

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

March 14, 2023
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, John M. House, Bruce Huff (arrived at 9:12 a.m.), Judy W. Thomas, and Toyia Tucker. 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 have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) City Hall Parking Garage Options Presentation; (2) Comprehensive Camera Project Presentation; (3) Proposed Short Term Rental Ordinance Clarification Presentation; (4) Signs on Rights-of-Way Presentation; (5) Trade Center Presentation

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) "Meet the Moores" Pamphlet; (2) Columbus Police Department Strategic Plan FY2023-2026 Presentation; (3) Clerk of Municipal Court Office Presentation

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

INVOCATION: Offered by former Councilor Wayne Anthony

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the February 28, 2023, Council Meeting and Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Huff being absent for the vote.

RESOLUTION

2. **Resolution (086-23):** A Resolution in Honor of Lyndon H. Burch. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Huff being absent for the vote.

Councilor Toyia Tucker read the resolution into the record, recognizing the dedication of the late Lyndon H. Burch to the community and expressing the Mayor and Council's deepest condolences to his family upon his passing.

Crime Prevention Director Seth Brown came forward to present the widow of Lyndon Burch with a gift and spoke on the work of Mr. Burch with the youth in the community.

PROCLAMATIONS:

3. **Proclamation:** Partners in Education Week
Receiving: The Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen read the proclamation into the record, proclaiming the week of March 13 through March 17, 2023, as *Partners in Education Week*, recognizing the various partners of the Muscogee County School District in promoting the importance of education in the community.

4. **Proclamation:** Let's Read Muscogee Month
Receiving: The Literacy Alliance

Councilor Joanne Cogle read the proclamation into the record, proclaiming the month of March 2023, as *Let's Read Muscogee Month*, recognizing the Literacy Alliance for their efforts in bringing together parents and their children to promote reading and education.

PRESENTATIONS:

5. The Legacy of Hal and Julia Moore (Presented by Colonel Colin Mahle, Garrison Commander, Fort Benning)

Colonel Colin Mahle approached the rostrum to provide an update on the renaming of Fort Benning. He explained the renaming of the installation is a result of the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, required nine military bases across the nation be renamed no later than January 1, 2024. He stated Fort Benning will official be adopting the renaming in honor of Lieutenant General Harold and Julia Moore on Thursday, May 11, 2023.

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge approached the rostrum to provide information on how the renaming of Fort Benning affects Columbus. She explained there are parks and streets that would need to be renamed as a result.

6. Update on the Columbus Police Department and Presentation of the Strategic Plan (Presented by Chief Freddie Blackmon, Columbus Police Department)

Police Chief Freddie Blackmon approached the rostrum to provide a presentation of the Strategic Plan of the Columbus Police Department to guide the decision-making of the chief and command staff over the next three years. He explained the main effort regarding personnel is retention. He also explained the plan to address operations, training, and community engagement.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley explained that he directed Finance Director Angelica Alexander to evaluate the possibility of reimplementing the \$1500 quarterly retention payment to police officers. He stated the Finance Director informed him it would take five reserve days to fund this initiative for the 2023 calendar year and he fully supports this recommendation.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCE

1. **1st Reading-** REZN-01-23-0036: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **2925 Manchester Expressway** (parcel # 069-008-004 / 069-008-022 / 069-008-023) from LMI (Light Manufacturing / Industrial) Zoning District to GC (General Commercial) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Crabb)

RESOLUTIONS

2. **Resolution (087-23): EXCP-01-23-0039-** A Resolution approving a special exception to allow existing buildings located at **2313 Ellen Avenue** to be used as Day Care Center (Type III) (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Cogle) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.
3. **Resolution (088-23):** A Resolution establishing the qualifying fee for the special election to fill the Muscogee County Board of Education District 7 vacancy to be held on June 20, 2023, and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY:

- Requests to have the convenience store ordinance looked at in order to slow down the establishment of so many in one area. (*Request of Councilor Barnes*)
- Get with the Planning Director, Councilor Barnes and herself on the changes being requested and bring something to Council in the next month. (*Request of Councilor Tucker*)
- Limit the number of machines allowed inside convenience stores. (*Request of Councilor Barnes*)

