

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

August 22, 2023
5:30 PM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

PRESENT: Presiding Officer - Councilor Judy W. Thomas and Councilors Jerry "Pops" Barnes (arrived at 5:37 p.m.), Tyson Begly, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, Bruce Huff, Judy W. Thomas, and Toyia Tucker. City Manager Isaiah Hugley, Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis, and Deputy Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore were present.

ABSENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III, Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and City Attorney Clifton Fay were absent from the meeting.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) 2023 Comprehensive Plan Update Presentation; (2) American Rescue Plan Update Presentation

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) 16th Annual Hometown Connection/Legislative Agenda Information; (2) Golf Course Authority Information

CALL TO ORDER: Councilor Judy Thomas, Presiding

INVOCATION: Offered by Reverend B. A. Hart - St. James AME Church of Columbus, Georgia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Councilor Thomas

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the request to authorize Councilor Judy W. Thomas to preside over the meeting in the absence of Mayor Henderson and Mayor Pro Tem Allen, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Barnes being absent for the vote, and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the August 8, 2023, Council Meeting and Executive Session. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Barnes being absent for the vote, and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

PRESENTATION:

2. Reducing the number of vacant and abandoned properties in Columbus. (Presented by Councilor Tyson Begly – District 10 At Large)

Councilor Judy W. Thomas stated Councilor Begly is pulling this presentation until a later date.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (23-048) - 2nd Reading-** REZN-05-23-0974: An ordinance amending the text of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) for Columbus, Georgia to revise Chapter 3 to add an additional Special Exception use in the UPT (Uptown) zoning district. (Planning Department and PAC Recommend approval.) (Mayor Pro-Tem) Councilor Tucker made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

RESOLUTION

3. **Resolution (309-23):** EXCP-05-23-1008 – A resolution approving a Special Exception to allow for a Tattoo and Body Piercing Shop in the existing building located at 221 9th Street located in the Uptown (UPT) zoning district. Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Cogle) Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

ORDINANCES (continued)

2. **1st Reading-** REZN-06-23-0160: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **3610 and 3744 Woodruff Road** (parcel # 187-001-021) from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (1st Reading delayed from 8-8-23) (Councilor Garrett)

Mr. Shaun Roberts approached the rostrum stating he is the leasing agent for the property and is present to represent the applicant.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mr. Ronaldo Morrison, Re: A solution to the transportation coverage issues with the Dial-A-Ride Program.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley explained the Federal Government sets the routes and with the use of federal money, changing the fixed route would need to be beneficial citywide and not for one citizen. He explained if the guidelines are not followed closely, the City of Columbus runs the risk of losing the federal money.

Councilor Barnes made a motion to provide an exception to the policy to allow Dial-A-Ride to pick up Mr. Ronaldo Morrison at his home in the Brookstone Subdivision.

After further discussion, Councilor Cogle made a substitute motion to extend the Dial-A-Ride fixed route by a one and half mile radius, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Provide information on the cost associated with expanding the routes citywide and an update on the Uber App services. (*Request of Councilor Cogle*)
 - Look into asking for federal guidelines to be changed. (*Request of Councilor Crabb*)
2. Mr. Kirk Holcombe, Re: The concerns with the accessibility of the Dial-A-Ride Program for his employee.
 3. Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: Public Official vs Private Citizen.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Variance for Sidewalk Installation at 1301 Victory Drive

Resolution (310-23): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, granting a variance request to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), Section 7.10.1.- required sidewalk, excusing the requirement to install sidewalk along 1301 Victory Drive and for other purposes. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

2. FY24 Public Defender Contract

Resolution (311-23): A resolution authorizing to enter into an agreement for indigent defense services between Circuit Public Defender Office of the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit and Muscogee County in the amount of \$2,426,743 from July 2023 to June 2024 and authorize payment to the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council (GPDSC) in the amount of \$1,707,970 paid in monthly installments of \$142,330.81 of which is include in the total amount. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

3. Amend Council Resolution 287-22 and the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant

Resolution (312-23): A resolution to amend Council Resolution #287-22 and the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant to change the action plan from South Lumpkin Road to a city-wide action plan. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

