

COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING **MINUTES**

Council Chambers
C. E. "Red" McDaniel City Services Center- Second Floor
2960 Macon Road, Columbus, GA 31906

January 13, 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 John Anker, Travis L. Chambers, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis (arrived at 9:19 a.m.), R. Walker Garrett, and Toyia Tucker. Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin, Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall, Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore and Deputy Clerk of Council Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III was absent. Councilors Byron Hickey and Bruce Huff were also absent.

<p><u>The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet:</u> (1) MA#6: United Way Chattahoochee Valley; (2) CM#8(A): AJ McClung Memorial Stadium A Comprehensive Plan for Modernization and Community Impact; (3) CM#8(B): Accessory Dwelling Units Presentation</p>

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Councilor Travis Chambers

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen

MINUTES:

1. Approval of minutes for December 16, 2025, Council Meeting. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

3. Standing Boy Preserve Management Agreement Amendment

Resolution (001-26) - A resolution authorizing the Mayor or his designee to execute an amendment to the management agreement with Standing Boy, Inc. For the construction of a viewing tower at the Standing Boy Preserve. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Anker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting. (*NOTE: Item called forward at the request of Councilor Garrett.*)

MAYOR'S AGENDA (continued)

PROCLAMATIONS

2. **Proclamation:** Major Terry Lee Kee, United States Air Force (*Retired*)

Receiving: Gerry Kee

Mayor Pro Tem Gary Allen read the proclamation into the record proclaiming Friday, January 2, 2026, as *Terry Lee Kee Day*, recognizing Terry Lee Kee and highlighting his integrity, devotion to his family and country, and his burial with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

3. **Proclamation:** Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

Receiving: Law Enforcement

Councilor Toyia Tucker read the proclamation into the record proclaiming Friday, January 9, 2026, as *Law Enforcement Appreciation Day*, recognizing and honoring the men and women of law enforcement for their daily sacrifices, courage, and dedication to protecting the Columbus community.

RESOLUTIONS

4. **Resolution (002-26)** - A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to adopt a Columbus-Muscogee County Emergency Management Agency & Homeland Security Emergency Operations Plan for 2026-2028. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

5. **Resolution (003-26)** - A Resolution authorizing a transition audit of the Engineering Department by the Internal Auditor. *(Requested by Councilor Toyia Tucker, as Chair of the Auditor Committee)* Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

6. 2026 Point in Time Count

Presented by: Pat Frey, Vice President of Home for Good
Holli Browder, Director of Parks & Recreation

Vice President of Home for Good Pat Frey presented an overview of the annual Home for Good Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, which is conducted each January to assess the number and needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the community. She explained that the PIT Count is not just a headcount, but a detailed assessment used to identify service gaps, make referrals, and guide data-driven decisions.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **2nd Reading-** REZN-07-25-1260: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **8828 Veterans Parkway and 4885 Charleston Way** (parcel # 079-002-002A) from Planned Unit Development (PUD) Zoning District to Planned Unit Development (PUD) Zoning District with conditions. (Planning Department recommends approval with conditions. PAC recommends denial.) (Mayor Pro-Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to deny the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Garrett and found inconclusive by a five-to-three vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Chambers, Cogle, Garrett and Tucker voting in favor; Councilors Anker, Crabb and Davis voting in opposition, with Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

(NOTE: Additional action was taken on this matter at the end of the City Attorney's Agenda.)

2. **1st Reading-** An ordinance amending the budgets for the Fiscal Year 2026 by appropriating amounts in each fund for various operational activities. (FY26 MID-YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENT) (Budget Review Committee)

Finance Director Angelica Alexander presented the FY26 mid-year budget amendment, explaining that it incorporates purchase orders and reserve funds carried over from the prior fiscal year, along with a small number of new amendments. She highlighted the major carryover items and identified which amendments would impact reserves, while emphasizing that most adjustments are budget-neutral and align previously approved or reserved funds with current FY26 spending needs.

