

# 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

July 11, 2023  
9:00 AM  
Regular Meeting

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### **MAYOR'S AGENDA**

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**PRESENT:** Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors Jerry "Pops" Barnes, Tyson Begly, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, Bruce Huff (arrived at 9:06 a.m.), Judy W. Thomas, and Toyia Tucker. City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis, and Deputy Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore were present.

**ABSENT:** Councilor R. Walker Garrett was absent from the meeting.

**The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet:** (1) Columbus City Hall Update Presentation; (2) Family Connection Presentation; (3) Public Safety Take Home Vehicles to Alabama Presentation; (4) Legacy Terrace Update Presentation

**The following documents were distributed around the Council table:** (1) Ordinance with amendments for City Attorney's Agenda Item # 3

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

**INVOCATION:** Offered by Pastor Ricky Smith, Calvary Baptist Church of Columbus, Georgia

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Mayor Henderson

### **MINUTES**

1. Approval of minutes for the June 27, 2023 Council Meeting and Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Huff being absent for the vote, and Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

### **PROCLAMATION:**

2. **Proclamation:** Columbus Restaurant Week

**Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen** read the proclamation into record, proclaiming the week of July 17 to July 23, 2023, as *Columbus Restaurant Week*, recognizing the restaurants in Columbus, Georgia and being received by Ms. Katie Bishop on behalf of local restaurant owners.

# **CITY ATTORNEY’S AGENDA**

## **ORDINANCES**

1. **1st Reading**-REZN-05-23-0878: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **8151 Fortson Road** (parcel # 073-026-004) from Residential Estate 1 (RE1) Zoning District to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Davis)
2. **1st Reading**- REZN-05-23-0895: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **7150 Schomburg Road** (parcel # 101-001-003 I 101-001-003H) from Residential Estate 1 (RE1) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily 1 (RMF1) Zoning District and to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Mayor Pro-Tem)

**Attorney Austin Gibson (Page Scrantom Sprouse Tucker & Ford, P.C.)** approached the rostrum on behalf of Ms. Ann Vaughn Cook Tilley, who owns the property located at 7150 Schomburg Road. He explained the plans for the land is for mixed use, with a restaurant, urgent care or pharmacy, retail space, and six multi-family buildings with four units each. He explained there are plans for a buffer between the sections as required by the Unified Development Ordinance.

**Ms. Michelle Malecki (7028 Robins Nest Drive, Columbus, GA 31909)** approached the rostrum to express her concerns regarding the impact of the development on the residents in the Robins Nest Neighborhood.

**Ms. Cheryl Carpenter (736 Robins Nest Drive, Columbus, GA 31909)** approached the rostrum to express her concerns regarding the increase in traffic that the development would bring to the area, the safety of the children in the neighborhood and the lack of sidewalks.

**Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen** explained as the District 6 Councilor, he would be glad to meet with Ms. Malecki, Ms. Carpenter, and the developer to address some of the concerns expressed.

**Planning Director Will Johnson** approached the rostrum to respond to Councilor Thomas’ question regarding sidewalks. He explained that the developer would be required to install sidewalks in this development.

## **REFERRAL(S):**

### **FOR THE CITY MANAGER:**

- Check with the Engineering Department on lowering the speed limit on Schomburg Road.  
(Request of Councilor Thomas)

3. **1st Reading**- An Ordinance creating a new Article XXII of Chapter 2 of the Columbus Code to create a Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board; and for other purposes. (Councilor Huff) Councilor Huff made a motion to amend the ordinance to add in *Section 2-296* “One of the nine voting members will be a licensed CPA”, in *Section 2-298(a)(4)* “add the Board Chair and Civic Center Director or their designees shall report to Council on the results of the review”, and in *Section 2-298(a)(5)* “and the Board Chair and Civic Center Director or their designees shall report quarterly to Council on the results of the site visit”, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

4. **Resolution (226-23):** A resolution approving a Special Exception to allow for a private school in existing buildings located at **4361 Weems Road** located in a Single Family Residential 2 (SFR2) zoning district. (Planning Department and PAC recommend conditional approval.) (Mayor Pro-Tem) Councilor Crabb made a motion to amend the resolution to add “said fence shall be located on the south side of the pond located to the northeast of the development, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution as amended, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

**Planning Director Will Johnson** approached the rostrum to respond to Councilor Thomas, stating this private school would be Kindergarten through twelfth grade.

