

COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING **MINUTES**

Muscogee County School Board Chambers
C. E. “Red” McDaniel City Services Center- Second Floor
2960 Macon Road, Columbus, GA 31906

November 4, 2025
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR’S A G E N D A

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III, Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors John Anker, Travis L. Chambers, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, Byron Hickey, Bruce Huff and Toyia Tucker (arrived at 9:22 a.m.). Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall, Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore and Deputy Clerk of Council Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: N/A

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) MA#4 – Columbus Regional Housing Study Housing Market Analysis + Workforce Housing Needs Assessment; (2) MA#5 – Transitional Audit of the Clerk of Council’s Office October 28, 2025; (3) CM#9(A) – Homeowner Accessibility Rehabilitation Program

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) PA#3 Transnational Repression; (2) PA#5 Photos of Culvert on City Owned Property; (3) PA#7 Acknowledgement of the Community Dinner in The Mill District Community; (4) PA#8 Document, Re: Practicing Leadership Without Accountability. A Call for Codified Ethics & Responsive Governance

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Reverend Thad Haygood, St. Luke Church of Columbus, Georgia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Skip Henderson

MINUTES:

1. Approval of minutes for October 28, 2025, Council Meeting and Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote.

PROCLAMATIONS:

2. **Proclamation:** Bee Smart Building, LLC

Receiving: Taylor and Trent Griffin of Bee Smart Building

Councilor Bruce Huff read the proclamation into the record proclaiming November 7, 2025, as *Bee Smart Building, LLC Day*, honoring Bee Smart Building LLC and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for supporting childhood cancer research.

PRESENTATIONS:

3. Fountain City Classic – Presented by Calvin Smyre

Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson informed the council that the scheduled presentation had been canceled. He noted that Mr. Smiley plans to return on November 18th to provide a follow-up report on the event's success.

4. GA Tech Housing Study – Presented by Alan Durham

United Way Vice President Pat Frey came forward to introduce Allan Durham from Georgia Tech, who led a comprehensive housing assessment project in partnership with Columbus State University (CSU), Georgia Tech, and Troy University. She explained that the study analyzed current and future housing needs for Columbus and the surrounding region.

Senior Project Manager Alan Durham presented findings from a Regional Housing Market Analysis and Workforce Housing Needs Assessment covering eight counties. He explained that the study focused on workforce housing. He highlighted key findings, including declining populations in several counties, rising housing costs, and limited availability of homes under \$155,000, making ownership unattainable for many working families. He emphasized the need to plan proactively for economic growth, suggesting updates to zoning ordinances.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR UNITED WAY:

- A request was made for the findings of the new regional housing assessment to be compared to the City's previous comprehensive plan. (*Councilor Cogle*)

FOR UNITED WAY:

- A request was made for a full copy of the housing study presentation. (*Councilor Cogle*)

CITY ATTORNEY’S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. An Ordinance approving a policy concerning the governance and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technologies as Addendum 6 to the Acceptable and Supportable use of Technology Policy Number 210-1000-004. (Mayor Pro-Tem and Councilor Tucker).

Information Technology Director Forrest Toelle explained that the city’s Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy serves as a reminder for all employees to use AI responsibly and safely, emphasizing that AI should be treated as any other work tool, governed by existing privacy, security, and acceptable-use policies.

2. **Resolution (377-25)** - A Resolution approving execution of real estate documents implementing the recreational use of the former Columbus State Farmer’s Market property located at 318 10th Avenue, Columbus, Georgia 31901. (Mayor Pro-Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Councilor Anker made a motion to allow Ken Henson to come forward and address the Council, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Mr. Ken Henson came forward and expressed his appreciation to Councilors, City Attorney and Assistant City Attorney for their efforts to address redevelopment challenges associated with the Farmers Market property. He stated that he was grateful for the decision to bring soccer to the site, as it represents an exciting opportunity to create a positive and valuable development for the community.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Dr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: Let’s Help Those Families Receiving SNAP Benefits, “The Plan”.
2. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Ordinance or Resolution to Compensate Small Businesses Impacted by Road Project.

3. Mr. Matthew Bolin, Re: Public Safety in Downtown Parking Garages. ***Not Present***
4. Dr. Natalie Nicole, representing Role Model Academy of Arts, Re: Ethics & Leadership: The Responsibility of Speech in Public Office.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR DEPUTY CITY MANAGER HODGE:

- A request was made for the administration to explore establishing a structured policy or formal procedure to guide how the City assists small businesses impacted by construction or development projects. (*Councilor Chambers*)

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge explained that when evaluating road projects, the City focuses strictly on the defined project boundaries and parameters. She clarified that her earlier statement referring to a business being “about a mile away” from a project was meant only to illustrate that the business in question fell outside the project limits, not that there was any “one-mile rule.”