Muscogee County Prison Warden Hubert Walker III explained that the requested additional pay adjustment is needed to help Muscogee County Prison remain competitive with nearby correctional agencies. He said the added adjustment would help close that gap, improve recruitment, and reduce staff losses to neighboring facilities.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE FINANCE DIRECTOR:

- A request was made for departments that are currently over budget or at risk of exceeding their budgets at midyear to provide a report detailing their plans to remain within budget for the remainder of the fiscal year. (*Councilor Cogle*)
- A request was made for the proposed permanent pay adjustment for Muscogee County Prison officers be revised to a one-time bonus. (*Councilor Tucker*)
- A request was made for staff to return during the budget cycle with detailed information on the \$30 per inmate per day reimbursement, including projected revenues and how those funds would support a potential permanent pay adjustment. (*Councilor Tucker*)
- A request was made for a report to explain how the one-time bonus is going to work. (*Mayor Pro Tem Allen*)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- *Theresa El-Amin* – Concerned about property being demolished in historic neighborhoods,

RESOLUTIONS

3. **Resolution (004-26)** - A Resolution authorizing Sunday Sales of alcoholic beverages at all On-Premises locations within Columbus on Sunday February 8, 2026. (Councilor Cogle) Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

4. **Resolution (005-26)** - A Resolution establishing qualifying fees for county offices of the Consolidated Government to be filled in the 2026 elections. (Mayor Pro-Tem) Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION ON ITEM CA#1:

Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to reconsider action taken on Item No. 1 on the City Attorney's Agenda, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting

2nd Reading- REZN-07-25-1260: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **8828 Veterans Parkway and 4885 Charleston Way** (parcel # 079-002-002A) from Planned Unit Development (PUD) Zoning District to Planned Unit Development (PUD) Zoning District with conditions. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to deny the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried by a six-to-two vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Chambers, Cogle, Davis, Garrett and Tucker voting in favor; Councilors Anker and Crabb voting in opposition, with Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mr. Samuel Whit, Re: LGBTQ+ Resources and Representation
2. Dr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: The Charter; Once again is the bane of all our problems.
3. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Mauldin & Jenkins Report.
4. Ms. Arreasha "Z" Lawrence, representing Music Entertainment Council and Columbus Creative Collective, Re: Request for members of Council to have offices and additional resources.
5. Mrs. Laketha Ashe, representing Still Standing Organization and Justmyne, Re: Standing Still organization overview and upcoming arts and cultural initiative.
6. Mr. Mark Lawrence, representing IMA, Re: Closing loose ends before moving forward.
7. Mr. Steve Kelly, Re: City Employees' Pay and Cost of Living.
8. Mr. Ric Rivera, representing Indivisible Columbus, Re: DeFlock Columbus.

In response to Mr. Rivera's concerns, **Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen** advised that follow-up information would be provided, including data on saved lives, crimes solved, and individuals incarcerated as a result of the use of the cameras.

9. Dr. Natalie Nicole, representing Role Model Academy, Re: Equity, Responsiveness, and Representation in City Governance. ***Not Present - Rescheduled***

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA (continued)

1. Fort Benning Technology Park Tax Allocation District Fund Grant – Columbus Housing Initiative, Inc. Development Agreement

Resolution (006-26) - A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Columbus Housing Initiative, Inc., dba Neighborworks Columbus, for the purposes of allocating Fort Benning Technology Park Tax Allocation District Funds for the construction of certain public infrastructure improvements to construct a single family residential subdivision known as Newmans Crossing in an amount not to exceed three million three hundred seventeen thousand three hundred forty dollars and twenty-nine cents (\$3,317,340.29) Councilor Cogle made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Anker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

2. Real Estate Agreement with Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc.

Resolution (007-25) - A resolution authorizing the Mayor or his designee to enter into an agreement with Historic Columbus Foundation, Inc. for the relocation and restoration of the Alma Thomas house to 815 5th Avenue in the Liberty Heritage District. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

(NOTE: Item CM#3 called forward during the Mayor's Agenda.)

