

COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Columbus Civic Center
400 4th Street, Arena Floor
Columbus, Georgia 31901

November 17, 2020
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, John M. House, Bruce Huff (arrived at 9:13 a.m.), Toyia Tucker and Evelyn "Mimi" Woodson (arrived at 9:10 a.m.). 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: Councilors Jerry "Pops" Barnes, R. Walker Garrett and Judy W. Thomas were absent.

<p><u>The following documents were distributed around the Council table:</u> (1) Documented Commentary Submitted by Theresa El-Amin</p>
--

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Rev. Robert Beckum at St. Luke Church of Columbus, Georgia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by the Girl Scouts of Fort Benning, Georgia

(The following update was called up as the next order of business as listed on the Mayor's Agenda Item 2)

UPDATE:

2. An update on COVID-19

Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson gave an update on COVID-19 and its impact on the community. He stated the numbers have increased in Georgia, but the numbers in Columbus are increasing at a moderate pace with a 7-day rolling average of fourteen positive cases. He asked the residents to continue to wear face coverings to protect against the spread of the virus.

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the November 10, 2020 Council Meeting and Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor House, and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilor Huff being absent for the vote, and Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

(The following appointment confirmation was called up as the next order of business as listed on the Mayor's Agenda Item 4)

APPOINTMENT:

4. Confirmation of Police Chief Freddie Blackmon.

Resolution (375-20): A resolution authorizing the appointment of Mr. Freddie Blackmon as Chief of the Columbus Police Department. Councilor Woodson made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor House, and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

Police Chief Freddie Blackmon approached the rostrum to thank the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Columbus, Georgia and lead the officers of the Columbus Police Department as the new Police Chief. He then introduced family members, as well as, others that came forward in support of his appointment.

PROCLAMATION

3. **PROCLAMATION:** Columbus Sports Council Day

RECEIVING: Board Chair Kim Sheek, Event Manager David Boyd, and Executive Director Merri C. Sherman

Councilor Bruce Huff read the proclamation for the record, declaring Tuesday, November 17, 2020 as Columbus Sports Council Day.

Executive Director Merri Sherman approached the rostrum to thank the Mayor and Council for the recognition on behalf of the Columbus Sports Council, and she recognized the various entities the organization is in partnership with. She briefly went over the improvements being made at the South Commons Softball Complex.

CVB President & CEO Peter Bowden stated community sports are beginning to come back from the pandemic, and this is one of the things that contributes to the quality of life in Columbus, Georgia.

COLUMBUS WATER WORKS RATE INCREASE:

Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson briefly addressed the appearance at the November 10, 2020 Council Meeting of the Columbus Water Works and citizens concerned about the proposed rate increase. He explained the Water Board discussed the concerns expressed and decided to move forward with the rate increase but will delay implementation until April 2021.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **2nd Reading - REZN-07-20-2105:** An ordinance rezoning .81 acre of land located at 1700 10th Avenue (parcel id # 017-007-001). The current zoning is RO (Residential-Office). The proposed zoning is GC (General Commercial). The proposed use is a convenience store with gas sales. The Planning Advisory Commission recommends **denial** based on inconsistency with the City's Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use. The Planning Department recommends **conditional approval** based on compatibility with existing land uses and adjacent GC (General Commercial) zonings. The applicant is Rob McKenna. (Councilor Woodson) Councilor Woodson made a motion to deny the rezoning, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent for the vote, and Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

2. **2nd Reading - REZN-07-20-2248:** An ordinance rezoning .24 acre of land located at 849 Brighton Road (parcel id # 066-036-043). The current zoning is GC (General Commercial). The proposed zoning is SFR3 (Single Family Residential 3). The proposed use is a Personal Care Home, Type I. The Planning Advisory Commission and the Planning Department recommend approval. The applicant is Madalin Brayboy. (Councilor Barnes) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to deny the rezoning, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent for the vote, and Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

3. **Ordinance (20-049) - 2nd Reading – REZN-07-20-2240:** An ordinance rezoning 2.13 acres located at 1821 Whittlesey Road (parcel id #189-018-003). The current zoning is RO (Residential Office). The proposed zoning is GC (General Commercial). The proposed use is Office/Storage. The Planning Advisory Commission and the Planning Department both recommend approval based on compatibility with existing land uses. (Councilor Garrett) (as amended) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor House, and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent for the vote, and Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

4. **Ordinance (20-050) - 2nd Reading - REZN-09-20-2706:** An ordinance amending Table 3.1 of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to permit fuel stations in in the HMI zoning district, and to amend Section 9.2.5.D.1(C) to provide that six members of the Uptown Facade Board shall represent the Uptown Business District instead of the Uptown Business Association. (Councilor Woodson) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Woodson, and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote, and Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

5. **Ordinance (20-051) - 2nd Reading -** An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 20-018, the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 to reclassify positions in the Superior Court Accountability Court Program and the Solicitor General's Office Victim Witness Program, and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem) (as amended).