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Lease Agreement – Former Railroad Right of Way adjacent to 3020 Warm Springs Road – Milner Family, LLLP

Resolution (378-25) - A resolution authorizing the Mayor or his designee to execute a lease to the Milner Family, LLLP for the former railroad right of way adjacent to 3020 Warm Springs Road for tenant parking. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

2. Acceptance of Donation and approval of MOU with Midtown Inc.

Resolution (379-25) A resolution accepting the donation of the construction of a Children’s Bicycle Park in Dinglewood Park and authorizing the Mayor or his designee to enter into an MOU with Midtown, Inc. Councilor Cogle made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

3. 2026 Legislative Agenda Items – Additional Proposed Items

3(1). ATTORNEY FEES:

Resolution (380-25) – A resolution requesting that the local legislative delegation introduce statewide legislation to require review by a Superior Court of any attorney’s fees awarded pursuant to Boswell

v. Bramlett, 274 ga. 50, (2001). Councilor Anker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

3(2). STATE LEVEL FUNDING FOR RIVERCENTER:

Resolution (381-25) – A resolution requesting that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly support any legislation which would provide funding at the state level for the *Re-investing in the Arts: RiverCenter at 25* project. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

4. PURCHASES

A. Used & Confiscated Firearms for Credit or Swap RFB No. 26-0005

Resolution (382-25) - A resolution authorizing the swap of one thousand two hundred ninety-eight (1,298) used and confiscated firearms from the Columbus Police Department for two hundred twenty (220) Heckler & Koch VP9A1F 9mm semi-automatic pistol and accessories provided by Dana Safety Supply (Jacksonville, FL). There will be no cost to the City for the swap of firearms. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

B. Contract Extension for HVAC Preventative Maintenance Services RFB No. 19-0014

Resolution (383-25) - A resolution authorizing the extension of an annual contract for HVAC Preventative Maintenance Services through February 28, 2026, with 1st Mechanical Services, INC., (Columbus, GA, to provide HVAC Maintenance and Repairs. The City spends approximately \$1,230,000.00 annually for HVAC Maintenance. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

5. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Heritage Park Update – Elizabeth Walden, Historic Columbus

B. Solicitor Update – Shevon Thomas, Solicitor General

C. Landfill Update - Drale Short, Director, Public Works

D. City Hall Update - Ryan Pruett, Director, Building Inspections and Code Enforcement

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: October 28, 2025
TO: Mayor and Councilors
FROM: Finance Department
SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFQs

October 31, 2025

1. **Course Instructors for the HR Department/The Learning Center (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 26-0015**

Scope of RFP

The Department of HR/The Learning Center is seeking multiple contractors to provide instructors in various training modules to employees interested in growing and developing their skills within the Columbus Consolidated Government. Training will be conducted on an ‘as needed’ basis.

November 5, 2025

1. **Plumbing and Irrigation Supplies (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 26-0002**

Scope of Bid

Provide plumbing & irrigation supplies on an “as needed basis” to be picked up or delivered to Columbus Consolidated Government. The contract term will be for two (2) years with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

November 14, 2025

1. **Construction Manager as General Contractor Services for Public Safety Building – RFP No. 26-0016**

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is requesting proposals from qualified contractors to engage for Construction Manager as General Contractor (GC) services to construct renovations to the existing Public Safety Building located at 510 10th Street. The renovations will consist of mechanical, electrical, plumbing system upgrades, interior alterations, interior finish upgrades, and exterior shell maintenance and replacement. The estimated construction budget for this project is \$4,500,000.

The selected vendor will be responsible for providing preconstruction services to assist the City and the design team with review and selection of the final scope of work to accommodate the funds available. Following finalization of the scope of work, the vendor will serve as the GC to construct the improvements.

November 19, 2025

1. **Dragonfly Trail – Midtown Connector Phase I - RFB No. 26-0003**

Scope of Bid

This project consists of constructing a connection from the existing trail at the intersection of Warren Road and Wynnton Road following Bradley Street and Warren Williams Road to Dinglewood Park. The trail also travels through Dinglewood Park to the intersection of 18th Avenue and 13th Street. The project is within the City of Columbus property and public right of way. The project length is approximately 4,956 LF and includes a 10' wide concrete trail, landscape improvements, stormwater improvements, and trail amenities. Additional work associated with the project includes minor demolition and clearing, erosion control, grading, and signage.

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. **Minutes of the following boards**

Animal Control Advisory Board, 04-10-2025

Animal Control Advisory Board, 08-28-2025

Animal Control Advisory Board, 09-11-2025

Animal Control Advisory Board, 09-25-2025

Animal Control Advisory Board, 10-09-2025

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

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

A. **BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:**

A nominee for a vacant seat with a term expiring on March 24, 2025, on the Building Authority of Columbus, (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

B. HOUSING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

A nominee for the seat of Tiffany N. Stacy (*Eligible to serve another term*) who served in the Resident Position for a term that expires on November 16, 2025, on the Housing Authority of Columbus (*Mayor's Appointment*). Clerk of Council McLemore announced Mayor Henderson is renominating Tiffany N. Stacy. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.

