

COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING **MINUTES**

Columbus Convention & Trade Center
801 Front Avenue, South Hall
Columbus, Georgia 31901

January 5, 2021
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S A G E N D A

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, Bruce Huff, Judy W. Thomas, Toyia Tucker, and Evelyn "Mimi" Woodson. City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay and Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis were present.

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Dr. Ron Cottle at Ron Cottle Ministries of Columbus, Georgia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson

OATHS OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED BY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE GIL MCBRIDE:

1. Councilor Glenn Davis – District 2
Councilor Toyia Tucker – District 4
Councilor R. Gary Allen – District 6
Councilor R. Walker Garrett – District 8
Councilor John House – District 10 At-Large

Chief Judge of Superior Court Gil McBride came forward to administer the oath of office to Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Davis, Garrett, House, and Tucker.

Councilor Toyia Tucker expressed her thankfulness to serve as the District 4 Councilor, following in the footsteps of her grandfather who served as a commissioner in Macon/Bibb County. She explained the impact her grandfather's devotion to public service and his country had on her throughout her life.

Councilor John House thanked the citizens of Columbus for allowing him to serve another term, stating him and his wife, Marilyn, look forward to continuing to serve the citizens of Columbus, Georgia.

Councilor R. Walker Garrett thanked his constituents for reelecting him for another term, stating he had big shoes to fill of the late Councilor Red McDaniel and his wife, the late Jo McDaniel who mentored him.

OATHS OF OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

2. Sheriff Gregory Countryman

Judge John Allen came forward to administer the oath of office to Greg Countryman, expressing his gratitude for being part of the momentous occasion of swearing in the first African American Sheriff of Muscogee County.

Sheriff Greg Countryman approached the rostrum to thank his family, campaign team, command staff and other various members of the administration. He thanked his mentor and first African American Superior Court Judge, Judge John Allen, who he says have shared in their struggles. He went on to say he plans on being everyone's Sheriff just as he did as Muscogee County Marshall for sixteen years.

MINUTES

3. Approval of minutes for the December 15, 2020 Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the nine members present with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote.

UPDATE:

4. An update on COVID-19

Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson gave a brief update on COVID-19 and its impact on the community. He explained the numbers started going up about two weeks after the Thanksgiving Holidays, as expected. He stated there is concern that the peak surge will not be realized until the end of the month due to Christmas and New Year's events.

Dr. Asante' Hilts, Department of Public Health came forward to continue the update by giving information regarding the vaccinations for COVID-19. She explained the various phases in which the vaccine will be distributed to the public.

Fire Chief & Emergency Management Director Sal Scarpa approached the rostrum to explain the role of the Emergency Management Division during this pandemic. He stated they are working collaboratively with the Department of Public Health, senior living facilities, and long-term care facilities in the community.

Deputy Emergency Management Director Chance Corbett came forward to introduce himself and give information on his background in emergency management.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Provide the FAQ information on the COVID-19 Vaccinations to the 311 Center for citizens who call in. (*Request of Councilor Thomas*)

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

1. **Resolution (001-21):** A resolution appointing a Mayor Pro-Tem for a term of two years. Councilor Thomas made a motion to appoint Councilor R. Gary Allen as Mayor Pro Tem, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen addressed his fellow councilors by thanking them for the confidence they have placed in him by appointing him to Mayor Pro Tem for another term.

2. **Resolution (002-21):** A resolution appointing a Clerk of Council for a term of two years. Councilor Huff made a motion to appoint Sandra T. Davis as Clerk of Council, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

3. **Resolution (003-21):** A resolution appointing a Deputy Clerk of Council for a term of two years. Councilor Huff made a motion to appoint Lindsey G. McLemore as Deputy Clerk of Council, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

RESOLUTIONS

4. **Resolution (004-21):** A resolution designating additional temporary alternative locations for all Superior, State, Municipal, and Magistrate Courts sitting in Muscogee County to hold proceedings during the COVID-19 emergency and reopening period. (Mayor Pro Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

5. **Resolution (005-21):** A resolution congratulating Calvary Christian School on winning the 2020 State Class GAPPS11Highschool Football Championship and commending those who started and developed the football program at Calvary Christian School. (Mayor Pro Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen read into the record a resolution congratulating Calvary Christian School on winning the 2020 State Class GAPPS 1 1 Highschool Football Champion.

