

COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

April 28, 2020
5:30 PM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors Jerry 'Pops' Barnes, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, John M. House, Bruce Huff, Judy W. Thomas, Valerie A. Thompson and Evelyn 'Mimi' Woodson. City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis and Deputy Clerk of Council Lindsey McLemore were present via video conference.

NOTE: Due to the World Health Organization declaring Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) a world health emergency and pandemic, the Governor has issued a Statewide Executive Order to Shelter in Place. In accordance, this Council may alternatively utilize virtual meetings during the period of emergency in accordance with O.C.G.A. 50-14-1(g).

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Councilor Valerie A. Thompson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson.

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the April 14, 2020 Council Meeting. Councilor Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

UPDATE:

2. An update on COVID-19.

Mayor B. H. 'Skip' Henderson gave an update on the COVID-19 Pandemic, explaining the impact it has had on the community and the precautions citizens should be taking to stay healthy.

PRESENTATION:

3. **MAYOR'S FY2021 BUDGET PRESENTATION:** Mayor Henderson presents the Recommended FY2021 Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Mayor B. H. 'Skip' Henderson read excerpts of his letter, as well as, outlined some of the highlights contained in the Mayor's FY2021 Recommended Budget.

Finance Director Angelica Alexander explained the schedule for the Budget Review Committee Meetings and Councilors would receive a link to access all documents relating to the FY2021 Mayor's Recommended Budget.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Make sure to get the link to Councilors as soon as possible. (*Request of Councilor Thomas*)

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (20-013) - 1st Reading** - An ordinance extending certain tax and licensing deadlines established by local law; providing for the continuation of emergency procurement procedures; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro Tem Allen) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

RESOLUTIONS

2. **Resolution (096-20)** - A resolution designating the Columbus Civic Center and the Columbus Iron Works Trade and Convention Center as additional available courthouse facilities for the purpose of holding State Court proceedings for the time period of May 13, 2020 until July 3, 2020 unless further extended by this Council. (Request of State Court Chief Judge Andy Prather) (Mayor Pro Tem Allen) Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.
3. **Resolution (097-20)** - A resolution amending the Columbus 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan. (Request of Deferred Compensation Committee) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall explained the proposed amendments to the Columbus 457 Deferred Compensation Plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: City Attorney Fay requested an executive session on real estate acquisition and disposal, litigation and personnel.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Liberty Theatre

Approval is requested to accept the Liberty Theatre at the request of the Liberty Theatre Board Chairman and Board of Directors and Councilors Woodson, Barnes and Thompson.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley explained the resolution requesting to accept the Liberty Theatre and outlined some conditions with regards to city acquiring the building.

Councilors Woodson, Thompson and Barnes offered their support for the resolution and called for this resolution to be listed on the City Manager's Agenda. The members of Council conveyed the responses received from citizens, who would desire to have the building restored.

Councilor Huff expressed his concerns in that some potential private investors, that he has been working with, have been unable to access the Liberty Theatre and the limited opportunity to assess the needs of the building.

Several members of Council determined that with this economic climate, this would not be the appropriate time to move forward with acquiring this building. At this time, City Manager Hugley suggested delaying this item.

Councilor Woodson then requested to delay indefinitely.

2. Donations and Non-Cash Match Grants Related to COVID-19

Resolution (098-20) – A resolution authorizing the Columbus Consolidated Government to accept any donations or non-cash match grants related to COVID-19 and amend the appropriate fund to account for any donation or non-cash match grant. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Approval is requested to accept donations and non-cash match grants related to COVID-19.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Provide a list of the people and organizations that are providing donations and grants to the city during this time; so, the Council would be able to thank them appropriately in the near future.
(Request of Councilor Thomas)

3. Street Acceptance – Ponder Drive, that portion of Capot Drive and that portion of Omaha Drive located in Section Three, Midland Downs

Resolution (099-20) – A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, authorizing the acceptance of a deed Ponder Drive, that portion of Capot Drive and that portion of Omaha Drive located in Section Three, Midland Downs on behalf of Columbus, Georgia. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Approval is requested for the acceptance of Ponder Drive, that portion of Capot Drive and that portion of Omaha Drive located in Section Three, Midland Downs.

4. Solicitor General's Office – FY20 Other Local Option Sales Tax Reallocation

Resolution (100-20) – A resolution relocating \$6,600 of the FY20 Other Local Option Sales Tax Fund Budget of the Solicitor General's Office from Office Supplies to purchase laptop computers. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Approval is requested to reallocate \$6,600 of the FY20 Other Local Option Sales Tax Fund budget of the Solicitor General's Office from Office Supplies to Purchase Laptop Computers.