4. U.S. Department of Justice FY23 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

Resolution (313-23): A resolution authorizing the submission of an application for, and if awarded, accept a 2023 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$119,951, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match requirement, to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount of the award, and to allocate the amount awarded to city departments for law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and public safety programs supported by the grant. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and

carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

5. FY2025 5303 Grant Application for Planning Assistance

Resolution (314-23): A resolution authorizing the Department of Transportation/METRA to apply to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for a capital, planning and operating grant in the amount of \$155,999.00 or otherwise awarded with a ten percent match from the city. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

6. Columbus Police Department: Sponsorship Donations (\$2,000)

Resolution (315-23): A resolution authorizing the acceptance of donated funds of \$2,000 from various donors on behalf of the Columbus Police Department. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

Interim Police Chief Stoney Mathis approached the rostrum to describe the event planned for the officers and their families of the Columbus Police Department. He explained this event has been planned to create a positive work culture and strengthen relationships between our organization and employees.

7. Columbus Police Department: Sponsorship Donations (\$19,000)

Resolution (316-23): A resolution authorizing the acceptance of donated funds of \$19,000 from various donors on behalf of the Columbus Police Department. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

8. Columbus Police Department: Expenditure of Donations

Resolution (317-23): A resolution authorizing the Columbus Police Department to expend funds donated specifically for the CPD Family Fun Day Event. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

9. PURCHASES

- A. Change Order 3 for Columbus Dragonfly Trail – Riverwalk to Martin Luther King, Jr. Connector – RFP No. 22-0017

Resolution (318-23): A resolution authorizing the execution of Change Order 3 with JHC Corporation, Inc. (Newnan, GA) in the amount of \$77,712.51 for the Columbus Dragonfly Trail Project. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

Engineering Director Donna Newman approached the rostrum to respond to questions from Councilor Cogle. She explained some of the footings were modified to allow bikes to ride down the trail smoothly.

B. Patches and Emblems (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 23-0015

Resolution (319-23): A resolution authorizing the purchase of patches and emblems on an “as needed” basis, from All City Label and Tag Company (New York, NY) for the estimated contract value of \$9,580.00; Mazz, Inc. d/b/a Midwest Swiss Embroideries (Chicago, IL) for the estimated contract value of \$695.60; and Nitsom Promotional Manufacturing Corporation (Fort Worth, TX) for the estimated contract value of \$21,627.60. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

C. Confiscated Firearms for Credit or Swap II for Police Department – RFB No. 23-0039

Resolution (320-23): A resolution authorizing the swap of five hundred (500) confiscated firearms from the Columbus Police Department for forty-nine (49) Rock River LE2020M Rifles and accessories provided by King’s Firearms (Columbus, TN). There will be no cost to the city for the swap of firearms. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

D. Office Supplies (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 23-0019

Resolution (321-23): A resolution authorizing the execution of an annual contract with Malone Office Equipment, Inc. d/b/a Malone Office Environments (Columbus, GA) for the purchase of high-usage office supplies, as well as non-excluded catalog items, on an “as needed” basis for various locations of the Columbus Consolidated Government. This contract is valued at an estimated \$325,000.00 per year based on prior usage. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

E. Onsite Process Training for the Tax Commissioner’s Office

Resolution (322-23): A resolution authorizing the time and materials form, CRM#10265639, from Tyler Technologies (Dallas, TX) to provide onsite process training for the Enterprise Assessment & Tax Software Product, for the Tax Commissioner’s Office, at a maximum fee of \$46,000.00, plus travel expenses. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

F. Cybersecurity Software Renewal for Information Technology – Sourcewell Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (323-23): A resolution authorizing the purchase/payment for cybersecurity software renewal from CDW-Government (Venon Hills, IL) in the amount of \$127,702.80. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative contract via Sourcewell Contract #081419-CDW. Additionally, it is requested that Council approve payment, plus associated cost increases, for future renewals of software. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

G. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – RFP No. 23-0039

Resolution (324-23): A resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with Lux Mitigation and Planning Corporation (Ellijay, GA) for an updated Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Emergency Management & Homeland Security Department budgeted \$34,000 for the services; the proposed cost is within the budgeted amount. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

City Manager Isaiah Hugley stated information has been provided to the members of Council on the 16th Annual Hometown Connection/Legislative Agenda, which will be held on October 12, 2023, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. He asked for any carry over items from the previous year or any new items be provided to him no later than Friday, September 15, 2023. He explained the items will be listed for Council to review at the September 26, 2023 Council Meeting and the final Legislative Agenda items will be listed on the City Manager’s Agenda for approval at the October 10, 2023, Council Meeting.

10. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. 2023 Comp Plan Update - Will Johnson, Director, Planning

Planning Director Will Johnson approached the rostrum to provide an update on the 2023 Comprehensive Plan. During the presentation, he explained that comprehensive plans are fully overhauled every ten years, with five-year updates being required by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). He provided a timeline for submission, public meetings, and ordinance readings.

B. ARP Update - Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager, Finance, Planning & Development

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge approached the rostrum to provide an update on the American Rescue Plan (ARP). During the presentation, she provided information on completed, ongoing, and future projects.

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: August 22, 2023

August 25, 2023

1. Consultant for Grant Application & Construction Project Management Services – RFI No. 24-0001

Scope of RFI

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is soliciting information about the feasibility of acquiring the services of a consultant (the “Vendor”) to develop an application for the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) 5339(b) Discretionary – Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program (or other available DOT/FTA competitive infrastructure grants for transit projects) on behalf of METRA Transit System (METRA). In the event that this competitive grant is awarded to METRA, the Vendor will then serve in the role of construction

management consultant for the proposed project. The intention is for a single consultant, if feasible, to guide METRA through the entire construction process.

Please be advised that this may be a two-step process. Should METRA decide to proceed with a solicitation based on the responses to this Request for Information (RFI), then phase two will be a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) to be administered in accordance with the procurement ordinance of the City and procurement procedures compliant with FTA C. 4220.1F and other applicable federal regulations.

August 30, 2023

1. Recreation Centers Roof Project – RFB No. 24-0001

Scope of Bid

Provide all labor, equipment, and materials for the roofing project at Frank D. Chester Recreation Center, Northside Recreation Center, Psalmound Recreation Center, and Shirley Winston Recreation Center. This RFB will be awarded by location or in total; whichever is in the best interest of Columbus Consolidated Government (the City). The City will be the sole judge of the factors and will award the project accordingly.

2. Williams Road at Fortson Road Roundabout – RFB No. 24-0007

Scope of Bid

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia is requesting bids for the construction of a roundabout at Williams Road and Fortson Road. The project includes roadway construction, drainage, signing & marking, erosion control, landscaping & irrigation, and utility relocation.

September 6, 2023

1. Trophies and Other Miscellaneous Awards – RFB No. 24-0004

Scope of Bid

Provide trophies, plaques, hats, resin figures, medal trophy display cases, tombstone trophies and acrylics, t-shirts and golf shirts on an “as needed” basis.

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

REFERRALS:

Referrals 8.8.2023

ENCLOSURES- INFORMATION ONLY:

The 16th Annual Hometown Connection/Legislative Agenda will be held on **October 12, 2023** from 11:30am – 1:30pm. Attached you will find the 2023 Legislative Agenda items. If you have any carry over items you wish to include from the previous year or any new items, please let me know no later than **Friday, September 15th** in an effort for us to provide the items for your review at the **September 26th** council meeting.

On **Tuesday, October 10th** the final Legislative Agenda items will be placed on the City Manager’s agenda as individual items for your consideration and approval. Those approved items will be presented to our Legislative Delegation during the October 12th Hometown Connection/Legislative Agenda Meeting.

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. **RESOLUTION (325-23)**- A resolution excusing Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen from the August 22, 2023 Council Meeting. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Davis and Garrett being absent for the vote, and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

2. **MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL AUTHORITY:** Letter from Tina Etheridge, Assistant Secretary, Board of Trustees, advising of the selection of Dr. Woodrow M. McWilliams to fill the expired term of Mr. Rodney Mahone that ended December 31, 2022. (*Council confirms the appointment.*) Councilor Huff made a motion to confirm Dr. Woodrow M. McWilliams, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

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

Airport Commission, January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, and May 22, 2023

