

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

April 8, 2025
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting

M A Y O R ’ S A G E N D A

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors John Anker, Travis L. Chambers, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, R. Walker Garrett, Byron Hickey and Toyia Tucker. City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore and Deputy Clerk of Council Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: Councilors Glenn Davis and Bruce Huff were absent.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) Community Development Block Grant Presentation; (2) Synovus Park Presentation; (3) Community Care Program Final Presentation; (4) Health & Wellness Impact: Plan Year 2024

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) Agenda Report – Proposals for South Commons Redevelopment

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Pastor Jimmy Elder – First Baptist Church of Columbus, Georgia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Skip Henderson

SEVERE WEATHER WARNING UPDATE:

Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson addressed the recent storm that affected the Midland area over the past weekend. He mentioned the significant damage to homes and property, including widespread tree damage. He announced a temporary moratorium to assist residents dealing with fallen trees and debris and expressed his sorrow over the tragic loss of two lives. He emphasized the importance of taking weather warnings seriously.

Director of Homeland Security & Emergency Management Chance D. Corbett approached the rostrum referring to the storm and the unfortunate impact that it had on the area where it touched down. He explained that the tornado warning was issued abruptly, as the storm was not initially tracking as a tornado until it intensified. He confirmed that the outdoor siren system functioned properly, automatically activating within the polygon warning area. This activation was verified by resident reports. Director Corbett and the National Weather Service Warning Meteorologist conducted a field survey and confirmed that the area experienced an EF1 tornado, with wind speeds reaching 90 mph and a path of 2.6 miles on the ground. He commended the efforts of first responders and the Public Works department for their effective response.

He also addressed a separate, inadvertent siren activation that occurred earlier, attributing it to an unfamiliar key being pushed during a routine report update. He confirmed that the issue was immediately corrected and that procedures will be reviewed to prevent future errors. He reminded the

public that the sirens are intended for outdoor alerts and encouraged the use of multiple sources to stay informed when there are watches and warnings.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley extended his condolences to the families affected by the storm-related fatalities. He assured the community that staff are actively assessing the area and will coordinate with Homeland Security to determine the duration of the moratorium. Due to restrictions on accessing private property, he noted that specific instructions will be provided to residents regarding the proper method for tree and debris removal.

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for March 25, 2025, Council Meeting and Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS:

2. **Proclamation:** Merri Sherman Day

Receiving: Merri Sherman, Executive Director of Columbus Sports Council

Councilor Joanne Cogle read the proclamation into the record proclaiming Tuesday, April 8, 2025, as *Merri Sherman Day*, recognizing Merri Sherman for the positive impact she has had on sports tourism in the community as well as her hard work and dedication to the Columbus Sports Council.

3. **Proclamation:** Arts & Culture Month

Receiving: Carrie Beth, Founder of TheColumbusite

Councilor Travis L. Chambers read the proclamation into the record proclaiming April 2025, as *Arts & Culture Month*, celebrating the important contribution that arts and culture has made to increase the quality of life in Columbus, Georgia. Also, honoring and giving thanks to the many artists and creative industry professionals.

4. **Proclamation:** National Community Development Week

Receiving: Rob Scott, Director of Community Reinvestment

Councilor Tovia Tucker read the proclamation into the record proclaiming April 21-25, 2025, as *National Community Development Week*, recognizing the Community Reinvestment Department's efforts in addressing the needs of low- to moderate-income households and enhancing the overall quality of life in the community.

Community Investment Director Rob Scott approached the rostrum inviting others to join in the National Community Development Week Kickoff of 2025. He provided background on the establishment of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and its ongoing mission to support communities through housing, infrastructure, and economic development. He also spoke on the origins and purpose of National Community Development Week, highlighting its role in raising awareness and support for both the CDBG and HOME programs.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

2. FY26 HUD Annual Action Plan Submission

Resolution (111-25): A resolution authorizing the filing of the Fy24 Annual Action Plan with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (Hud). Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

MAYOR'S AGENDA (continued)

5. Proclamation: Public Service Recognition Week

Receiving: Laddia King, Human Resources

(Note: The proclamation was delayed by Mayor Henderson.)

