

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

January 7, 2025
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR’S A G E N D A

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors Travis L. Chambers, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis (arrived at 9:02 a.m.), R. Walker Garrett, Byron Hickey and Toyia Tucker. City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Deputy Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore and Deputy Clerk Pro Tem Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: Councilors Bruce Huff and Judy W. Thomas were absent. Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis was also absent.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) CSG Columbus Airport – Proposed General Aviation Terminal Building Presentation; (2) CACC/PAWS Negotiation Presentation

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) Columbus Consolidated Government: Employee Handbook (*Revised Edition 12/2024*); (2) CA#6 – Document Submitted by Wes Ezell; (3) CA#6 – Rezoning Opposition Petitions; (4) CACC/PAWS Negotiation Presentation; (5) Management & Operation Agreement for Animal Shelter and Animal Field Services between Columbus Consolidated Government and Paws Humane Society (*Redline Version*)

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

Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson recognized the recent passing of former Mayor and Chief of Police Jim Wetherington and asked for a moment of silence in his honor.

INVOCATION: Offered by Pastor, Rev. Dr. Arthur H. Mitchell- Friendship Baptist Church of Columbus, Georgia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson

OATHS OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED BY CHIEF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE ARTHUR L. SMITH, III:

1. Councilor Glenn Davis – District 2
Councilor Toyia Tucker – District 4
Councilor R. Gary Allen – District 6
Councilor R. Walker Garrett – District 8
Councilor Travis L. Chambers – District 10 At-Large

MINUTES

2. Approval of minutes for the December 17, 2024 Council Meeting and Executive Session. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

PROCLAMATION:

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

Receiving: Public Safety

Councilor Toyia Tucker read the proclamation into the record, proclaiming Thursday, January 9, 2025, as *Law Enforcement Day*, expressing appreciation to our local law enforcement agencies and the officers that serve our community each day.

TRANSITIONAL AUDIT REQUEST

4. Request from Newly Elected Solicitor General Shevon Thomas for a Transitional Audit of the Solicitor General's Office. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

8. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- B. Proposed General Aviation Terminal Building - Amber Clark, Airport Director, CSG Columbus Airport.

Airport Director Amber Clark approached the rostrum to introduce the presentation. (*NOTE: This update was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item 8 "B"*)

Mr. Scott Holmes, Hecht Burdeshaw Architects, Inc., provided a presentation on the proposed General Aviation Terminal Building at the CSG Columbus Airport. During the presentation he provided the proposed site plan and explained the existing building will stand during construction.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE MAYOR:

- Have the Development Authority provide an update at the January 28, 2025 Council Meeting and quarterly updates going forward. (*Request of Councilor Crabb*)

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

- 1. Resolution (001-25):** A resolution appointing the Mayor Pro-Tem for Columbus, Georgia for a term of two (2) years. Councilor Garrett made a motion to nominate R. Gary Allen to serve another term as Mayor Pro Tem, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.
- 2. Resolution (002-25):** A resolution appointing the Clerk of Council for Columbus, Georgia for a term of two (2) years. Councilor Chambers made a motion to nominate Sandra T. Davis to serve another term as Clerk of Council, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.
- 3. Resolution (003-25):** A resolution appointing the Deputy Clerk of Council for Columbus, Georgia for a term of two (2) years. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to nominate Lindsey G. McLemore to serve another term as Deputy Clerk of Council, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

ORDINANCES

- 4. Ordinance (25-001) – 2nd Reading-** An ordinance amending Section 11-17.15 of the Columbus Code, to amend certain provisions pertaining to the position of division chief within the Columbus Department of Fire and Emergency Services; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem) Councilor Tucker made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.
- 5. Ordinance (25-002) – 2nd Reading-** An ordinance amending Section 2-69 of the Columbus Code pertaining to the duties of the internal auditor, to clarify an additional duty; and for other purposes. (Councilor Tucker) Councilor Tucker made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.
- 6. 1st Reading-** REZN-10-24-2210: An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **5201 Macon Road** (parcel # 098-001-002) from Single Family Residential - 2 (SFR2) to Single Family Residential - 3 (SFR3) Zoning District with conditions and Residential Multifamily - 1 (RMF1) Zoning District. (Planning Department recommends conditional approval. PAC recommends denial.) (Councilor Hickey)

Mr. Dave Erickson (Applicant), Wizer Home Builders, LLC, came forward to provide information on the proposed rezoning for 5201 Macon Road, allowing him to develop 84 townhomes and 253 single family homes for a total of 337 units.

