

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

April 29, 2025
9:00 AM
Consent Agenda/Work Session

C O N S E N T A G E N D A / W O R K S E S S I O N

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors John Anker, Travis L. Chambers, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, Byron Hickey (arrived at 9:05 a.m.), Bruce Huff (arrived at 9:15 a.m.) and Toyia Tucker. City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay and Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore.

ABSENT: Deputy Clerk of Council Tameka Colbert was absent.

<p><u>The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet:</u> (1) FY 2026 Mayor's Recommended Budget Letter; (2) Board of Assessors – House Bill 92 Update PP; (3) Infrastructure Update PP; (4) 311 Update PP; (5) Revenue Division Update PP; (6) Friends of Columbus Trust Fund Update PP; (7) Tax Allocation District Update PP</p>
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<p><u>The following documents were distributed around the Council table:</u> (1) FY 2026 Mayor's Recommended Budget; (2) FY 2024 & FY 2025 Friends of Columbus Trust Expenditures</p>
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CALL TO ORDER: Mayor B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III, Presiding

INVOCATION: Offered by Chaplain (Major) Wallace A. Jackson, IV,

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson

C O N S E N T A G E N D A

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the April 22, 2025, Council Meeting. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members being present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.

NOTE: Councilor Hickey arrived at 9:05 a.m.

ORDINANCES

2. **Ordinance (25-022): 2nd Reading-** REZN-12-24-2551: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **3212 6th Avenue** (parcel # 014-031001B) from Residential Multifamily – 2 (RMF2) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily – 1 (RMF1) Zoning District with conditions. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Garrett) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote. (*NOTE: Councilor Huff had not arrived at the meeting when this vote was taken and requested his vote reflect in favor of this item; stated for the record at the end of the discussion on Consent Agenda Item No. 4.*)
3. **Ordinance (25-023): 2nd Reading-** REZN-01-25-0036: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **4246 and 4240 3rd Avenue** (parcel # 013-001-038/039) from Light Manufacturing/Industrial (LMI) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily – 1 (RMF1) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Garrett) Councilor Crabb made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the members of Council. (*NOTE: Councilor Huff had not arrived at the meeting when this vote was taken and requested his vote reflect in favor of this item; stated for the record at the end of the discussion on Consent Agenda Item No. 4.*)

PRESENTATIONS

4. **MAYOR'S FY2026 BUDGET PRESENTATION:** Mayor Henderson presents the Recommended FY2026 Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the appointment of Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen as Chair and Councilor Toyia Tucker as Vice Chair on the Budget Review Committee, seconded by

Councilor Hickey carried unanimously by the members of Council. (*NOTE: Councilor Huff had not arrived at the meeting when this vote was taken and requested his vote reflect in favor of this motion; stated for the record at the end of the discussion.*)

Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson shared key points from the FY 2026 Mayor’s Recommended Budget, as stated in the budget letter provided. He stated over the past few years the focus has been on strengthening our reserves and improving operations, while maintaining commitment in addressing the community’s need for better services, the expectation from employees on quality pay, and inflationary pressures from economic conditions beyond our control. He shared information on changes to property taxes, a COLA being provided to active and retired employees, an increase in salaries for full-time employees, and changes to the healthcare premiums for employees.

NOTE: Councilor Huff arrived at 9:15 a.m.

Finance Director Angelica Alexander provided the meeting schedule for the Budget Review Committee and the public hearings held before the adoption of the FY 2026 Budget.

WORK SESSION AGENDA

- I. Legislative Update House Bill 92 - Suzanne Widenhouse, Chief Appraiser, Board of Tax Assessors.

Chief Appraiser Suzanne Widenhouse provided an update on House Bill 92 and how it will affect what is printed on the taxpayer’s notice of assessment.

- II. Infrastructure Update - Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager, Finance, Planning, & Development, Ryan Pruett, Director, Inspections & Code, Vance Beck, