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1	8/8/2023	Tyson Begly	Fire and EMS I had two follow-upsg from slide 7 of the Fire EMS PowerPoint in	Sal Scarpa Pam Hodge
			the last meeting:	Angelica Alexander
			https://mccmeetingspublic.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/columga-	
			meet-9989af2150264ee3a984571dda5c6614/ITEM-Attachment-	
			001-97400da668ce4bf79d68029ba871e2ef.pdf:	
			<ul> <li>Numbers on the Medicare/Medicaid clearing house, to know how much to put in and the additional level of coverage received.</li> <li>Numbers of how much a private billing service would cost, and the amount of money it would save, and the potential impact to our accounts receivable</li> </ul>	
			Response: Please see the attached response from the fire department. CFEMS Memo on Referral - Begly Aug Fire (FMC Department is in the process of developing on DED to	
			Fire/EMS Department is in the process of developing an RFP to privatize ambulance billing. Private billing services costs will be determined once the RFP process is complete.	

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		ambulance claims were processed and billed. wn for claims processed is as follows:	
Ме	dicare 18	8.92%	
Me	dicaid 17	7.90%	
Pri	mary 2	3.46%	
Sel	lf-Pay 3	5.99%	
Wr	ite off 3	3.73%	
The	e claims paid bre	eakdown is as follows:	
Ме	dicare	53.86%	
Ме	dicaid	20.71%	
Pri	mary	19.91%	
Sel	lf-Pay	5.52%	

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Update
"As 75% of all claims go through Medicare or Medicaid, CCG should consider contributing to the Medicare/Medicaid clearing house which would then provide an additional level of coverage for our submitted claims."
The Fire-EMS Department does <i>not</i> do EMS billing. That is managed in the Finance Department. However, I can provide the following information:
<ul> <li>Each year, the City is asked if they wish to participate in the Georgia Ground Ambulance UPL (upper payment limit) Supplemental Payment Program. As noted in the attached, the purpose of the supplemental payment is to provide additional Medicaid reimbursement to ensure access to ambulance services for Medicaid enrollees. The supplemental payment is in addition to the claim payment a provider receives when submitting FFS (fee for service) claims for ambulance services. The program was recently approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The program has been effective for services provided on and after January 1, 2020. Participation in the program is voluntary and requires the city to provide information to Myers &amp; Stauffer LC (certified public accountants) each year as the program administrator in the form of a survey instrument.</li> </ul>

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<ul> <li>Twice a year, the City would provide an intergovernmental transfer (IGT) to the state of Georgia based on the results of the survey data. Subsequently, the Georgia Department of Community Health will make a Medicaid payment to the City that includes both the transferred funds and the matching federal funds.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Since its inception, the City has elected <i>not</i> to participate in the program (thus foregoing those dollars). The challenge, as I understand it, is that in order for the city to know how much money it needs to 'put up' in order to get the extra funds, the data survey must be completed annually. That <i>has to</i> be done in the Finance Department as Fire-EMS is not privy to the information requested. The dollar amount that would be required is not static and is dependent on Medicare/Medicaid billing for the year. Additionally, supplemental funding is only available when Medicare/Medicaid is the primary payor (and not the secondary). Thus, because of the ambiguity surrounding the funding component and the requisite work required to complete the survey instrument, <i>I believe</i> the City has been reluctant to commit to the program. As such, at this time, I do not think we know how much the contribution would be for our submitted claims. Finance would need to complete the <u>survey instrument</u> annually to be able to provide that information.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Notwithstanding this, the Fire-EMS Department has maintained that participation in the program would enhance revenue for the city and would help offset costs associated with the EMS program. In 2022, the Fire-EMS department engaged the Public Consulting Group (PCG) to evaluate potential revenues</li> </ul>