Planning Director Will Johnson approached the rostrum to respond to questions from Council, stating the Planning Advisory Commission's (PAC) recommendation for denial was based on incompatibility with existing land uses. He explained that the Planning Department's

recommendation for conditional approval is based on the compatibility with the Future Land Use Plan and existing land uses, and the traffic study states low impact to the transportation network.

Councilor Byron Hickey stated for the record that he has not received any pressure from his constituents on this issue. He explained the correspondence he received with their concerns and requests were reasonable, and he agrees that this development will create a traffic issue in the future.

Ms. Karen Gaskins came forward to represent the Sears Woods Subdivision to speak in opposition to the proposed rezoning.

NOTE: Councilor Tucker left the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

Mr. Wes Ezell came forward to represent the Sears Woods Subdivision to speak in opposition of the proposed rezoning.

Mr. Gregory Foster, President of Chatham Woods Neighborhood Association, came forward to represent the Chatham Woods Subdivision to speak in opposition to the rezoning.

Mr. Tony Murdock came forward to represent the Willow Bend Subdivision to speak in opposition to speak in opposition to the proposed rezoning.

Mr. George Mabry came forward to represent the Shenandoah Forest Subdivision to speak in opposition to the proposed rezoning.

Mr. Bryan Newman came forward to represent the Windtree Subdivision to speak in opposition to the proposed rezoning.

Mr. Keith Barker came forward to represent the Farmington Subdivision to speak in opposition to the proposed rezoning.

Ms. Luella Blount came forward to represent the Farmington Subdivision to speak in opposition to the proposed rezoning.

Mr. William Kimbrough came forward to represent the Farmington Subdivision to speak in opposition to the proposed rezoning.

Mr. Gerald Kent came forward to represent the Farmington Subdivision to speak in opposition to the proposed rezoning.

7. **1st Reading-** REZN-10-24-2232: An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **1126 30th Street** (parcel # 029-013-001) from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily - 1 (RMF1) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Garrett)

Planning Department Director Will Johnson came forward to notify the City Attorney that it is his understanding that the Applicant is ill and unable to attend.

City Attorney Clifton Fay stated this item would be delayed due to the Applicant not being present.

NOTE: Councilor Tucker returned to the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

8. **1st Reading-** An ordinance amending the budgets for the Fiscal Year 2025 by appropriating amounts in each fund for various operational activities. (FY25 MID-YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENT) (Budget Review Committee) (*NOTE: Further discussion was held on this item after the City Manager's Agenda.*)

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum to explain the FY25 mid-year budget amendment being presented. She explained that some of the items listed in the amendment pertain to personnel for additional positions that have either been approved or made reference to supporting during the current fiscal year for various departments, such as the City Attorney's Office, Finance Department, Inspections & Code, Sheriff's Office, and the reinstatement of positions for the Columbus Police Department. She stated the adopted General Fund Budget for FY2025 was \$202,849,985, with the proposed increase of \$20,456,550 as listed in the amendment, bringing the General Fund Budget to \$223,306,535.

9. **1st Reading-** An ordinance amending Section 2-68 of the Columbus Code to provide that the internal auditor/compliance officer shall be solely subject to the direction of the Columbus Council; and for other purposes. (Councilor Hickey)

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen expressed his concerns regarding moving the Internal Auditor directly under the City Council, in respect to the Internal Auditor's charge over the Whistleblower Program. He explained he believes this would bring Council too close to the Whistleblower Program with only one step between them. He asked Councilor Hickey if he would consider Council moving the Internal Auditor under the direction of the Audit Committee, which would allow two Councilors to have input on what that employee is doing. He shared another concern being who would this employee report to regarding their annual evaluations or personnel questions.

Councilor Toyia Tucker responded to Mayor Pro Tem Allen, stating she serves as the Vice Chair for the Audit Committee, and this is something that the committee has been discussing since its establishment. She explained that her and Councilor Davis, as the Council Representatives serving on the Audit Committee, would be who the Internal Auditor would report to, and she agrees with the recommendation from Mayor Pro Tem Allen.

Councilor Hickey made a motion to amend the ordinance to move the Internal Auditor under the Audit Committee, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and opened for discussion.

City Attorney Clifton Fay stated he would prefer to have the opportunity to draft the formal language and send it out to Council and bring it back at the next meeting.

During the discussion, **Councilor Glenn Davis** asked Council if they would agree to allow the City Attorney to craft the language to see what it reads and to give the Audit Committee an opportunity to discuss the matter. He explained this change would require additional work, meetings, and executive sessions of the Audit Committee if it is handled similarly to the Records Court Committee.