PRESENTATIONS

6. Columbus Clingstones Update – Presented by Pete Laven, General Manager

Pete Laven, Clingstones General Manager, approached the rostrum expressing his excitement for the upcoming grand opening of Synovus Park, scheduled for the following week. He touched on the recent renovations and stadium construction, noting the variety of events that will take place in the future.

Inspections & Code Director Ryan Pruett followed with a brief presentation showcasing the development of Synovus Park. He displayed a time-lapse visual featuring the stadium's transformation from past to present, noting that several original materials were preserved and incorporated into the new construction.

Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin came forward to provide details about METRA's free shuttle service for stadium opening day. The shuttle will begin running at 5:00 p.m. and will pick up at the River Center parking deck (919 Broadway) and transport passengers to the back gate of Synovus Park.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION:

A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, to request the Development Authority of Columbus, Georgia to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for the redevelopment of South Commons to potentially include a hotel, retail/office, multifamily, parking deck, workforce housing, and other uses.

Councilor Tucker made a motion to delay the resolution until the next meeting, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

Councilor Crabb made a motion to add a referendum to be put on the May 2026 ballot for the citizens to be able to vote to approve further development to South Commons including retail, restaurants, housing, motel and parking, seconded by Councilor Hickey. After discussions, Councilor Crabb withdrew her motion.

In response to concerns raised by several Councilors, **Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson** clarified that the current Request for Proposals (RFP) for South Commons is non-binding, with no financial commitments involved. The intent is to gather design ideas and explore possibilities for infrastructure improvements that would support future development.

Councilor R. Walker Garrett reminded the Council of past missed economic opportunities due to delays. He also reflected on former Councilors Barnes and Thomas stating they were integral in the development of the new baseball stadium, and they believed in the dream of economic development. He then made a motion amend the RFP to exclude any reference to TAD Funds or Tax Abatements and to include appropriate site work to be completed by the Development Authority to facilitate the RFP, seconded by Councilor Cogle.

In reference to concerns regarding Tax Allocation Districts (TADs), **Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen** clarified that TADs were established by the City Council and can be repealed by the Council at any time. He added that, in his opinion, the \$50 million allocated for the stadium was designed to be paid for by the development around the stadium.

After a lengthy discussion regarding this matter, with several Councilors expressing their thoughts and concerns, Councilor Tucker made a motion to delay the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members of Council present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

At this time Mayor Henderson called for the motion that was previously made by Councilor Garrett to amend the RFP to exclude any reference to TAD Funds or Tax Abatements and to include appropriate site work to be completed by the Development Authority to facilitate the RFP. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members of Council present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

Councilor Crabb withdrew her motion to add a referendum to be put on the May 2026 ballot for the citizens to be able to vote to approve further development to include retail, restaurants, housing, motel and parking in South Commons area.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Would like an update on the \$1.6 million that was approved for A. J. McClung and what project was decided on and how long will it take for the project to be completed. (*Request of Councilor Tucker*)
- Can we have the TAD conversation during the Work Session (*Request of Councilor Tucker*)

CITY ATTORNEY’S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (25-014) – 2nd Reading-** An ordinance providing for the demolition of various structures located at:

- 1) **2903 10th Avenue** (Vision Investment Properties LTD, Owner)
- 2) **1024 Henry Avenue** (Christina Williams & Joseph Philippe, Owner)
- 3) **2610 Jones Avenue** (Green Pryor Lewis Jr, Owner)
- 4) **3826 3rd Avenue** (BSL Investment Group LLC, Owner)
- 5) **3822 3rd Avenue** (BSL Investment Group LLC, Owner)

- 6) **831 Barklay Way** (Eloise Elaine Dale, Owner)
- 7) **2475 Walker Street** (William D. Holland, Owner)
- 8) **615 Parkchester Drive** (Gerardo Ledesma Angeles, Owner)

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

2. **Ordinance (25-015) – 2nd Reading** - An ordinance amending the Paid Maternity and Paternity Leave Policy and renaming it the Paid Parental Leave Policy to be consistent with the definitions contained in EEOC guidelines. (Councilor Chambers) (Mayor Pro-Tem) Councilor Crabb made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.
3. **Ordinance (25-016) - 2nd Reading** - An Ordinance adopting new pay rates for the Parks and Recreation Aquatic staff for the Consolidated Government and amending Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Ordinance No. 24-027; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem) (Councilor Tucker) Councilor Crabb made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.
4. **1st Reading- REZN-12-24-2551:** An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **3212 6th Avenue** (parcel # 014-031001B) from Residential Multifamily – 2 (RMF2) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily – 1 (RMF1) Zoning District with conditions. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Garrett)

(Note: Due to the absence of the applicant, this item was delayed on 1st Reading. No public comment and no questions from Council.)

