

COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING **MINUTES**

Council Chambers
Second Floor of City Services Center
3111 Citizens Way, Columbus, GA 31906

March 24, 2020
5:30 PM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen (arrived at 5:35 p.m.) and Councilors Jerry 'Pops' Barnes, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, John M. House, Bruce Huff, Judy W. Thomas, Valerie A. Thompson and Evelyn 'Mimi' Woodson. City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, and Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall were present via teleconference. Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis and Deputy Clerk of Council Lindsey McLemore were present in the Council Chambers.

NOTE: *Due to the World Health Organization declaring Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) a world health emergency and pandemic, this Council confirms the Declaration of Local Emergency ordered by the Mayor and may alternatively utilize teleconferenced meetings during the period of emergency in accordance with O.C.G.A. 50-14-1(g).*

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Councilor Valerie A. Thompson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson.

MINUTES:

1. Approval of minutes for the March 10, 2020 Council Meeting. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent for the vote.

UPDATE:

2. An update on COVID-19.

Mayor B. H. 'Skip' Henderson gave an update on COVID-19, stated there are currently four confirmed cases in Muscogee County and explained the precautions citizens should take in order to not spread the virus.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley responded to a question asked by Councilor Huff, explaining what is being done to protect the employees of the Columbus Consolidated Government, most Department Heads have provided him a plan of action, a Work From Home Test at the discretion of the Department Heads, and the Pandemic Outbreak or Similar Illness Policy put out by Human Resources.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

- 1. Ordinance (20-009) - 2nd Reading - REZN-01-20-1016:** An ordinance rezoning approximately 0.21 acres of land located at 401 35th Street. The current zoning is RO (Residential Office) zoning district. The proposed zoning is RMF1 (Residential Multifamily 1) zoning district. The proposed use is Residential. The Planning Advisory Commission and the Planning Department recommend **approval**. The Applicant is NeighborWorks Columbus. (Councilor Garrett) Councilor Garrett made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members present.
- 2. Ordinance (20-010) - 1st Reading - Declaration of Local Emergency (Request of Mayor Henderson)** Councilor Thomas made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Mayor Henderson and City Attorney Fay responded to questions asked by the members of Council present to further explain various sections of the Declaration of Local Emergency.

- 3. Ordinance (20-011) - 1st Reading -** An ordinance to amend the Columbus, Georgia Pension Plan for General Government Employees, and the Columbus, Georgia Pension Plan for Public Safety Employees, and for other purposes. (Request of Pension Board of Trustees) Councilor Woodson made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall explained the plan amendment being proposed and answered questions by various members of Council.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

- 1. Substantial Amendment to the HUD Program Year 2017/City's FY 2018 Annual Action Plan & the HUD Program Year 2019/City's FY 2020 Annual Action Plan**

Resolution (074-20): A resolution authorizing the filing of substantial amendments to HUD's Program Year 2017/City's FY 2018 & Program Year 2019/ City's FY 2020 Annual Actin Plans. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Approval is requested for the filing of substantial amendments to the HUD Program Year 2017/City's FY 2018 Annual Action Plan & the HUD Program Year 2019/City's FY 2020 Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan is part of the Consolidated Planning process, in which the City of Columbus assesses its affordable housing and community development needs and market conditions, and makes data-driven, place-based investment decisions.

- 2. Dragonfly Connection – MLK Jr. Blvd and 10th Ave. to the Riverwalk**

Resolution (075-20): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, approving the Dragonfly Trail Connection that will connect Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. at 10th Ave. to the Riverwalk. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Approval is requested to authorize the next Columbus Dragonfly Trails connector that will connect Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. at 10th Ave. to the Riverwalk.

3. FIRE & EMS – FY20 Other Local Option Sales Tax Reallocation

Resolution (076-20): A resolution reallocating \$45,050 of the FY20 Other Local Option Sales Tax Fund Budget of the Fire & EMS Department from Personal Protective Equipment (Turn Out Gear), wireless service for Emergency Apparatus and Staffing Software to purchase an Outdoor Emergency Warning Siren from Mobile Communications America, Inc.. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Approval is requested to reallocate \$45,050 of the FY20 Other Local Option Sales Tax Fund budget of the Fire & EMS Department from Personal Protective Equipment (Turn out gear), Telephone (wireless service for emergency apparatus) and Software Lease (Staffing software) project to purchase an Emergency Outdoor Warning Siren destroyed from the tornado March 2019.