Head Varsity Football Coach Brian Osborne approached the rostrum to thank the Mayor and Council for the recognition on behalf of the players. He spoke briefly about the challenges the team faced during the pandemic this past year.

ADD-ON ORDINANCE:

Ordinance (21-001): An ordinance extending a State of Emergency in Columbus, Georgia; providing for public meetings to be held using telephone or video participation; providing authorization for the Mayor to respond to ongoing COVID-19 developments by Executive Order; and for other purposes. Councilor Woodson made a motion to adopt the ordinance on 1st Reading, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mr. Robert Roth, Re: A depiction of the historical monuments and statutes. *Not Present*
2. Mr. Michael Miller, Re: Animal rights and the removal from the owner.
3. Ms. Fernanda Edge, on behalf of Michael Miller, Re: Animal rights and owners' rights. *Not Present*

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Upgrades to Pstalmond Road Ballfields

Resolution (006-21): A resolution authorizing the city to approve and accept the donation of upgrades to the fields at Pstalmond Road Ball Fields. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

2. Truth Spring, Inc. - ADD-ON

Resolution (007-21): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia authorizing an agreement between Truth Spring, the Development Authority, and the Columbus Consolidated Government to provide funding for the Truth Spring Workforce Program. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

3. PURCHASES

- A. Provision and Installation of Wireless Projectors with Accessories for the Columbus Convention and Trade Center

Resolution (008-21): A resolution authorizing the purchase of wireless projectors with accessories and installation services from Columbus Tape & Video (Columbus, GA) in the amount of \$27,069.52. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

- B. Provision and Installation of Automatic Sliding Doors for the Columbus Convention and Trade Center

Resolution (009-21): A resolution authorizing the purchase of automatic sliding doors and installation services from Door Specialties, Inc., (Columbus, GA) in the amount of \$94,800.00.

Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

C. Electronic Validating Fareboxes for METRA

Resolution (010-21): A resolution authorizing the purchase of three (3) Odyssey Electronic Validating Fareboxes from Genfare – a division of SPX Corporation (Elk Grove Village, IL), in the amount of \$43,361.00 (\$15,367.00 each, plus \$260.00 freight). Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

D. Dial-A-Ride Buses for METRA – Georgia Statewide Contract

Resolution (011-21): A resolution authorizing the purchase of two (2) 24' Dial-A-Ride Buses (2020 Champion Challenger) from Alliance Bus Group, Inc. (College Park, GA), at a unit price of \$144,233.80, and a total price of \$288,467.60. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase, via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-001-SPD0000138-0002. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

E. 29' Low-Floor Diesel Buses for Metra – Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (012-21): A resolution authorizing the purchase of four (4) 29' Low Floor Diesel Buses from Gillig, LLC (Livermore, CA), at a unit price of \$483,906.00, and total price of \$1,935,624.00. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase, via the Unified Government of Athens – Clarke County, Georgia – Heavy-Duty Transit Bus Consortium Contract #00943. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

F. Grab-All Trucks for Public Works – Cooperative Contract

Resolution (013-21): A resolution authorizing the purchase of one (1) Grab-All Truck (2021 Peterbilt 337 with New Pac Model KB20H- 18' Long 24 cubic yard) from the Larson Group (TLG) – Peterbilt (Charlotte, NC), in the amount of \$153,790.52, by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #060920-PMC. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

G. Contract Extension for Pursuit Vehicle Build Out (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 13-0017

Resolution (014-21): A resolution authorizing the extension of the pursuit vehicles build out contract with Mobile Communications America, Inc. (Columbus, GA) (formally Columbus Communications, Inc., Columbus, GA) for an additional six-month period. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