4. Ignite Pro Hockey, L.L.C. Agreement Amendment

Resolution (008-25) - A resolution authorizing an amendment to the ignite Pro Hockey, L.L.C., agreement to correct the contract term dates. Councilor Cogle made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

5. 2026 Legislative Agenda Items – Additional Proposed Items

Approval is requested of the resolutions for the 2026 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly.

5 (1). MUSCOGEE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CLERK – SALARIES:

The Columbus Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce legislation to amend the local act found at Georgia Laws 1984, page 4314. The requested amendment would provide that the salary of the Muscogee County Superior Court Clerk shall be no less than 80% of the state base salary of the superior court judges for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit or any future judicial circuit that includes Muscogee County. Based upon the terms of office served by the Muscogee County Superior Court Clerk, longevity and cost of living increases shall be added to the salary of the clerk of said court under the same provisions and in the same manner as provided for longevity and cost of living increases pursuant to general law. The salary of the Chief Deputy Clerk appointed pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-6-59 shall be recommended by the Muscogee County Superior Court Clerk and approved in the Clerk of Superior Court's Budget. In no event shall such Chief Deputy Clerk's salary be less than 65% of the base salary of the Muscogee County Superior Court Clerk, excluding any longevity or cost of living increases. *(Request of Councilor Toyia Tucker)*

Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and open for discussion.

In response to Councilor Tucker's question, **Finance Director Angelica Alexander** explained that under the existing state statute, Council is authorized to approve a local supplement for the Clerk's position, similar to supplements already provided to the Probate Judge and Sheriff.

Clerk of Superior Court Danielle Forte explained that her compensation and that of her chief deputy are governed by an outdated 1984 law, which sets pay levels far below those of comparable positions. She noted that her salary is currently tied to the sheriff rather than to the superior court judges, unlike clerks in similarly sized jurisdictions. She also mentioned that she serves as clerk for both Superior and State Courts.

After several minutes of discussion regarding this item, the vote was found inconclusive by five-to-two, with Councilors Chambers, Cogle, Crabb, Garrett and Tucker voting in favor; Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilor Anker voting in opposition, and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

(NOTE: Additional action was taken on this matter Item CM#8(A).)

6. FY26 - FY27 – Solicitor General Crime Victim Assistance Grant

Resolution (009-26) - A resolution authorizing the Mayor or his designee to apply for and accept, if awarded, a VOCA Grant award of \$57,483 or as otherwise awarded to operate the Solicitor General's Victim Witness Assistance Program from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026, with no local match required, and amend the multi-governmental fund 0216 by the amount awarded. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Anker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

7. PURCHASES

- A. Industrial, Medical and Special Gases (Annual Contract) – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (010-26) – A resolution authorizing the purchase of industrial, medical and special gases from Airgas, Inc, via Georgia State Contract, #99999-001-SPD0000237-0001. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Davis and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

- B. Contract Extension For Course Instructors For The Department Of Human Resources/The Learning Center (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 19-0003

Resolution (011-26) – A resolution authorizing the extension of the annual contract for Course Instructors for the Department of Human Resources/The Learning Center with The Leadership Institute at Columbus State University (Columbus, GA) through January 17, 2027. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Davis and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

- C. Two (2) Ford Transit Vans For Public Works – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (012-26) – A resolution hereby authorizing the purchase of two (2) Ford Transit Vans for the Public Works Department from Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) at a unit price of \$60,980.00 and a total cost of \$121,960.00. The vehicles will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia State Contract #99999-001-SPD-SPD0000218-0001. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Davis and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

D. Cellular Connection Service for Emergency Telephones Installed in Elevators at Various City Locations (Annual Contract) – GSA Cooperative

