

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

July 26, 2022
5:30 PM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors Jerry "Pops" Barnes (via Microsoft Teams), Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett (arrived at 5:40 p.m.), John M. House, Bruce Huff, Judy W. Thomas, Toyia Tucker, and Evelyn "Mimi" Woodson (arrived at 5:35 p.m.). City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis, and Deputy Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore were present.

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) River Safety Committee Presentation.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) Columbus Consolidated Government Compensation & Classification Study Presentation of Results; (2) Animal Care and Control Contract Update Presentation

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Rev. John Mabry - New Providence Baptist Church of Columbus, Georgia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson

MINUTES

1. Approval of the July 12, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Woodson being absent for the vote.

UPDATE:

2. An update on COVID-19. **Update not presented.*

PROCLAMATION:

3. **PROCLAMATION:** Jessie Stanley Day

RECEIVING: Jessie Stanley

Councilor Bruce Huff read the proclamation into the record, proclaiming Tuesday, July 26, 2022, as *Jessie Stanley Day*, recognizing Mr. Stanley for his service to the community in officiating sporting events for forty years.

PRESENTATION:

4. River Safety Committee Update (Pam Fair, Chair, River Safety Committee)

River Safety Committee Chair Pam Fair approached the rostrum to provide an update on the River Safety Committee, which was established on September 7, 2017, to educate the community on river safety and address safety concerns. She provided information on the strides taken and events held with the committee's community partners. She encouraged visitors to the Chattahoochee River to have on a personal floatation device suitable for the type of water they are entering.

Whitewater Express President Dan Gilbert came forward to explain that the committee has had two national experts come to evaluate the efforts being taken to promote safety on the river. He stated both experts expressed they had not seen anywhere else in the country that a community came together in such a positive way to try and ensure water safety.

Deputy Fire Chief Ricky Shores (Columbus Fire & EMS) came forward to thank Committee Chair Pam Fair for extending the invite to Columbus Fire & EMS to be a part of the committee. In response to a question asked by a member of Council, he explained the Columbus Fire & EMS Department is tracking all the demographic information on the individuals that are rescued and those that have perished, to include mapping information and what has taking place shortly before these incidents occurred.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR WHITEWATER EXPRESS:

- Come to Council with information on camps and events so the information can be aired on CCG-TV. (*Request of Councilor Woodson*)

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

6. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Compensation Pay Plan Update - Mark Holcombe, Evergreen Solutions

Project Manager Mark Holcombe approached the rostrum to provide an update on the Comprehensive Compensation Study that was conducted by Evergreen Solutions. He provided information on the comments and concerns expressed by employees during meetings. He also provided cost information on the recommendations for General Government and Public Safety Employees. (*NOTE: This update was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item 6 "A"*)

Human Resources Director Reather Hollowell came forward to respond to questions asked by the members of Council regarding differential and specialty pay. She explained this pay will need to be addressed by each department and recommended to the Human Resources Department; then the recommendations will be forwarded to the City Manager for approval. She shared information on the timeline of the plan adoption going forward, to include when employees can expect to see the changes in their pay.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR:

- Inform department heads that they need to address differential and specialty pay with the Human Resources Department. (*Request of Councilor Woodson*)

CITY ATTORNEY’S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **1st Reading-** An ordinance providing for the demolition of various structures located at: 1) **81 Lafayette Drive** (Crawford B. Smith Jr., Owner); 2) **776 Terminal Court** (Jonnie L. General, Owner); 3) **920 Diggs Avenue** (Walter S. Bland, Owner); 4) **3025 Bonanza Drive** (Peter J. Wheeler, Owner); 5) **2317 Forsyth Street** (Jeraquis Chaney, Owner); 6) **2059 Mason Street** (Garnet Funds Group LLC, Owner); 7) **2410 Schaul Street** (T. Marie Enterprises INC, Owner); 8) **6035 Mill Branch Road** (John Moore, Owner); 9) **1065 Martin Luther King Blvd** (William Mott, Owner); 10) **1530 Hunt Avenue** (Gerald L. Miley, Owner) (Mayor Pro-Tem)

Inspections & Code Director Ryan Pruett approached the rostrum to present information on various properties on the demolition list and answer questions asked by the members of Council.

