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

September 8, 2026
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting

M A Y O R' S A G E N D A

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors Simi Barnes (arrived at 9:04 p.m.), Travis L. Chambers (arrived at 9:04 p.m.), Joanne Cogle (arrived at 9:17 p.m.), Cathy Cook, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, Bruce Huff (arrived at 9:43 p.m.) and Toyia Tucker (arrived at 9:06 p.m.). City Manager Tyson Begly, Senior Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall, Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore, and Deputy Clerk of Council Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: City Attorney Clifton Fay was absent.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) MA#8: Missing Middle Housing Closing Columbus's Housing Mobility Gap; (2) CA#8: Demolition List – 09/08/2026; (3) CM#9(A): Revenue Division Update; (4) CM#9(B): 2026 Property Tax Billing Update

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) PA#13: City of Columbus Cat Overpopulation; (2) PA#13: Georgetown Subdivision Petition (3) CM#9(B): 2026 Property Tax Billing Update

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen, III, Presiding

INVOCATION: Offered by Chaplain Matthew Miller, Fort Benning

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Miles Branscomb, Midland Academy

PRESENTATIONS

9. Special Presentation – Georgia Municipal Association

Deputy Executive Director Jim Thornton, Georgia Municipal Association, recognized Senator Randy Robertson for his leadership on public safety issues and his legislative advocacy on behalf of Georgia municipalities.

DJ Waller, GMA Representative, came forward and presented Senator Randy Robertson with the Champion of Georgia Cities Award.

Senator Randy Robertson expressed appreciation for the recognition and credited his local government experience in Columbus with shaping his approach to public service. He thanked City leaders and emphasized the importance of collaboration and putting public service above politics.

(NOTE: This item was called up as the next order of business as listed on the Mayor's Agenda Item #9)

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the August 25, 2026, Council Meeting and Executive Session. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Cook and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent for the vote.

PROCLAMATIONS:

2. Proclamation: Direct Support Professionals Week

Receiving: Mary Star Hannify, Clinical Director of New Horizons

Councilor Travis Chambers read the proclamation into the record proclaiming the week of September 13-19, 2026, as *Direct Support Professionals Week*, in recognition of New Horizons Behavioral Health direct support professionals and their dedicated service to individuals with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities.

3. Proclamation: National Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month

Receiving: Lois Williams & Jadyn Bryan, Association of Sickle Cell, Lower Chattahoochee Region

Councilor R. Walker Garrett read the proclamation into the record proclaiming the month of September 2026, as *National Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month*, in recognition of those affected by sickle cell disease and efforts to increase awareness and support within the community.

4. Proclamation: National Diaper Need Awareness Week

Receiving: Syenovia Daniels, Junior League of Columbus

Councilor Simi Barnes read the proclamation into the record proclaiming the week of September 14-20, 2026, as *National Diaper Need Awareness Week*, to raise awareness of diaper need and recognize the Junior League of Columbus, Georgia for its efforts to provide diapers to families throughout the region.

5. Proclamation: Public Safety Week

Receiving: Wayne Anthony, House of Heroes

Councilor Charmaine Crabb read the proclamation into the record proclaiming the week of September 6-12, 2026, as *Public Safety Week*, in remembrance of the lives lost on September 11, 2001, and in recognition of public safety personnel who serve and protect the Columbus community.

6. Proclamation: National Preparedness Month

Receiving: Chance Corbett, Director of Emergency Management & Homeland Security

Councilor Cathy Cook read the proclamation into the record proclaiming the month of September 2026, as *National Preparedness Month*, to raise awareness of the importance of disaster and emergency preparedness and community resilience.

7. Proclamation: Phenix City 12-U Little League Baseball Team Day

Receiving: Case Ramus, Head Coach of Phenix City 12-U Little League Baseball Team

Councilor Charmaine Crabb read the proclamation into the record proclaiming Tuesday, September 8, 2026, as *Phenix City 12-U Little League Baseball Team Day*, in recognition of the team's historic advancement to the Little League World Series and its outstanding sportsmanship, teamwork, and representation of the Chattahoochee Valley.