**Ms. Amy Gill, G2 Commercial Real Estate (Applicant)** approached the rostrum to respond to any questions by the members of Council.

5. **Resolution (227-23):** A resolution commending John Rivers for his architectural contributions to the City of Columbus. (Councilor Barnes) Councilor Barnes read the resolution in its entirety into the record. Councilor Barnes then made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

**Mr. John Rivers** approached the rostrum with his family and friends to receive the resolution commending him for his accomplishments and contribution to the City of Columbus.

## **CITY ATTORNEY’S AGENDA (continued)**

6. A resolution providing for the reimbursement of certain expenses incurred in providing qualified professional service to indigent citizens of Muscogee County and Inmates. (Mayor Pro-Tem)

**Councilor Glenn Davis** stated for the record, that no member of Council participated in the RFP for indigent care before the last meeting when concerns were raised.

After some additional discussion, Councilor Davis made a motion to carry over the account of money to 2024 for indigent care. (*Councilor Davis later withdrew his motion.*)

**City Attorney Clifton Fay** stated since no action was taken, this item will be tabled.

### **REFERRAL(S):**

#### **FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY:**

- Add to the legislative agenda a request to change the name of “Indigent Care” to the “Community Healthcare Program”. (*Request of Councilor Cogle*)

#### **FOR THE CITY MANAGER:**

- Provide the members of Council the RFP for the City of Columbus and the State of Georgia so they are able to compare them side-by-side. (*Request of Councilor Cogle*)
- Provide a presentation at the next meeting on the RFP process and how the recommendation that is submitted to Council is determined. (*Request of Councilor Thomas*)

- Wants more information on how the State of Georgia handles their indigent care program as it pertains to service claims, payments, and eligibility criteria. (*Request of Councilor Crabb*)

## **CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA**

### **5. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS**

- D. Indigent Care Update - Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager, Financial Planning and Infrastructure

**Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge** approached the rostrum to outline the components of the RFP and how the recommendations came about. (*NOTE: This update was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item 5 "D"*) She explained after thirty years of paying lumpsum payments to one entity, the members of Council expressed that it was their desire to move in a different direction going forward. She stated the RFP for indigent care was developed after reviewing other RFPs throughout the state and how they structured their indigent care programs. She explained that not every proposal submitted could a rate be negotiated, and the request in the RFP was the rate would be a percentage of Medicaid rates. She further explained that some of the entities who applied was not capable of reporting services and invoicing in the manner required by the Finance Department, and some entities proposed providing only certain services and would not provide rates for those services.

- 7. **Resolution (228-23):** A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, redeclaring its official intent set forth in Resolution No. 131-23; authorizing Davenport & Company, LLC to pursue different methods of sales for the proposed Hospital Authority of Columbus, Georgia Refunding Revenue Anticipation Certificates, Series 2023; and for other purposes. (Request of the Hospital Authority of Columbus) Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Begly being absent for the vote, and Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

## **PUBLIC AGENDA**

- 1. Ms. Sarah Carter, Re: The overgrown trees and bushes on the neighboring property. *Not Present*
- 2. Mr. Nicholas Ginter, Re: A portion of Front Avenue blocked for construction purposes. *Cancelled*

## **CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA**

- 1. **Sidewalk and Maintenance Easement Acceptance That portion of a 6.5 ft. Sidewalk and Maintenance Easement located on Outparcels 5-A, 5-B and 6 along the right-of-way for Midland Commons Blvd.**

**Resolution (229-23):** A resolution authorizing the acceptance of a 6.5 ft. sidewalk and maintenance easement on Outparcels 5A, 5B and 6 along Midland Commons Blvd. right-of-way, on behalf of Columbus, Georgia. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution,

seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting. *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen requested that his vote be cast in the affirmative upon returning to his respective seat.)*

## **2. State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Equity Fund Rural Workforce Housing Application (NeighborWorks Columbus)**

**Resolution (230-23):** A resolution authorizing the Columbus Consolidated Government to apply for and accept of awarded a Georgia Department of Community Affairs Equity Fund Rural Workforce Housing Initiative Loan/Grant for Workforce Housing at Elliott's Walk and to amend multi-governmental fund by the amount awarded. Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting. *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen requested that his vote be cast in the affirmative upon returning to his respective seat.)*

**Neighborworks CEO Cathy Williams** approached the rostrum and thank the members of Council for the approval and provided a brief update on Elliott's Walk.