5. **1st Reading- REZN-01-25-0036:** An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **4246 and 4240 3rd Avenue** (parcel # 013-001-038/039) from Light Manufacturing/Industrial (LMI) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily – 1 (RMF1) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Garrett)

(Note: Due to the absence of the applicant, this item was delayed on 1st Reading. No public comment and no questions from Council.)

6. **1st Reading- REZN-01-25-0153:** An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **3051 Reese Road** (parcel #084-013-075) from Single Family Residential – 2 (SFR2) Zoning District to Single Family Residential – 4 (SFR4) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval) (Councilor Hickey) **No public comment.**

(NOTE: The applicant was recognized as present, and the floor was declared open for public comment. No public comment and no questions from Council.)

7. **1st Reading- REZN-002-25-0166:** An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **11001 River Road** from Residential Estates – 10 (RE10) Zoning District to Residential Estates – 1 (RE1) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Davis) **No public comment.**

(NOTE: The applicant was recognized as present, and the floor was declared open for public comment. No public comment and no questions from Council.)

8. **1st Reading-** REZN-02-25-0266: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **1046 33rd Street** (parcel # 014-027-021) from Residential Multifamily – 2 (RMF2) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily – 1 (RMF1) Zoning District with conditions. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Garrett) **No public comment.**

(NOTE: The applicant was recognized as present, and the floor was declared open for public comment. No public comment and no questions from Council.)

9. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance adopting amendments to Chapter 5 of the Columbus Code pertaining to Animal Services in order to facilitate the implementation of a contract agreed to with Paws Humane Society for animal services which became effective on February 1, 2025, and to update various terms in the Chapter; and for other purposes. (Councilors Tucker and Crabb) **No public comment.**
10. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance amending Section 17B-11. of the Columbus Code pertaining to the application process to obtain demonstration or festival permits from the Columbus Police Department; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem) (Councilor Cogle)

Carolyn Chaney approached the rostrum and requested clarification of the changes that would be made to the code.

City Attorney Clifton Fay along with the current outline in the current ordinance for festival and demonstrations a provision will be added that says “applications for demonstrations and festivals held in the Central Riverfront District (CRD), or Uptown Zoning District will demonstrate compliance with the checklist of requirements adopted by the Board of Uptown Columbus as a condition for any demonstration or festival in those areas”. He advised that if there are less than 15 participants a permit is not required.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mr. Gregory Foster, representing the Chatham Woods Neighborhood Association, Re: Express Public Appreciation to Councilor Byron Hickey. **No Action Taken**
2. Mr. Joseph McNeil, Sr., representing Blinded Veterans Association, Georgia Regional Group Columbus Chapter, Re: Metra (Dial-A-Ride) Premium Service. **No Action Taken**

City Manager Hugley acknowledged the concerns regarding the transit services, and said the City is open to figuring out ways to address those concerns. He stated that Columbus operates differently than larger cities like Atlanta or Philadelphia, with services based on demand. He stated that changes can only be made if they fall within federal guidelines.

Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin approached the rostrum and recalled a 2016 study that led to the expansion of bus routes from 9 to 12 and extended service hours. However, a 2018 reassessment showed limited usage, prompting service adjustments. She noted that today’s agenda includes a comprehensive review of the Dial-A-Ride system, including a potential expansion to the Brookstone area. She clarified that federal ADA regulations govern the Dial-A-Ride system and limit the City’s flexibility in altering service boundaries.

3. Mr. Stanley Dixon, Re: Past and Present Initiatives. **No Action Taken**

4. Mr. Ricky Lynn, representing Blinded Veterans Association, Columbus Chapter, Re: Columbus Metra Dial-A-Ride Premium Service Scheduling. ***No Action Taken***

In response to Councilor Tucker's suggestions to resolve this matter, **City Manager Hugley** said he could have staff to look at making changes if possible. He reiterated that changes can only be made if they fall within federal guidelines.

Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin approached the rostrum and said she wanted to make clear that if changes were made for one group, they would have to be made for all.

5. Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: Quarterly Town Hall Meetings. ***No Action Taken***
6. Mr. Lewis Worthy, Re: Roads and Trash. ***Not Present***
7. Ms. Fran Carpenter, Re: The Original Historic District and the Trade Center Master Plan. ***No Action Taken***

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) GRANT COMMENTS:

Councilor Hickey made reference to the Charter Appendix 2 under the Code of Ethics. He asked that the City Attorney provide the Council and the public with his interpretation of the highlighted portion of Appendix 2.

In response to Councilor Hickey's request **City Attorney Clifton Fay** said "shall disclose to the Council" would normally mean they would send an email or a letter, but in this case we were asked a question "can I participate in the signing of this document?" and we said no you should not because of the conflict rule of the Charter.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- If there is a time that the City Manager came before Council and shared information regarding Carolyn Hugley receiving the American Rescue Plan (ARP) grant, let the clip be played for the public. (*Request of Councilor Hickey*)

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA (continued)

1. Landings Lane Right of Way

Resolution (112-25): A resolution to sell ten feet of right of way located at Landings Lane to the adjoining landowner at 2550 Airport Thruway as outlined by Columbus Charter 7-501 paragraph 5, and to execute all contracts, agreements and understandings related to the conveyance. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

2. FY26 HUD Annual Action Plan Submission (*NOTE: This item was called upon earlier in the meeting during the Mayor's Agenda.*)

3. Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant

Resolution (113-25): A resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for a grant to fund the Muscogee County Juvenile Court and, if awarded, accept the grant and amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount of the grant award and enter into a memorandum of agreement with Evidence-Based Associates, LLC. The grant period is from July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

4. FY26 Congressionally Directed Funding Grant - Fire & EMS

Resolution (114-25): A resolution to apply for and accept if awarded a grant for a vehicle and equipment to implement a Mobile Integrated Healthcare program within Columbus Fire and Emergency Medical Services in the amount of \$215,733.00, or as otherwise awarded, from the FY26 Congressionally Directed Spending program with no matching funds required. The Multi-Governmental Fund will be amended by the amount of the award. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

5. Firehouse Subs Grant

Resolution (115-25): A resolution to apply for and accept if awarded a grant for a medium simulator manikin for Columbus Fire and Emergency Medical Services in the amount of \$16,011.62, or as otherwise awarded, from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation with no matching funds required. The multi-governmental fund will be amended by the amount of the award. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

7. PURCHASES

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

Resolution (116-25): A resolution authorizing the execution a contract with Federal Recycling and Waste Solutions (St. Louis, MO) for single stream recycling materials processing. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

- B. Auditing Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0006 (See Updates and Presentations B on the City Manager's Agenda)*

- C. Contract Extension for Hot Asphalt and General Road Repair Services (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 19-0032

Resolution (117-25): A resolution authorizing the extension of the annual contract for the purchase of hot asphalt and general road repair services from The Scruggs Company (Hahira, GA) formerly Robinson Paving Company through July 31, 2025. Councilor Chambers made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

D. Two Seven-Yard Dump Trucks for Public Works – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (118-25): A resolution authorizing the purchase of two (2) seven-yard dump trucks for the Public Works-Street Maintenance Department from Rush Truck Center of Atlanta, (Atlanta, GA) at a unit price of \$135,438.00 for total price of 270,876.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia State Contract #99999-SPD-SPD0000155-0001. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Would like an update on the road repair. (*Request of Councilor Tucker*)

E. Consultant Services for Comprehensive Transit Study for METRA – RFP NO. 25-0011

Resolution (119-25): A resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with Foursquare Integrated Transportation Planning, Inc. (Atlanta, GA) to conduct a comprehensive transportation study on behalf of the Department of Transportation/METRA. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

F. Scheduling Software for METRA – OMNIA Partners Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (120-25): A resolution authorizing the purchase of scheduling software for METRA from Carahsoft Technology Corporation (Reston, VA) in the amount of \$393,314.45. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Omnia Partners Contract # R191902. Councilor Chambers made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

G. Declaration of Surplus and Donation of Tasers and Accessories to Oglethorpe, Georgia Police Department

Resolution (121-25): A resolution authorizing to declare the following Tasers and Accessories from the Police Department, as surplus, in accordance with section 7-501 of the Charter of Columbus Consolidated Government; and further authorized to donate the equipment to the Oglethorpe, Georgia Police Department. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

H. Comprehensive Inmate Healthcare Services for Muscogee County Jail (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0005

Resolution (122-25): A resolution authorizing the execution of an annual contract with FirstClass Healthcare, LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide comprehensive healthcare services for offenders incarcerated at the Muscogee County Jail. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

8. **UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS**

B. Community Care Program Update - Bob Paskowski, PYA, P.C.

Bob Paskowski, PYA, P.C. approached the rostrum to provide an update on the Community Care Program. He advised that this is the first iteration of the program and it's a good starting point, but it is subject to change. During the presentation, he outlined some of the objectives of the program which are to build a network of providers that can serve the underserved population plus the inmate population and to have some Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to show the success and the effectiveness of the program. He indicated that the program is for Muscogee County only.

Deputy City Manager Hodge advised that a job description was sent to Evergreen and was graded at 128, with a starting salary of approximately \$66,810/year. She said we will be coming back to Council at the next meeting to get approval of the program, to get approval of creating a position and getting it advertised as well as the process of the RFP in order to hire a third-party administrator.

7. **PURCHASES (continued)**

B. Amendment 1 for Underserved and Inmate Healthcare Consultant – RFP No. 24-0009

Resolution (123-25): A resolution authorizing the execution of Amendment 1 with PYA, P.C. (Atlanta, GA), to increase the agreement from \$195,000.00 to \$270,000.00 plus an hourly rate of \$500 per hour. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting

A. Healthcare Update - Reather Hollowell, Director, Human Resources, and NFP Benefit Consultant Team

Human Resources Director Reather Hollowell came forward to provide an overview of the Health and Wellness Center for newer Council members, explaining that it serves as a primary care provider for CCG employees and their dependents. She said one of the primary focuses is preventive health, which helps manage and reduce rising healthcare costs.

Melody Lewis, Senior Vice President of Consulting with NFP approached the rostrum to provide an update on the Health and Wellness Center. She provided statistics from Plan Year 2024 to include participation rates for Plan Year 2024, cost savings and clinical outcomes, health plan performance metrics and a review of the FY Health Plan Budget history. She noted that premiums have not increased for nine years for employees who participate in the program. However, she warned that healthcare costs are expected to rise in 2025.

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: April 8, 2025
TO: Mayor and Councilors
FROM: Finance Department
SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFQs

April 11, 2025

1. **Medical Evaluation Services for Columbus Fire & EMS Department (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0014**

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government invites qualified firms to submit proposals for medical evaluation services for employees of the Fire & EMS Department on an annual basis.

The contract term shall be for two (2) years with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

CLERK OF COUNCIL’S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. **Resolution (124-25):** A resolution changing the regularly scheduled council meetings for the month of June 2025. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Cogle and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

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

457 Deferred Compensation Plan Board, October 17, 2024

Airport Commission, March 6, 2025

Board of Tax Assessors, #10-25

Columbus Golf Authority, February 11, 2025

Employee Benefits Committee, August 23 & October 25, 2023

Employee Benefits Committee, February 28, April 24, June 26 & August 28, 2024

Pension Fund, Employees Board of Trustees, October 9 & November 13, 2024

Retirees’ Health Benefit Committee, August 21, 2024

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Cogle and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

ADD-ON RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution (125-25): A resolution excusing Councilor Glenn Davis from the April 8, 2025, Council Meeting. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Cogle and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

Resolution (126-25): A resolution excusing Councilor Bruce Huff from the April 8, 2025, Council Meeting. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Cogle and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

3. MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS – ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

A. COLUMBUS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT AUTHORITY:

A nominee for a new seat as a Certified Public Accountant, on the Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority. (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a new seat as a Corporate/Employment Attorney, on the Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority. (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a new seat as a Law Enforcement Representative, on the Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority. (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

A nominee for the seat of Benjamin Link (*Eligible to succeed*) for the term expiring on the March 25, 2025, on the Community Development Advisory Council (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

C. HOUSING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

A nominee for the seat of John F. Greeman (*Eligible to succeed*) for the term expiring on the April 30, 2025, on the Housing Authority of Columbus (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

4. AUTHORITY APPOINTMENTS- READY FOR CONFIRMATION:

A. THE MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL AUTHORITY: Mike J. Burns has been selected for reappointment. (*Authority's Selection*) Term expires: December 31, 2029. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Cogle and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

B. THE MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL AUTHORITY: Max Brabson has been selected for reappointment. (*Authority's Selection*) Term expires: December 31, 2029. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Cogle and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

C. THE MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL AUTHORITY: James Allen McMullen has been selected to fill a vacant seat. (*Authority's Selection*) Term expires: December 31, 2028. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Cogle and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

5. **COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – READY FOR CONFIRMATION:**

- A. **COLUMBUS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT AUTHORITY:** Mike Welch was nominated to serve in a new position as the Commercial Business Representative. (*Councilor Cogle's nominee*) Term expires: June 30, 2026. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote and Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.
- B. **COLUMBUS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT AUTHORITY:** Andy Luker was nominated to serve in a position as the Marketing Representative. (*Councilor Davis's nominee*) Term expires: June 30, 2027. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote and Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.
- C. **COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CULTURAL LIAISON ENCOUNTERS (CIRCLE):** Brandon Wilkins was nominated to succeed Samantha Wooden. (*Councilor Crabb's nominee*) Term expires: March 1, 2029. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote and Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.
- D. **CRIME PREVENTION BOARD:** Ralph King was nominated to succeed Lane Jimmerson. (*Councilor Crabb's nominee*) Term expires: March 31, 2028. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote and Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting.

6. **COUNCIL'S APPOINTMENTS – ANY NOMINATIONS WILL BE LISTED FOR THIS MEETING:**

A. **BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS:**

A nominee for the seat of John Anker (*Resigned*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2025, on the Board of Tax Assessors (*Council's Appointment*). Councilors Anker and Crabb nominated Clayton Hood to fill the unexpired term.

B. **COLUMBUS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT AUTHORITY:**

A nominee for a new seat as a Promotional Entity – Professional Hockey, on the Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority. (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a new seat as a Trade Center Representative, on the Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority. (*Council confirms the appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a new seat as a River Center Representative, on the Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority. (*Council confirms the appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a new seat as a Convention & Visitors Board Representative, on the Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority. (*Council confirms the appointment*). There were none.

C. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMITTEE:

A nominee for the seat of Holli Browder (Dept. Director/Assistant Director) (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on April 30, 2025, on the Employee Benefits Committee (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Crabb renominated Holli Browder to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Nancy Boren (Dept. Director/Assistant Director) (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on April 30, 2025, on the Employee Benefits Committee (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Crabb renominated Nancy Boren to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Shannon Hubbard (General Government Employee) (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on April 30, 2025, on the Employee Benefits Committee (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Troy Vanerson (General Government Employee) (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on April 30, 2025, on the Employee Benefits Committee (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Ardria McGruder (General Government Employee) (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on April 30, 2025, on the Employee Benefits Committee (*Council confirms the appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Rachel S. Banks (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on April 30, 2025, on the Employee Benefits Committee (*Council confirms the appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Timothy Smith (Sworn Officer) (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on April 30, 2025, on the Employee Benefits Committee (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

D. LAND BANK AUTHORITY:

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term expiring on October 31, 2026, on the Land Bank Authority (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Crabb nominated Reynolds Bickerstaff to fill the unexpired term.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Would like an update on the Lifeguards and how many we have hired and how many we still need.
(*Request of Councilor Tucker*)

PUBLIC AGENDA (continued):

5. Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: Quarterly Town Hall Meetings. ***No Action Taken***
7. Ms. Fran Carpenter, Re: The Original Historic District and the Trade Center Master Plan. ***No Action Taken***

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation acquisition and disposal of real estate and potential litigation 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 Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting, with the time being 1:38 p.m.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 2:18 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in Executive Session to discuss litigation and real estate 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 Mayor Pro Tem Allen to adjourn the April 8, 2025, Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting, and the time being 2:19 p.m.

Lindsey G. McLemore
Clerk of Council
Council of Columbus, Georgia