Board of Tax Assessors, #26-23

Board of Water Commissioners, June 19, 2023

Land Bank Authority, February 27, August 6, October 1, and December 3, 2020; February 4, April 1, and July 1, 2021

The Medical Center Hospital Authority, June 27, and October 26, 2022; January 25 and April 26, 2022

Councilor Tucker made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

4. **COUNCIL APPOINTMENT- READY FOR CONFIRMATION:**

- A. **KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION:** Ms. Avianca Dowdell was nominated to succeed Dr. Kar'retta Venable. (*Councilor Huff's nominee*) Term expires: June 30, 2026. Councilor Huff made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

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

- A. **CIVIC CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:**

A nominee for the seat of Danielle Edwards (*Seat declared vacant*) for a term that expires on March 2, 2025, as the District 1 Representative on the Civic Center Advisory Board (*Council District 1-Barnes*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Spencer Cantrell (*Resigned*) for a term that expired on March 2, 2022, as the District 2 Representative on the Civic Center Advisory Board (*Council District 2- Davis*). Councilor Davis nominated Daniel Woodward and made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Chris Poirer (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expires on October 31, 2023, as District 2 Representative on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 2- Davis*). Councilor Davis renominated Chris Poirer and made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

A nominee for the seat of Belvin Millner (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expires on October 31, 2023, as District 4 Representative on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 4- Tucker*). Councilor Tucker renominated Belvin Millner and made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

A nominee for the seat of David Rohwedder (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expires on October 31, 2023, as District 8 Representative on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 8- Garrett*). Councilor Garrett renominated David Rohwedder and made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

A nominee for the seat of Alexander King (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expires on October 31, 2023, as District 10 Representative on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 10- Begly*). Councilor Begly nominated Sarah Maglione to succeed Alexander King and made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

6. COUNCIL NOMINATIONS- THREE NOMINEES ARE SENT TO THE AUTHORITY FOR SELECTION:

A. HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

A nominee for the seat of Jennings Chester (*Rotating off the authority*) for a term that expires on November 14, 2023, on the Hospital Authority of Columbus (*Council's Nomination*). There were none.

Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis stated the Council submits three nominees to the Hospital Authority for each seat and the Hospital authority selects the successor for Council's confirmation.

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

A. ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Dr. Scott McDermott (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expires on October 15, 2023, as the Veterinary Association Representative on the Animal Control Advisory Board

(Veterinary Association Section/Council's Confirmation). Clerk of Council Davis stated the Veterinary Association is renominating Dr. Scott McDermott. Councilor Tucker made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

A nominee for the seat of Lori Turner *(Eligible to succeed)* for a term that expires on October 15, 2023, on the Animal Control Advisory Board *(Council's Appointment)*. Councilor Davis renominated Lori Turner.

A nominee for the seat of Jayne Dunn *(Not Eligible to succeed)* for a term that expires on October 15, 2023, on the Animal Control Advisory Board *(Council's Appointment)*. There were none.

B. BOARD OF HONOR:

A nominee for the seat of David Ebron *(Eligible to succeed)* for a term that expires on October 31, 2023, on the Board of Honor *(Council's Appointment)*. Councilor Huff renominated David Ebron.

A nominee for the seat of bob Hydrick *(Passed away)* for a term that expired on October 31, 2022, on the Board of Honor *(Council's Appointment)*. There were none.

Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis explained all the members serving on the board must be former elected officials of Muscogee County.

C. CRIME PREVENTION BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Patricia Flora *(Passed away)* for a term that expires on March 31, 2025, as the Senatorial District 29 Representative on the Crime Prevention Board *(Council's Appointment)*. Councilor Tucker nominated Erika Cottingham.

D. LAND BANK AUTHORITY:

A nominee for the seat of Lance Hemmings *(Not Eligible to succeed)* for a term that expires on October 31, 2023, on the Land Bank Authority *(Council's Appointment)*. There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Lauren Chambers *(Seat declared vacant)* for a term that expires on October 31, 2026, on the Land Bank Authority *(Council's Appointment)*. Councilor Begly nominated Alston Auten.

E. LIBERTY THEATRE & CULTURAL ARTS CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for a new member for a term that expires on August 14, 2025, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board *(Council's Appointment)*. Councilor Crabb nominated Gloria Strode.