Mr. Jonnie General (Owner of 776 Terminal Court) came forward to provide information on how he acquired the property and the various situations that have caused a delay in the repairs to the structure on the property. He requested extra time to make improvements to the structure. The members of Council informed Mr. General to continue working on improving the property and to make Director Pruett aware of his progress, but the property would stay on the demolition list as have other properties in the past to be consistent.

2. **1st Reading-** An ordinance amending Article VII of Chapter 13 of the Columbus Code to revise provisions concerning junked motor vehicles; and for other purposes. (Councilor Barnes)

Inspections & Code Director Ryan Pruett approached the rostrum to provide a presentation on the proposed ordinance regarding junk motor vehicles.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA (continued)

1. **Street Acceptance – Thoreau Court located in Phase Two, Walden Pond**

Resolution (191-22): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, authorizing the acceptance of a deed to Thoreau Court located in Phase Two, Walden Pond, on behalf of Columbus, Georgia. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

2. **Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network BOOST Grant Summer 2022. “Building Opportunities for Out of School Time”**

Resolution (192-22): A resolution authorizing the City to apply for the After School Boost Grant and, if awarded, accept the monies granted by the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Program Network “Building Opportunities for Out of School Time” Summer Boost Grant. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

3. U.S. Department of Justice FY22 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

Resolution (193-22): A resolution authorizing the City Manager or his designee to submit an application for, and if awarded, accept a 2022 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$74,900, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match requirement, to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount of the award, and to allocate the amount awarded to the eligible city departments to be determined later for law enforcement, prosecution and court programs supported by the grant. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

4. State Criminal Alien Assistance Program grant application

Resolution (194-22): A resolution authorizing the City Manager, the Mayor, or their designee to submit and accept, if awarded, the Fiscal Year 2023 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, in the amount of \$58,300.00 or as otherwise awarded, with no local match required, and amend the SCAAP Budget by the amount awarded. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

5. PURCHASES

A. Lot Clearing and Solid Waste Removal (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 22-0023

Resolution (195-22): A resolution authorizing the execution of an annual contract with Express Pressure Washing, LLC (McDonough, GA), as the primary contractor, and Both Farms, LLC (West Point, GA) and Elite Tree Service, Inc. (Columbus, GA), as the secondary contractors, to provide lot clearing and solid waste removal, on an “as needed” basis. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

B. Roofing Services at Metra Lower Maintenance Shop – RFB No. 22-0041

Resolution (196-22): A resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with Dusty Greer Roofing, Inc. (Winder, GA) in the amount of \$319,700.00 for roofing services at the Lower Maintenance Shop at Metra Transit System. The unit prices for any unforeseen work will be \$3.00 per board foot to replace deteriorated wood blocking and nailers, \$200.00 each for new retrofit drains at existing drains, and \$11.00 per square foot to replace cementitious wood fiber deck. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

C. Vending Machine Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 22-0007

Resolution (197-22): A resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with Five Star Food Services, Inc. (Chattanooga, TN), to provide vending machine services for various city locations. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

D. Real Estate Appraisal Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 22-0017

Resolution (198-22): A resolution authorizing the execution of annual contracts for real estate appraisal services, on an “as needed basis”, with Norris Appraisal Group, LLC (Cataula, GA), primary contractor, and Carter-Hazel & Associates, Inc. (Ellenwood, GA), secondary contractor, for Option 1: Community Reinvestment; as well as Norris Appraisal Group, LLC (Cataula, GA), primary contractor, and CBRE, Inc. – Valuation & Advisory Services (Atlanta, GA), secondary contractor, for Option 2: right-of-way. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

E. Taser and Accessories Master Services and Purchasing Agreement for Muscogee County Prison

Resolution (199-22): A resolution authorizing the master services and purchasing agreement for tasers and accessories from Axon Enterprises Inc., (Scottsdale, AZ), in the total amount of \$72,000.00. The agreement will cover sixty (60) months form December 1, 2022 – November 30, 2027, with annual payments of \$14,400.00. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

F. Amendment 3 for Construction Manager as General Contractor Services for Columbus Government Center Complex – RFQ No. 20-0002