City Attorney Fay read into the record the proposed amended on behalf of Mayor Pro Tem Allen and reads as follows “Notwithstanding the amounts approved in Section 1 above, which shall become effective upon the Mayor’s signature of this ordinance, the City Manager is authorized to further discuss each position with the supervising Judge or Solicitor for that position and make further salary adjustments in accordance with the City Manager’s authority under Section 2.18.7

of the Columbus Code and shall include any salary adjustments in the Mayor's Proposed FY 22 Budget for final approval."

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen explained the amendment he is proposing will allow the City Manager to continue having discussions with Judges, regarding the positions that go above just grant writing within their respective areas.

Councilor Tucker made a motion to amend the ordinance as read into the record by City Attorney Fay, seconded by Councilor Woodson, and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote, and Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the ordinance as amended, seconded by Councilor Woodson, and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote, and Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

6. **Ordinance (20-052) - 2nd Reading** - An Ordinance creating a moratorium on the use of Shared Electronic Scooters on the public right-of ways within the confines of Columbus, Georgia, through 11:59 pm on May 16, 2021; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote, and Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.
7. **Ordinance (20-053) - 2nd Reading** – An ordinance adopting an updated and restated procurement ordinance for codification as part of the Columbus Code. (Mayor Pro-Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor House, and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote, and Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.
8. **Ordinance (20-054) - 2nd Reading** – An ordinance confirming the settlement authority of the City Manager and City Attorney to approve settlements of legal disputes of up to \$25,000 from appropriately budgeted funds, and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem) Councilor Woodson made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen, and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote, and Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.
9. **1st Reading-** An ordinance amending the budget for the Fiscal Year 2021 Beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, for certain funds of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, and revising the budget for certain cost of living increases; and for other purposes. (Budget Review Committee)

Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson explained a cost of living increase was approved by Council with the current budget, but due to the pandemic the increase was delayed until January 2021. He stated a way to thank the employees for the work done throughout the pandemic the Council has agreed to adjust the increase to 2.5% instead of the original two percent.

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum to explain the adjustment to the COLA was discussed during a presentation given by Human Resources Director Reather

Hollowell previously. She stated the adjustment would increase the COLA to 2.5% for full-time and part-time employees, and a 1.25% increase for retirees.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern-Anti-Racism Network, Re: Fair Representation by City Council Members.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Have CCG-TV put together a video explaining to the citizens Columbus Consolidated Government is on a mission to keep the community beautiful and encourage citizens to report those they witness littering in the community. (*Request of Councilor Woodson*)
- Involve Recorder's Court Judges in the messages to the public, notifying citizens if they are caught littering, they will be held accountable. (*Request of Mayor Pro Tem Allen*)

2. Ms. Edie K. Miller, Re: Severe speeding on Bristol Boulevard and Brookstone Boulevard.

Engineering Director Donna Newman approached the rostrum to address the concerns expressed by Councilor Davis regarding speedbumps options. She explained there was a program in the past where portable speed tables were implemented in the Lakebottom Area, but the program ended due to the anchoring mechanisms detaching and causing a safety concern for drivers. She stated there has not been a plausible alternative identified yet. Director also stated oftentimes there are residents that prefer not to install speedbumps in their neighborhoods.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Have the Engineering Department inquire into the concerns expressed by Ms. Miller to see if anything can be done in the Brookstone Area to reduce speeding. (*Request of Councilor Davis*)

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

5. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

(*NOTE: This update was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item 5 "A"*)

- A. Columbus Visitors Bureau Quarterly Update - Peter Bowden, President/CEO, Columbus Visitors Bureau.

CVB President & CEO Peter Bowden approached the rostrum to present an update on how the industry is handling the COVID-19 Pandemic and to explain the Tourism Recovery Plan. He stated Phase I concentrates on the leisure aspect of tourism and Phase II focuses on meetings and conventions. He showed the Shop Local Catalog launched on the CVB website, encouraging people to shop and dine in smaller local establishments.

(NOTE: This update was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item 5 "B")

- B. Change of Council Meetings and Jury Selection Locations - Lisa Goodwin, Deputy City Manager.

Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin approached the rostrum to give a presentation on changes to the Council Meeting schedule and locations for jury selection. She stated starting December 15, 2020 Council Meetings will be held at the Columbus Convention & Trade Center. She explained Georgia Supreme Court has issued an order for Jury Trials to resume beginning January 2021; therefore, the jury assembly and selection location will be at the Civic Center.

