

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

October 8, 2024
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors Travis L. Chambers, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, R. Walker Garrett (via teleconference), Byron Hickey, Bruce Huff, 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.

ABSENT: Councilor Glenn Davis was absent.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) Animal Control Update Presentation; (2) Columbus Georgia Convention & Trade Center FY24 Review Presentation; (3) Project Update Presentation

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) Columbus Police Department Personnel Presentation & Information Packet; (2) Animal Control Update Presentation; (3) Document Submitted by PA#6 Allie Johnson; (4) Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities (MCPD) Townhall Meeting Flyer, Submitted by PA#16 Jennifer LeDenney; (5) Trade Center Annual Report FY24; (6) Proposed Administrative Order, Re: Public Parks

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Colleen Cook – Pastor of New Hope Presbyterian Church of Columbus, Georgia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the September 24, 2024 Council Meeting and Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS:

2. **Proclamation:** Big Brothers Big Sisters Month

Receiving: Erin D. Griffin, Regional Program Manager

Councilor Toyia Tucker read the proclamation into the record, proclaiming September 2024, as *Big Brothers Big Sisters Month*, recognizing the Big Brothers Big Sisters Organization for their dedication to empowering the youth by partnering with parents, volunteers, and others in the community.

3. **Proclamation:** Day of Atonement

Receiving: Michael Muhammed

Councilor Charmaine Crabb read the proclamation into the record, proclaiming Saturday, October 12, 2024, as the *Day of Atonement*, recognizing the significance of this tradition in mending relationships and promoting harmony amongst humans.

4. **Proclamation:** Paint the Town Pink Week

Receiving: Cheryl Johnson

Councilor Travis L. Chambers read the proclamation into the record, proclaiming the week of October 14-20, 2024, as *Paint the Town Pink Week*, recognizing the West Central Georgia Cancer Coalition (WCGCC) and volunteers for their efforts in bringing awareness to the importance of early detection in fight against breast cancer.

5. **Proclamation:** Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission

Receiving: Lisa Thomas-Cutts, KCBC Director

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen read the proclamation into the record, proclaiming October 11-12, 2024, as *Help the Hooch Days*, recognizing the Help-the-Hooch Committee for promoting protection and preservation efforts for our most valuable water resource, the Chattahoochee River.

6. **Proclamation:** National School Lunch Week

Receiving: Marian Clark

Councilor Byron Hickey read the proclamation into the record, proclaiming the week of October 14-18, 2024, as *National School Lunch Week*, recognizing the value of school nutrition programs in providing nutrition education and awareness to children.

COUNCILOR GARRETT VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE AND REQUEST:

Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis stated for the record that Councilor R. Walker Garrett is attending the meeting virtually and has requested that City Manager Agenda Item #1 and the presentation listed as City Manager Agenda Item #8(C) be called forward at the end of the City Attorney's Agenda, before the Public Agenda is called on.

PRESENTATION:

7. Mobile Command Vehicle - (Presented by Mr. Chance Corbett- Director of Emergency Management & Homeland Security)

Emergency Management & Homeland Security Director Chance Corbett approached the rostrum to provide a brief video and update on the new Unified Mobile Command Vehicle.

CITY ATTORNEY’S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (24-058) - 2nd Reading-** An ordinance amending Section 5-42 of the Columbus Code, to amend certain restrictions on the keeping of fowl; and for other purposes. (Councilor Crabb) Councilor Crabb made a motion to amend the ordinance to replace the word “classification” in Section 1 of the proposed ordinance with the word “use”, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. Councilor Crabb made a motion to adopt the ordinance as amended, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried by an eight-to-one vote, with Councilors Chambers, Cogle, Crabb, Garrett, Hickey, Huff, Thomas and Tucker voting in favor, Mayor Pro Tem Allen voting in opposition, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.
2. **Ordinance (24-059) - 2nd Reading-** An ordinance adding a new Section 2-3.08 of the Columbus Code, to establish a uniform policy for the acceptance of donations made to the consolidated government, and for other purposes. (Councilor Tucker) Councilor Tucker made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.
3. **1st Reading-** REZN-08-24-1826: An ordinance amending Chapter 3 of the Unified Development Ordinance of the Columbus Code to allow Tattoo and Body Piercing Shops as a special exception use in the Central Riverfront District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval) (Councilor Cogle) **(Public Hearing Held)**

Ms. Mary Moore (Applicant) approached the rostrum to respond to questions from Council regarding her request for a special exception use in the Central Riverfront District. She explained she along with her son, the lead tattoo artist, have operated on Veterans Parkway for one year and are wishing to expand by bringing an upscale tattoo parlor to 1234 Broadway. She stated they will also be offering consignment art/paintings and permanent makeup.