City Attorney Clifton Fay provided two options to consider to address the matter by suggesting a moratorium on that type of a license and with the assistance of the Planning Director and Deputy City Manager Hodge, we could also look at some distance restrictions. **Mayor Henderson** advised that it appears the councilor is indicating that there be a moratorium while the Planning Department staff look into this matter.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr. Re: The comments related to Columbus Police Chief.
2. Mr. Paul Olson, Re: Jensen and Hughes Assessment Report, (2) Crime Prevention Program Assessment of reducing crime, (3) Police Pay and (4) Increase in insurance rates of housing and vehicles due to crime wave in Columbus.
3. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Public Safety.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE MAYOR:

- Wants to expedite the Poverty Reduction Initiative and have something on the next agenda for Council to vote on. (*Request of Councilor Tucker*)

- 4. Mr. Timothy Veal, Re: Neighborhood clean-up, (2) the need for a walkway on Head Street and (3) guns in the street.

- 5. Ms. Annette Adams, Re: The new Muscogee County Jail.

- 6. Mr. Chris Harman, Re: Public Safety and lack of leadership.

- 7. Ms. Donna Murray, Re: Affordable housing for the middle class.

- 8. Ms. Annette Walker, representing MPACS, Re: Multicultural Community Organizing Weekly Block Parties.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Columbus Lions Lease Agreement

Resolution (089-23): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a five-year agreement between the Columbus Civic Center and Columbus Lions Football Team, LLC d/b/a The Columbus Lions. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

2. METRA's 2023 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

Resolution (090-23): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia authorizing the approval and submittal of a Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) on behalf of the City. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

3. Lease Agreement – 5001 12th Ave. – Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministries, (CVEM)

Resolution (091-23): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with the Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministries (CVEM) to lease space at 5001 12th Avenue, Columbus, Georgia 31904 for social programs and services. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

4. The PORCH Project

Resolution (092-23): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit and if approved, accept a grant of \$2,000,000 or as otherwise awarded from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to fund the Porch Project from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2027 with no match requirement and also authorizing Dr. Andrew Cox as the sole provider for evaluation of the program and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the award amount. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Adult Drug Court Coordinator Dana Solomon approached the rostrum to explain the grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for the funding of the Porch Project in Muscogee County.

5. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Formula Grant Request

Resolution (093-23): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program in an amount up to \$236,000.00 or as otherwise awarded and if awarded, amend the Transportation Fund by the amount of the grant award, there is no local match requirement. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

6. FFY 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending Request for Funding to Acquire Ten (10) electric non-CDL <30-Ft. Paratransit Buses and Ten (10) Bus Charging Stations.

Resolution (094-23): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, authorizing the City Manager to accept, if awarded, and amend the Transportation Fund by an amount up to \$4,800,000 in funding from FY 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending. Councilor Barnes made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

7. PURCHASES

A. Protective Driver Door Shields for METRA Buses – RFB No. 23-0022

Resolution (095-23): A resolution authorizing the purchase of twenty-two (22) protective driver door shields for mass transit buses from NFI Parts (Delaware, OH), for a unit price of \$7,672.76 each (for new Flyer Buses), \$8,748.05 each (for Gillig Buses), \$14,760.65 each (for Orion Buses), with an installation cost of \$818.75 each, and a total price of \$215,603.92. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

B. Oil & Lubricants for METRA (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 23-0026

Resolution (096-23): A resolution authorizing an annual contract with the McPherson Companies, Inc. (Trussville, AL), Taylor Enterprises, Inc. (Spartanburg, SC), Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc. (Macon, GA), Atlanta Fuel Company (Atlanta, GA), Whatley Oil Company (Columbus, GA), and Cadence Petroleum (Asheboro, NC), for the purchase of various oil and lubricant products for maintenance of buses on an “as needed” basis. Metra anticipates an annual contract value of \$45,000.00 based on prior years usage and inflation. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

C. Contract Extension for Security Surveillance Equipment – Public Works and Miscellaneous Locations (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 16-0006

Resolution (097-23): A resolution authorizing the extension of the security surveillance equipment – Public Works & miscellaneous locations contract with AdaptToSolve, Inc., (LaGrange, GA) for an additional three-month period. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