The discussion continued between Councilor Tucker and Mayor Pro Tem Allen regarding the differences and similarities between the Internal Auditor and Records Court, Councilor Hickey then withdrew his motion.

10. **1st Reading-** An ordinance amending Section 3-5(e) of the Columbus Code, to revise a provision pertaining to the issuance of alcohol licenses; and for other purposes. (Councilors Davis and Garrett)

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge approached the rostrum to explain this amendment would allow for entities with plans for new construction of 20,000 square feet or more to obtain their alcohol license

RESOLUTION

11. **Resolution (004-25)** – A resolution amending Resolution 206-24 authorizing payment of attorney fees which may be incurred for legal services rendered regarding various city issues during Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025. (**Add-On**) Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE MAYOR:

- Request for quarterly reports from the Crime Prevention Director to see if we are going in the right direction or if any changes need to be made. (*Request of Councilor Chambers*)

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mrs. Audrey Holston Palmore, Re: Property located at 2928 10th Street that was previously listed on the demolition list on January 23, 2024 and was removed.
2. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Paws Humane Negotiations.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

8. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Update on Proposed Management Agreement Between CACC and PAWS Humane - Isaiah Hugley, City Manager

City Manager Isaiah Hugley approached the rostrum to provide the presentation shown at the December 17, 2024 Council Meeting on the negotiation between Columbus Animal Care & Control (CACC) and PAWS Humane. He explained the next steps if the resolution is approved, the transfer of all CACC operations to PAWS Humane, Inc. would be effective no later than February 1, 2025, the Negotiation Team will become the Transition Team, and Council must designate a member of current staff or authorize the hiring of a new staff person as the CACC Contract Administrator.

Public Works Deputy Director Michelle Mang came forward to respond to a question from Councilor Tucker, stating the contract to handle wild animal is a separate contract and Public Works or 311 will continue to refer those calls to the vendor providing those services.

PAWS Executive Director Courtney Pierce came forward to respond to Councilor Tucker, stating requests for vaccine status of current animals that have will be provided to the public.

Councilor Davis made a motion to list and approve the Internal Auditor as the Contract Administrator, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall notified Council that there would be changes to Chapter 5 of the Columbus Code of Ordinances once the agreement has been signed.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY:

- Upload the redline version of the contract to the agenda online. (*Request of Councilor Tucker*)
- On page 1 of the contract, remove “Best Friends Society” and only list “the Association of Shelter Veterinarians and the National Animal Care and Control Association”. (*Request of Councilor Tucker*)

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- The Contract Administrator/Internal Auditor should conduct quarterly inspections and provide bi-annual or annual reports to Council. (*Request of Councilor Davis*)
- List the Animal Control Advisory Board under the direction of the Contract Administrator on the organizational chart. (*Request of Councilor Crabb*)

1. Resolution for Management & Operation Agreement for Animal Shelter and Animal Field Services

Resolution (005-25) - A resolution authorizing the execution 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 approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

2. FY2026 Georgia Department of Transportation – Transportation Planning Contract

Resolution (006-25) - A resolution to execute a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation on behalf of the City for financial assistance to carry out the FY2026 Transportation Planning Activities of the Columbus-Phenix City Transportation Study (C-PCTS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount of the contract and local funds. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

3. FY2026 Georgia Department of Transportation – Y410 Funds -Transportation Planning Contract

Resolution (007-25) - A resolution to execute a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation on behalf of the City for financial assistance to carry out the FY2026 Y410 Planning Funds for Safe & Accessible Transportation Option – (H.R. 3684 – SECT 11206), as outlined in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount of the award. This funding is required to be included in the transportation planning work

activities of the Columbus-Phenix City Transportation Study (C-PCTS). Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

4. Memorandum of Agreement: CFEMS & RightSite Health Physicians PLLC

Resolution (008-25) - A resolution to execute the memorandum of agreement related to telehealth services provided through the Columbus Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services by RightSite Health Physician PLLC. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

5. Lease of Equipment for Golf Courses - Toro Grounds Keeping Equipment

Resolution (009-25) - A resolution authorizing a lease agreement with Huntington Bank over a 48-month lease period in a total amount of \$33,824.57 to obtain equipment to be utilized at Bull creek Golf Course. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

6. Lease of Equipment for Golf Courses – Yamaha Golf Car Equipment

Resolution (010-25) - A resolution authorizing a lease agreement with Yamaha Motor Finance Corporation over a 48-month lease period in a total amount of \$9,146.40 to obtain equipment to be utilized at Bull Creek Golf Course. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