4. **1st Reading-** REZN-9-24-1941: An ordinance amending the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) for Columbus, Georgia to provide definitions and conditions for various uses. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Mayor Pro-Tem) **(Public Hearing Held)**
5. **1st Reading-** An ordinance adopting changes to the Evergreen Solutions recommended classification and pay plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem) **(Public Hearing Held)**
6. **1st Reading-** An ordinance adopting a new Article XXIII of Chapter 2 of the Columbus Code to create a Sports & Entertainment facilities Authority; and for other purposes. (Councilors Cogle, Davis, and Garrett) Councilor Huff made a motion to delay 1st Reading for up to 60-days, seconded Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. **(Public Hearing Held)**

After comments from Councilors Chambers and Huff, **Councilor Joanne Cogle** stated this proposal has been on the table since April when former Councilor Tyson Begly brought it forward as strictly an Entertainment Authority. She explained there was a discussion to include the sports aspect to streamline the footprint to ensure success.

Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr. came forward to express his concerns regarding the creation of another authority that would presumably have full control.

Ms. Evelyn “Mimi” Woodson came forward to speak in opposition to the proposed ordinance as the Chairperson for the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board and a former City Councilor. She shared her concerns in the proposed ordinance giving one authority full power over five facilities.

Mr. Oz Roberts came forward to speak in opposition to the proposed ordinance as the Co-Chair for the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board. He shared his concerns regarding the potential negative impact on community engagement and prioritizing profit driven events over cultural and artistic programming.

Ms. Delois Dee Marsh came forward to speak in opposition to the proposed ordinance as the past immediate Chair to the Liberty Theatre, who was responsible for signing the deed to the Liberty Theatre over to the Columbus Consolidated Government. She asked the Council to hold public meetings to allow the boards and the community to join the discussion.

Mr. Paul Olson approached the rostrum to speak about open meetings, agendas, and public comments. He stated this proposed authority is a “power grab” to centralize power regarding Tax Allocation District (TAD) #8.

Ms. Simi Barnes approached the rostrum to speak in opposition to the proposed ordinance, where she stated it was the community’s understanding that the Liberty Theatre would retain their own board and identity. She shared her concerns on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board not being consulted regarding this proposed ordinance.

Mr. Nathan Smith came forward to respond to comments made by City Manager Hugley regarding when he reviewed the agenda.

In response to Councilor Tucker questioning the absence of supporting documentation that included Golden Park, **City Attorney Clifton Fay** stated Golden Park has a long-term lease in place between CCG and Diamond Baseball Holdings, LLC, so it would not be included in this ordinance or the authority. He explained that supporting documentation will be provided when the public meeting is set.

Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis stated for clarification that the City Manager and other members of the Administration do not have the same capability as the members of Council to view the agenda with supporting documents on Wednesdays before a meeting.

Ms. Theresa El-Amin came forward to speak about public comments during public hearings.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CLERK OF COUNCIL:

- Set up a meeting with the members of Council that are part of the proposed ordinance and the boards that are involved with the various facilities listed in the proposed ordinance for a discussion. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*
- Make sure to include the City Manager and City Attorney. *(Request of Mayor Henderson)*

FOR THE CIUTY ATTORNEY:

- Add the supporting documents to the proposed ordinance online for the public to access. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*

7. **1st Reading-** An ordinance amending Chapter 17 of the Columbus Code so as to revise certain provisions relating to the organizational structure and authorized positions for the Columbus Police Department; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem)

Deputy Chief of Administrative Services Roderick Graham came forward to provide an update on the strides taken to become fully staff in various divisions within the Columbus Police Department.

Columbus Police Chief Stoney Mathis approached the rostrum to provide a presentation on the proposed amendment to Chapter 17 of the Columbus Code. He explained that he is requesting to reorganize the Columbus Police Department to provide more middle level management and not so many top-level management positions. He explained the proposal is to dissolve one Deputy Chief Position and two Lieutenant Positions and to add three Captain Positions, which would be budget neutral.

Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr. approached the rostrum to express his concerns on the organization chart shown during Chief Mathis' presentation. He explained according to the organizational chart presented; it appears as though the Assistant Chiefs do not have any authority.

Ms. Simi Barnes came forward stating she is "piggy backing" onto statements of Mr. Broadwater and expressed her concerns on misogyny with both Assistant Chiefs being women. She stated she is aware of there being a complaint filed by one of the Assistant Chiefs, so she is worried this may be retaliatory and does not believe this is the right time for these changes.

Ms. Theresa El-Amin came forward to speak in favor of the proposed changes based on the positive changes she has witnessed in the community since Chief Mathis took over the Columbus Police Department.

Deputy Chief of Investigative Services Lance H. Deaton approached the rostrum to share that the homicide solvability rate for the Columbus Police Department is 57%, with the national average being below 50%. He explained that in Part 1 crime, the Columbus Police Department is above the national average in clearance rate, and the murder rate is down 35% this year.

Ms. Jennifer LeDenney came forward to share her perspective as a former 911 Dispatcher and the positive changes she has witnessed in the community.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR CPD DEPUTY CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

- In the future, bring one of the "hot spot" presentations (*Request of Councilor Tucker*)

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Have the Finance Director to identify funding for the additional 10 positions being requested for CPD. (*Request of Councilor Tucker*)

RESOLUTION

8. **Resolution (389-24):** A Resolution concerning the Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia's issuance of bonds to finance a project located in Columbus, Georgia. (Request of Columbus Housing Authority) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

Assistant Vice President Major Lee, Evolve, LLC, approached the rostrum to share information on the 116-unit development project that will be tailored for low income, older individuals, and disabled residents.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

City Manager Isaiah Hugley introduced the following presentation and resolution regarding Columbus Animal Care & Control. He explained the resolution is authorizing negotiation of a contract with the PAWS Animal Services Division of PAWS Humane, Inc. He then read a letter received the week prior from Executive Director of PAWS Human, Inc. Courtney Pierce, expressing interest in providing animal care and control services, which would take over the shelter and field services of Columbus Animal Care & Control contingent on the level of funding the Columbus Consolidated Government (CCG) is willing to allocate. He continued to read the letter, stating that based on preliminary figures PAWS estimates approximately \$3.5 million would be necessary to properly fund these services and ensure successful operations. He read, this amount would cover the entire scope of operations; however, if certain elements such as building maintenance and insurance remained under the responsibility of CCG, the funding requirements could be adjusted accordingly and all terms are open for negotiation, with the preference of an initial contract term of 3-years with the option to renew for 5-year terms thereafter. Upon finishing the letter, he explained that based on recent events, Animal Care & Control is not able to be fully operational as in the past and they would like for PAWS to take over as soon as possible, but PAWS has expressed that it would normally take 90-days to make a full transition. He explained it is their intention to negotiate with PAWS and hopefully be able to shorten that transition period.

8. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- C. Columbus Animal Care Control Facilities Operation Update, Drale Short, Director, Public Works

Public Works Director Drale Short approached the rostrum to provide an update on Columbus Animal Care & Control regarding the quarantine status, current shelter population, hours of operation, intake status, types of calls received and responses, volunteer assistance, off site adoptions, privatization negotiations, and management of the facility. (*NOTE: This update was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item 8 "C", as requested by Councilor Garrett earlier in the meeting.*)

Councilor Tucker made a motion to move Columbus Animal Care & Control under the Columbus Police Department for the enforcement and to provide oversight of the whole RFP process, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. (*Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.*)

Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis stated for the record, with Councilor Garrett attending virtually he has the capability to cast his vote through the voting system, but she would be verbalizing his vote for actions taken that are not listed on the agenda and for items listed on the Clerk of Council's Agenda.

Columbus Police Chief Stoney Mathis came forward stating that he and Mayor Henderson had a conversation early on where he was asked if CPD could immediately take over the calls to pick up animals, but he responded with their vehicles are not equipped to transport animals nor do they possess the equipment. He went on to state that him and Councilor Thomas had a conversation on if

CPD could temporarily take over the enforcement side of Animal Control, to which he stated they could, but before doing so, he would like to access the personnel, equipment and budget necessary. He stated throughout the investigation it was discovered that the Animal Care & Control Division is woefully underfunded. In conclusion, he shared his concerns with a private company being able to issue citations based on City Ordinances, and stated he believes the individuals would have to be sworn in by the Sheriff or himself.

