

COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING **MINUTES**

Council Chambers
C. E. "Red" McDaniel City Services Center- Second Floor
2960 Macon Road, Columbus, GA 31906

February 24, 2026
5:30 PM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S A G E N D A

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III, Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors John Anker, Travis L. Chambers, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, R. Walker Garrett (via teleconference), Byron Hickey, Bruce Huff and Toyia Tucker (via teleconference). Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall, Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore and Deputy Clerk of Council Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: Councilor Glenn Davis was absent.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) MA#3: Operational Audit of the Crime Prevention Department Office February 24, 2026; (2) CA#2: Inspections & Code Department Demolition Properties; (3) CM#9: Liberty Streetscapes

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) MA#3: Operational Audit of the Crime Prevention Department Office February 24, 2026; (2) CA#2: Property located at 828 1st Avenue

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Dallas Sims- Director of Victory Mission Columbus

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Skip Henderson

MINUTES:

1. Approval of minutes for the February 10, 2026, Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

At this point in the meeting, Mayor Henderson announced Councilors R. Walker Garrett (medical) and Toyia Tucker (travel) being in attendance virtually.

RESOLUTIONS

2. **Resolution (041-26)** - A Resolution authorizing a general operational audit of the Golf Course Authority by the Internal Auditor. (*Requested by Councilor Toyia Tucker, as Chair of the Auditor Committee*) Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

3. Operational Audit of the Office of Crime Prevention – Donna McGinnis, Internal Auditor and Compliance Office (ADD-ON)

Donna McGinnis, Internal Auditor and Compliance Office reported that the audit, authorized by Council on September 16, 2025, focused primarily on program delivery, applicant support, and compliance within the Department of Crime Prevention, which operates as a one-person department.

Forensic Auditor Grant Conway outlined the audit process, stating that work began on October 8, 2025, with a review of Crime Prevention materials and meetings with Director Seth Brown, followed by additional meetings with board members and site visits at various program locations.

Forensic Auditor Benjamin Meadow reported that the team conducted site visits for several grant recipients and observed programs serving at-risk youth, workforce reentry participants, and families in crisis. He noted that the Crime Prevention Director actively manages monthly funding distributions, supports grassroots organizations, and has enhanced transparency through website updates

Forensic Auditor Jonathan Smith presented the audit recommendations, including redesigning the department's website, creating tiered funding levels for institutional and grassroots programs, developing a quarterly statistical report with CPD to improve transparency, and planning to add an Administrative Assistant in the FY27 budget to support the program's growth.

Director of Crime Prevention Seth Brown stated that several audit recommendations are already being implemented. He advised that this was the department's second clean audit in eight years and expressed support for conducting audits every three to four years.

Danny Arencibia, Chairman of the Crime Prevention Board, thanked the audit team for their thorough and professional work. He stated that the board takes the findings seriously and will begin implementing any necessary course corrections and emphasized the board's commitment to transparency and accountability moving forward.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (26 -004) - 2nd Reading-** An ordinance regulating the vehicular traffic in Columbus, Georgia, by amending City Code Section 20-8.1.1 **Through Streets Designated** by deleting "Averette drive" as an intersecting street with the through street of Preston Drive; by amending Columbus Code Section 20-8.1.2 **Multi-way Stops Designated** for the purpose of establishing a multi-way stop at the intersection of Preston Drive and Averett Drive; authorizing the installation of official traffic control devices indicating said stop intersections and repealing any conflicting ordinances and for other purposes. (Councilors Garrett and Crabb) Councilor Crabb 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.
2. **1st Reading-** An ordinance providing for the demolition of various structures located at:
 - 1) **2317 Forsyth Street** (Trevonte Johnson, Owner);
 - 2) **5 Patton Drive** (Edward Hickey, Owner);
 - 3) **3810 16th Avenue** (Virginia Royal, Owner);
 - 4) **1543 Floyd Road** (Marrina Jo Amerson, Owner);
 - 5) **222 21st Avenue** (W & D Ventures LLC, Owner);
 - 6) **3016 3rd Avenue** (Benjamin Hardy, Owner);
 - 7) **2801 Baldwin Street** (Taryn Daniel Araos, Owner);
 - 8) **1344 16th Street** (William Glenn Perkins, Owner);
 - 9) **928 Lawyers Lane** (Sammie T. Harvey & King Bernice Harvey, Owner); and
 - 10) **828 1st Avenue** (FF Asset Fund I, LLC, Owner) (Mayor Pro-Tem)

Assistant Director Philip Smith, Inspections & Code, came forward to present the list of demolition properties for Council’s consideration and responded to questions pertaining to specific properties.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Benjamin Hardy (3016 3rd Avenue) – Requested a week extension to demolish the structure on the property.
- Collin Rich (828 1st Avenue) – Requested an extension of time to complete repairs and bring the property into compliance with code requirements.

