

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 22, 2025
5:30 PM
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, Bruce Huff 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: Councilor Glenn Davis was absent.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) Georgia Cities Week 2025 Presentation; (2) Recorder’s Court Annual Update; (3) Summer Pools Update

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) PA #7 – Document Submitted by Kathryn Tanner

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Pastor Wayne Anthony, St. Peter United Methodist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Skip Henderson

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for April 8, 2025, Council Meeting and Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS:

2. **Proclamation:** Sons, Daughters and Children of the American Revolution Day

Receiving: Maryann Barclay

Councilor Travis Chambers read the proclamation into the record proclaiming Saturday, April 19, 2025, as *Sons, Daughters and Children of the American Revolution Day*, recognizing the Sons, Daughters and Children of the American Revolution for honoring and commemorating ancestral sacrifices and commitments to the cause of Americas fight for independence and liberty.

3. **Proclamation:** World Pizza Championship Day

Receiving: Jeffrey Dicesaris

Mayor Pro Tem Gary Allen read the proclamation into the record proclaiming Tuesday, April 22, 2025, as *World Pizza Championship Day*, recognizing Jeffrey Dicesaris for being named World Pizza Champion at the International Expo in Las Vegas on March 27, 2025.

4. **Proclamation:** Georgia Cities Week

Receiving: Lisa Goodwin, Deputy City Manager

Councilor Bruce Huff read the proclamation into the record proclaiming April 21-26, 2025, as *Georgia Cities Week*, recognizing City Government departments for the important role played by officials and employees in serving the community and using this as an opportunity to convey to all citizens of Georgia that their civic involvement can shape and influence government.

Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin approached the rostrum to thank the Mayor and Council for recognizing the proclamation. She said this is an opportunity for our departments to share with the citizens the important work they do. She then called upon various departments to present the activities and events they have planned for the week.

PRESENTATIONS

6. Georgia General Assembly Post Legislative Update - State Representative Carolyn Hugley

State Representative Caroly Hugley approached the rostrum and extended condolences on the loss of former City Council Member Judy Thomas. She then introduced the members of the Legislative Delegation.

Dean of Senate Ed Harbinson approached the rostrum to provide a sketch of what the Georgia General Assembly aimed to accomplish and what it ultimately accomplished this year. He specifically mentioned the effort to pass legislation intended to benefit veterans.

Senator Randy Roberts approached the rostrum and extended his condolence for the loss of for City Council Member Judy Thomas. He went on to outline the Senate's key priorities including the budget, disaster relief, education, funding in corrections and foster care. He also mentioned working with the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) and Association County Commissioner of Georgia (ACCG) on Senate Bill 298, which establishes a direct appeal on the denial of immunity.

State Representative Vance Smith approached the rostrum and extended his condolence for the loss of for City Council Member Judy Thomas. He reported that in 2024, the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) Act was passed by both the House and the Senate and is now on the Governor's desk. He said a final report is expected by the middle of May.

State Representative Debbie Buckner came forward to provide information on some of the things that are coming forward in Columbus, Georgia. She outlined several projects that received budget funding.

State Representative Teddy Reese approached the rostrum and extended his condolence for the loss of City Council Member Judy Thomas. He thanked the Chair of the Delegation Carolyn Hugley for her hard work and dedication. He discussed House Bill 609 and 610 which address conflicts of interest as it relates to the TAD process along with a separate bill intended to combating deed theft. He also mentioned that a House resolution concerning the legitimation process for fathers has been picked up as an official study commission. Additionally, he highlighted efforts to expand funding for the 211 helpline.

State Representative Carmen Rice came forward and said three of the core focus issues for the House of Representatives are school safety, literacy issues, and tort reform. She said the first bill she presented this session was House Bill 52 ensuring that the widows of disabled veterans would continue to get homestead exemption. She also shared information about the Vector Project which will soon be implemented at Columbus Technical College.