4. Central of Georgia Railroad Agreement – TIA Project No: 0011436 (Spiderweb)

Resolution (077-20): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Central of Georgia Railroad for purposes of constructing the necessary improvements needed for the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) Project No: 0011436. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Approval is requested to enter into an agreement with the Central of Georgia Railroad to ensure the coordination of construction activities while protecting the railroad line from any potential damage. The City shall reimburse the Central of Georgia Railroad for costs associated with the maintenance, engineering, safety, and construction related to this agreement for a total of \$1,787,737. All work under this agreement shall be performed by the Central of Georgia Railroad.

5. Project Framework Agreement (PFA) for the Construction of Military Drive from Infantry Road to Hampton Inn

Resolution (078-20): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for a Project Framework Agreement (PFA) for the Military Drive Project. Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Barnes being absent for the vote.

Approval is requested to enter into a Project Framework Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation to begin preliminary engineering for the Military Road Project. Funding for the project will consist of \$1,120,000 in federal Z905 funds; \$1,160,000 in state HB170 funds; and \$280,000 in local match funds for a total cost of \$2,560,000.

6. 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program

Resolution (079-20): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant of \$92,673.00 or as otherwise awarded, from the 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program and if needed, amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by like amount. These funds will be utilized for the maintenance of equipment received as part of the West Central Georgia Search and Rescue (GSAR) Team. This Team was formed to improve responses to heavy rescue emergencies to the citizens of Columbus and surrounding counties. Heavy Search-and-Rescue involves the location, rescue (extrication), and initial medical stabilization of victims trapped in confined spaces. Structural collapse is most often the cause of victims being trapped, but victims may also be trapped in transportation accidents, mines and collapsed trenches. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Approval is requested to accept a grant of \$92,673.00 or as otherwise awarded, from the 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program and amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by like amount. These funds will be utilized for the maintenance of equipment received as part of the West Central Georgia Search and Rescue (GSAR) Team.

7. PURCHASES

A. Security Cameras and Accessories for Metra Buses

Resolution (080-20): A resolution authorizing the purchase of security cameras and accessories for METRA, from Seon/Mobileview (Atlanta, GA Regional Location), in the amount of \$148,614.00; additionally, if funding is available, approval is required to allow METRA to purchase new security cameras, replacement cameras, or camera repairs, as needed, for the remainder of FY20. Councilor House made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

B. Annual Adobe Licensing Subscription Renewal and Purchase of Additional Adobe Programs

Resolution (081-20): A resolution authorizing the payment to CPAK Technology (LaGrange, GA) for the annual Adobe Licensing Subscription Renewal for Adobe Acrobat Pro DC in the amount of \$10,425.60, per Federal GSA Contract #GS-35F-0119Y, awarded to Carahsoft who has partnered with CPAK. Additionally, authorization is granted to purchase the Creative Cloud, Photoshop and Illustrator Programs of the Adobe Software Suite from CPAK Technology, in the amount of \$15, 509.88, as an only known source, as CPAK already holds the City's Basic Adobe License. The grand total of the payment/purchase is \$25,935.48 and covers the period from 4/10/20-4/9/21. Approval is also requested to make future payments for the annual licensing subscription renewal. Councilor House made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

C. Public Employee Retirement System Pension and Benefit Trust ("The Pension Fund") Investment Consultant Services (Annual Contract)

Resolution (082-20): A resolution approving the recommendation for the Pension Board to procure Investment Consultant Services, from Raymond James and Associates, Inc. (Columbus, GA), to include: consulting, custodial and fiduciary services, for the retirement system, while optimizing the return on investments for the benefit of the Pension Fund. Councilor House made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

D. Pavement Marking Services

Resolution (083-20): A resolution authorizing the annual contract for pavement marking services, on an "as needed basis", from Peek Pavement Marking, Inc., (Columbus, GA) for the total estimated contract value of \$4,547,672.00. Traffic Engineering has budgeted \$250,000.00, annually, for pavement marking services. Councilor House made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

E. Aerial and Ground Ladder Inspection & Testing Services (Annual Contract) RFB NO. 20-0050

Resolution (084-20): A resolution authorizing the annual contract with Consolidated Fleet Services, Inc. d/b/a CFS Inspections (Searcy, AR) to provide aerial and ground ladder inspection & testing services, to the Columbus Fire & EMS Department, for the estimated annual contract

value of \$6,685.00. Councilor House made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

8. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Elections & Registration Update - Nancy Boren, Elections & Registration Director.

Elections & Registration Director Nancy Boren gave a presentation update on the procedures for voting during the current COVID-19 Pandemic.