H. Firefighter Cancer Insurance Policy Renewal

Resolution (015-21): A resolution authorizing payment to Apex Insurance (Norcross, GA), with Chubb Accident and Health as the carrier, for legislatively required cancer insurance for firefighters, in the amount of \$64,750.00. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

BID ADVERTISEMENT

January 6, 2021

1. Pursuit Vehicle Build Out (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 21-0006

Scope of RFP

The Columbus Consolidated Government (The City) requires the services of a qualified provider, on an “as needed” basis, to acquire and install the specified equipment into pursuit vehicles purchased by the City and prepare them for delivery to the Fleet Maintenance Shop, as a fully functional pursuit vehicle, for use by one of the Public Safety Agencies of the City of Columbus.

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

January 8, 2021

1. Columbus Dragonfly Trails - Riverwalk to Martin Luther King, Jr. Connector – RFB No. 21-0017

Scope of Bid

This project includes a new concrete multi-use trail that will connect the Riverwalk to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Trail. The new trail will run along 10th Avenue, 11th Street, 6th Avenue, and 10th Street. The work includes reconstruction of existing ramps to the Riverwalk to provide for better pedestrian and cyclist access; curb and gutter; landscaping; signage; and striping.

January 13, 2021

1. Transit Bus Wash System – RFB No. 21-0010

Scope of Bid

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, is seeking a vendor to furnish a completely automatic, friction and touchless combination heavy-duty vehicle wash system which washes all types of transit vehicles used by METRA. The system shall accommodate the front, roof, chassis, rear and both sides of vehicles in drive-thru mode. The successful vendor will be required to remove the existing bus wash system before installing the new bus wash system.

2. Fuel Pumps and Control – RFP No. 21-0017

Scope of RFP

The City of Columbus, Georgia is seeking proposals for the supply and installation of fuel pumps and fuel controls for City operations. All pumps should be able to continue operation in the event of a loss of electrical power (generator).

January 20, 2021

1. Removal & Recycling/Reuse, Scrap Metal, Bulky Items & Similar Material from Columbus Landfill and Other City Locations (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 21-0019

Scope of Bid

Provide removal and recycling/reuse of scrap metal, bulky items & similar materials from the Columbus Landfill(s) and other City locations. A percentage per ton will be paid by the contractor to the City for all material removed or received.

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

January 22, 2021

1. Executive Recruitment Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 21-0024

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is requesting executive search firms, interested in being on a comprehensive recruitment list, to assist the City in recruiting for various executive governmental positions, such as: Fire/EMS Chief, Police Chief, City Attorney, Community Reinvestment Director, etc. Firms must specialize in providing recruitment services for local and/or state governmental entities.

The contract period 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. **COLUMBUS IRONWORKS CONVENTION & TRADE CENTER AUTHORITY:** An email correspondence from Ms. Shikha Shah resigning from her seat. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the resignation with regrets, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.
2. **COLUMBUS GOLF COURSE AUTHORITY:** An email correspondence requesting that the seat of Mr. Mario Davis be declared vacant due to the lack of attendance. Councilor Crabb made a motion to declare this seat as vacant, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Councilor Charmaine Crabb stated she would like to nominate Mr. Tommy Nobles for this seat.

Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis explained the seat would be listed for the next meeting, allowing other councilors the opportunity to make nominations if they so choose.

3. **TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST:** A Request for Travel Authorization for Councilor Toyia Tucker to attend the ACCG “Kick Off Your CORE” 2021 Winter Session of the Lifelong Learning Academy in January 2021. Councilor Barnes made a motion to approve the request as amended, to change the dates to February and listing the training as virtual, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Councilor Glenn Davis expressed his concerns regarding non-mandated training and the impact on the budget. He explained there were concerns in the past regarding the money spent for training from councilors and citizens.

Councilor Toyia Tucker stated the training is part of the Commissioner Certification Program and training such as this would be valuable when it comes to economic development discussions.