5. Introduction of Shevon S. Thomas, Solicitor General of Muscogee County, Georgia.

Solicitor General Shevon S. Thomas approached the rostrum to introduce himself and his staff, expressing his gratitude to the Mayor, City Manager and members of the Council for visiting his office and taking the time to address some of his concerns.

7. Recorder's Court Update – Judge David Ranieri

Judge Davis Ranieri came forward with an update on Recorder's Court. He provided a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the responsibilities of Recorder's Court. The presentation also included a financial summary that outlined the revenue generated by the court, and highlighted some of the challenges the court continues to face.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR JUDGE RANIERI:

- Would like to see the data to show the increase of work based on how many tickets we are getting for school cameras and with Georgia State Patrol. (*Request of Councilor Tucker*)

RECORDER'S COURT COMMITTEE:

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen reminded the Council of the Recorder's Court Committee originally consisting of himself, Council Barnes and Councilor Thomas, who are now deceased. He asked the Council to consider Councilor Chambers and Councilor Huff as replacements for those two vacant seats.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (25-017) – 2nd 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) 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 Davis being absent from the meeting.
2. **Ordinance (25-018) – 2nd 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) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

3. **Ordinance (25-019)** - 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) Councilor Chambers made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.
4. **Ordinance (25-020) - 2nd 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) Councilor Tucker made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.
5. **Ordinance (25-021)** - 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) Councilor Crabb made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.
6. **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.) (Continued on 1st Reading from 4-8-25.) (Councilor Garrett).

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

7. **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.) (Continued on 1st Reading from 4-8-25.) (Councilor Garrett).

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

RESOLUTIONS

8. **Resolution (127-25):** A Resolution amending Resolution No. 032-25 which imposed certain insurance requirements for CCG vendors. The amendment clarifies that certain providers of professional services are exempt from the scope of the Resolution. (Councilors Crabb and Tucker) Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mr. Ronald Carthar, Re: Closing of Morris Road.
2. Mr. Justin Allen, Re: Columbus Clingstones. *Canceled*
3. Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr. Re: Southside Deserves Economic Development.
4. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, Re: Exit 4 Buena Vista Rd Construction and the Murder Count. *Not Present*
5. Mr. John Fink, Re: Petitioning Council to Terminate Ban from Lake Oliver Marina- *Rescheduling*
6. Dr. Natalie Nicole, representing Role Model Academy of Arts, Re: Public Works.
7. Mrs. Kathryn Tanner, Re: Voting Rights and Concerns About South Commons.
8. Mr. J Nathan Smith, Re: Requesting Council Fix the Mistakes of the Past.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Police FY25 Other Local Option Sales Tax (OLOST) Reallocation

Resolution (128-25): A resolution reallocating \$15,000 of the FY25 Other Local Option Sales Tax Fund budget of the Police Department from Capital Outlay (Capital Expenditure – Over \$5,000) to purchase six Panasonic Toughbooks. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

2. Property Purchase- 5803 Moon Road, Columbus, Georgia 31909

Resolution (129-25): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a purchase and sale agreement with property owner, Dorothy Latini, for the acquisition of property located at 5803 Moon Road. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

3. Sale of Public Alleyway - North Side of 29th Street, 150 feet West of 4th Avenue

Resolution (130-25): A resolution to sell public alleyway on the north side of 29th street, 150 feet west of 4th Avenue to the adjoining landowner, Webb Family Holdings, located at 3114 3rd Avenue as outlined by Columbus Charter 7-501 paragraph 5, and to authorize the City Manager to execute all contracts, agreements and understandings related to the conveyance. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

4. Community Care Program for the Medically Underserved and Inmate Population

Resolution (131-25): A resolution approving the Community Care Program for the medically underserved and inmate population of Muscogee County, establishing the position of Community Care Program Administrator, and the issuance of a request for proposal (RFP) for a third-party administrator (TPA). Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by

Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

5. Marathon First Responder Grant – Fire & EMS

Resolution (132-25): A resolution to apply for and accept if awarded a grant for fire and rescue equipment to support Columbus Fire and Emergency Medical Services operations at the Marathon Petroleum facility and throughout the community in the amount of \$5,000.00, or as otherwise awarded, from the Marathon Community Investment Programs 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 Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

6. Peach Little League Batting Cage Donation

Resolution (133-25): A resolution authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation to accept the donation of a baseball batting cage structure at Lakebottom Park. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

7. PURCHASES

A. Residential General Contractor Services and Housing Inspection Services for the Community Reinvestment Department II (Annual Contract)- RFP NO. 25-0008

Resolution (134-25): A resolution authorizing the execution of an annual contract with A-Airflow Awning (Columbus, GA) and Teed, Inc. (McDonough, GA) for Option A: General Contractor Services; and Master Key Homes Inspections LLC (Ludowici, GA) for Option B: Housing Inspection Services, for single-family housing located throughout Columbus-Muscogee County. The Community Reinvestment Department will procure the services on an as-needed basis. As projects arise, the Community Reinvestment Department will obtain written quotes from the contractors. The City has been awarded \$3,000,000 several projects within the scope of the contracts. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

B. Isuzu Box Trucks for Public Works – Georgia State Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (135-25): A resolution authorizing the purchase of two (2) 2025 Isuzu Box Trucks from Rush Truck Center Atlanta, (Atlanta, GA) at a unit cost of \$90,611.00, and a total cost of \$181,222.00. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-SPD-SPD0000155-0001. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

C. Public Safety Equipment for the Sheriff's Office

Resolution (136-25): A resolution authorizing payment for the purchase of public safety equipment to Tactical Video Inc., (Prospect, KY), in the amount of \$60,990.10, for the Sheriff's Office. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

8. **UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS**

A. Pool/Lifeguard Update - Holli Browder, Director, Parks & Recreation *No Action Taken*

Director Holli Browder came forward to provide an update on the status of the pools and splashpads as well as the recruitment of lifeguards. She indicated that the current number of lifeguards are 52, but 73 are still needed. She announced that on May 28, 2025, will be the opening day for all outdoor pools.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Consider opening the pools on Saturdays until after Labor Day. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*
- Check into implementing a Junior Lifeguard Program. *(Request of Councilor Cogle)*

FOR THE ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY:

- Look at changing Carver Park hours from 7a.m. to 7p.m. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*

B. FY25 Budget Update, Warden Herbert Walker – Muscogee County Prison *No Action Taken*

Finance Director Angelica Alexander advised that Warden Herbert Walker, III of the Muscogee County Prison is appearing before Council pursuant to Ordinance 13-39, as they are expected to exceed their FY25 Budget. The request is for an additional appropriation of \$247,000 to cover an increase in food service costs.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the request for additional appropriation in the FY25 Budget for the Muscogee County Prison in the amount of \$247,000, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Hickey and Cogle being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Can we get an update on the RFP for the business license in reference to the Revenue Department. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: April 22, 2025
TO: Mayor and Councilors
FROM: Finance Department
SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFQs

May 2, 2025

1. **Real & Personal Property Mail/Processing For Muscogee County Tax Commissioner (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0017**

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide printing and mailing services to the Muscogee County Tax Commissioner. The required services shall include:

- Real, Personal, & Mobile Home Property Tax Bills
- Real, Personal, & Mobile Home Property Tax Delinquent Notices

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

2. Environmental Consulting Services For Multipurpose Brownfield Grant (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0018

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is seeking a qualified environmental consulting firm to provide assistance with the recently awarded United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Multipurpose Brownfield Grant for the implementation of environmental assessment, site cleanup, remedial planning, community outreach, and other components of the grant for which funding is secured.