PRESENTATIONS (continued)

8. Housing Solutions Group Report – Ben Moser, President of United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley, and Tabetha Getz, Executive Director of Regional Prosperity Initiative, Inc.

President Ben Moser, United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley, presented an overview of the Housing Solutions Group. He explained that the group identified housing mobility challenges and developed the 2026 Housing Solutions Report, with Columbus Ahead leading future housing initiatives and United Way/Home for Good continuing efforts related to homelessness and continuum of care services.

Regional Prosperity Initiative Executive Director Tabitha Getz stated that Columbus Ahead will lead efforts to advance workforce housing initiatives, emphasizing the importance of diverse housing options in supporting the community's goals for job and workforce growth.

Additionally, **President Ben Moser** discussed Columbus' housing mobility gap and recommended addressing zoning barriers, encouraging infill development, and expanding attainable workforce housing.

To address questions and concerns of Councilor Barnes, **Vice President Pat Frey, United Way,** discussed the need for greater flexibility in zoning regulations to increase housing capacity, including allowing duplexes and other housing options that could support multigenerational families and help residents remain in their communities.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE HOUSING SOLUTIONS GROUP:

- Include the Tax Commissioner in future housing and redevelopment discussions pertaining to efforts to return properties to the tax rolls. (*Mayor Pro Tem Allen*)

President Ben Moser further reported on the community's homelessness response system and the need for greater coordination among housing, healthcare, public safety, and service providers. He recommended expanding Columbus Correct Care to help individuals move toward stable housing.

9. Special Presentation – Georgia Municipal Association

(NOTE: This item was called forward at the beginning of the Mayor's Agenda.)

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. 2nd Reading: REZN-04-26-0739: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **6909 Buena Vista Road** (parcel # 115-008-029) from Single Family Residential – 2 (SFR2) Zoning District to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Delayed 30 days on 1st Reading from 6-9-26, delayed again for 30 days on 1st Reading 7-14-26.) (Councilor Tucker) Councilor Tucker made a motion to deny the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

2. **Ordinance (26-040): - 2nd Reading:** An Ordinance approving a policy concerning Domain/Website purchasing and use as Addendum 7 to the Acceptable and Supportable use of Technology Policy Number 210-1000-004. (Mayor Pro-Tem) Councilor Tucker made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

3. **Ordinance (26-041): - 2nd Reading:** An Ordinance (i) amending the Columbus, Georgia Pension Plan for General Government Employees and the Columbus, Georgia Pension Plan for Employees of the Department of Public Safety to reduce the vesting schedule for active participants, add benefit accruals for up to 40 Years of Service, and reduce mandatory contributions for employees hired after July 1, 2012, and (ii) amending the Columbus, Georgia Employees' Deferred Retirement Option Plan to remove the three-year suspension period for new participants. (Councilor Davis) Councilor Davis made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

4. **1st Reading:** REZN 07-26-1357: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **3604 Arkansas Drive** (parcel # 068-023-001) from Single Family Residential – 2 (SFR2) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily – 2 (RMF2) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Crabb)

Jackson Wells, Applicant, stated that the proposed rezoning would allow for the development of a three-story apartment building focused on student housing, featuring updated units, gated access, and an emphasis on safety.

5. **1st Reading:** REZN 07-26-1395: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **1119 Neill Drive** (parcel # 031-045-007) from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily – 1 (RMF1) Zoning District with Conditions. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Garrett)

James A. Williams Jr., Applicant, explained that his longtime residence was destroyed by fire and requested approval to rebuild a smaller 860-square-foot home on the property.

6. **1st Reading:** REZN-08-26-1510: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **4803 Ingram Ave** (parcel # 032-016-017) from General Commercial (GC) Zoning District to Single

Family Residential – 4 (SFR4) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Garrett)

Ryan Clemens, Applicant explained that NeighborWorks Columbus is sponsoring the rezoning to allow two adjacent parcels to be gifted to the homeowner at 4803 and consolidated into one parcel under the same zoning classification.

7. **1st Reading: REZN-08-26-1543** An ordinance amending various sections of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.)(Mayor Pro-Tem.)

Planning Director Will Johnson presented proposed amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) addressing bench amenities in historic districts, building and construction trade offices and shops, convenience stores without gas sales, pet daycare facilities, and temporary shelters.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Val McGowan

8. **1st Reading:** An ordinance providing for the demolition of various structures located at:

    1) 345 Liberty Avenue (Jessica Torres, Owner)

    2) 61 Patton Drive (Jonathan Roy Dillon, Owner)

    3) 3032 Drake Street (Dewey Tew, Owner)

    4) 2711 Peabody Avenue (Ernestine Byrd Deadwyler, Owner)

    5) 515 6th Street (Dedivine F & G LLC, Owner)

    6) 2502 4th Avenue (Tommy Jones Jr., Owner)

    7) 1124 43rd Street (Brian Cotugno, Owner)

    8) 2220 6th Street (Charlie F & Mable Bass, Owner)

    9) 1821 St. Elmo (Amy M. Ourso & Bickerstaff II, Owner)

    and for demolition services for the Inspections and Code Department in accordance with the attached Tabulation of Bid sheet. (Mayor Pro-Tem)

Inspection and Code Director Ryan Pruett came forward to present the list of demolition properties for Council's consideration and responded to questions pertaining to specific properties.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Jonathan Roy Dillon *(61 Patton Drive)* – Requested an extension of time to complete repairs and bring the property into compliance with code requirements.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR INSPECTIONS AND CODE:

- Review whether community reinvestment funds, grants, or other assistance programs may be available to assist the property owner with necessary improvements. (*Councilor Chambers*)

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Provide Council with guidance on how he would like to address and proceed with future demolition matters. (*Councilor Davis*)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Ms. Theresa El-Amin requested to make general comments regarding Inspection and Code and demolition matters.

Councilor Huff made a motion to allow Ms. El-Amin to speak; however, the motion died for lack of a second**.**

9. 1st Reading: An Ordinance amending Chapter 2 of the Columbus Code to increase the number of members of the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission; and for other purposes. (Councilor Chambers)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Theresa El-Amin

10. 1st Reading: An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 26-021, the budget for the fiscal year 2027, beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, to reclassify positions in Juvenile Court; and for other purposes. (Councilor Garrett)

Judge Thomas Tebeau III, Muscogee County Juvenile Court, requested the reclassification of two Juvenile Court positions. He proposed reclassifying a Deputy Clerk position to Clerk of Juvenile Court and a Custody Investigator position to Deputy Clerk II, advising that the changes would be budget neutral.

RESOLUTIONS

11. **Resolution (255-26):** - A Resolution authorizing the execution of Federal Aviation Administration Grant No. 3-13-0035-064-2026 Master Plan Update Phase III. (Request of Columbus Airport Commission.) Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent for the vote.

Amber Clark, Executive Director, Columbus Airport, requested approval to accept a $793,000 FAA gran**t** for the third phase of the Airport's 20-year Master Plan. She explained that the Airport Commission would provide the required 5% local match of approximately $40,000.

12. **Resolution (256-26):** - A Resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia approving the Third Amended and Restated Articles of organization for Valley Partnership - Joint Development Authority (Councilor Garrett) Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cook and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

Missy Kendrick, President/CEO, Choose Columbus, presented proposed changes to the Joint Development Authority to simplify its structure, expand regional participation, and improve meeting accessibility.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Ms. Kim Decker, Re: Transparency and Full Disclosure of "Secret Talks". *(Rescheduled from 08-25-2026)*

2. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Bad Behavior of Council Members.