## **3. Donation for the Columbus Police Department, Muscogee County Sheriff's Office, and Fire & EMS Department**

**Resolution (231-23):** A resolution authorizing the acceptance of a \$1,500 anonymous donation for the Columbus Police Department, Muscogee County Sheriff's Office, and Fire & EMS Department. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Thomas and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting. *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen requested that his vote be cast in the affirmative upon returning to his respective seat.)*

## **4. PURCHASES**

### **A. Fuel Purchases for Fiscal Year 2024**

**Resolution (232-23):** A resolution authorizing payment for Fiscal Year 2024 fuel purchases awarded to the vendor submitting the lowest, responsive, responsible quote via the daily fuel quote process. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting. *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen requested that his vote be cast in the affirmative upon returning to his respective seat.)*

### **B. Federal and State Mandated Fees for Fiscal Year 2024**

**Resolution (233-23):** A resolution authorizing payment for various Federal and State Mandated Fees during Fiscal Year 2024. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting. *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen requested that his vote be cast in the affirmative upon returning to his respective seat.)*

### **C. Axon Virtual Training System for the Columbus Police Department – Georgia State Contract/NASPO Cooperative Purchase**

**Resolution (234-23):** A resolution authorizing the purchase of the Axon Virtual Training System from Axon Enterprises (Scottsdale, AZ), in the amount of \$152,654.10, for the Columbus Police Department. This purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-SPD-NVPPAOK000-0003/NASPO Contract # OK-MA-145-015. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting. *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen requested that his vote be cast in the affirmative upon returning to his respective seat.)*

D. Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) for the Police Department

**Resolution (235-23):** A resolution authorizing the purchase of an Integrated Ballistic Identification System from Forensic Technology/Ultra Group (Largo, FL) in the amount of \$357,297.00. This amount includes the purchase of the system in the amount of \$235,251.00 with a five-year warranty in the amount of \$122,046.00. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting. *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen requested that his vote be cast in the affirmative upon returning to his respective seat.)*

E. Concrete Slabs for Exterior Exercise Equipment – RFB No. 23-0042

**Resolution (236-23):** A resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with Freeman & Associates, Inc. (Columbus, GA) in the amount of \$113,961.00 for three concrete slabs for the Parks and Recreation Department. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting. *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen requested that his vote be cast in the affirmative upon returning to his respective seat.)*

## 5. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. City Hall Update – Ryan Pruett, Director, Inspections & Code

**Inspections & Code Director Ryan Pruett** approached the rostrum to provide an update on the move to City Hall. He explained that we are currently in Phase I of the move, with IT, Finance, UGA Cooperative Extension, Job Training, Parks & Recreation, and Human Resources moved and operational. He stated the Mayor’s Office, City Manager’s Office, City Attorney’s Office, Clerk of Council’s Office, and 311 are schedule to open at City Hall on July 18, 2023. He explained Phase II will begin in 2025. In response to a question from Councilor Cogle, he stated the parking deck would open to the public sometime in August after some work in completed.

### **REFERRAL(S):**

#### **FOR THE CITY MANAGER:**

- Update referrals when included in Council agenda packet, to include final determination and/or responses if provided. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*

B. Columbus Family Connection Update – Zoé Hightower, Director, Columbus Family Connection

**City Manager Isaiah Hugley** introduced the next update, explaining the City of Athens funds a program like the Navigator Program out of their budget for \$1 million a year with nineteen employees. He explained they wanted to do something similar on a smaller scale with the use of ARP funds as a pilot program for three years.

**Columbus Family Connection Director Zoé Hightower** approached the rostrum to provide an update on the Columbus Family Connection Program. She explained Family Connection is a statewide initiative provided in all 159 counties in the State of Georgia, which was implemented in the nineties by Governor Zell Miller after a national survey was conducted and Georgia was ranked 48<sup>th</sup> out of 50 for educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children. She also provided information on the Columbus Family connection Coalition Board, with members serving two-year terms and appointed by a nominating committee.