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associated with implementation of a Ground Emergency Medical Trasport (GEMT) program (quite similar to what the State of Georgia is offering). Based on the data we were able to provide, the PCG estimated we would receive a little over \$2.5 million annually. Those estimates were based off of FY21 data and the utilization of <u>6</u> CFEMS ambulances. As noted in the Fire Based EMS Report, that number could be <i>significantly</i> higher as Fire-EMS assumes more ambulance control in the City. As a result, this component is a strong recommendation for implementation in conjunction with an enterprise fund to offset costs associated with managing EMS services in the community – which was ranked at <u>the number #1 concern</u> of residents in the department's community based strategic planning initiative.
To be clear, the Fire-EMS Department currently has nothing to do with EMS billing/collections other than to provide the patient care reports that allow for billing/collections services relative to EMS. We work hand-in-hand with Finance to provide the information they require (as outline in the auditor's report). However, all billing/collection functions are currently managed within that department. Please let me know if there is additional information I can provide or answer any questions. Thank you!

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<ul> <li>CCG transfers \$26.77 to DCH (state share). Transferred funds must be eligible for federal matching funds under 42 CFR \$\$433.50 thru 433.67.</li> <li>DCH pays \$100 to CCG that includes \$73.23 in federal matching funds</li> </ul>
Thus, I do not believe we will have a better understanding of how much we will need to contribute in order to get the federal funds <u>until the 1<sup>st</sup></u> (calendar) quarter of 2024. Once that information is available, we will certainly pass it along. Any payments will likely require Council approval and have to meet the federal guidelines for timely submittal.
The program currently in use by the State of GA is a 'fee for service' model. As this process moves forward, I believe we need to evaluate the implementation of a 'managed care' model which can be far more lucrative for the City. Moreover, I continue to strongly advocate for the evaluation of an enterprise fund to capture and divert some these funds to help offset costs for EMS service. If we are poised to receive funds <i>above and beyond</i> what we have traditionally received for EMS services, I would love to see those funds re-invested into the very program that has been identified as the highest priority by our internal, external and community stakeholders ( <u>CFEMS Strategic Plan, pp.17-18</u> ). Additionally, as the determination is made relative to funding for indigent care, I am hopeful there will be an avenue to explore off-setting

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	some EMS care costs as the first provider of care for many of these individuals. I realize that is a discussion for another forum; but I think it would help alleviate pressure on the general fund moving forward.	
	I have attached a data sheet that discusses the proposed supplemental payment program for your review. There are many fire agencies around the country recognizing millions of dollars in additional revenue with similar programs. I am hopeful we can begin to recognize this revenue stream with this program. I will follow-up with additional information once we have a better understanding of the program costs. In the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions you may have. Thank you kindly!	
	Supplemental_Paym ent_Programs_Data_	
	Salvatore J. Scarpa	
	Fire-EMS Chief	
	Columbus Fire & EMS	
	510 10 <sup>th</sup> Street	
	Columbus, GA 31901	
	(706) 653-3500	

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	Update: 10/27/2023 An RFP to outsource EMS billing has been issued and is out for bid.	
	Update: 11/8/2023	
	<ul> <li>I will be meeting with the Finance Director to identify options we can provide to Council in December relative to EMS billing reconciliation</li> <li>The Fire-EMS Department does not expect any other updates on Medicaid clearinghouse information until late in Q1/Y24</li> </ul>	
	Salvatore J. Scarpa	
	Fire-EMS Chief	
	<u>Columbus Fire &amp; EMS</u>	
	510 10 <sup>th</sup> Street	
	Columbus, GA 31901	
	(706) 653-3500	
	Update 11/27/2023 A presentation will be made to council in January	

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2	8/8/2023	Toyia Tucker	Crime Prevention Grants         Request a breakdown and definition of the cost of personnel.         Response:         This matter is currently under review. A response is expected soon.	Seth Brown
3	8/8/2023	Tyson Begly	Integrated WasteHow will we account for holidays where we will have large pick- ups, such as Christmas? Also, suggest a financial analysis of fees and why they will increase.Response:Residents will be able to obtain additional carts once approved by Council. Off Site Recycling trailers are available for our resident to use whenever they have excess cardboard, paper, etc. Financial Analysis on rates based on privatization or internal services is being done by our consultant. An RFP to advertise has been 	Lisa Goodwin Drale Short