5. PURCHASES

A. Portable Toilet Rental and Service (Re-Bid) (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0054

Resolution (101-20) – A resolution authorizing a contract for the rental of portable toilets, hand washings stations and grey water collection containers from Lane Services LLC d/b/a Lane Environmental & Best Portables (Phenix City, AL) for the estimated contract value of \$4,677.50. Councilor Thompson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

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

Resolution (102-20) – A resolution authorizing an annual contract with Unique Security, Inc. (Montgomery, AL) to provide maintenance services related to security locking systems and door hinges at Muscogee County Jail for the estimated annual contract value of \$13,200.00. Councilor House made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

C. Leather Items; RFB No. 20-0013

Resolution (103-20) – A resolution authorizing the purchase of leather items, on an “as needed” basis, from GT Distributors (Austin, TX), Galls, LLC (Lexington, KY), Black Gear Industries (Yorktown, VA) and Gulf State Distributors (Montgomery, AL) for the estimated annual contract value \$164,727.91. Councilor House made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

D. Breathing Apparatus (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0041

Resolution (104-20) – A resolution authorizing the annual contract with Fireline, Inc. (Winder, GA) for the purchase of MSA Breathing Apparatus, on an “as needed” basis, for the estimated amount of \$238,350.00; one (1) Posichек III Yearly Calibration in the amount of \$1,200.00; accessories and repair parts (as needed) in the amount of \$6,845.00; and spare masks (as needed) in the amount of \$13,200.00. The Fire and EMS Department anticipates spending approximately \$15,000.00 annually based on prior years' usage. Councilor House made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

E. Heating & Refrigeration Supplies (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0047

Resolution (105-20) – A resolution authorizing the annual contract with Refrigeration Supplies, Inc., d/b/a Johnstone Supply #265 (Columbus, GA) to purchase heating and refrigeration supplies for the Public Works Department/Facilities Maintenance Division, on an “as needed” basis, for the estimated annual contract value of \$10,211.17. Councilor House made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

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

Resolution (106-20) – A resolution authorizing annual contracts for transit enhancements with Innocom Transit, LLC (Worthington, OH) for the estimated contract value of \$2,144.09 for year 1, \$2,144.09 for year 2, and \$2,186.86 for year three; and with Swartz Associated, Inc. (Naples, FL) for the estimated contract value of \$45,420.00 for year one, \$47,700.00 for year two, and \$50,040.00 for year three. Councilor House made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

G. Dumpster/Roll Off Container Rental and Servicing; RFB No. 20-0048

Resolution (107-20) – A resolution authorizing the annual contract for dumpster/roll off container rental and serving, on an “as needed” basis, with Containers by Reaves (Phenix City, AL), for the total estimated contract value of \$10,524.00. Councilor House made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

6. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Board of Tax Assessor Update - Suzanne Widenhouse, Chief Appraiser.

Chief Appraiser Suzanne Widenhouse gave an update on the 2020 Tax Digest, the revised timeline and when citizens can expect to be receiving their property tax notices.

RENEWAL OF RECYCLING SERVICES:

At the request of Councilor Thomas, **Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin** gave an update on the renewal of recycling services, which have not resumed at the present time due to social distancing.

BID ADVERTISEMENT

April 29, 2020

1. Plumbing & Irrigation Supplies (Annual Contract) (Re-Bid) – RFB No. 20-0046

Scope of Bid

Provide plumbing & irrigation supplies on an “as needed” basis to be picked up and delivered to Columbus Consolidated Government. The contract term will be for two (2) years with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

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

Scope of Bid

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

May 6, 2020

1. Utility Service Barge – RFB No. 20-0042

Scope of Bid

Provide one (1) utility service barge to be used by Rainwater Division staff to remove debris from trash racks on the eleven watershed lakes located throughout Muscogee County.

2. Stone (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0060

Scope of RFB

Provide various grades of stone to be purchased on an “as needed” basis by the Public Works Department. The contract term will be for two (2) years with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods. This contract will be awarded to a Primary and Secondary Contractor.

May 13, 2020

1. Ammunition (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0062

Scope of RFB

Provide ammunition and munitions of various types and quantities on an “as needed” basis to Columbus Consolidated Government to be utilized by the Public Safety Departments. The contract term will be for two (2) years with option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

CLERK OF COUNCIL’S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. **RESOLUTION (108-20)**: A Resolution to cancel the May 5, 2020 monthly Proclamation Session of the Council of Columbus, Georgia. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.
2. **RESOLUTION (109-20)**: A resolution receiving the report of the Director of Finance concerning certain alcoholic beverage licenses for the month of March 2020 and approving the same. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.
3. **NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH- MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTIVE DISEASES AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES- COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD**: Copy of an Official Appointment Form appointing Nancy Schroeder to serve another term of office. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.
4. **THE MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**: Memorandum from Karen Smith, Assistant Board Secretary, advising that Carole Rutland is unable to continue her service. The following names have been submitted to fill the unexpired term: Ms. Brenda DeRamus, Mr. Murray Solomon and Mr. Tracy L. Sayers. (*Councilor Thomas is nominating all three for this seat.*) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to forward these names to the Medical Center Hospital Authority for selection, seconded by Councilor Thomas and carried unanimously by the ten members present.
5. **Minutes of the Following Boards**:
Board of Tax Assessors, #12-20.
457 Deferred Compensation Plan Board, January 16, 2020.
Columbus Board of Health, March 25, 2020.
Housing Authority, March 25, 2020.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

9. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- READY FOR CONFIRMATION:

A. COLUMBUS GOLF COURSE AUTHORITY:

Mr. Richard Mahone was nominated to serve another term of office. *(Councilor Huff's nominee)* New Term expires: June 30, 2024. Councilor Huff made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

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

A. KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Vanessa Lewis *(Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term)* on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2020 *(Council District 1- Barnes)*. Councilor Barnes nominated Vanessa Lewis to succeed herself. Councilor Woodson made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

A nominee for the seat of Dominique Williamson *(Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term)* on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2020 *(Council District 9- Thomas)*. Councilor Thomas nominated Dominique Williamson to succeed herself. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

A nominee for the seat of Jason Breaux *(Eligible to succeed- Does not desire reappointment)* on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2020 *(Council District 10- House)*. Councilor House nominated Doug McLeod to succeed Jason Breaux. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

A nominee for the seat of Warren Wagner *(Resigned)* on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2021 *(District 5- Crabb)*. There were none.

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

A. BOARD OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES:

A nominee for the seat of Tolua Puailoa *(Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term)* on the Board of Family & Children Services for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. Councilor Barnes nominated Tolua Puailoa to serve another term.

B. COLUMBUS AQUATICS COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of David Helmick (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) on the Columbus Aquatics Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. Councilor Crabb nominated David Helmick to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Bruce Samuels (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) on the Columbus Aquatics Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. Councilor Crabb nominated Bruce Samuels to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of John P. Steed (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) on the Columbus Aquatics Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. Councilor Crabb nominated John P. Steed to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Barbara Cummings (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) on the Columbus Aquatics Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. Councilor Crabb nominated Barbara Cummings to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Wes Kelley (*Not eligible to succeed*) on the Columbus Aquatics Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2020 (*Council Hurricanes Representative*). There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat on the Columbus Aquatics Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. Councilor Barnes nominated Dr. Janet C. Bussey for the vacant seat.

C. COLUMBUS GOLF COURSE AUTHORITY:

A nominee for the seat of Richard L. Wright (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) on the Columbus Golf Course Authority for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. Councilor Crabb nominated Tommy Nobles to succeed Richard L. Wright.

A nominee for the seat of James B. Houston, Jr. (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) on the Columbus Golf Course Authority for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. Councilor Thomas nominated James B. Houston, Jr. to serve another term.

D. COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & CULTURAL LIAISON ENCOUNTERS:

A nominee for the seat of Tatsiana Savashynskaya (*Vacant*) on the Commission on International Relations & Cultural Liaison Encounters for a term that expires on March 1, 2021. There were none.

E. KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION- AT-LARGE MEMBERS:

A nominee for the seat of Sharon Baker (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. Councilor Huff nominated Sharon Baker to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Kenneth Leuer (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. Councilor Huff nominated Kenneth Leuer to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Larry Derby (*Eligible to succeed- Does not desire reappointment*) on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Ashley Lee (*Eligible to succeed- Does not desire reappointment*) on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Cortney Laughlin (*Eligible to succeed- Does not desire reappointment*) on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. There were none.

F. REGION SIX REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES:

A nominee for the seat of Annie Davis (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) on the Region Six Regional Advisory Council for Department of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. Councilor Huff nominated Annie Davis to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Cynthia Smith (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) on the Region Six Regional Advisory Council for Department of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. Councilor Huff nominated Cynthia Smith to serve another term.

G. RETIREES' HEALTH BENEFITS COMMITTEE:

A nominee for the seat of Jack D. Kinsman (*Not eligible to succeed*) on the Retirees' Health Benefits Committee for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Lester Massey (*Not eligible to succeed*) on the Retirees' Health Benefits Committee for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At the request of Mayor Henderson, Councilor House made a motion to go into executive session to discuss real estate acquisition and disposal, litigation and personnel, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present, with the time being 8:01 p.m.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 8:47 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in executive session to discuss matters of real estate acquisition and disposal, litigation and personnel; however, there were no votes taken.

RESOLUTION (ADD-ON):

Resolution (110-20) - A resolution whereas, Claimant Teddy Jackson has filed a Workers' Compensation claim for injuries sustained in a work-related incident on August 19, 2019. The Risk Manager has investigated this claim and recommends a settlement of \$110,000.00 in exchange for a full release of all claims.

RESOLUTION (ADD-ON):

Resolution (111-20) - A resolution whereas, Rufus Morris filed a lawsuit captioned Rufus Morris v. Columbus Consolidated Government, Civil Action File No. SC-17-CV-127, in the State Court of Muscogee County, Georgia, alleging personal injury as the result of an automobile accident involving a former CCG employee. The City Attorney and counsel have investigated the matter and recommend settlement with no admission of liability in the amount of \$50,000.00 in exchange for a full release.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Crabb to adjourn the April 28, 2020 Regular Meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members present, with the time being 8:49 p.m.

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