**REFERRAL(S):**

**FOR THE CITY MANAGER:**

- Let the members of Council know when the partners come out, so they are able to attend. (*Request of Councilor Huff*)

- C. Public Safety Take Home Vehicles to Alabama – Lauren Vance, Risk Management & Compliance Officer, Risk Management

**Risk Management & Compliance Officer Lauren Vance** approached the rostrum to provide a presentation on topic of public safety employees being permitted to take city-owned vehicles across state lines into Alabama. She explained the Sovereign Immunity that the Columbus Consolidated Government is under for motor vehicle accidents is only recognized in the State of Georgia with a limited liability exposure up to a maximum of \$750,000. She stated the State of Alabama does not recognize Georgia's immunity and the caps that protect us in Georgia, posing the potential for unlimited liability exposure for city-owned vehicles in Alabama.

**Councilor Tyson Begly** explained he would suggest getting a group together with representatives from the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office, Columbus Police Department, Fire & EMS, City Council, along with Lauren Vance to take a deeper dive to understand how LaGrange got comfortable with the risks and talking with Georgia Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John King to see if there is a way to work with the State of Alabama. He stated the information provided is helpful, but this is a tough decision without a clear answer.

**Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen** made a motion to give a six-month timeline to decide and to involve the Mayor, City Attorney, GMA, and ACCG in the group described by Councilor Begly and to get something settled on the state level.

**City Attorney Clifton Fay** stated the liability exposure is what attorneys and risk managers worry about in situations such as this, and with no sovereign immunity there is no liability cap for the City to be sued and the public safety employee can be sued individually. He explained the best solution would be if Georgia and Alabama got together and developed an interstate compact that says Georgia's liability cap and protection would apply if one of your officers is involved in a motor vehicle accident. He stated this would be the best option if we could get the General Assembly, Attorney General, and officials in Alabama to agree.

When Councilor Crabb asked questions regarding the motion on the floor and if Option 2 was the selection, Mayor Pro Tem Allen advised that his motion is broader than Option 2, which is to allow public safety employees who reside in Alabama to drive their city owned vehicles home with a signed document acknowledging they are subject to the liabilities as described by the City Attorney, and we put together a coalition of partners to try to move this forward in the next six months, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

**Councilor Joanne Cogle** stated for the record, after the six-month timeline is over and if legislation does not change that the issue is approached by Council with the intention that it will be continued going forward to the very best of their ability.

**City Manager Isaiah Hugley** stated he wants the General Government employees to be treated equally and will provide information on how many of those employees reside in Alabama on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Interim Police Chief Stoney Mathis** approached the rostrum to thank the members of Council for their consideration in changing the take home car policy that would greatly improve moral. He stated this policy change would also make it easier to recruit new officers that live in Alabama. He also stated that the policy needs to include a limit to how many miles they can travel and stipulations like they are not allowed to go lights and sirens while in Alabama.

**REFERRAL(S):**

**FOR THE CITY MANAGER:**

- Provide information on the number of accidents that occurred while public safety employees were off duty in a city-owned vehicle over the last two to five years. (*Request of Councilor Crabb*)
- Let's determine how many officers that are not part of the administration that will be taking their cars into Alabama to determine the potential liability. (*Request of Councilor Barnes*)

D. Indigent Care Update - Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager, Financial Planning and Infrastructure

*(NOTE: This update, as provided by Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge, was called upon earlier in the meeting during the City Attorney's Agenda.)*

E. Legacy Terrace Update - Pam Hodge, Deputy City manager, Financial Planning and Infrastructure

**Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge** approached the rostrum to provide an update on Liberty Terrace, the seventeen affordable senior housing units on 9<sup>th</sup> Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue that the City of Columbus acquired in 2009. She explained that she is before Council in accordance with Ordinance 13-39, when it is expected for there to be a budget overage. She stated in February 2022, repairs related to termite damage was approved by Council per Resolution 041-22 and after those monies and with help from reserve funding that would be replenished, the funding required to complete the repairs is \$22,789.85.

Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the request for the additional funding of \$22,789.85, seconded by Councilor Thomas and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes and Huff being absent for the vote, and Councilor Garrett being absent for the meeting.

**REFERRAL(S):**

**FOR THE CITY MANAGER:**

- Look into the restriping of parking in the Uptown Area. (*Request of Councilor Davis*)
- Greenery is overgrown and beginning to cover signage coming from Farr Road to Old Cusseta Road. (*Request of Councilor Huff*)



## BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: July 11, 2023

### July 12, 2023

1. **Removal of Residual Ground Material & Removal and Disposal/Reuse of Large Tree Trunks (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 23-0043**

Scope of bid

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia (City) invites qualified contractors to submit bids to provide the following services on an “as needed” basis:

**Option 1:** Residual waste removal on an “as needed” basis, for either Pine Grove or Granite Bluff Landfill. Such ground material could be used as fuel, mulch, or some other recyclable commodity.