Resolution (200-22): A resolution authorizing the execution of Amendment 3 with Gilbane Building Company (Atlanta, GA), in association with Freeman & Associates, Inc., in the amount of \$19,288,390.37. The total guaranteed maximum price for renovations to the New City Hall Facility will be \$23,500,000.00. Additionally, authorization is requested to execute any additional amendments not to exceed the remaining funding available in the bond issue. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

WALLETHUB BEST-RUN CITIES IN AMERICA

City Manager Isaiah Hugley explained that Columbus, Georgia ranked as number twenty-six out of one hundred fifty best-run cities in America on WalletHub.com. He encouraged citizens to go to the website to see the list and the information on how cities are ranked.

6. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Compensation Pay Plan Update - Mark Holcombe, Evergreen Solutions

(NOTE: This update, as provided by Evergreen Solutions Project Manager Mark Holcombe, was called upon earlier in the meeting during the Mayor’s Agenda.)

B. Animal Care and Control Contract Update (Add-On) - Lisa Goodwin, Deputy City Manager

Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin approached the rostrum to provide a presentation on moving animal care and control services to PAWS Humane Society; since, they are now under new leadership. She explained the contract timeline, with the negotiations continuing until August 8th, bringing a

recommendation to Council for a vote on August 30th, and turning control over to PAWS on January 1, 2023.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Provide information on the business model before approval of contract. *(Request of Councilor Davis)*
- Provide information on who is responsible since PAWS reports to a board. *(Request of Mayor Pro Tem Allen)*
- Provide information on contract renewal timeline. *(Request of Mayor Pro Tem Allen)*
- Make the agreement easily cancelled for the City of Columbus if services are not provided as expected. *(Request of Mayor Pro Tem Allen)*

BID ADVERTISEMENT

July 29, 2022

1. Real and Personal Property Mail/Processing (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 22-0028
Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide printing and mailing services to the Muscogee County Board of Tax Assessors and Tax Commissioner’s Office. The required services shall include Real Property Tax Matter Notices, Personal Property Tax Matter Notices, Personal Property returns, Real, Personal, & Mobile Home Property Tax Bills, and Real, Personal, & Mobile Home Property Tax Delinquent Notices.

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

August 12, 2022

1. Naming Rights Consulting Services – RFP No. 22-0031
Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government invites qualified consultants to submit proposals to provide a valuation study and assist or in whole find a sponsor for naming rights at the Columbus Civic Center and Ice Rink.

2. Design and Construction Services for Shirley B. Winston, Rigdon Park, and Psalmond Road Pools – RFP No. 23-0001
Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is requesting proposals from qualified contractors to engage a Design-Builder to design and construct new in-ground pools at three existing park locations throughout the City.

Each project location will include modifications to the existing pool location including necessary demolition, renovation of existing structures, and installation of new pool structure and equipment. The selected Design-Builder will be responsible for all programming, design, and construction.

August 24, 2022

1. US 80/SR 22/Beaver Run Road at Psalmond Road Intersection Improvements – RFB No. 23-0004
Scope of Bid

Provide improvements to the intersection of Beaver Run Road and Psalmound Road. The work includes but is not limited to grading, resurfacing, pavement marking, median, curbs & gutters, sidewalks, landscaping & erosion control, and traffic lighting & signs.

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. Email Correspondence from Mr. John Renfroe- Principal Planner advising of a vacancy on the Planning Advisory Commission due to Mr. Raul Esteras-Palos no longer being a resident of Muscogee County. Councilor Woodson made a motion to declare the seat as vacant, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present. Councilor Woodson then nominated Dr. Walter Taylor, Councilor Crabb nominated Christopher Phillips, and Councilor House nominated Dr. Rocky Marsh to fill the unexpired term of Raul Esteras-Palos on the Planning Advisory Commission (PAC).
2. Honorary Designation Application from Lillian Henderson for street signage on Adair Avenue in honor of Rev. Benjamin F. McGruder, Jr. (*The Council may vote to send to Board of Honor.*) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to forward the honorary designation application to the Board of Honor for consideration, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the ten members present.
3. Honorary Designation Application from Tony Thornton for street signage on 35th Street in honor of Ronnie Duckworth, Sr. (*The Council may vote to send to Board of Honor.*) Councilor Woodson made a motion to forward the honorary designation application to the Board of Honor for consideration, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