D. Shade Coverings for South Commons Softball Complex – Sourcewell Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (098-23): A resolution authorizing the purchase of four (4) shade coverings from USA Shade/Playpower, Inc. DFW Airport, TX), in the amount of \$311,614.00. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #010521-LTS-6. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

E. Playground Equipment for Parks and Recreation – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract

Resolution (099-23): A resolution authorizing the purchase of playground equipment from Miracle Recreation Equipment Company d/b/a Hasley Recreation, Inc. (Monett, MO), in the amount of \$70,000.07. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #010521-LTS-3. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

F. Shade Structures for Britt David Park and Rigdon Park – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract

Resolution (100-23): A resolution authorizing the purchase of two (2) shade structures for Britt David Park and Rigdon Park from Hasley Recreation, Inc. (Flowery Branch, GA), in the amount of \$71,461.08 each and a total cost of \$142,922.16. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #010521-LTS-6. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

G. Exercise Equipment for Various Park Locations – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract

Resolution (101-23): A resolution authorizing the purchase of three (3) sets of exercise equipment for various park locations from Hasley Recreation, Inc., (Flowery Branch, GA), in the amount of \$65,452.15 each and a total cost of \$196,356.45. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #010721-GRN. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

H. In-Car Mobile Video Recording System for the Columbus Police Department – GSA Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (102-23): A resolution authorizing the purchase of an in-car mobile video recording system for the Columbus Police Department from Prologic its (Acworth, GA) by Cooperative Purchase via Federal GSA Contract #47QTCA19D00MM, in the amount of \$1,275,522.06. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

I. Gator for Cooper Creek Tennis Center – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (103-23): A resolution authorizing the purchase of one (1) front-end loader (John Deere 444 P-Tier Wheel Loader) from Dobbs Equipment (Albany, GA), in the amount of \$173,300.00. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #032119-JDC. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

J. Information Only: Exigent “Off the Lot” Vehicle Purchase – Resolution No. 067-23

Councilor Huff made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present. *(There is no resolution presented for this item; since, its approval is in correlation with the previous approval of Resolution No. 067-23, which reads in part “all vehicle purchases authorized by this Resolution with costs exceeding \$25,000 will be placed on Council agenda for informational purposes.)*

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Look into reimbursing citizens for the work done in keeping up with various parks and sporting facilities throughout the city. *(Request of Councilor Davis)*

8. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. City Hall Parking Garage Options Update - Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager of Finance, Planning & Development.

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge approached the rostrum to present the various parking options for the parking garage on the new City Hall property.

Muscogee County Sheriff Greg Countryman approached the rostrum to voice his preference in keeping the parking garage accessible to employees only for security reasons.

Mr. Jason McKenzie, owner of Ride on Bikes, approached the rostrum to express the importance of having access to the parking garage for the employees in Uptown and the visiting patrons.

Uptown Columbus CEO Ed Wolverton approached the rostrum to explain the need of parking in the new City Hall garage for the businesses and residents in Uptown.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Recommends meeting with Mr. Buddy Nelms and other business owners in Uptown to allow them input in the options for the parking garage. *(Request of Councilor Thomas)*

B. Comprehensive Camera Update - Lisa Goodwin, Deputy City Manager of Current Operations.

Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin approached the rostrum to provide an update on the Comprehensive Camera Program.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Add the address of the former Walmart on Buena Vista Road to the areas of concern regarding the dumping of tires. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*

C. Short Term Rental Update - Ryan Pruett, Inspections and Codes Director.

Inspections and Code Director Ryan Pruett approached the rostrum to provide clarification and recommendations on the new short-term rental ordinance. He explained some of the recommendations include changing the timeframe for the renewals of rental permits and to leave the occupant limits in place.

D. Signs on Right of Way - Lisa Goodwin, Deputy City Manager of Current Operations.

Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin approached the rostrum to provide an update on the issue of signs littering the rights-of-way around the city. She explained the Quality Control Team has been focusing on picking up the signs over the past few weeks and have collected over four hundred so far.

E. Municipal Court Clerk Update - Reginald Thompson.

Municipal Court Clerk Reginald Thompson approached the rostrum to present an update on the services provided by the Clerk of Municipal Court's Office.