In response to previous statements to move the Columbus Animal Care & Control under the Columbus Police Department, Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall advised that transferring oversight of one department to another would require an ordinance to make the change; even though, that power of Council may exist in the Charter, it cannot be done by resolution. However, what would be appropriate is to request that the negotiations involve the participation of the CPD and is also appropriate by resolution to talk about CPD taking over the enforcement on a short term basis.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Requested the list of banned volunteers from Animal Care & Control with reasons that he previously requested. (*Request of Councilor Garrett*)

1. Resolution to Negotiate with PAWS Humane, Inc.

Resolution (390-24): A resolution authorizing the negotiations of a contract with the PAWS Animal Services Division of PAWS Humane, Inc. (Columbus, GA) for Animal Care and Control Services. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to amend and approve the resolution to authorize the City Manager and the Chief of Police to negotiate a contract with Paws Humane, Inc. for animal care and control services, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. (*NOTE: This resolution was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item 1, as requested by Councilor Garrett earlier in the meeting.*)

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY:

- Wants himself and four other members of Council to be part of negotiations with PAWS Humane, Inc. (*Request of Councilor Hickey*)

- Wants members of the Animal Care & Control Advisory Board to be part of the negotiations with PAWS Humane, Inc. (*Request of Councilor Crabb*)

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mr. Paul Olson, Re: 1. \$50 Million Baseball Stadium, Naming rights of Columbus Clingstones/Synovus Park 2. Partnerships with W.C. Bradley/Uptown Columbus Inc. 3. Tax Allocation District #8 4. Proposed Gambling Casino.

2. Ms. Veronica Lawrence, Re: Trash pickup. *Not Present*

3. Mr. David Young, Re: Speed cameras in school zones. *Not Present*

NOTE: Councilor Tucker left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

4. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: CACC scandal.
5. Mr. Nathan Smith, Re: Future Direction of CACC.
6. Ms. Allie Johnson, Re: Why citizens must be involved in major changes and initiatives undertaken by the city.
7. Mrs. Ashleigh Anecchiaro, Re: First Amendment rights. ***Not Present***
8. Ms. Debbie Mayhew, Re: Why CACC should be removed from under Public Works.
9. Mrs. Sandy Gunnels, Re: Plan for CACC.
10. Mr. Andy Gunnels, Re: 90-day Plan for CACC. ***Not Present***
11. Ms. Lisa Love, Re: Columbus Animal Care and Control Center.
12. Ms. Pamela Forrester, Re: CACC. ***Cancelled***
13. Ms. Robina Forrand, Re: Animal Welfare.
14. Miss Victoria Way, Re: Columbus Animal Care and Control Center. ***Not Present***
15. Mrs. Sara Decker-Lund, representing Columbus Animal Allies, Re: Move CACC from under Public Works.
16. Ms. Jennifer LeDenney, Re: Disability Awareness Month.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Resolution to Negotiate with PAWS Humane, Inc.

A Resolution authorizing the negotiation of a contract with the PAWS animal services division of PAWS Humane, Inc. (Columbus, GA) for animal care and control services. (*NOTE: This item was called upon earlier in the meeting after the City Attorney's Agenda.*)

2. Subrecipient Agreement Amendment with the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley

Resolution (391-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of an amendment to Exhibit B-Program Budget of the subrecipient agreement with the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley to fund the Poverty Reduction Initiative for an award amount up to \$400,000.00 to address the poverty rate in Columbus. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

United Way President & CEO Ben Moser came forward briefly to respond to questions from Councilor Hickey.