Resolution (013-26) - A resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with Kings III of America, dba Kings III Emergency Communications (Coppel, TX) to provide cellular connection services for emergency phones installed in elevators at various city locations. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Federal GSA contract #47qsms24d009r. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Davis and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

E. Electronic Monitoring Equipment and Services for Detainees (Annual Contract) – GSA Cooperative Contract

Resolution (014-26) - A resolution authorizing the purchase of electronic monitoring equipment and services from Buddi US, LLC (Dunedin, FL), on an “as needed” basis, via the Federal GSA Contract # 47QSMS25D00CJ, for the estimated annual contract amount of \$36,000.00. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Davis and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

F. Soft Body Armor – The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (015-26) – A resolution authorizing the purchase of soft body armor from Federal Eastern International, LLC (Jacksonville, FL) for the estimated annual contract value of \$183,340.00, based on previous purchase history. The purchases will be made on an “as needed” basis by cooperative purchase via The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS), Contract #250101. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Davis and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

G. Three (3) Ford Transit Vans for Public Works – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (016-26) – A resolution authorizing the purchase of three (3) 2026 Ford Transit Vans for the Public Works Department – Stormwater Division from Wade Ford. (Smyrna, GA) at a unit price of \$60,980.00 and total cost of \$182,940.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia State Contract #99999-SPD-SPD0000218-0001. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Davis and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

H. Fast Fare Fareboxes For METRA

Resolution (017-26) – A resolution authorizing the purchase of four (4) fast fare fareboxes from Genfare, LLC (Elk Grove Village, IL) in the total amount of \$82,570.61. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Davis and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

I. Mobile/Automatic License Plate Readers Associated Software/Equipment For The Sheriff's Office – GSA Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (018-26) – A resolution authorizing the purchase of seven (7) mobile/automatic license plate readers with associated software/equipment, from Madden Associates (Buford, GA), in the total amount of \$128,423.90. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchasing via GSA Federal Contract, Schedule 84, Contract #GS-07F-0004Y. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Davis and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

J. Replacement Ice Plant Condenser for The Civic Center

Resolution (019-26) – A resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of a ice plant condenser at the Civic Center from American Refrigeration (Jacksonville, FL) in the amount of \$398,220.17. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Davis and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made for the current balance of the Friends of Columbus fund designated for the Civic Center. (*Councilor Anker*)

8. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. AJ McClung Update - Scott Allen, Vice President, Architecture, Commercial with 2WR + Partners

Parks and Recreations Director Holli Browder explained that while \$1.6 million in previously designated TAD funding was initially considered for upgrades at AJ McClung Stadium, early

evaluations showed that amount was insufficient for the needs of this facility. After further assessment and collaboration with architects and design teams, the focus shifted toward reimagining the facility as a modern, multi-use stadium.

Scott Allen, Vice President, Architecture, Commercial with 2WR + Partners presented a conceptual vision for redeveloping AJ McClung Stadium, explaining that ongoing structural issues make phased or piecemeal renovations impractical. He outlined a proposal for a comprehensive, modernized stadium designed to be versatile and competitive, capable of hosting football, soccer, concerts, and regional events. The concept includes expanding seating capacity, integrating design elements that honor the historic legacy of AJ McClung Stadium and creating visual and functional connections with Synovus Park.

Director of Inspections & Code Ryan Pruett stated that several years ago the City completed structural concrete repairs to address soil issues beneath the stadium seating bowl, after which structural engineers confirmed there were no remaining structural concerns and control joints were resealed to preserve integrity. He said no new structural engineering report has been completed.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made for Council to be provided with a copy of the video presentation that was shown. *(Councilor Anker)*
- A request was made for staff to present some additional options as far as what can be done in the next 10-15 years. *(Councilor Cogle)*
- A request was made to explore whether the City or its Sports and Entertainment Authority can legally and creatively pursue a capital campaign to fund facility improvements, including options such as sponsorships, prepaid leasing, and other contributions, to generate upfront funding and accelerate meaningful upgrades rather than delaying improvements for many years. *(Councilor Crabb)*

In response, **Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall** explained that fundraising for a city facility is typically handled through a separate nonprofit organization, often structured as a “Friends of” group, which conducts the fundraising and then donates the proceeds to the City of Columbus.