BID ADVERTISEMENT

March 25, 2020

1. Tree Removal & Stump Grinding/Removal Services (Re-Bid) (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0051

Scope of Bid

Provide Columbus Consolidated Government with professional services on an “as needed basis” for the following options: Option 1) Remove trees (and all related debris) throughout the City on an “as needed” basis. Option 2) Provide stump grinding/removal services throughout the City on an “as needed” basis.

Vendors may bid on either or both options.

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

2. Dumpster/Roll Off Container Rental and Servicing (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0053

Scope of Bid

Provide dumpsters/roll off containers on a rental basis, to include servicing the equipment as needed. The contract term will be for two (2) years with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

April 1, 2020

1. Transit Enhancements (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0049

Scope of Bid

Provide transit enhancement items to METRA Transit System on an “as needed” basis. The items include mesh trash receptacles; benches with and without backs; jumbo horizontal message centers; and single-face info centers.

The contract term will be three (3) years.

2. Lot Clearing Services III (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0055

Scope of Bid

Provide services for annual clearing of vacant or unoccupied lots, including cutting and removing grass, weeds, undergrowth and other vegetation, and removing any/all solid waste for the Department of Inspections and Code. Due to the number of upcoming projects, the City has identified the need to contract with additional vendors to provide the requested services.

This tertiary contract will run concurrently with Lot Clearing Services RFB No. 18-0029 (the Prime Contract), which initiated on March 12, 2018, for two (2) years with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

3. Veterinary Services (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0056

Scope of RFB

Provide veterinarian services for the Columbus Animal Care and Control Center (ACCC) under the Public Works Department. The contract term will be for two (2) years with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

April 3, 2020

1. Parking Lot Control Equipment for Bay Avenue Garage and 9th Street Lot

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) invites qualified vendors to submit proposals to furnish and install a complete parking lot control system for the Bay Avenue Parking Garage and 9th Street Parking Lot.

April 8, 2020

1. Heavy-Duty Mobile Bus Lift Systems (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0057

Scope of Bid

Provide heavy duty mobile bus lift systems to the METRA Transit System of Columbus Consolidated Government (the City). Each set shall consist of a set of four (4) columns, including one (1) master and three (3) secondaries. The proposed system shall be able to raise cars, trucks, or buses for the purpose of inspection, service, or maintenance. They systems will be procured on an “as needed” basis.

The contract term will be three (3) years.

2. Maintenance Services for Security Locking System/Door Hinges (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0058

Provide preventive maintenance and repair service for security locking systems/door hinges at the Muscogee County Jail. The services shall be performed at both towers, the Jail Annex and the Jail Administration areas; *the old 1939 Jail will not be included in this contract*. Maintenance shall include semi-annual service trips and repair services shall be on an “as needed” basis, including emergencies.

The contract term will 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. **RESOLUTION (085-20)**: A Resolution to cancel the March 31, 2020 Consent Agenda/ Work Session and the April 7, 2020 monthly Proclamation Session of the Council of Columbus, Georgia. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Thomas and carried unanimously by the ten members present.
2. **FINANCE REPORT RESOLUTION (086-20)**: A resolution receiving the report of the Director of Finance concerning certain alcoholic beverage licenses for the month of February 2020 and approving the same. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, second by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

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

Board of Election and Registration, January 16, 2020.

Board of Tax Assessors, #07-20 & #08-20.

Housing Authority, January 15, 2020.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

4. **COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- READY FOR CONFIRMATION:**

A. **BOARD OF HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW:**

Ms. Emily Flournoy was nominated to succeed Mr. Tyler Allen as the Uptown Business Association Representative. (*Councilor Thomas' nominee*) New Term expires: January 31, 2023. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to confirm the appointment, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote.

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

A. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:**

A nominee for the seat of Angela Wagenti (*Not eligible to succeed*) on the Community Development Advisory Council for a term that expires on March 27, 2020 (*Council District 2- Davis*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Valerie Thompson (*Not eligible to succeed*) on the Community Development Advisory Council for a term that expires on March 27, 2020 (*Council District 4- Thompson*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of L.K. Pendleton (*Eligible to succeed*) on the Community Development Advisory Council for a term that expires on March 27, 2020 (*Council District 7- Woodson*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Michael Porter (*Not eligible to succeed*) on the Community Development Advisory Council for a term that expires on March 27, 2020 (*Council District 9- Thomas*). There were none.

6. **COUNCIL'S APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS WOULD BE LISTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING:**

A. **ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:**

A nominee for the seat of Carol Bassett (*Resigned*) on the Animal Control Advisory Board for a term that expires on October 15, 2020. There were none.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Garrett to adjourn the March 24, 2020 Regular Meeting,

seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members present, with the time being 7:09 p.m.

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