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			Option C: Recycling Collection Only	
			Option D: Household and Recycling Waste Only	
			Option E: Bulk Waste Only	
			Option F: All Collection Services (Household, Recycling, Yard Waste and Bulk Waste)	
4	8/29/23	Tyson Begly	Inspections & Code Is there a possibility to hire a third party to issue in-person citations to out-of-state parcel owners?	Pam Hodge Ryan Pruett
			Response	
			State law does allow citations to be mailed to out-of-state owners. However, if the owner fails to appear in court the only option is for the city to abate the nuisance. In my opinion, the cost to hire a third party far outweighs any benefit that would come from it	
			Update	
			Mayor	

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			Hi everyone, Let me know if we need to meet in person, but I want to make sure we chase down the cost to issue in-person citations to out- of-state owners. I just want to focus on the cost of issuing a citation to a single property owner.	
			Thanks,	
			Tyson	
5	8/29/23	Judy Thomas	Park Facilities Update Facilities PersonnelWould like a program to pull trade graduates in from Columbus Tech and Jordan.Response: The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.	Lisa Goodwin Drale Short Reather Hollowell

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6	8/29/23	Toyia Tucker	Parks and Recreation UpdateRequests that we see if Ft Moore is willing to donate exercise equipment to our rec centers since we are in need of updated equipment.Response: We have reached out to Ft. Moore on two separate occasions, 	Isaiah Hugley Lisa Goodwin Holli Browder
7	8/29/23	Charmaine Crabb	Parks and Recreation UpdateRequests that a day of work or weekend of work be coordinated for citizens in Heath ParkResponse:Councilor Crabb sent Holli an email on 9-18-23 stating that she had reached out to the homeowners association and would get back with us. As of 9-20-23, we have not heard back from Councilor Crabb.Update 10/24/23 Councilor Crabb is working on getting a grant from the Georgia Association of Realtors to fund the upgrades.	Lisa Goodwin Holli Browder

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8	9/12/23	Tyson Begly	Integrated Waste         Requests a true financial analysis for the transition of leaving Amwaste.         Response:         A presentation will be made to council 12/5/23         Update12-5-23:         The Item was delayed and will return for the Work Session on 1/30/23	Pam Hodge Angelica Alexander Drale Short
9	9/12/23	Glenn Davis	Integrated Waste         Would like to see a cost-benefit analysis on the integrated waste fees for automation.         Response:         A presentation will be made to Council 12/5/2023         Update12-5-23:	Pam Hodge Angelica Alexander Lisa Goodwin Drale Short

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			Response:	
11	9/26/2023	Toyia Tucker	Sidewalk in School Zones Requests that we look into ensuring that proper sidewalk coverage is in all school zones to provide for a safe walkway for children coming and going to and from school.	Pam Hodge Donna Newman
			Response: I have spoken with Councilor Huff and waiting for him to provide a date for the meeting.	
10	9/12/23	Bruce Huff	<b>Community Meeting</b> Would like to have a follow-up community meeting with staff and the people in his district from the meeting that took place before COVID at M.L. Harris United Methodist Church	Lisa Goodwin
			The Item was delayed and will return for the Work Session on 1/30/23 Please see the attached document	

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12	9/26/2023	Walker Garrett	Working with the MCSD to determine which schools have walk zones in order to set priorities.         Integrated Waste         Requests that the Council receive a cost proposal for additional	Lisa Goodwin Drale Short
			cans by the end of the year          Response:         A presentation will be made to council 12/5/2023         Update12-5-23:         The Item was delayed and will return for the Work Session on 1/30/23	
13	9/26/2023	Tyson Begly	Integrated Waste         Requests to see revenue by Customer type (apartment types, schools, etc.)	Lisa Goodwin Drale Short

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			Response:         Please see the attachment.         Water Works         Customer by Type.xl         Update12-5-23:         The Item was delayed and will return for the Work Session on 1/30/23	
14	9/26/2023	Glenn Davis	<ul> <li>Integrated Waste</li> <li>Requests the following information:</li> <li>1. What is the total operational cost of the recycling center?</li> <li>2. The annual Cost of what we have to do on maintenance, excluding heavy equipment (EPD maintenance of landfill).</li> <li>3. What is the total cost to mitigate the closure of portions of the landfill?</li> </ul>	Lisa Goodwin Drale Short