F. Trade Center Update - Hayley Tillery, Executive Director, Columbus Georgia Convention & Trade Center.

Convention & Trade Center Executive Director Hayley Tillery approached the rostrum to provide an update on the Convention & Trade Center. She provided information on the various events that have been held at the facility and future plans.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Requests a report at the next meeting on what CCG is doing to prepare for the renaming of Fort Benning. *(Request of Councilor Thomas)*

FOR THE MAYOR:

- Requests a report from the Chief Judge of Recorder's Court to be presented soon at a Council Meeting of all of the changes for Recorder's Court. *(Request of Councilor Thomas)*

BID ADVERTISEMENT

March 24, 2023

1. Recruitment Advertising Services – RFP No. 23-0030

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government invites qualified firms to submit proposals to provide the Columbus Police Department with a 3:00 to 4:00 minute documentary style video for recruiting purposes. In addition, the vendor should also be able to provide other advertising media in the form of brochures, billboards and other media resources to aid in the recruitment and retention of officers. **Time is of the essence; therefore, the ability to immediately start on the project and provide a quality, finished product as soon as possible will be a major consideration in awarding of the contract.**

March 29, 2023

1. Patches & Emblems (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 23-0015

Scope of Bid

Provide patches and emblems for Columbus Consolidated Government Departments, to include but not limited to, the following: Columbus Police Department, Columbus Fire and EMS, Muscogee County Prison and METRA Transit on an “as needed” basis. This contract may also be utilized by any other City agency requiring the goods. The term of the contract shall be for two (2) years with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

March 31, 2023

1. Lead-Based Paint/Asbestos & Clearance Testing Services (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 23-0011

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide Lead-Based Paint/Asbestos & Clearance Testing Services for the housing rehabilitation (single and multi-family), rental assistance program (tenant and project-based), and supportive services/operations programs. These services will be utilized primarily by the Community Reinvestment Department on an “as needed” basis.

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

CLERK OF COUNCIL’S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. Honorary Street Designation Application submitted by Pastor L. Darnel Skinner, Jr. with the Bread of Life Christian Center requesting signage to be placed at the intersecting streets at each end of the one block area of Manchester Expressway and 46th Street in honor of Bishop L.D. Skinner, Sr. (*The Council may vote to send to the Board of Honor.*) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to forward the application to the Board of Honor, seconded by Councilor Thomas and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

2. Minutes of the following boards:

Board of Tax Assessors, #06-23 & 07-23

Board of Zoning Appeals, February 1, 2023

Development Authority of Columbus, February 2, 2023

Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission, February 6, 2023

Region Six Regional Advisory Council for Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, March 10, May 11, September 14 and November 9, 2022

Uptown Facade Board, January 17, 2023

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

3. MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

A. HOUSING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

A nominee for the seat of Edward Burdeshaw (*Does not desire reappointment*) for a term expiring on April 30, 2023, on the Housing Authority of Columbus (*Mayor's Appointment*). Mayor Henderson nominated Ryan Clements to succeed Edward Burdeshaw. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

4. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- READY FOR CONFIRMATION:

A. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMITTEE: Mr. Timothy Smith (*Sworn Officer seat*) was nominated to serve another term of office. (*Mayor Pro Tem Allen's nominee*) Term expires: April 30, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

B. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD: Mr. Shea Spencer was nominated to succeed Ms. Katie Bishop. (*Councilor Crabb's nominee*) Term expires: January 31, 2026. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

5. 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*). There were none. Clerk of Council Davis explained all of the members serving on this board must be former elected officials of Muscogee County.

B. BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

A nominee for the seat of Leila Carr (*Does not desire reappointment*) for a term expiring on March 24, 2023, on the Building Authority of Columbus (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Vincent Allen (*Resigned*) for a term expiring on March 24, 2023, on the Building Authority of Columbus (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

C. COLUMBUS AQUATICS COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of David Helmick (*Not eligible to succeed*) for term a that expired on June 30, 2022, on the Columbus Aquatics Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Bruce Samuels (*Not eligible to succeed*) for a term that expired on June 30, 2022, on the Columbus Aquatics Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss matters of real estate and personnel as requested earlier in the meeting by City Attorney Fay. Councilor Tucker made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members present, with the time being 2:17 p.m.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 3:46 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in executive session to discuss matters of real estate and personnel; 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 March 14, 2023 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Huff being absent for the vote, and the time being 3:46 p.m.

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