3. Mr. Gregory Foster, Re: Stop Blaming Government for Your Failings.

4. Ms. Loretta Wright, Re: Environmental Pollution.

City Manager Tyson Begley responded to the concerns, stating that the matter would be referred to the appropriate state authorities for review.

5. Mrs. Robina Adams, Re: Cat Colony at Georgetown.

6. Ms. Laura Bencosme, Re: Relocation of Cat Colony at Georgetown.

7. Mrs. Digna Peterson, Re: Community Concerns – Cats.

8. Ms. Allie Johnson, Re: Open Meeting Requirements and City Council Involvement in Animal Issues.

9. Ms. Meg Givans, Re: Cat Colony at Georgetown. ***Not Present***

10. Ms. Becky Carter, representing Animal SOS, Re: Community Cat Program.

11. Ms. Renee Matthews, Re: Community Cat Caregiver Appreciation.

12. Mrs. Jordan Frost, Re: The Proposed Removal of the Georgetown Community Cat Colony. ***Not Present***

13. Ms. Deborah Coleman, representing Georgetown Subdivision, Re: Cat Colony Problem and Signed Petition.

14. Mrs. Natalie Hanna, Re: Community Cats and Removal Order from Georgetown Neighborhood.

15. Dr. Natalie Nicole, representing Role Model Academy of Arts, Re: Public Boards, Public Dollars, Public Accountability. ***Not Present***

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVELDGE – DISTRICT 8 ALL HANDS ON DECK CAMPAIGN

Councilor Garrett announced an All Hands on Deck Campaign scheduled for September 29 from 5:00–6:30 p.m. at Harvest Coffee on Second Avenue to tour District 8 and surrounding areas and identify and address blight concerns.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Columbus, the Juvenile Court of Muscogee County, and the Georgia Office of the Child Advocate

Resolution (257-26): - A resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a memorandum of understanding between the City of Columbus, the Juvenile Court of Muscogee County, and the Georgia Office of the Child Advocate for participation in the Quality Legal Representation IV-E Program. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

Judge Thomas Tebeau III requested approval of a memorandum of understanding to participate in the Quality Legal Representation Program, which would allow the City to receive reimbursement for a portion of attorney fees paid for children and qualifying parents in Juvenile Court cases.

2. 2026 Georgia Trauma Commission EMT Grant

Resolution (258-26): - A resolution authorizing the City Manager or his designee to accept a grant for equipment in the amount of $12,000.00, or as otherwise awarded, from the Georgia Trauma Commission EMT Grant Program. These funds will be utilized to replace equipment and support our EMS programs, which provide emergency medical services to the citizens of Columbus and surrounding counties. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

3. Firehouse Subs Grant

Resolution (259-26): - A resolution authorizing the City Manager or his designee to apply for and accept, if awarded, a grant from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation in the amount of $18,400.00, or as otherwise awarded, to support the acquisition of twenty stationary bikes, with no matching funds required. The multi-governmental fund will be amended by the amount of the award. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

4. State Criminal Alien Assistance Program Grant

Resolution (260-26): - A resolution authorizing the City Manager, the Mayor, or their designee to submit and accept, if awarded, the BJA FY 2026 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, in the amount of $30,000 to 35,000, or as otherwise awarded, for fiscal year 2027, with no local match required, and amend the SCAAP Project budget by the amount awarded. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

5. Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network BOOST 2.0. "Building Opportunities for Out-of-School Time"

Resolution (261-26): - A resolution authorizing the city to apply for the Boost Grant and, if awarded, accept the monies granted by the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Program network "building opportunities for out of school time" Boost Grant 2.0, in the amount of $200,000, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match required, and amend the multi-governmental fund by the amount of the award. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

6. Dero Fixit Stations Donation

Resolution (262-26): - A resolution authorizing the city to approve and accept the donation of 4 additional Dero Fixit Stations from River Valley Regional Commission, Bicycle Columbus and Dragonfly Trails, Inc. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

7. Columbus Police Department: Donation

Resolution (263-26): - A resolution to accept a donation of $1707.00 from Joanne Cogle to use towards the purchase of additional ballistic vests or other equipment for the CPD K9 unit.