3. 1st Reading- An Ordinance repealing various ordinances in order to abolish the Civic Center Advisory Board; and for other purposes. (Councilor Crabb)

(NOTE: The floor was declared open for public comment. No public comment and no questions from the members of Council.)

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Ms. Kayce Burdett, Re: Environmental and Community Impacts of Data Centers
2. Mr. David Gibbs, Re: Mismanagement
3. Mrs. Alyssa Nia Williams, Re: Public Agenda Process ***Not Present***
4. Ms. Marietta W. Helms, Re: Requesting entitlement for property damage due to source / runoff water. ***Not Present***
5. Mr. Max Burnett, Re: The proposed data center investment, “Project Ruby”.
6. Mr. Troy Keller, Re: Moratorium on new data centers.
7. Ms. Patricia Stephens, Re: Economic Development ***Not Present***
8. Ms. Pamela Moss, Re: Data Center ***Not Present***
9. Mr. Paul Olson, Re: Data Center Coming to Columbus ***Not Present***
10. Dr. Natalie Nicole, representing Role Model Academy of Arts, Re: Governance Standards and Enforcement Consistency ***Not Present***

Missy Kendrick, President and CEO of Choose Columbus, addressed public concerns regarding the proposed data center, explaining that the project is expected to involve a hyperscale user and is being developed by Habitat Partners and Atlas. She stated the site was selected due to available transmission capacity through Flint Energies and emphasized that the project would require an overlay district with provisions addressing setbacks, lighting, noise, and other protections. She also highlighted advancements in modern data center designs that reduce noise and water usage compared to earlier facilities and announced plans to hold additional public meetings to provide information and receive community input.

City Attorney Clifton Fay stated that Planning is developing a Technology Overlay District that would apply to certain higher-density zoning areas, and if approved by the Planning Advisory Commission and Council, developers would still need to seek specific zoning approval for any data center project.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Street Acceptance – James Way and that portion of Charleston Way

Resolution (042-26) - A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, authorizing the acceptance of a deed to James Way and that portion of Charleston Way located in Section Three, Charleston Place, on behalf of Columbus, Georgia. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

2. 2026 Legislative Agenda Items – Additional Proposed Items

Approval is requested of the resolutions for the 2026 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly.

5 (1). MUSCOGEE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CLERK – SALARIES:

The Columbus Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce legislation to amend the local act found at Georgia Laws 1984, page 4314. The requested amendment would provide that the salary of the Muscogee County Superior Court Clerk shall be no less than 80% of the state base salary of the superior court judges for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit or any future judicial circuit that includes Muscogee County. Based upon the terms of office served by the Muscogee County Superior Court Clerk, longevity and cost of living increases shall be added to the

salary of the clerk of said court under the same provisions and in the same manner as provided for longevity and cost of living increases pursuant to general law. The salary of the Chief Deputy Clerk appointed pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-6-59 shall be recommended by the Muscogee County Superior Court Clerk and approved in the Clerk of Superior Court's Budget. In no event shall such Chief Deputy Clerk's salary be less than 65% of the base salary of the Muscogee County Superior Court Clerk, excluding any longevity or cost of living increases. (*Request of Councilor Toyia Tucker*)

(NOTE: No action was taken on this item due to it being pulled from the agenda by Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin.)

3. FY2027 Family Connection Grant

Resolution (043-26) - A resolution authorizing the Mayor or his designee to continue to serve as fiscal agent and to submit an application and, if approved, accept a grant from the Georgia Department of Human Services in the amount of \$52,500, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match requirement, for fiscal year 2027, to support the Columbus/Muscogee county Family Connection collaborative for improving child health and welfare, school performance, family stability, family economic capacity, and to reduce child abuse, neglect, and teenage pregnancy, and to amend the family connection partnership fund (fund 985) by the amount of the award. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

4. Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) Grant Request

Resolution (044-26) - A resolution authorizing the city to submit an application to the Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) in an amount of \$298,215 awarded to be used for the procurement and installation of up to forty-eight (48) 5g routers and up to forty-eight (48) roof-mounted 5g antennas on Metra's buses. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