7. PURCHASES

A. Infantry Road and Follow Me Trail PI # 0015285 – RFB No. 24-0040

Resolution (011-25) - A resolution authorizing the execution of a construction contract with Alexander Contracting Co., Inc. (Fortson, GA) in the amount of \$2,439,946.30, for the Infantry Road and Follow Me Trail Project, PI 0015285. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

B. Additional Resource for Pursuit Vehicle Buildout Services (Annual Contract) – TIPS USA Cooperative Contract

Resolution (012-25) - A resolution authorizing the annual contract for the purchase of pursuit vehicle buildout services from ProLogic ITS, LLC (Acworth, GA) as an additional resource to provide these services. Purchases will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via TIPS-USA Contract #230105. The Public Safety Departments, and other departments, will obtain quotes from the vendor as the services are needed. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

C. Georgia First Responder Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Program Insurance

Resolution (013-25) - A resolution authorizing payment to Apex Insurance Agency, LLC (Atlanta, GA), with Everest as the carrier, for State-Mandated Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Insurance for public safety officers pursuant to House Bill 451, in the amount of \$610,781.50 for the period of 01/01/2025 – 01/01/2026, as well as any future payments. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

D. Extension of Memorandum of Agreement for Mental Health Services for Muscogee County Prison

Resolution (014-25) - A resolution authorizing one-yea extension of the memorandum of agreement with New Horizons Community Service Board d/b/a New Horizons Behavioral Health (Columbus, GA), through February 12, 2026, for inmate mental health services for the Muscogee County Prison. New Horizons Behavioral Health will provide five telephone consultations and contract administration in the amount of \$500.00 per month. Provider services will be \$150.00 per hour; clinician services will be \$100.00 per hour; psychologist services will be \$100.00 per hour; and additional consultations beyond the five monthly telephone consultations will be \$50.00 per call. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

E. Repair of Caterpillar D7R II Bulldozer for Public Works

Resolution (015-25) - A resolution authorizing payment to Yancey Brothers (Fortson, GA) in the amount of \$488,359.73, for the repair of a Caterpillar D7R II Bulldozer, Vehicle #10822, purchased in 2005. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

F. Annual Maintenance/Service Agreement for the Camera Integration Platform for Police Department – Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (016-25) - A resolution authorizing payment for the 3-year annual maintenance/service agreement from Axon Enterprise, Inc. (Scottsdale, AZ) for the Camera Integration Platform for the Police Department, in the total amount of \$375,000.00 (\$125,000.00 per year). The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Sourcewell Contract #101223-AXN. The first-year payment of the agreement was due December 2024. The remaining payments will be due December 2025 and December 2026. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

INFORMATION ONLY:

1. Information Only: Exigent “Off the Lot” Vehicle Purchases – Resolution No. 106-24

On December 16, 2024, a purchase order was executed for one (1) 2024 Chevrolet Silverado 3500HD Flatbed Dump Truck for Public Works Department-Community Services due to exigent circumstances, as approved by Council per Resolution No. 354-24.

The vehicle will be purchased from Son’s Chevrolet LLC (Columbus, GA) at a unit price of

\$70,937.00. The vehicle will be used to haul materials and move equipment. This is a new vehicle.

Funds are budgeted in the FY25 Budget: General Fund – Public Works – Public Works – Light Trucks; 0203-260-3130-ROWM-7722.

8. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- B. Proposed General Aviation Terminal Building - Amber Clark, Airport Director, CSG Columbus Airport. (*NOTE: This update was called upon earlier in the meeting during the Mayor's Agenda.*)

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA (continued)

8. **1st Reading-** An ordinance amending the budgets for the Fiscal Year 2025 by appropriating amounts in each fund for various operational activities. (FY25 MID-YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENT) (Budget Review Committee) (*NOTE: This item was called upon and the 1st Reading was held earlier in the meeting during the City Attorney's Agenda.*)

Councilor Toyia Tucker shared her concerns with the additional positions listed for the Inspections & Code Department and the Finance Department. She continued to express her disagreement with the need of another Assistant Director in Finance and stated that there is more of need for employees working with citizens rather than another higher up position.

Finance Director Angelica Alexander came forward to explain her current Assistant Director serves on the Budget Planning side and the additional Assistant Director would provide more oversight over the functions in the Purchasing and Revenue Divisions.

Councilor Chambers made a motion for the Human Resources Department to assess the current positions and duties of the Finance Department, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Have the Carl Vinson Institute look at the personnel plan put together by Evergreen to see if we are on track for various aspects such as career ladders. (*Request of Councilor Tucker*)

FARMER'S MARKET:

Councilor Joanne Cogle stated the City Manager met with the Columbus Football Club yesterday and came to no conclusion. She explained the notes she received said that the CCG would need to complete an RFP, there were concerns expressed that there was not a public benefit, and whether there was going to programming for low-income youth. She said they have been looking for an area for soccer fields for some time now, this is a viable location, and there is a lot of donor money on the table that would move this project forward. She stated she argues that other recreation sites did not require an RFP and that the Columbus Football Club is willing to work with Community Reinvestment Director Scott in implementing a program for low-income youth.