3. FY2026 5303 Grant Application for Planning Assistance - METRA

Resolution (392-24): A resolution authorizing the City of Columbus, Georgia to submit an application for, and if awarded, accept a grant, from the Department of Transportation, United States of America, and Georgia Department of Transportation, under Title 49 U.S.C., Section 5303. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

4. U.S. Department of Justice FY24 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

Resolution (393-24): A resolution authorizing the submission of an application, and if awarded, acceptance of a 2024 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$53,407.00, 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 City Departments for law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and public safety programs supported by the grant. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

5. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Justice Assistance (JAG) Grant - Juvenile Court

Resolution (395-24): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for a grant to fund the Muscogee County Juvenile Court, with no local match required, and if awarded accept the grant and amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount of the grant award and enter into a memorandum of agreement with Evidence-Based Associations, LLC. The grant period is from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

6. 2024/2025 Aflac Community Giving Grant - Liberty Theatre Cultural Arts Center

Resolution (395-24): A resolution authorizing the application and acceptance, if awarded, a 2024/2025 Aflac Community Giving Grant in an amount up to \$200,000.00, or as otherwise awarded, for the Liberty Cultural Arts Center, with no local match required and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount awarded. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

7. PURCHASES

- A. One (1) John Deere 5075E Tractor for Public Works Department – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (396-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of one (1) John Deere 5075E Tractor for the Public Works Department from Deere and Company (Cary, NC) in the amount of \$51,114.35. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-0001-SPD0000177-0026. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

B. Liberty Theater Re-Roofing Project – RFB No. 25-0003

Resolution (397-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with Klein Contracting Corporation (Doraville, GA) in the amount of \$578,170.00 for the Liberty Theatre re-roofing project. The recommended total includes the base bid of \$553,170.00 and an additional \$25,000.00 for Alternate 1 – additive alternate for rook area 1C to remove all composite decking to the metal decking and install polyisocyanurate rigid board insulation. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

C. One (1) Caterpillar Mini Excavator – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (398-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of one (1) mini excavator (Caterpillar Model 304 Cab Angle Blade Hydraulic Excavator) for the Public Works Department from Yancey Brothers (Fortson, GA) in the amount of \$73,923.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Sourcewell Contract #092222-CAT. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

D. First-In Alerting Smart Station System for Fire & EMS – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (399-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of the First-In Alerting Smart Station System from Westnet, LLC (Hunting Beach, CA) in the amount of \$218,530.80. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Sourcewell Contract #042021-WNT. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

E. Declaration of Surplus and Donation of Two (2) Vehicles

Resolution (400-24): A resolution authorizing the declaration of the following two (2) vehicles as surplus in accordance with Section 7-501 of the Charter of Columbus Consolidated Government:

VEHICLE NUMBER	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	VIN/SERIAL #	MILEAGE
11372A	2013	FORD	E350 12 PASSENGER VAN	1FBNE3BL1DDA22298	116,485
17272	2004	CHEVROLET	TAHOE	1GNEC13V24J272096	158,042

And authorize donation of the vehicles to the Urban League. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

F. Contract Extension for Alcohol Management Services for Columbus Civic Center Locations (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 18-0020

Resolution (401-24): A resolution authorizing extension of the annual contract with Ovations Food Services, LP d/b/a OVG Hospitality (Philadelphia, PA), through December 31, 2024, to provide alcohol management services for Columbus Civic Center locations. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight

members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

G. Contract Extension for Inmate Medical & Pharmacy Services for Muscogee County Prison (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 18-0022

Resolution (402-24): A resolution authorizing extension of the annual contract with CorrectHealth Muscogee, LLC (Atlanta, GA), through September 30, 2025, for comprehensive medical and pharmacy services for inmates incarcerated in the Muscogee County Prison. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

EMERGENCY PURCHASES

1. Information Only: Emergency Purchase

On August 30, 2024, Warden Walker notified the City Manager of an urgent need to replace kitchen equipment at the Muscogee County Prison.

The Warden explained that the food service equipment at the Muscogee County Prison has been deemed unserviceable. The prison's food service equipment technicians have identified the following three current pieces of equipment, utilized to prepare bulk meals for the inmate population on a daily basis:

-Two (2) Convection Steamers: The facility is experiencing problem with its two convection steamers. These steamers currently do not work at all. Within the past two years, these steamers have been repaired multiple times and each time the repairs are short lived. The steamers are more than 15 years old.

-Two (2) Pass-through Warmers: The two pass-through warmers, used to keep food warm at the appropriate temperature until it is served, are more than 25 years old.

-One (1) Kitchen Grill: The kitchen grill was brought over from the old MCP location over 26 years ago.

The equipment will be purchased from Mobile Fixture & Equipment (Columbus, GA) by Cooperative Purchase, via Federal GSA Contract #07F-0154V.

Muscogee County Prison was approved \$183,000.00 in the FY25 budget to replace kitchen equipment.