Councilor Joanne Cogle disclosed that she had donated to the Police Department for ballistic vests for its K-9s and requested to recuse herself from voting on Item No. 7, a Police Department donation

Councilor Crabb made a motion to allow Councilor Cogle to recuse from the vote, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

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

8. PURCHASES

A. Liberty Theater Electrical Work and Temporary Lighting

Resolution (264-26): - A resolution approving an annual contract with Oracle Elevator Holdco INC. DBA Elevated Facility Services (East Point, GA) to provide Elevator Maintenance and Repair Services for the estimated annual contract value of $148,000.00, on an "as needed" basis. Councilor

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

B. 7 Yard Dump Truck for Public Works – Georgia Statewide Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (265-26): - A resolution approving the purchase of five (5) 5090E Cab Tractors and two (2) Flexwing cutters for the Public Works Department from Deere and Company (Cary, NC). Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

C. One (1) F-450 Flatbed Dump Truck for Public Works - Georgia Statewide Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (266-26): - A resolution authorizing the purchase of three (3) CXT Prefabricated Bathrooms for Parks and Recreation locations from CXT Incorporated (Spokane Valley, WA) in the amount of $339,916.93. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Sourcewell Contract #052725-CXT. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

D. One (1) Water Truck 4,000 Gallon for Public Works – Omnia Partners Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (267-26): - A resolution authorizing the construction of foundation pads for three (3) CXT Prefabricated Bathrooms from Freeman & Associates, Inc. (Columbus, GA) in the amount of $113,932.00. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

E. One (1) New Way Viper 11 Yard Rear Loader Refuse Body for Public Works – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (268-26): - A resolution authorizing the agreement with Aaron & Clements, Inc., (Columbus, GA), for Project Management Services for Columbus Parks and Recreation SPLOST Park Renovation Projects, in the amount of $495,000.00. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

F. One (1) D3 Bulldozer for Public Works – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (269-26): - A resolution authorizing payment to Environmental Products Group, (Atlanta, GA), in the amount of $55,482.84, for the repair of a 2017 Petersen Grapple Truck, Vehicle #19042-TL3. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

G. Contract Extension for Portable Toilet Rental and Service (Annual Contract) - RFB No. 20-0054

Resolution (270-26): - A resolution authorizing to expend the appropriated funds to Liberty Vote USA (Denver, CO) for the provision of election supplies, ballots, expendable items and other related election equipment and services for the estimated amount of $150,000 per year. Expenditures each fiscal year are contingent upon the number of elections required to be held. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

H. Contract Extension for Leather Items (Annual Contract) - RFB No. 20-0013

Resolution (271-26): - A resolution authorizing the construction of the Comer Recreation Center Splashpad from Freeman & Associates, Inc. (Columbus, GA) in the amount of $737,849.77. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

I. Fifteen (15) Z930 Zero Turn Mowers for Public Works – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (272-26): - A resolution authorizing an annual contract for the purchase of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) and accessories on an as needed basis, for Risk Management, from AED Brands (Kennesaw, GA). The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via BuyBoard Contract #798-26 and BuyBoard Contract # 804-26. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

J. Three (3) Ford Explorers for State Court Solicitor – Georgia Statewide Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (273-26): - A resolution authorizing the purchase of three Firearms Examination Management Software for the Police Department from Versaterm Public Safety (Meza, AZ) in the amount of $66,357.76. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via State of Georgia/Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) Contract #PE-47100-SS-2024-000000037.

Additionally, approval is requested for future payments of the annual maintenance/license fees and software upgrades. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten Council members.

9. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Revenue Update - Angelica Alexander, Finance Director

Finance Director Angelica Alexander provided the third-quarter 2026 Revenue Division update, reporting that more than 7,400 licenses had been processed, representing a 5% increase over 2025. She also discussed delinquent accounts, online tax services, occupation tax collections, and continued efforts to improve automation and evaluate the City's occupation tax fee structure.