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			Response:The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.Landfill Update will be presented on December 5, 2023Update12-5-23:The Item was delayed and will return for the Work Session on1/30/23	
15	10/10/203	Joanne Cogle	Rigdon ParkRequests that we purchase a gate at Rigdon Park similar to the gate that we installed at Carver Park.Response:Staff have reached back out to Smith Metal Works to send us a current quote to do the same gate as Carver Park. We were told it	Lisa Goodwin Holli Browder

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			would take a couple of days to get the pricing to be able to move forward.	
16	10/24/2023	Toyia Tucker	Demolitions         Would like to request a list of dates for upcoming demolitions that have been approved. She is specifically inquiring about when 1209 Carmel Court 31907 will be demolished.         Response:	Pam Hodge Ryan Pruett
			Update on 1209 Carmel Court 11/6/2023 The owner pulled a permit two years ago and completed some work on the home, which caused Code Enforcement to close the demolition case. We have since restarted the demolition process on the home in October 2023 due to no more progress being made in the repair process. This home will appear on the next demolition list that appears to Council. Update 11/14/2023 Councilor Tucker wants an update on the order of the demolition list, specifically Carmel Court. She would also like to know when	

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			the next list will be coming. She also would like Carmel to be placed back where it was two years ago. <u>Response Update</u> A presentation will be made to council on 12/5/2023	
			Update12-5-23:	
			The Item was delayed and will return for the 12/12/23	
17	10/31/2023	Bruce Huff	<b>Pools</b> Requests that we work with Girls Inc and the Boys and Girls Club for access to their pools since Frank D Chester doesn't have a pool for kids to use.	Lisa Goodwin Holli Browder
			Response:	
			The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.	
18	10/31/2023	Toyia Tucker	Trash Requests that we look into ways to reduce the amount of trash that the league leaves behind at Shirley B Winston	Lisa Goodwin Holli Browder

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			Response: The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.	
19	10/31/2023	Joanne Cogle	Animal Control Audit Would like to request an update on how we have responded to the Animal Control Audit within the next few weeks. She would also like to discuss the euthanasia policy. Update:11/14/202 Requests at Update 1/15/21/23 Meeting Response: An update will be provided to Council on 12/12/2023	Lisa Goodwin Drale Short
20	11/14/2023	Charmaine Crabb	Dero Fixit Station Requests that we add something to the agreement for the Dero Fixit Station, that Dragon Fly Trails will be responsible for maintenance and repairs for the Dero Fixit Stations. She wants to make sure a clause is in all donations that we receive that we are not responsible for the maintenance of the items.	Lisa Goodwin Holli Browder

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			Response: The matter is under review. A response is expected soon.	
21	11/14/2023	Toyia Tucker	School Zone CamerasRequests that the fees collected from the automatic speed detection school zone cameras be added to the snapshot that the council receives for tracking purposes.ResponseA separate budget line will be created for proper tracking, and the line item will be added to the snapshot that the council receives quarterly.	Pam Hodge Angelica Alexander
22	11/14/2023	Glenn Davis	School Zone Cameras Requests that there will be proper signage in the school districts to notify drivers that the cameras are tracking their speed in school zone areas.	Pam Hodge Donna Newman

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			This matter is under review. A response is expected soon.	
22	12/5/23	Tyson Begly	Finance AuditRequests a list that contains the combination of the following: Renewal Notice, whether or not they paid, whether they were shut down. In other words combining the renewal list with license year that it's being renewed, a delinquency list, lockbox list, and a 	Pam Hodge Angelica Alexander
23	12/5/23	Glenn Davis	Finance AuditRequests that we bring a representative in from TylerTechnologies to discuss the business licenses software and how other cities use it.ResponseThis matter is under review. A response is expected soon.	Forrest Toelle Angelica Alexander Pam Hodge.