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

CLERK OF COUNCIL’S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - INFORMATION ONLY

1. Board Memo – Listing the terms of the Downtown Development Authority and the need for them to reconvene.

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

2. Resignation of Dorris Bishop from her seat as a representative of Senatorial District 15 on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the resignation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

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

- Board of Election and Registration 03.06.25
- Board of Historic & Architectural Review 01.08.24
- Board of Historic & Architectural Review 02.12.24
- Board of Historic & Architectural Review 03.11.24
- Board of Historic & Architectural Review 04.08.24
- Board of Historic & Architectural Review 05.13.24
- Board of Historic & Architectural Review 06.10.24
- Board of Historic & Architectural Review 08.12.24
- Board of Historic & Architectural Review 09.09.24
- Board of Tax Assessors #11-25
- Board of Tax Assessors #12-25

Board of Tax Assessors #13-25

Columbus Ironworks Trade Center Authority 02.28.25

Development Authority 03.06.25

Employee Benefits Committee 02.26.25

Hospital Authority of Columbus, Georgia 02.25.25

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 Davis being absent from the meeting.

ADD-ON RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution (137-25): A resolution excusing Councilor Glenn Davis from the April 22, 2025, Council Meeting. 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 Davis being absent from the meeting.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

4. 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. 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.

5. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – READY FOR CONFIRMATION:

A. BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS: Clayton Hood was nominated to fill the unexpired term of Councilor John Anker. (*Councilor Anker/Crabb's nominee*) Term expires: December 31, 2025. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

B. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMITTEE: Holli Browder was nominated to serve another term as the Dept. Director/Asst. Director Representative. (*Councilor Crabb's nominee*) Term

expires: April 30, 2028. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

C. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMITTEE: Nancy Boren was nominated to serve another term as one of the Dept. Director/Asst. Director Representatives. (*Councilor Crabb's nominee*) Term expires: April 30, 2028. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

D. LAND BANK AUTHORITY: Reynolds Bickerstaff was nominated to fill a vacant seat. (*Councilor Crabb's nominee*) Term expires: October 31, 2026. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

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

A. 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*). Councilor Cogle nominated Ashley Wotenia. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

B. DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:

A nominee for the seat of Allen Taber (*Eligible to succeed*) for the term expiring on August 15, 2023, on the Downtown Development Authority (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Crabb renominated Allen Taber to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Brad Coppedge (*Eligible to succeed*) for the term expiring on August 15, 2023, on the Downtown Development Authority (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Crabb renominated Brad Coppedge to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Karl Douglass (*Eligible to succeed*) for the term expiring on August 15, 2023, on the Downtown Development Authority (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Crabb renominated Karl Douglass to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Will Barnes (*Deceased*) for the term expiring on August 15, 2023, on the Downtown Development Authority (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Billy Blanchard (*Eligible to succeed*) for the term expiring on August 15, 2023, on the Downtown Development Authority (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Stephen Butler (*Eligible to succeed*) for the term expiring on August 15, 2023, on the Downtown Development Authority (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Ernest Smallman, IV (*Not Eligible to succeed – Currently serves on the Board of Zoning Appeals*) for the term expiring on August 15, 2023, on the Downtown Development Authority (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

COUNCIL HEARINGS:

1. Request for Waiver of Penalty and Interest on property tax submitted by Mr. Carl Robertson of Columbus State University for property located in Columbus, Georgia.

Mr. Carl Robertson approached the rostrum to request a refund of penalty and/or interest in property taxes of two properties. He explained that during 2023 and 2024 there was property transfers from the CSU Foundation to CSU going from a 50C3 to a tax exempt status. He said unfortunately the tax exemption was never filed and the bill was not paid. He said once the delinquent taxes were discovered, they were immediately paid.

Tax Commissioner David Britt approached the rostrum reiterating the statements made by Mr. Robertson regarding the delinquent taxes. He stated the penalties and interest total \$18,405.03. He also stated there was no gross or willful neglect in paying the property taxes due in accordance with the law.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the request to waive the penalties and interest in the amount of \$18,405.03, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC AGENDA (continued):

3. Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr. Re: Southside Deserves Economic Development.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Garrett to adjourn the April 22, 2025, Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent from the meeting, and the time being 8:44 p.m.

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