- A request was made to explore the feasibility of pursuing a public–private partnership, similar to the South Commons model facilitated by the Sports Council (a 501(c)(3)), as a potential funding and development option. *(Councilor Tucker)*

- A request was made for staff to return with a prioritized and phased plan for improvements.
(Councilor Chambers)

Deputy City Manager Hodge responded to an earlier request from Councilor Anker by reporting that, following today's purchase, the current balance of the Friends of Columbus account is \$2.2 million.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION ON ITEM CM#5(1):

Councilor Tucker made a motion to reconsider Item No. 5(1) on the City Manager's Agenda, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting

Resolution (020-26) – A resolution requesting the Local Legislative Delegation to introduce legislation to amend the local act found at Georgia Laws 1984, p. 4314. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried by a six-to-two vote, with Councilors Chambers, Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Garrett and Tucker voting in favor; Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilor Anker voting in opposition, with Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

8. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS (continued)

- B. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and Tiny Homes Update - Will Johnson, Director, Planning

Planning Director Will Johnson provided a presentation on tiny homes and accessory dwelling units (ADUs), explaining that ADUs are small, independent living spaces located on the same lot as a single-family home and can provide economic and housing benefits. He pointed out that current zoning restrictions in Columbus limit their use and recommended updating local regulations to allow them with appropriate conditions. He provided an overview of tiny homes, defined as single-family dwellings generally 400 square feet or less, and explained how they are regulated through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and local building codes. He stated with Council direction, the City could adopt the updated standards, determine appropriate zoning, and allow tiny homes as primary residences.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY:

- A request was made for the City Attorney to review the Planning Director's recommended changes regarding ADUs and work on a revised ordinance, along with ongoing efforts related to tiny homes. (*Councilor Tucker*)

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Pro Tem Allen entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel as requested by City Attorney Fay. Councilor Tucker made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with the time being 1:13 p.m.

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 3:02 p.m., at which time, Mayor Pro Tem Allen announced that the Council did meet in Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel; however, there were no votes taken.

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: December 16, 2025
TO: Mayor and Councilors
FROM: Finance Department
SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFQs

December 19, 2025

1. Aerial Ground Ladder and Apparatus Pumps Inspection & Testing Services (Annual Contract)
- RFB No. 26-0010

Scope of RFB

Provide aerial and ground ladder inspection and testing services to the Columbus Consolidated Government Fire and EMS Department. This specification applies to all fire apparatus equipped with a fire pump and outlines the procedures for annual pump testing, including requirements for equipment, site selection, test procedures, and documentation.

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

2. 24ft Rolling Scaffolding for METRA- RFB 26-0014

Scope of RFB

METRA Transit System in Columbus, Georgia is seeking bids for one (1) Heavy-Duty 24' Rolling Maintenance Scaffolding in order to perform rooftop maintenance and access on large transit buses. The large transit buses are 30', 35' and 40' in length. The scaffolding must also be able to provide rooftop access to electric bus batteries for the purpose of maintenance and replacement.

3. Muscogee County Board of Elections & Registration Voting Equipment Delivery Services (Re-Bid) (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 26-0010

Scope of RFP

Muscogee County Board of Elections and Registration is seeking proposals from qualified moving firms to deliver voting equipment to voting sites before the scheduled election events, and to retrieve the same equipment after the election event. The election schedule consists of up to five election events in a presidential election cycle, up to four election events in a mid-term election cycle, and the possibility of special elections in odd-numbered years. Deliveries vary from county-wide (25 precincts) to district elections (as few as five) based on the type of election.