The City Manager approved the emergency purchase on August 30, 2024.

8. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Trade Center Update - Hayley Tillery, Executive Director, Columbus Convention and Trade Center

Trade Center Executive Director Hayley Tillery approached the rostrum to provide an update on the Columbus Convention and Trade Center for Fiscal Year 2024. She stated there were 465 events, with 829 event days and 241,929 attendees. She explained the revenue collected for space rental for FY24 was \$1,817,027, \$1,431,242 net profit, with a total city impact of \$7,465,199.

B. Project Update - Ryan Pruett, Director, Inspections & Code Enforcement

Inspections & Code Director Ryan Pruett approached the rostrum to provide an update on various project such as the Judicial Center, Synovus Park, Sheriff's Office Administration Building, and the pools and splash pads. During the presentation he provided information on requests from the Sheriff and Recorder's Court.

Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve the request for \$345,000 for the Sheriff's Office and \$54,121.56 for Recorder's Court from General Fund Reserve for furniture and other expenses related to the Sheriff's Office Administration Building Project, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

C. Columbus Animal Care Control Facilities Operation Update, Drale Short, Director, Public Works

(NOTE: This update, as provided by Public Works Director Drale Short, was called upon earlier in the meeting after the City Attorney's Agenda.)

FOLLOW-UP ON RIGDON PARK:

City Manager Isaiah Hugley provided a follow-up on the referral from Councilor Cogle regarding the hours Rigdon Park is open to the public due to the gatherings that have been occurring and causing a disturbance. He stated he has communicated with Police Chief Mathis and Parks & Recreation Director Holli Browder. He explained that Parks & Recreation is concerned with closing the parks too early because of youth activities and other organized activities that last until 9:30 p.m. on occasion. He provided a proposed Administrative Order that would close all outdoor parks and playgrounds at 10:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. for a 6-month period, and shared the importance in handling all parks the same.

Councilor Joanne Cogle expressed her opposition to the proposed changed, stating closing one hour earlier than usual will not address the problem. She suggested compromising by closing the parks at 7:00 p.m.

Councilor Byron Hickey stated for the record, based on his career as a police officer for over thirty years and serving on the original gang task force, he believes some parks should be closed earlier than others due to various reasons, such as location which could potentially invite trouble. He shared in his experience serving with little league sports, he believes those leagues hire security to be on the premises.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Wants to be included in the correspondence with Police Chief Mathis regarding Rigdon Park.
(Request of Councilor Cogle)

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: October 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFQs

October 11, 2024

1. **Comprehensive Inmate Healthcare Services for Muscogee County Jail (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0005**
Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government, on behalf of the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office, is seeking proposals for the provision of healthcare services for offenders incarcerated at the Muscogee County Jail. The requested services consist of medical, dental, and mental health, as well as healthcare personnel. Medical services include but are not limited to x-ray, laboratory, and prescription drug services for a rated capacity of 1069 inmates.

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

October 18, 2024

1. **Consultant Services for Comprehensive Transit Study for METRA – RFP No. 25-0011**
Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the "City") is soliciting proposals for acquiring the services of a Transit Consultant (the "Consultant") to conduct a comprehensive study on METRA's behalf. The Consultant will be responsible for conducting a full assessment of METRA's fixed route bus service, including potential route service to Brookstone Centre, and an assessment of METRA's Dial-A-Ride ADA complementary paratransit service. In addition, a comprehensive study determining the costs, materials, personnel, and other resources needed for METRA to implement a micro-transit and or on-demand service within the boundaries of Muscogee County, Georgia shall be performed.

REFERRALS:

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. **RESOLUTION (403-24)** - A resolution excusing Councilor Glenn Davis from the September 24, 2024 Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*
2. **RESOLUTION (404-24)** - A Resolution changing the regularly scheduled Council Meetings for the month of November 2024. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*
3. **RESOLUTION (405-24)** - A Resolution changing the regularly scheduled Council Meetings for the month of December 2024. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution,

seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

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

Board of Elections and Registration, August 20, 2024

Board of Tax Assessors, #31-24, #32-24 & #33-24

Board of Water Commissioners, September 9, 2024

Columbus Golf Course Authority, September 23, 2024

Convention & Visitors Board of Commissioners, August 21, 2024

Land Bank Authority, August 14, 2024

Planning Advisory Commission, August 21, 2024

River Valley Regional Commission, August 28, 2024

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

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

A. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:**

A nominee for the seat of Armando Fernandez (*Seat declared vacant*) for a term expiring on March 27, 2025, on the Community Development Advisory Council (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Tamika McKenzie (*Seat declared vacant*) for a term expiring on March 27, 2025, on the Community Development Advisory Council (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