1. Annual Unused Sick Leave Payment

Resolution (376-20): A resolution authorizing payment to employees for unused sick leave in accordance with 16B-15-6(2) of the Columbus Code of Ordinances. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis, and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

2. Abandonment of The Western Portion of an Alley Known as 35 1/2 Street

Resolution (377-20): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, authorizing the changing of the official street map and tax maps of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia by officially closing and abandoning a segment of the alley known as 35 1/2 Street West of 4th Avenue; authorizing the execution of a quit claim deed; reserving utility easements; and for other purposes. Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen, and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

3. Bright from the Start – Snack Grant

Resolution (378-20): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant of \$67,987.69, or as otherwise awarded, for the Georgia Department of Early Childcare and Learning Bright from the Start to continue the Child and Adult Care Food Program and amend the Multi-Government Grant Funds by the amount awarded. The grant will cross over 2020 and 2021 Fiscal Years. Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson, and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

4. PURCHASES

A. Asphalt Rubber & Sealant (Annual Contract)

Resolution (379-20): A resolution authorizing the purchase of asphalt rubber & sealant from Sealmaster (Atlanta, GA) and Crafc0, Inc. (Chandler, AZ) for the estimated annual contract value of \$66,530.00. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

B. Repair of Caterpillar D7E Bulldozer for Public Works

Resolution (380-20): A resolution authorizing the rescind Resolution #329-20 for the payment, in the amount of \$38,981.44, to Yancey Brothers (Fortson, GA) for the repair of a Caterpillar D7E Bulldozer, Vehicle #11467; and approve payment in the amount of \$56,722.23 to Yancey Brothers (Fortson, GA) for the final repair cost of the same equipment. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

C. Steel Barricades with Storage Carts and Walk-Through Metal Detectors for the Civic Center – Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (381-20): A resolution authorizing the purchase of two hundred (200) steel barricades and seven (7) storage carts, in the amount of \$25,223.64; and (10) walk-through metal detectors, in the amount of \$38,945.99, from Global Equipment Company/dba/Global Industrial (Buford, Georgia). The purchases will be accompanied by Cooperative Purchasing via Buyboard Contract #577-18. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker, and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Repair roadway damage from construction vehicles used to construct the Grace Presbyterian Church at the corner of River Road and Britton Drive. (*Request of Councilor Davis*)
- Schedule meeting with Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge and Planning Director Rick Jones, regarding the widening of St. Mary's Road. (*Request of Councilor Huff*)

BID ADVERTISEMENT

November 18, 2020

1. Dovetail Dual Axle Utility Trailer

Scope of Bid

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, is seeking quotes from qualified vendors to provide 1 (one) dovetail dual axle utility trailer for the Urban Forestry and Beautification Division.

November 25, 2020

1. Transit Bus Wash System

Scope of Bid

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, is seeking vendors to furnish a completely automatic, friction and touchless combination heavy-duty vehicle wash which washes all types of transit vehicles used by fleet owners for front, roof, chassis, rear and both sides in drive-thru mode. The successful vendor will be required to remove the existing bus wash system before installing the new bus wash system.

December 4, 2020

1. Pre-employment and Fitness-for-Duty Psychological Evaluation Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 21-0020

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from experienced, qualified individuals or firms to provide pre-employment and fitness-for-duty psychological evaluation services for the Columbus Police Department and the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office.

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

December 11, 2020

1. Employee Physicals (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 21-0013

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) invites qualified firms to submit proposals for employee physicals on an "as needed" basis. The requested services include, but are not limited to: pre-employment physicals, periodic employee physical and related health services for use by the Human Resources Department and the Public Safety Departments.

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

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. **RESOLUTION (382-20):** A Resolution excusing Councilor Judy W. Thomas from the November 10 and November 17, 2020 Council Meetings. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson, and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

2. **RESOLUTION (383-20):** A Resolution excusing Councilor Walker Garrett from the November 17, 2020 Council Meeting. Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson, and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

3. **RESOLUTION (384-20)- BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS:** A Resolution appointing Ms. Lanitra Sandifer Hicks to the Board of Tax Assessors for a term of beginning on January 1, 2021 and expiring on December 31, 2026. 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, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

4. **Minutes of the following boards:**
 - Board of Tax Assessors, #38-20

 - New Horizon Community Service Board, September 14, 2020

 - Public Safety Advisory Commission Ordinance Committee, November 2, 2020

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes, seconded by Councilor Woodson, and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS- ACTION REQUESTED:

2. **MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:**

A. CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION:

Nominees for the fifteen seats on the Charter Review Commission appointed by the Mayor. There were none.

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

A. CRIME PREVENTION BOARD: Ms. Patricia Flora was nominated to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Timothy K. Weeks as the Senatorial District 29 Representative. *(Councilor Davis’s nominee)* New Term expires: December 31, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Davis, and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

B. COLUMBUS AQUATICS COMMISSION: Mr. Richard Leary is being recommended as the Columbus Hurricanes' representative to succeed Mr. Wes Kelley. New Term expires: June 30, 2022. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Davis, and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting.

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

A. CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION:

A nominee for the District 2 seat on the Charter Review Commission (*District 2 Appointment-Davis*). There were none.

A nominee for the District 3 seat on the Charter Review Commission (*District 3 Appointment-Huff*). There were none.

B. RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Willie Dickerson (*Not eligible to succeed*) on the Recreation Advisory Board for a term that expires on December 31, 2020 (*District 4-Tucker*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of John Lawson (*Not eligible to succeed*) on the Recreation Advisory Board for a term that expired on December 31, 2019 (*District 6-Allen*). There were none.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to adjourn the November 17, 2020 Regular Meeting, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Thomas being absent for the meeting, and the time being 11:28 a.m.

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