5. FY27 Sec. 5307 and Sec. 5339 Annual Grant Applications for Capital and Planning Assistance

Resolution (045-26) - A resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application and, if awarded, accept funds from the Federal Transit Administration's Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 formula grant program for capital and planning assistance in an amount up to \$2,696,849, or as otherwise awarded, and amend the transportation fund by the amount of the grant award. Metra is also authorized to submit a grant application and, if awarded, accept funds from the Federal Transit Administration's

Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5339 formula grant program for capital assistance in an amount up to \$279,031 or as otherwise awarded, and amend the transportation fund by the amount of the grant award. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

6. Juvenile Accountability Court State Grant Request

Resolution (046-26) - A resolution authorizing the Mayor or his designee to submit an application to the criminal justice coordinating council for a grant to fund the Muscogee County Juvenile and Family Treatment Courts in an amount up to \$500,000.00 and if awarded, amend the multi-governmental fund by the amount of the grant award. There is a 15% local match requirement and the grant period is from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

7. Bureau of Justice Assistance - FY25 The Kevin and Avonte Program Grant

Resolution (047-26) - A resolution authorizing the Mayor or their designee to apply for and accept, if awarded, a grant on behalf of the Columbus Police Department in the amount of \$150,000, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match required, from the BJA FY25 the Kevin and Avonte Program: reducing injury and death of missing individuals with dementia and developmental disabilities program, 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 Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

8. PURCHASES

A. Dump Truck Rental (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 26-0025

Resolution (048-26) - A resolution authorizing an contract for Dump Truck Rental Services, on an “as needed” basis, with D.A.T. Trucking, Inc. (Smiths, AL) as the contractor, and with Definitive Trucking Co. LLC (McDonough, GA) as the secondary contractor. The Primary Contractor will be contacted first. If the Primary Contractor is unable to provide the required services, then the City will contact the Secondary Contractor to render the services needed. The Public Works Department budgets approximately \$25,000.00 annually for these services. 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 Huff being absent for the vote and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

B. Two (2) Ford Explorers for Information Technology Department- Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (049-26) - A resolution to authorizing the purchase of two (2) Ford Explorers for the Information Technology Department from Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) at a unit price of \$40,515.00 and a total cost of \$81,030.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia State Contract #99999-001-SPD-SPD0000218-0001. 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 Huff being absent for the vote and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

C. Dragonfly Trail – Midtown Connector Phase I – RFB No. 26-0003

Resolution (050-26) - A resolution authorizing A resolution authorizing the execution of a construction contract with IP Construction, LLC (Kennesaw, GA) in the amount of \$1,495,236.19 for Dragonfly Trail – Midtown Connector Phase I. 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 Huff being absent for the vote and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

D. Rifles And Accessories for the Sheriff’s Office – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (051-26) - A resolution authorizing the purchase of thirty (30) HK Patrol Rifles & Accessories from Clyde Armory (Athens, GA) in the amount of \$97,350.00. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Contract Purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-001-SPD0000209-0004. 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 Huff being absent for the vote and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

E. Declaration Of Surplus and Donation of Fareboxes

Resolution (052-27) - A resolution declaring twenty (20) fareboxes from METRA, as surplus, in accordance with section 7-501 of the Charter of Columbus Consolidated Government; and further authorized to donate the fareboxes to the Augusta Transit in Augusta, GA. 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 Huff being absent for the vote and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

F. Radio Equipment Replacement for Muscogee County Prison –Sourcewell Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (053-26) - A resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of replacement radio equipment from Mobile Communications America (Columbus, GA) in the amount of \$48,517.90. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase, via Sourcewell Contract #020624-MCA. Further, the Mayor and/or his designee is authorized to utilize OLOST Reserve funding for the radio replacement and installation. 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 Huff being absent for the vote and Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made for the city vehicle policy. (*Councilor Anker*)
- A request was made for staff to review the Midtown Connector phase of the Dragonfly Trail project regarding the loss of street parking for a nearby business. (*Councilor Crabb*)
- A request was made for staff to evaluate possible design adjustments, including relocating the trail or exploring engineering alternatives, to help preserve adequate parking. (*Councilor Cogle*)

9. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. 8th Ave. Streetscapes Update - Scott Holmes, Principal, Architect, McMillan, Pazdan, Smith

Planning Director Will Johnson introduced a brief presentation on the 8th Avenue TIA Streetscapes Project and introduced consultant Scott Holmes with McMillan Pazdan Smith as the project designer to provide additional details.