Councilor Bruce Huff explained there was money included in the budget for FY21 specifically for council training. He gave examples of the various training offered by ACCG and stated he has attended training in the past where he was required to pay for the training himself.

Councilor Evelyn “Mimi” Woodson stated councilors and other elected officials should be afforded the same opportunity as other departments to seek out training and certifications to allow them to execute their duties effectively. She explained it is better to attend training in person to allow the chance to network and learn the best practices of other municipalities. She stated she would like to be part of the committee suggested as a referral by Councilor Thomas.

Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson explained when the travel budgets were being cut and positions eliminated throughout departments of CCG due to the recession, Council made the decision to cut their travel budget to set an example.

Councilor Charmaine Crabb expressed her concern in the cost associated with the training being requested not being available to Council at the time it is requested.

Councilor Jerry “Pops” Barnes stated if it were not for him serving as the Vice Chairman of the River Valley Regional Commission and their monthly meetings in Buena Vista, Georgia, he would be completely lost.

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge explained there is a travel policy currently in place that lists the per diem provided to employees for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and mileage. She stated the travel documents are provided to the Finance Department, where it is looked at very carefully.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE CHAIR:

- Take a closer look at the budget for council training, making sure there is money available for councilors to take advantage of these valuable resources. (*Request of Councilor Woodson*)

FOR THE MAYOR:

- Appoint a committee to look at available training and the cost associated with it and come up with a policy. Request the committee to evaluate if the policy should extend to the other departments. (*Request of Councilor Thomas*)

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

Airport Commission, October 28, 2020

Board of Tax Assessors, #43-20, #44-20 and #45-20

Board of Water Commissioners, November 16, 2020

Housing Authority of Columbus, October 21, 2020

Mayor’s Commission on Reentry, November 16, 2020

Public Safety Advisory Commission, October 15, 2020

Uptown Facade Board, November 16, 2020

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

5. **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 for a term that expired on June 30, 2020 (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

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

A. **HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD:** Ms. Libby Smith was nominated to serve another term of office. (*Councilor Woodson's nominee*) New Term expires: January 31, 2024. Councilor Woodson made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

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

A. **BOARD OF HONOR:**

A nominee for the seat of the late Robert Poydasheff on the Board of Honor for a term that expires on October 31, 2024 (*Council's Appointment*). All of the members must be former elected officials of Muscogee County. There were none.

B. **COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ADVISORY BOARD:**

A nominee for the seat of Brenda Foreman (*Not interested in serving another term*) on the Cooperative Extension Advisory Board for a term that expires on December 31, 2020 (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Davis nominated Sharayah Davis to succeed Brenda Foreman.

C. **HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD:**

A nominee for the seat of Leslie Heard Jones (*Not eligible to serve another term*) as the Historic District Resident on the Historic & Architectural Review Board for a term that expires on January 31, 2021 (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Robert Anderson (*Not eligible to serve another term*) as the Liberty Cultural Center, Inc. Representative on the Historic & Architectural Review Board for a term that expires on January 31, 2021 (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

D. TREE BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Frank Tommey (*Not eligible to succeed*) as the Residential Development Member on the Tree Board for a term that expires on December 31, 2020 (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Troy Keller (*Not eligible to succeed*) as the Educator Member on the Tree Board for a term that expires on December 31, 2020 (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Beverly Kinner (*Not eligible to succeed*) on the Tree Board for a term that expires on December 31, 2020 (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

REFERRAL(S):

Councilor Bruce Huff addressed an email thread that was sent by Mr. Eric Turner to members of council and the administration. He stated he has instructed a citizen to contact the 311 Center to inquire on Public Works coming to pick up the bigger items. He also stated citizens living at 3021 Cusseta Road have complained that the area between the apartments floods when raining. Let's check to see if it is an ownership issue or if the city could do something to alleviate the problem.

PUBLIC AGENDA (additional comments)

1. Mr. Michael Miller, Re: Animal rights and the removal from the owner.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to adjourn the January 5, 2021 Regular Meeting, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present, with the time being 11:25 a.m.

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