B. **COLUMBUS IRONWORKS CONVENTION & TRADE CENTER AUTHORITY:**

A nominee for the seat of Craig Burgess (*Seat declared vacant*) for a term expiring on October 24, 2025, on the Columbus Ironworks Convention & Trade Center Authority (*Mayor's Appointment*). Mayor Henderson nominated Jay Pitts to fill the unexpired term of Craig Burgess. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

C. HOUSING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

A nominee for the seat of Tiffani Stacy (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on November 16, 2024, on the Housing Authority of Columbus as the Resident Member (*Mayor's Appointment*). Mayor Henderson renominated Tiffani Stacy to serve another term. Councilor Huff made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. (*Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.*)

6. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- READY FOR CONFIRMATION:

A. BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS: Mr. Oz Roberts was nominated to succeed Mr. Rodney Close. (*Councilor Thomas nominated Mr. Roberts on August 27, 2024.*) Term expires: December 31, 2028. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. (*Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.*)

7. COUNCIL NOMINATIONS- THREE NOMINEES ARE SENT TO THE AUTHORITY FOR SELECTION:

A. HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

A nominee for the seat of Ernest Smallman, IV (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on November 14, 2024, on the Hospital Authority of Columbus. Councilor Thomas nominated Ernest Smallman, IV and Mike Welch, and Councilor Hickey nominated Kelsea Garrett for this seat. Councilor Garrett requested to abstain from voting on these nominations, so moved by Mayor Pro Tem Allen, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Garrett abstaining, Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to forward the three nominees to the Hospital Authority for selection, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Garrett abstaining, Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

A nominee for the seat of Mike Welch (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on November 14, 2024, on the Hospital Authority of Columbus. Councilor Thomas nominated Ernest Smallman, IV and Mike Welch, and Councilor Hickey nominated Kelsea Garrett for this seat. Councilor Garrett requested to abstain from voting on these nominations, so moved by Mayor Pro Tem Allen, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Garrett abstaining, Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to forward the three nominees to the Hospital Authority for selection, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Garrett abstaining, Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

A nominee for the seat of John Kingsbury (*Rotating off the authority*) for a term expiring on November 14, 2024, on the Hospital Authority of Columbus. Councilor Thomas nominated Ernest Smallman, IV and Mike Welch, and Councilor Hickey nominated Kelsea Garrett for this seat. Councilor Garrett requested to abstain from voting on these nominations, so moved by Mayor Pro Tem Allen, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the seven members present,

with Councilor Garrett abstaining, Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to forward the three nominees to the Hospital Authority for selection, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Garrett abstaining, Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis explained the Council submits three (3) nominees to the Hospital Authority for each seat and the Hospital Authority selects the successor for Council's confirmation.

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

A. **TREE BOARD:**

A nominee for the seat of Jeremy Cummings (*Resigned*) for a term expiring on July 1, 2025, as the Public Utility Representative on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Beautie Moore (*Seat declared vacant*) for a term expiring on July 1, 2025, on the Tree Board in an At-Large Seat (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Huff nominated Roz Hall for the vacant seat formerly held by Beautie Moore.

A nominee for the seat of Frank Tommey (*Residential Development Seat*) for a term that expired on December 31, 2020, as the Residential Development Representative on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Robert Hecht (*Seat declared vacant*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2026, on the Tree Board in the Commercial or Industrial Development Seat (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Farah Dewsbury (*Seat declared vacant*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2026, on the Tree Board in an At-Large Seat (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

PUBLIC AGENDA (continued):

4. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: CACC scandal.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss matters of litigation as requested by City Attorney Fay earlier in the meeting. Councilor Huff made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting, and the time being 3:08 p.m. (*Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.*)

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 3:20 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in executive session to discuss matters of litigation; however, there were no votes taken.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to adjourn the October 8, 2024, Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the seven members of Council, with Councilors Garrett and Tucker being absent for the vote, Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting, and the time being 3:20 p.m.

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