning completed in in 2017 at the request of Waverly Terrace Historic District residents to move towards Single Family Residential Housing. The applicant is Matthew Hagerty. (Councilor Woodson). Councilor Woodson made a motion to deny the rezoning, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.
- 2. 1st Reading - REZN-07-20-2197:** An ordinance rezoning 0.66 acres located at 7290D Blackmon Road (parcel id # 101-030-007). The current zoning is GC (General Commercial). The proposed zoning is RE1 (Residential Estate 1). The proposed use is Detention Pond. The Planning Advisory Commission and the Planning Department recommend approval. The applicant is Ben Billings. (Councilor Allen)

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen explained he has spoken to the applicant and has not received any calls from citizens in the area in opposition to the proposed rezoning.

Applicant Ben Billings approached the rostrum explaining the two properties have to be zoned the same in order for the detention pond to combine.

RESOLUTIONS:

- 3. Resolution (282-20) -** A Resolution expressing appreciation to the Domestic Violence Roundtable participants and applauding their efforts to combat the cycle of domestic violence in Columbus, Georgia and around the globe. (Councilor Huff). Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

Councilor Bruce Huff read the resolution expressing appreciation to the Domestic Violence Roundtable.

Ms. Annie Davis approached the rostrum to accept the resolution and asked each member of the Domestic Violence Roundtable to introduce themselves and tell what organization they represent.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Provide information for the various Domestic Violence Awareness Events that will be going on in the community for the month of October. (*Request of Councilor Huff*)

JUDGE DOUGLAS PULLEN:

City Attorney Clifton Fay announced the passing of Judge Douglas Pullen and expressed his condolences to his family.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Ms. Teresa L. Jones, Re: The reckless discharge of firearms.

Command Sergeant Grant- Columbus Police Department, came forward to share some of the steps he would be taking to have the patrol squads to be more vigilant in those areas.

2. Mr. Chris Breault, Re: Comment and discussion for furthering community agenda and improvement. *Not Present*
3. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Adding women to boards and commissions. *Not Present*
4. Ms. Shawna N. Love, representing Boyz 2 Men Development, Inc., Re: A program to benefit the youth.
5. Mr. Lever Baker, Re: The enforcement of the noise ordinance.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Interpretation Panels for Martin Luther King, Jr. Outdoor Learning Trail

Resolution (283-20): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, approving the verbiage, appearance, and location of eleven historical panels along the Martin Luther King, Jr. Outdoor Learning Trail. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

Approval is requested for the verbiage, appearance, and location of the proposed eleven panels depicting the history of African Americans to be installed along the Martin Luther King, Jr. Outdoor Learning Trail as submitted by the Omega Lambda Iota Social Action and Scholarship Foundation (OLISASF).

2. Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with GDOT for the Acquisition of Certain Property for Right of Way Purposes

Resolution (284-20): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for the acquisition of certain property for right-of-way purposes. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has requested that the city enter into an agreement to handle the negotiations with Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church for the necessary right of way needed for the I-185/Cusseta/Old Cusseta Road project. This project is funded entirely under the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) of 2012.

3. Retired Volunteer Service Program

Resolution (285-20): A resolution authorizing the City to submit an application for, and if awarded, accept a grant in the amount of approximately \$47,500, or otherwise awarded, from the Corporation for National and Community Service; with a local match requirement of approximately \$10,000.00 of in-kind services which are salaries and wages 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 House and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

Approval is requested to submit an application and if approved, accept funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service to run the RSVP program in our area and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount of the grant awarded. The grant amount will be determined by the (CNCS) with a match amount from the City of Columbus up to \$10,000.00, of which the funds are in-kind services in the form of salary and wages. The grant amount requested is approximately \$47,500 or otherwise awarded, to be used to implement the program.

4. Public Art MOU – Advocacy thru Art

Approval is requested for the approval of an agreement between Columbus Consolidated Government and Columbus State University for an Advocacy thru Arts Mural Project at 18th Street and 5th Avenue.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley stated he was delaying this item.

5. Golden Park Lease Agreement

Resolution (286-20): A resolution authorizing the City to accept the lease agreement between the City and Golden Park Restoration, Inc. (GPR) for the use of Golden Park Baseball Complex. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

Approval is requested to accept a lease agreement between the City and Golden Park Restoration Inc. (GPR) for the use of Golden Park Baseball Complex. The Lessee shall commit to upgrade/repair and invest in Golden Park at least One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000).

President/General Manager Scott Brand (Columbus River Dragons Hockey) approached the rostrum to comment on the resolution and expressed appreciation to the Council on their approval.

Mr. Jeff Croop, Team Owner of the Columbus River Dragons, also came forward to express his appreciation.