Note: The first election expected to be serviced under this contract, if awarded, will be May, 2026.

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

January 14, 2026

1. Dump Truck Rental (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 25-0025

Scope of RFB

Provide rental of tandem dump trucks, **with operator**, on an “as needed” basis, with a requested availability of six (6) trucks (minimum) at all times, swing gate and lift gate compatible. The trucks will be used by the Public Works Department for various projects, and will be awarded to both a Primary Contractor, and a Secondary Contractor. The contract term will be for two (2) years, with the option to renew for three additional twelve-month periods.

CLERK OF COUNCIL’S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. Resignation: Delois Dee Marsh has submitted a resignation from her seat on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the resignation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the seven members

present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

2. **Travel Authorization Request:** Authorization is being requested for Councilor Toyia Tucker to attend the 2026 NACo Legislative Conference during the month of February 2026.

Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve an allowance contribution from Councilor Davis for allowance overage with the understanding reimbursement would be made by ACCG, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote, and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

Councilor Anker made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

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

Board of Tax Assessors #42-25

Board of Water Commissioners 11-10-25

Board of Zoning Appeals 11-05-25

Hospital Authority of Columbus 07-29-25

Hospital Authority of Columbus 08-28-25

Hospital Authority of Columbus 09-30-25

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

ADD-ON RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution (021-26) - A resolution excusing the absence of Councilor Byron Hickey from the January 13, 2026, Council Meeting. Councilor Anker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote, and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

Resolution (022-26) - A resolution excusing the absence of Councilor Bruce Huff from the January 13, 2026, Council Meeting. Councilor Anker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

4. 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. PENSION FUND, EMPLOYEES' BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

A nominee for a vacant seat with a term that expires 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.

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

A. CIVIC CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for the vacant seat of the District 9 Representative with a term expiring on March 1, 2026, on the Civic Center Advisory Board. (*District 9 – Anker*). There were none.

B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

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 that Councilor Garrett is nominating John House to fill the vacant seat on the Community Advisory Council. Councilor Tucker made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

C. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Paul T. Berry, III (*Not interested in serving another term*) for a term that expired 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 that expired on October 31, 2025, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*District 9 – Anker*). There were none.

D. YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL:

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

6. APPOINTMENTS – CONFIRMED BY COUNCIL:

A. AIRPORT COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Art Guin (*Eligible to serve another term – Renominated by the Airport Commission*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2025, on the Airport Commission (*Commission's Nominee/Confirmed by Council*). Clerk of Council McLemore announced that the Airport Commission has nominated Philip Thayer to fill the seat of Art Guin on the Airport Commission. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

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

A. ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:

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. LIBERTY THEATRE & CULTURAL ARTS CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term that expired on August 14, 2025, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term that expires on August 14, 2026, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

D. 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.

E. PERSONNEL REVIEW BOARD:

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*). Clerk of Council McLemore announced that Councilor Huff is nominating Antron Murray to succeed Yolanda Sumbry Sewell on the Personnel Review Board. This nomination was supported by Councilor Tucker in the absence of Councilor Huff.

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 Leftwich (*Not Eligible – Alternate Member 4*) 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*). Councilor Tucker nominated Lakiesha Stringer to fill the Alternate Member 5 vacant seat on the Personnel Review Board.

UPCOMING BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

A. Historic & Architectural Review Board (BHAR) (Council's Appointment)

PUBLIC AGENDA (continued)

2. Dr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: The Charter; Once again is the bane of all our problems.
3. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Mauldin & Jenkins Report.

RESOLUTION (ADD-ON)

Resolution (023-26) - A Resolution authorizing a payment of \$215,000 to settle all damage claims of Rickey Boswell stemming from the incident which occurred on July 16, 2025, and to execute all appropriate settlement documents to this effect.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem Allen entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Anker to adjourn the January 13, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Cogle and Garrett being absent for the vote, Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting, and the time being 3:16 p.m.

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