C. PENSION FUND, EMPLOYEES' BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

A nominee for a vacant seat with a term that expired on June 30, 2025, as a representative of the Business Community on the Pension Fund, Employees' Board of Trustees (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

3. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – READY FOR CONFIRMATION:

- A. PERSONNEL REVIEW BOARD:** Natalie N. McDowell was renominated to serve another term as Regular Member 5. (*Councilor Crabb's nominee*) Term expires: December 31, 2027. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.
- B. RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD:** Lawrence R. Stanford was renominated to serve another term in an At-Large Position. (*Councilors Crabb & Huff's nominee*) Term expires: December 31, 2029. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.
- C. RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD:** Lane Ogletree-Battle was renominated to serve another term in an At-Large Position. (*Councilors Crabb & Huff's nominee*) Term expires: December 31, 2029. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.
- D. RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD:** Rodney Lawrence was renominated to serve another term in a Senatorial District 15 seat. (*Councilors Crabb & Huff's nominee*) Term expires: December 31, 2029. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by

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

- E. **RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD:** Brantley Pittman was renominated to serve another term in a Senatorial District 15 seat. *(Councilors Crabb & Huff's nominee)* Term expires: December 31, 2029. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.

4. **APPOINTMENTS – CONFIRMED BY COUNCIL:**

A. **AIRPORT COMMISSION:**

A nominee for the seat of Art Guin *(Eligible to serve another term)* for a term that expires on December 31, 2025 on the Airport Commission *(Commission's Nominee/Confirmed by Council)*. There were none.

Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore explained information listed on the agenda for the nomination process for the Airport Commission is incorrect. She clarified stating the Airport Commission submits one nominee to Council for confirmation.

5. **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 2 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council *(District 2 – Davis)*. There were none.

A nominee for the vacant seat of the District 6 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council *(District 6 – Allen)*. Clerk of Council McLemore announced Mayor Pro Tem Allen is nominating Shannon Rowe. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Garret and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.

A nominee for the vacant seat of the District 8 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council *(District 8 – Garrett)*. Clerk of Council

McLemore announced Councilor Garrett is nominating Jack Schley. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Garret and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Paul T. Berry, III (*Not interested in serving another term*) for a term expiring on October 31, 2025, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*District 5 – Crabb*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Scott Taft (*Not Eligible*) for a term expiring on October 31, 2025, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*District 9 – Anker*). There were none.

C. YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL:

A nominee for the District 9 Representative on the Youth Advisory Council (*District 9 – Anker*). There were none.

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

A. ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Elizabeth Kirven Boyce (*Eligible to serve another term*) for a term that expired on October 15, 2025 (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor renominated Elizabeth Kirven Boyce.

A nominee for the seat of Matthew Franklin Gilbert (*Eligible to serve another term*) for a term that expired on October 15, 2025 (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor renominated Matthew Franklin Gilbert.

A nominee for the vacant seat of the Georgia Veterinary Technician with a term expiring on October 15, 2026, on the Animal Control Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the vacant seat of the Animal Rescue Shelter Representative with a term expiring on October 15, 2026, on the Animal Control Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

B. BOARD OF HEALTH:

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

C. BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS:

A nominee for the seat of Douglas M. Jefcoat (*Eligible to serve another term*) with a term expiring on December 31, 2025 (*Council's Appointment*). Clerk of Council McLemore announced Councilor Crabb is renominating Douglas M. Jefcoat.

D. BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS:

A nominee for the seat of Wes Kelley (*Eligible to serve another term*) with a term that expired on December 31, 2025, on the Board of Water Commissioners (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

E. LIBERTY THEATRE & CULTURAL ARTS CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term that expired on August 14, 2025, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term that expires on August 14, 2026, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

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

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.

G. PERSONNEL REVIEW BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Willie Butler (*Not Eligible*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2025, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Yolanda Sumbry Sewell (*Not Eligible*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2025, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Delano Leftwich (*Not Eligible*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2025, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat (*Alternate Member 1*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2025, 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, 2025, 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, 2025, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat (*Alternate Member 5*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2025, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

H. UPTOWN FAÇADE BOARD:

A nominee for the vacant seat of the Uptown Business Improvement District Representative with a term expiring on October 31, 2026, on the Uptown Façade Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

PUBLIC AGENDA (continued):

2. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Ordinance or Resolution to Compensate Small Businesses Impacted by Road Project. ***No Action Taken***

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss property acquisition and disposal as requested by City Attorney Fay. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote and the time being 12:57 p.m.

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 1:09 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in Executive Session to discuss property acquisition and disposal; however, there were no votes taken.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Garrett to adjourn the November 4, 2025, Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote and the time being 1:10 p.m.

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