

AN ORDINANCE

NO.

An Ordinance adopting a new Article XXIII of Chapter 2 of the Columbus Code to create a Sports & Entertainment Authority; and for other purposes.

SECTION 1.

A new Article XXIII of Chapter 2 of the Columbus Code is hereby adopted which shall read as follows:

ARTICLE XXIII. COLUMBUS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT AUTHORITY**“Sec . 2-298. Created; purpose.**

There is hereby created, as of July 1,2025, a subordinate branch of the consolidated government, a Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority to supervise the managers and employees and the buildings and grounds and operations of the Columbus Civic Center, the Columbus Ice Rink, AJ McClung Stadium, and the South Commons Softball Complex, (“the Facilities”). Title to the real and personal property of the Facilities shall remain with the consolidated government of Columbus, Georgia; provided however, the authority may dispose of any personal property or moveable equipment obtained in the course of its operations as it determines to be appropriate upon recommendation of the executive director. The Council of Columbus, Georgia, may pass any ordinances which it deems necessary to regulate the duties and activities and policies of the authority.

Sec. 2-299. Memberships; terms, compensation, qualifications, oath.

The authority shall consist of nine voting members. One member each will represent the Trade Center, the River Center, CVB, the Sports Council, and the Golf Authority. Each such member will be recommended by their governing board and confirmed by the Columbus Council. In addition, there will one voting member representing each of the following professions: 1) a commercial businessperson, 2) a CPA, 3) a Corporate/Employment attorney, and 4) a person with a marketing background. The attorney and the CPA shall be nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by Council, and the commercial business person and person with marketing background shall be nominated and confirmed by Council.

The voting members will serve for terms of three years, beginning with staggered term of one year for one of the original members, of two years for two of the original members, and of three years for two more of the original members. Voting Members shall be eligible to succeed themselves once, and they shall serve without compensation and at the pleasure of the Columbus Council. Each member shall serve until his successor is duly qualified, and former members who have served two successive terms shall be eligible for re-appointment to the authority after the expiration of a full three-year period during which such former members do not serve as members of the authority. Each member shall be a qualified voter in Columbus, Georgia; and, before assuming the duties of office, each member shall take the oath prescribed for board members serving the consolidated government.

Five non-voting ex officio members will be selected as follows: 1) the Director of Parks and Recreation, or his/her designee, 2) a member of Law Enforcement nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by Council, 3) the Director of the consolidated government IT Department or his/her designee, 4) a Deputy City Manager as designated by the City Manager, and 5) Director of the Department of Inspections and Code, or his/her designee, and 6) the Fort Moore Garrison Command or his or her designee.

Sec. 2-300. Operational procedures.

A majority of the authority shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority vote of the entire membership shall be necessary to take any action. The authority shall hold regular meetings under such rules and at such times and places as it deems appropriate, and the authority shall keep a written record of its meetings and any other of its transactions.

Sec. 2-301. Powers and duties.

The authority shall maintain the physical plant and conduct the operations of the Facilities so as to best realize its potential for commercial or cultural or civic or convention activities. The authority shall control the management and employees of the Facilities in the manner hereinafter prescribed. Within the budgetary limitations prescribed by the Columbus Council, the authority shall have the power to enter into contracts for the purpose of improving or repairing the Facilities, the power to enter into contracts for the usage of the center, and the power to obtain goods or services connected with the upkeep or use of the Facilities.

Sec. 2-302. Manager and employees.

Management of the daily operations of the Facilities shall be vested in the Executive Director of the Columbus, Georgia Sports & Entertainment Authority who will be appointed by the authority and who shall serve at the pleasure of the authority. The manager, with the approval of the authority and within the budget approved by the Columbus Council, shall hire and supervise whatever supervisors and employees are necessary for overseeing the management of the Facilities and otherwise conducting the affairs of the Authority; such supervisors and employees shall be in the merit system of the consolidated government and shall be governed by the same salaries and benefits and rights which accrue to merit system employees of the consolidated government.

Sec. 2-303. Budget.

In each fiscal year the authority shall submit a budget to the mayor of Columbus, who shall forward this budget to the Columbus Council along with the separate budget which the mayor submits for the consolidated government. The council shall act on the separate budget submitted by the authority in the same manner that it acts upon the general budget of the consolidated government. The budget to cover the activities of the Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority shall be designed to maximize the revenue producing potential of the Facilities, but necessary supplemental funds from the general fund shall be provided in order to prevent the impairment of any of the functions of the center; any excess of revenue over expenses which the operation of the center generates will be placed in the general fund of the consolidated government. “

SECTION 2.

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 8th day of October, 2024; continued on first reading at a regular meeting on February 25th, 2025; and introduced on second reading at a regular meeting of said Council held on the ____ day of _____, 2025 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen	voting _____
Councilor Chambers	voting _____
Councilor Cogle	voting _____
Councilor Crabb	voting _____
Councilor Davis	voting _____
Councilor Garrett	voting _____
Councilor Hickey	voting _____
Councilor Huff	voting _____
Councilor Thomas	voting _____
Councilor Tucker	voting _____

Lindsey G. McLemore
Deputy Clerk of Council

B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III
Mayor