A nominee for a new member for a term that expires on August 14, 2025, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board *(Council's Appointment)*. Councilor Begly nominated Arreasha Z. Lawrence.

A nominee for a new member for a term that expires on August 14, 2025, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). Clerk of Council Davis stated Mayor Pro Tem Allen is nominating Cletus Richardson.

A nominee for a new member for a term that expires on August 14, 2027, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Banes nominated Carolyn Star-Ross.

A nominee for a new member for a term that expires on August 14, 2027, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Tucker nominated Terrance Flowers.

A nominee for a new member for a term that expires on August 14, 2027, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a new member for a term that expires on August 14, 2027, as the Certified Public Accountant Representative on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Huff nominated Fernando Verdree.

A nominee for a new member for a term that expires on August 14, 2027, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board (*Civic Center Director's Recommendation*). Clerk of Council Davis stated the Civic Center is nominating Arsburn "Oz" Roberts.

A nominee for a new member for a term that expires on August 14, 2027, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board (*Civic Center Director's Recommendation*). There were none.

In response to questions from Council, **Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis** explained there have been seven nominations made during the meeting for the nine available seats on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board. She went on to state she would check on the concerns expressed by Council regarding former members of the Liberty Theatre Board serving on the new city board and provide clarification at the next meeting.

F. UPTOWN FACADE BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Cesar Bautista (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expires on October 31, 2023, as an Uptown Business Improvement District Representative on the Uptown Façade Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Robert Battle (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expires on October 31, 2023, as an Uptown Business Improvement District Representative on the Uptown Façade Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Wayne Bond (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expires on October 31, 2023, as the Historic Foundation Representative on the Uptown Façade Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Ramon Brown (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expires on October 31, 2023, as an Uptown Columbus, Inc. Representative on the Uptown Façade Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

Clerk of Council Davis advised that the Clerk's Office has made contact with the respective organizations and would list the seats again once we have received the recommendations.

BOARD HEARING:

A letter from the Columbus Golf Course Authority requesting that the seat of Ms. Stephanie Callahan be declared vacant for cause.

Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall explained all members of the Golf Course Authority have signed and submitted a request to Council, asking that the seat of Stephanie Callahan be declared vacant to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest. She further explained that Ms. Callahan submitted an email in response to this request, which indicated she would not be attending this hearing and a copy of the email was provided to the members of Council. She then invited the Chairman of the Golf Course Authority to come forward and later quoted the Code of Ordinances as it pertains to the situation.

Golf Authority Chairman Ricky Wright approached the rostrum to explain that it was realized during the budget that Ms. Callahan's involvement with Fore Kids Columbus Junior Golf Program, which essentially runs Godwin Creek Golf Course, was in violation of the Code of Ordinances. He requested Council's support in correcting this issue by declaring Ms. Callahan's seat as vacant.

At the request of Councilor Tucker, **Golf Course Director Jim Arendt** approached the rostrum and stated Chairman Wright fully explained the concerns of the Golf Course Authority.

Councilor Tucker made a motion to declare the seat of Stephanie Callahan as vacant for cause on the Golf Course Authority, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

WORK SESSION TOPICS:

As a reminder, **City Manager Isaiah Hugley** stated the topics Council has requested to discuss at the August 29, 2023 Work Session. He stated the topics are Parks and Recreation, Code Enforcement, and Railroad Crossings.

Councilor Judy W. Thomas stated it is her understanding that the members of Council want to hear the presentations on the topics they requested first on the Work Session Agenda and other presentations come thereafter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilor Thomas entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss matters of litigation as requested earlier in the meeting by Assistant City Attorney Sheftall. Councilor Crabb made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting, and the time being 7:23 p.m.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:32 p.m., at which time, Councilor Thomas announced that the Council did meet in executive session to discuss matters of litigation; however, there were no votes taken.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION:

Resolution (326-23): A resolution authorizing the payment of \$45,000 to settle all damage claims of Tyrone Smith stemming from the incident which occurred on May 11, 2021. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent for the vote, and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

With there being no further business to discuss, Councilor Thomas entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Tucker to adjourn the August 22, 2023 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Barnes and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent for the vote, Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting, and the time being 7:34 p.m.

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