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

457 Deferred Compensation Board, May 12, 2022

Board of Tax Assessors, #21-22

Development Authority, February 10, March 3 and April 7, 2022

Employees' Pension Fund, Board of Trustees, January 12, February 9 and March 9, 2022

Uptown Facade Board, June 15, 2022

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

5. **MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:**

A. **COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & CULTURAL LIAISON ENCOUNTERS (CIRCLE):**

A nominee for the seat of Akear Mewborn (*Does not desire reappointment*) for a term that expired on March 1, 2022, on the Commission on International Relations & Cultural Liaison Encounters (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

B. PENSION FUND, EMPLOYEES' BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

A nominee for the seat of Renee McAneny (*Currently serving on another board*) as the Retired City Employee Representative for a term that expired on June 30, 2022, on the Pension Fund, Employees' Board of Trustees (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

6. COUNCIL'S APPOINTMENT- READY FOR CONFIRMATION:

A. COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & CULTURAL LIAISON ENCOUNTERS (C.I.R.C.L.E): Ms. Mattie Hall was nominated to succeed Mr. Harry Underwood. (*Councilor Tucker's nominee*) Term expires: March 1, 2026. Councilor Tucker made a motion to confirm the appointment of Mattie Hall to succeed Harry Underwood on the Commission on International Relations & Cultural Liaison Encounters (CIRCLE), seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

B. VALLEY PARTNERSHIP JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: Mr. Herman Lewis was nominated to fill the unexpired term of the late Mr. Gary Jones. (*Mayor Pro Tem Allen's nominee*) Term expires: June 30, 2023. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to confirm the appointment of Herman Lewis to fill the unexpired term of the late Gary Jones on the Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

7. COUNCIL'S DISTRICT SEAT APPOINTMENT- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

A. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Friar Noel Danielewicz (*Seat Declared Vacant*) as the District 3 Representative for a term that expires on October 31, 2022, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 3- Huff*). There were none.

8. COUNCIL'S CONFIRMATION- ORGANIZATION / AGENCY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

A. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Robert Anderson (*Resigned*) for a term that expires on January 31, 2024, as the Liberty Cultural Center Representative on the Historic & Architectural Review Board (*Council's Confirmation*). The Liberty Cultural Center is nominating Rev. Curtis West to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Robert Anderson. Councilor Woodson made a motion to confirm the appointment of Reverend Curtis West to fill the unexpired term of Robert Anderson as the Liberty Cultural Center Representative on the Historic & Architectural Review Board (BHAR), seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

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

A. BOARD OF HONOR:

A nominee for the seat of Bob Hydrick (*passed away*) for a term that expires on October 31, 2022, on the Board of Honor (*Council's Appointment*). All of the members serving on this board must be former elected official of Muscogee County. There were none.

B. COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & CULTURAL LIAISON ENCOUNTERS (CIRCLE):

A nominee for the seat of Rose Spencer (*Not Eligible to serve another term*) for a term that expired on March 1, 2021, on the Commission on International Relations & Cultural Liaison Encounters (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of SarahAnn Arcila (*Resigned*) for a term that expired on March 1, 2024, on the Commission on International Relations & Cultural Liaison Encounters (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

C. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Margaret Higdon (*Does not desire reappointment*) for a term that expired on December 31, 2021, on the Cooperative Extension Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

D. PERSONNEL REVIEW BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Darlene Small (*Not Eligible to succeed*) as Alternate Member 3 for a term that expired on December 31, 2021, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Dr. Shanita Pettaway (*Resigned*) as Alternate Member 5 for a term that expires on December 31, 2022, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

E. RETIREES' HEALTH BENEFITS COMMITTEE:

A nominee for the seat of Esther Radcliff (*Does not desire reappointment*) for a term that expired on June 30, 2022, on the Retirees' Health Benefits Committee (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

F. TREE BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Chris Henson (*Does not desire reappointment*) for a term that expired on July 1, 2022, as the Environmental Advocacy Representative on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

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

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

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Garrett to adjourn the July 26, 2022 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present, with the time being 8:12 p.m.

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