6. PURCHASES

A. Switched Ethernet Service

Resolution (287-20): A resolution authorizing the agreement with AT&T, for switched Ethernet Service, to cover radio towers, certain fire stations and other locations such as Pine Grove Landfill, the Sheriff's Training Facility, Muscogee County Prison, and the Recycling Center at a monthly cost of approximately \$13,000.00 for sixty (60) months. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

B. Bus Route Signs & Poles (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 21-0001

Resolution (288-20): A resolution authorizing an annual contract with Lightle Enterprises of Ohio, LLC (Frankfort, OH) for bus route signs and poles for the estimated contract value of \$12,420.00 for Year 1; \$12,630.00 for Year 2; and \$12,999.00 for Year 3. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

C. Electronic Validating Fareboxes for METRA

Resolution (289-20): A resolution authorizing the purchase of five (5) Odyssey Electronic Validating Fareboxes from Genfare – A Division of SPX Corporation (Elk Grove Village, IL), in the amount of \$77,115.00 (\$15,367.00 each, plus \$280.00 freight). Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

7. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Payroll Tax Deferral Update - Angelica Alexander, Finance Director.

Finance Director Angelica Alexander came forward to give an update on the Payroll Tax Referral Program being offered by the Federal Government. She explained the deferred taxes must be paid back between January 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021. She also explained employers are not required to participate; therefore, she does not suggest CCG participates in the program due to the financial risks associated to CCG and the employees.

B. CARES Act Update - Angelica Alexander, Finance Director.

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

CENSUS WELLNESS EVENT:

Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin approached the rostrum to give information on the Census Wellness Event that will be held at the Civic Center on Saturday, September 26, 2020, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She explained there will be free flu shots and free COVID-19 Testing.

Civic Center Director Rob Landers came forward to explain the various stations that would be spread across the Civic Center parking lots.

BID ADVERTISEMENT

September 23, 2020

1. **Pest Control Services (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 21-0005**

Scope of Bid

Provide pest control services for one-hundred and one (101) City owned buildings. Contract requirements include the control of pests including mites, ticks, spiders, rodent, roaches, ants, reptiles, bats, fleas, etc.

The term of the contract shall be for two (2) years with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods. Contract renewal will be contingent upon the mutual agreement of the City and the Contractor.

September 30, 2020

1. **Additional Transit Enhancements (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 21-0002**

Scope of Bid

Provide additional transit enhancement items to METRA Transit System on an as-needed basis. The items include 32-gallon trash receptacles and jumbo horizontal message centers.

The contract term shall be for three (3) years.

October 30, 2020

1. **Redevelopment Opportunity for Farmers Market – RFP No. 21-0005**

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government is seeking proposals from experienced, creative architects, building and real estate development firms OR a philanthropic individual or nonprofit group to present a redevelopment plan for adaptive reuse of the Former Georgia State Farmers Market. The redevelopment plan shall be consistent with applicable deed restrictions.

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. **RESOLUTION (290-20):** A resolution excusing Councilor Bruce Huff from the September 8, 2020 Council Meeting. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.
2. **RESOLUTION (291-20):** A resolution excusing Councilor Charmaine Crabb from the September 22, 2020 Council Meeting. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.
3. **RESOLUTION (292-20):** A resolution excusing Councilor Judy Thomas from the September 22, 2020 Council Meeting. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

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

Board of Family & Children Services, April 26, May 10 & August 16, 2018

Board of Family & Children Services, January 17, March 21 and April 17, 2019

Board of Tax Assessors, #31-20

Board of Zoning Appeals, August 5, 2020

Commission on International Relations & Cultural Liaison Encounters, August 18, 2020

Columbus Ironworks Convention & Trade Center Authority, June 25 and July 23, 2020

Development Authority, August 6, 2020

Personnel Review Board, September 16, 2020

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

2. **MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:**

A. PENSION FUND, EMPLOYEES' BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

A nominee for the seat of Liliana McDaniel (*Does not desire reappointment*) on the Pension Fund, Employees' Board of Trustees as a Business Community Representative for a term that expired on June 30, 2020 (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

3. **COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- READY FOR CONFIRMATION:**

A. ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD: Ms. Julee Fryer was nominated to succeed Ms. Carol Bassett. (*Councilor House's nominee*) New Term expires: October 15, 2022. Councilor Woodson made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

4. **COUNCIL DISTRICT SEAT APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:**

A. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Dothel Edwards, Jr. (*Not eligible to succeed*) on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*District 2- Davis*) for a term that expires on October 31, 2020. There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Geraldine Buckner (*Not eligible to succeed*) on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*District 4- Tucker*) for a term that expires on October 31, 2020. There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Bill Ward (*Eligible to succeed*) on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*District 6- Allen*) for a term that expires on October 31, 2020. Mayor Pro Tem Allen nominated Retired Major Stanley Swiney to succeed Bill Ward on the Public Safety Advisory Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

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

A. **ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:**

A nominee for the seat of Carla Anthony (*Not eligible to succeed*) on the Animal Control Advisory Board for a term that expires on October 15, 2020. Councilor House nominated Channon Emery to succeed Carla Anthony on the Animal Control Advisory Board.

KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION:

Councilor Huff nominated Tracy Walton-King for one of the expired at-large seats on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to adjourn the September 22, 2020 Regular Meeting, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Barnes, Crabb, Davis and Thomas being absent for the meeting, and the time being 7:40 p.m.

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