Principal Architect Scott Holmes, McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture, presented the 8th Avenue TIA Streetscapes Project, outlining plans to reconstruct the one-block section between 8th and 9th Streets in front of the Liberty Theatre. He stated that the project is designed to complement Uptown’s existing streetscape aesthetic and support future development in the area.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made for clarification on whether 7th Avenue was included in the TSPLOST budget description for the Liberty District streetscape project. *(Councilor Anker)*

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge stated that the 8th Avenue Streetscape project is already budgeted, and staff intends to move forward as presented. In response to questions about leveraging economic development, she explained that at the next Council meeting, 14 single-family parcels in the Liberty District will be brought forward to be declared surplus and put out for bid. She also advised that staff will return at the March 31st work session with a broader project update.

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. **Resignation(s)**: James Barker, Dannell Mastream Marks, and Philip Badcock have submitted their resignations from the Airport Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the resignations, seconded by Councilor Anker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Garrett and Tucker.)*

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE MAYOR:

- A request was made for Council to consider formally recognizing former Airport Commission members who stepped down, potentially listing their names on a commemorative plaque at the airport in acknowledgment of their service and contributions. *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen)*
2. **Travel Authorization Request**: Authorization is being requested for Councilor Bruce Huff to attend the 2026 ACCG Annual Conference during the month of April 2026. Councilor Anker made a motion to approve the travel request, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Garrett and Tucker.)*

3. **Minutes of the following boards**

457 Deferred Compensation Plan 02-05-26

Audit Committee Minutes 03-05-25, 07-07-25, 09-19-25, 01-08-26

Board of Elections and Registration 01-08-26

Board of Tax Assessor #04-26, 05-26

Board of Water Commissioners 01-12-26

Columbus Board of Health, 01-22-20, 04-22-20, 05-27-20, 06-24-20, 09-23-20, 10-28-20

Columbus Board of Health, 02-24-21, 08-25-21, 12-01-21

Columbus Board of Health, 01-26-22

Columbus Board of Health, 05-22-24, 08-28-24, 09-25-24, 10-23-24, 12-04-24

Columbus Board of Health, 05-28-25, 06-25-25

Columbus Iron Works Convention and Trade Center Authority 01-23-25, 04-24-25, 09-25-25,
10-30-25,11-20-25

Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority 01-12-26

Golf Authority 06-27-23

Hospital Authority of Columbus 01-27-26

Councilor Crabb made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION:

Resolution (054-26) - A resolution excusing the absence of Councilor Glenn Davis from the February 24, 2026, Council Meeting. Councilor Crabb 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.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

4. MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS – ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

A. CIVIC CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for the vacant seat with a term expiring on March 1, 2026, on the Civic Center Advisory Board. *(Mayor's Appointment)*. There were none.

B. COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CULTURAL LIAISON ENCOUNTERS (CIRCLE):

A nominee for the vacant seat with a term expiring on March 1, 2026, on Commission on International Relations and Cultural Liaison Encounters. *(Mayor's Appointment)*. There were none.

C. CONVENTION & VISITORS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (CVB):

A nominee for the vacant seat with a term expiring on December 31, 2028, on the Convention & Visitors Board of Commissioners. *(Mayor's Appointment)*. Clerk of Council McLemore announced that Mayor Henderson is nominating Hudson Terrell to fill the vacant seat on the Convention & Visitors Board of Commissioners. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Garrett and Tucker.)*

D. PENSION FUND, EMPLOYEES' BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

A nominee for a vacant seat with a term that expires on June 30, 2026, as a representative of the Business Community on the Pension Fund, Employees' Board of Trustees *(Mayor's Appointment)*. There were none.

5. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – LISTED FOR CONFIRMATION:

A. BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS: Alissa Neal was nominated to serve another term. *(Councilor Crabb's nominee)* Term expires: March 31, 2029. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Garrett and Tucker.)*

B. BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS: Christopher Smith was nominated to serve another term. *(Councilor Crabb's nominee)* Term expires: March 24, 2028. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously

by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Garrett and Tucker.)*

- C. **BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:** Olive Vidal-Kendall was nominated to serve another term. *(Councilor Crabb's nominee)* Term expires: March 24, 2028. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Garrett and Tucker.)*

- D. **COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & CULTURAL LIAISON ENCOUNTERS (CIRCLE):** Mattie Hall was nominated to serve another term. *(Councilor Huff's nominee)* Term expires: March 1, 2030. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Garrett and Tucker.)*