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge came forward to share the wording listed on the deed for use restrictions of the property, stating that the property must be for public use, or it reverts to the State of Georgia.

Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall came forward to further explain that this property was not already owned by the City of Columbus nor was it acquired for a legal purpose. She stated this property was specifically deeded to the City by the State of Georgia with a restriction that stated that it must be used for public purposes and went further to enforce this restriction by saying the land goes back to the State. She explained that the Columbus Football Club discussed and do not want the property to go back to the State, so all that is needed is a process to ensure that we comply with the restrictions and that of the CDBG Grants so the City does not have to pay back \$1,000,000.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY:

- Have one of the law firms that we are contracted with and has experience with the federal government to investigate the restrictions further. *(Request of Councilor Davis)*

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- The solution that was provided at the house at the intersection on Airport Thruway as it transitions into Miller Road is not working and the property will still be damaged. Another solution needs to be provided in front of that property. *(Request of Councilor Crabb)*
- Check into the feral hog issue in Chatham Woods Subdivision. *(Request of Councilor Hickey)*

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. Letter from Mr. Alfred Hayes, Jr. resigning from his seat on the Board of Zoning Appeals effective January 30, 2025. Councilor Tucker made a motion to receive the resignation, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.
2. **RESOLUTION (017-25)** – A resolution excusing Councilor Judy Thomas from the January 7, 2025 Council Meeting. **(Add-On)** Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.
3. **Minutes of the following boards:**
 - Audit Committee, November 20, 2024
 - Board of Tax Assessors, #41-24
 - Board of Zoning Appeals, October 2, and November 6, 2024
 - Convention & Visitors Board of Commissioners, November 20, 2024
 - Historic & Architectural Review Board, August 12, 2024

Councilor Crabb made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

4. **RESOLUTION (018-25)** – A resolution excusing Councilor Bruce Huff from the January 7, 2025 Council Meeting. **(Add-On)** Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CLERK OF COUNCIL:

- Expedite the honorary designation for Mayor Jim Wetherington at the Public Safety Building.
(Request of Councilor Hickey)

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

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

A. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

A nominee for the vacant position of the District 5 Representative for a term expiring on October 31, 2025, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 5 – Crabb*). Deputy Clerk of Council McLemore explained that Daniel Street was confirmed to the unexpired term of Jennifer Upshaw, but the onboarding process was not completed, and Councilor Crabb is nominating Pete Berry. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

6. **COUNCIL'S CONFIRMATION - NOMINATIONS RECEIVED FROM AN ORGANIZATION / AGENCY MAY BE CONFIRMED:**

A. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Toney Johnson (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on January 31, 2025, as a Historic District Preservation Society Representative on the Historic & Architectural Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). Deputy Clerk of Council McLemore explained the Historic District Preservation Society has recommended the reappointment of Toney Johnson to serve another term. Councilor Tucker made a motion to confirm the reappointment of Toney Johnson, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting.

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

A. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Alex Griggs (*Rotating off the board*) for a term expiring on January 31, 2025, as an Architect Representative on the Historic & Architectural Review Board (*Council's*

Appointment). Mayor Pro Tem Allen nominated Allen Cline to succeed Alex Griggs as the Architect Representative.

B. PERSONNEL REVIEW BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Dennis Walsh (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2024, as Alternate Member 1 on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Willie L. Belfield, Jr. (*Appointed to Regular Member seat*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2024, as Alternate Member 2 on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Donna D. Baker (*Appointed to Regular Member seat*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2024, as Alternate Member 3 on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

C. VALLEY PARTNERSHIP JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:

A nominee for the seat of Monte Galbraith (*Resigned*) for a term expiring on June 30, 2026, on the Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

NOTE: Councilor Cogle left the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

PUBLIC AGENDA (continued):

2. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Paws Humane Negotiations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss matters of property acquisition and disposal as requested by City Attorney Fay earlier in the meeting. Councilor Hickey made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote, Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting, and the time being 2:59 p.m.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 3:11 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in executive session to discuss matters of property acquisition and disposal; however, there were no votes taken.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Tucker to adjourn the January 7, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with

Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote, Councilors Huff and Thomas being absent from the meeting, and the time being 3:12 p.m.

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