B. Tax Commissioner Report – Tax Commissioner David Britt **(ADD-ON)**

Tax Commissioner David Britt provided an update on 2026 property tax billing and collections, advising that property tax bills have been issued with a December 1 due date and multiple payment options. He also reported that qualifying homesteaded properties will receive a one-time Homeowner Tax Relief Grant.

(Note: Councilor Cogle left the meeting at approximately 12:55 p.m.)

PUBLIC WORKS RECOGNITION

City Manager Tyson Begly recognized and thanked the Public Works Department for working throughout Sunday and the holiday weekend to clear storm-related debris at 28 locations across the city following severe weather.

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: September 8, 2026

TO: Mayor and Councilors

FROM: Finance Department

SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFQs

September 9, 2026

1 Used & Confiscated Firearms for Credit or Swap – RFB No. 27-0004

Scope of Bid

The Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) Police Department is offering used and confiscated firearms for sale to a licensed firearms dealer who can issue a credit to purchase or swap for Heckler & Koch MR556 A4 SBR 11" Part No. 81001048 rifles with accessories.

September 23, 2026

1 Dragonfly Trail – River Road Segment (S.R. 219) – RFP No. 27-0006

Scope of Bid

This project consists of constructing a new trail beginning near Cascade Road in Columbus, Georgia. The trail will run south along River Road (SR 219) and continue west to the existing riverwalk at Lake Oliver Road. The project length is approximately 5,026 lf and includes a 10' wide concrete trail, pedestrian bridge, landscape improvements, stormwater improvements, and trail amenities. Additional work associated with the project includes minor demolition and clearing, erosion control, grading, and signage. Portions of the project are located on state right-of-way. A GDOT encroachment permit has been obtained by the City of Columbus. A dbe goal of 10% has been established for this project.

2 Portable Toilet Rental and Service (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 26-0036

Scope of RFP

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia (the City) is seeking vendors to provide portable toilets, hand washing stations, and grey water collection containers at various City location sites.

September 30, 2026

1 On-Call Plumbing Installation and Maintenance Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 27-0003

Scope of RFP

It is the intent of the Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) to establish an annual contract with a Primary and a Secondary contract to provide all labor, equipment and materials for on-call plumbing installation and maintenance services during normal business hours and after hours on an "as needed basis", on all buildings and structures for Columbus Consolidated Government.

2 On-Call Painting, Pressure Washing and Waterproofing Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 27-0004

Scope of RFP

It is the intent of the Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) to establish an annual contract with a qualified Primary and Secondary contractor to provide all labor, equipment and materials for the provision of on-call Painting, Pressure Washing, and Waterproofing Services for buildings and structures for Columbus Consolidated Government. on an as-needed basis.

3 On-Call Electrical Installation and Maintenance Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 27-0009

Scope of RFP

It is the intent of the Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) to establish an annual contract with a Primary and a Secondary contractor to provide all labor, equipment and materials for the provision of on-call Electrical installation and maintenance services during normal business hours and after hours on an "as needed basis", on all buildings and structures for Columbus Consolidated Government.

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

4 On-Call Irrigation Installation and Maintenance Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 27-00010

Scope of RFP

It is the intent of the Columbus Consolidated Government (City) to establish an annual contract with a Primary and a Secondary contractor to provide all labor, equipment and materials to install/troubleshoot irrigation systems for on-call installation and maintenance services during normal business hours and after hours on an "as needed basis", throughout the City.

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

October 7, 2026

1 Tennis Court Resurfacing at Lakebottom Park and Double Churches Park – RFB No. 27-0011

Scope of Bid

Provide all labor, equipment, and materials to resurface the tennis courts at Lakebottom Park and Double Churches Park.

October 14, 2026

1 Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System – RFP No. 27-0008

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide a fully integrated Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system and related implementation services. The proposed system shall modernize financial, human resource, and administrative operations through a secure, scalable, and integrated solution.