**Option 2:** Removal and disposal/reuse of large tree trunks on an “as needed” basis.

*The contract would be awarded to the vendor that can provide the greatest economic benefit to the City for each option.*

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

### July 14, 2023

1. **Automated Speed Detection for School Zone Safety Enforcement (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 23-0036**

Scope of RFP

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting proposals for automated speed detection for school zone safety enforcement systems and services, specifically LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) with ALPR (Automated License Plate Readers) functions to integrate with the existing Flock Safety system for the Columbus Police Department.

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

### REFERRALS:

Referrals

## CLERK OF COUNCIL’S AGENDA

### ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. **RESOLUTION (237-23)** - A resolution excusing Councilor R. Walker Garrett from the July 11, 2023 Council Meeting. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes and Huff being absent for the vote, and Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.
2. Travel Authorization Request for Councilor Tyson Begly to attend the Fall 2023 Robert E. Knox, Jr. Municipal Leadership Institute. Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen with there being an inconclusive vote for action of three-to-four, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Begly and Thomas voting in favor, Councilors Cogle, Crabb, Davis and Tucker voting in opposition, Councilors Barnes and Huff being absent for the vote, and Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

3. Email correspondence from Atty Jack Schley- Hospital Authority of Columbus requesting that the seat of Ms. Jennings Chester be declared vacant. (*Ms. Chester desires to vacate the seat once a successor is appointed.*) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to declare the seat of Ms. Jennings Chester as vacant, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes and Huff being absent for the vote, and Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.
4. Email correspondence from Mr. Chris Poirier resigning from his District Two seat on the Community Development Advisory Council. (*Mr. Poirier has accepted an appointment to the Public Safety Advisory Commission.*) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the resignation, seconded by Councilor Thomas and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes and Huff being absent for the vote, and Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

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

Airport Commission, June 22, July 29, August 24, September 28, October 26, and November 16, 2022 and November 29, 2022 Special Called Meeting

Board of Tax Assessors, #21-23

Board of Water Commissioners, March 14, April 11, May 9, July 11, and November 14, 2022

Budget Review Committee, May 16, 2023

Employee Benefits Committee, April 17, 2023

Hospital Authority of Columbus, May 30, 2023

Housing Authority of Columbus, May 17, 2023

Planning Advisory Commission, May 17, 2023

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes and Huff being absent for the vote, and Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED**

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

**A. ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:** Ms. Lori Turner was nominated to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Stephen Waters. (*Councilor Begly's nominee*) Term expires: October 15, 2023. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes and Huff being absent for the vote, and Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

**B. AUDIT COMMITTEE:** Mr. Michael Bruder was nominated to serve in a new member seat as the *Financial, Accounting or Governmental representative*. (*Councilor Davis' nominee*) Term expires: June 30, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes and Huff being absent for the vote, and Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

C. **BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:** Mr. Johnny Byrd, II was nominated to succeed Ms. Leila Carr. (*Councilor Huff's nominee*) Term expires: March 24, 2025. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes and Huff being absent for the vote, and Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

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

A. **COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & CULTURAL LIAISON ENCOUNTERS (CIRCLE):**

A nominee for the seat of SarahAnn Arcila (*Resigned*) for a term expiring on March 1, 2024, on the Commission on International Relations & Cultural Liaison Encounters (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Begly nominated Pete Temesgen to fill the unexpired term of SarahAnn Arcila.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss matters of litigation, potential litigation, property acquisition and disposal, and personnel as requested earlier in the meeting by City Attorney Fay. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Huff being absent for the vote, Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting, and the time being 1:10 p.m.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 2:24 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in executive session to discuss matters of litigation, potential litigation, property acquisition and disposal, and personnel; however, there were no votes taken.

**RESOLUTION (ADD-ON):**

**Resolution (238-23):** A resolution authorizing the City Manager, City Attorney and Finance Director to make payments which total \$600,000.00 to settle claims filed in District Court on behalf of Columbus Police Department employees Ralph Dowe and Allen "Tony" Litle against any and all parties, including attorney's fees. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Crabb to adjourn the July 11, 2023 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting, and the time being 2:25 p.m.

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