- E. **PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION (PAC):** John R. Steed was nominated to serve another term. *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen's nominee)* Term expires: March 31, 2029. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Garrett and Tucker.)*

6. **NOMINATIONS – CONFIRMED BY COUNCIL:**

A. **AIRPORT COMMISSION:**

A nominee for a vacant seat with a term expiring on December 31, 2028, on the Airport Commission *(Council's Appointment)* Clerk of Council McLemore announced that the Airport Commission has nominated Kevin Howard to fill the vacant seat on the Airport Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Garrett and Tucker.)*

A nominee for a vacant seat with a term expiring on December 31, 2028, on the Airport Commission *(Council's Appointment)* Clerk of Council McLemore announced that the Airport Commission has

nominated Austin Gowar to fill the vacant seat on the Airport Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Garrett and Tucker.)*

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term expiring on December 31, 2026, on the Airport Commission *(Council's Appointment)*. There were none.

B. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (BHAR):

A nominee for a vacant seat *(Board of Realtors Representative)* for a term expiring on January 31, 2026, on the Historic & Architectural Review Board *(Council's Appointment)*. There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat *(Columbus Home Builders Association Representative)* for a term expiring on January 31, 2028, on the Historic & Architectural Review Board *(Council's Appointment)*. There were none.

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

A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

A nominee for the vacant seat of the District 1 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council *(District 1 – Hickey)*.

A nominee for the seat of Tracy Belt *(Not Eligible)* the District 4 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council *(District 4 – Tucker)*. There were none.

A nominee for the vacant seat of the District 5 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council *(District 5 – Crabb)*.

A nominee for the seat of John House *(Eligible for reappointment)* the District 8 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council *(District 8 – Garrett)*. Clerk of Council McLemore announced that Councilor Garrett is renominating John House to serve another term on the Community Development Advisory Board. Councilor Huff made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Garrett and Tucker.)*

A nominee for the seat of Mike Welch (*Eligible for reappointment*) the District 9 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council (*District 9 – Anker*). There were none.

Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore stated for the record Mr. Mike Welch has expressed his desire to continue serving on the Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority rather than being reappointed to the Community Development Advisory Council.

A nominee for the seat of James Jordan (*Eligible for reappointment*) the District 10 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council (*District 10 – Chambers*). Clerk of Council McLemore announced that Councilor Chambers is renominating James Jordan to serve another term on the Community Development Advisory Board. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting. (*Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Garrett and Tucker.*)

B. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Paul T. Berry, III (*Not interested in serving another term*) for a term that expired on October 31, 2025, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*District 5 – Crabb*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Scott Taft (*Not Eligible*) for a term that expired on October 31, 2025, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*District 9 – Anker*). There were none.

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

A. ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for the vacant seat of the Georgia Veterinary Technician with a term expiring on October 15, 2026, on the Animal Control Advisory Board (*Council’s Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the vacant seat of the Animal Rescue Shelter Representative with a term expiring on October 15, 2026, on the Animal Control Advisory Board (*Council’s Appointment*). There were none.

B. BOARD OF HEALTH:

A nominee for the seat of Yasmine Cathright (*Not Eligible*) with the term expiring on December 31, 2025, on the Board of Health (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

C. BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term that expires on March 24, 2026, on the Building Authority of Columbus (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

D. LIBERTY THEATRE & CULTURAL ARTS CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term that expired on August 14, 2025, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Huff nominated Monica Brown to fill the vacant seat on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board.

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term that expires on August 14, 2026, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term that expires on August 14, 2027, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board (*Civic Center Director Recommendation / Confirmed by Council*). There were none.

E. NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH – MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTIVE DISEASES AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES- COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Judge David Ranieri (*Does not desire reappointment*) for a term that expired on June 30, 2025, on the New Horizons Behavioral Health – Mental Health, Addictive Diseases and Developmental Disabilities – Community Service Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

F. PERSONNEL REVIEW BOARD:

A nominee for a vacant seat (*Alternate Member 1*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2027, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat (*Alternate Member 2*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2027, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat (*Alternate Member 3*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2027, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Delano Leftwich (*Not Eligible – Alternate Member 4*) for a term that expired on December 31, 2025, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

PUBLIC AGENDA (continued)

2. Mr. David Gibbs, Re: Mismanagement

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation as requested by City Attorney Fay. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis and being absent from the meeting, and the time being 7:46 p.m.

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 8:14 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in Executive Session to discuss litigation; however, there were no votes taken.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Skip Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to adjourn the February 24, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting, with the time being 8:14 p.m.

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