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - INFORMATION ONLY

1. Upcoming Board Appointments: Board of Honor

2. Upcoming Board Appointments: Columbus Ironworks Convention & Trade Center

3. Upcoming Board Appointments: Housing Authority of Columbus

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

4. Board of Honor – Request of Clerk of Council for Consideration of Pending Honorary Applications. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the honorary applications, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote.

5. Inter-City Leadership Conference – Transportation Expenses: Memo from the Clerk of Council requesting authorization for the Columbus Consolidated Government to cover transportation/airfare expenses, at an estimated total cost of $2,600, for Councilors Simi Barnes, Travis Chambers, and Cathy Cook, and Councilor-Elect Sherrie Arron to attend the 2026 Inter-City Leadership Conference in Spartanburg, South Carolina, September 29 – October 2, 2026.

Note: This item was pulled from the agenda by the Clerk of Council.

6. Request for Declaration of Vacancy: Memo from the Clerk of Council requesting that Council declare the seats held by Zerome Lakey and Patrick Steed on the Planning Advisory Commission (PAC) as vacant due to unexcused absences.

Note: This item was pulled at the request of Mayor Pro Tem Allen

7. Resignation: Email correspondence from Irene Pate, resigning from her seat on the Recreation Advisory Board. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the resignation, seconded by

Councilor Cook and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote.

8. Minutes of the following boards

Board of Tax Assessors #31-26 & 32-26

Crime Prevention Board 08-05-26

Downtown Development Authority 06-11-25

Employee Benefits Committee 04-07-25

Employee Benefits Committee 02-25-26 & 04-22-26

Hospital Authority of Columbus 06-30-26 & 07-28-26

Retiree Health Benefits Committee 05-20-26

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 Cogle being absent for the vote.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

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

A. AUDIT COMMITTEE:

A nominee for a vacant seat for a Finance/Accounting or Governmental Rep. on the Audit Committee that expired on June 30, 2027. *(Mayor's Appointment)* There were none.

B. COLUMBUS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT AUTHORITY:

A nominee for a vacant seat for a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) on the Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority that expired on June 30, 2026. *(Mayor's Appointment)* There were none.

C. PENSION FUND, EMPLOYEES' BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

A nominee for a vacant seat with a term that expired on June 30, 2026, as a representative of the Business Community on the Pension Fund, Employees' Board of Trustees *(Mayor's Appointment).* There were none.

10. AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT – READY FOR CONFIRMATION BY COUNCIL:

A. HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS: Dr. Asante Hilts has been selected to succeed Sarah Banks-Lang. *(Authority's Selection)* Term expires: November 14, 2029. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote.

11. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – LISTED FOR CONFIRMATION:

A. TREE BOARD: Dawson Buchanan was nominated to fill a vacant seat for an at-large representative. *(Councilor Cogle's nominee)* Term expires: December 31, 2026. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Cook and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote.

12. NOMINATIONS – CONFIRMED BY COUNCIL:

A. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (BHAR):

A nominee for a vacant seat *(Uptown Business Association)* for a term expiring on January 31, 2029, on the Historic & Architectural Review Board *(Confirmed by Council).* There were none.

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

A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

A nominee for the vacant seat of the District 1 Representative for a term that expired on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council *(District 1 – Barnes).* There were none.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

A nominee for the vacant seat of District 2 Representative for a term that expires on October 31, 2026, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission *(District 2 – Davis).* Clerk of Council McLemore announced that Councilor Davis has nominated Joshua Ferguson to fill the District 2 vacant seat on the Public Safety Advisory Council. Councilor Davis made a motion for confirmation, seconded by

Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote.

A nominee for the vacant seat of District 3 Representative for a term that expires on October 31, 2028, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission *(District 3 – Huff).* There were none.

A nominee for the vacant seat of District 4 Representative for a term that expires on October 31, 2026, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission *(District 4 – Tucker).* There were none.

14. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – ANY NOMINATIONS WOULD BE LISTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

A. BOARD OF HEALTH:

A nominee for the seat of Yasmine Cathright *(Not Eligible)* with the term that expired on December 31, 2025, on the Board of Health *(Council's Appointment).* There were none.

B. BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term that expired on March 24, 2026, on the Building Authority of Columbus (*Council's Appointment)***.** There were none.

C. NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH – MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTIVE DISEASES AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES- COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Sandra Gill *(Does not desire reappointment)* for a term that expired on June 30, 2026, on the New Horizons Behavioral Health – Mental Health, Addictive Diseases and Developmental Disabilities – Community Service Board *(Council's Appointment).* There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Nancy Schroeder *(Does not desire reappointment)* for a term that expired on June 30, 2026, on the New Horizons Behavioral Health – Mental Health, Addictive Diseases and Developmental Disabilities – Community Service Board *(Council's Appointment).* There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Judge David Ranieri *(Does not desire reappointment)* for a term that expired on June 30, 2025, on the New Horizons Behavioral Health – Mental Health, Addictive Diseases and Developmental Disabilities – Community Service Board *(Council's Appointment).* There were none.

D. PERSONNEL REVIEW BOARD:

A nominee for a vacant seat *(Alternate Member 1)* for a term that expires on December 31, 2027, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment)***.** There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat *(Alternate Member 2)* for a term that expires on December 31, 2027, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment)***.** There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat *(Alternate Member 3)* for a term that expires on December 31, 2027, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment)***.** There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Delano Leftfwich *(Not Eligible – Alternate Member 4)* for a term that expired on December 31, 2025, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment)***.** There were none.

E. REGION SIX REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES:

A nominee for the seat of Dr. Janet C. Bussey *(Does not desire reappointment)* for a term that expires on June 30, 2026, on the Region Six Regional Advisory Council for Department of Behavioral Health & Development Disabilities *(Council's Appointment).* There were none.

F. TREE BOARD:

A nominee for a vacant seat *(At-Large)* for a term that expires on December 31, 2028, on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment)***.** Councilor Cogle nominated Sally Bradley to fill the At-Large vacant seat on the Tree Board.

A nominee for a vacant seat *(At-Large)* for a term that expires on December 31, 2028, on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment)***.** There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat *(Residential Development)* for a term that expires on December 31, 2026, on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment)***.** There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat *(Commercial or Industrial Development)* for a term that expires on December 31, 2026, on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment)***.** There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat *(Public Utility Representative)* for a term that expires on July 1, 2028, on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment)***.** There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Allen entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Potential Litigation and Litigation as requested by Senior Assistant City Attorney Sheftall. Councilor Tucker made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Crabb carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote, and the time being 1:07 p.m.

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 2:09 p.m., at which time, Mayor Pro Tem Allen announced that the Council did meet in Executive Session to discuss litigation and potential litigation; however, there were no votes taken.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION

Resolution (274-26): - A resolution authorizing the City Manager, City Attorney, Risk Manager, Finance Director, and their representatives to make a payment of $58,000 to settle all damage claims of Gladys Vsquez. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cook and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVELDGE – GEORGETOWN COMMUNITY CAT CONCERNS

Councilor Toyia Tucker thanked her fellow Council members for their support and expressed concerns regarding the overpopulation of community cats in the Georgetown neighborhood.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY:

- Requested that the City review the existing ordinance to better address nuisance, animal control, and proper management of community cat colonies. (*Councilor Tucker*)

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Request that PAWS Humane Society attend the next Council meeting to discuss the community cat program and concerns raised regarding the Georgetown neighborhood. (*Councilor Tucker*)

Senior Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall explained that community cat matters currently fall under the jurisdiction of the City's contracted animal services provider and agreed to work with Council on potential ordinance changes.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem Allen entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Tucker to adjourn the September 8, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote and the time being 2:15 p.m.

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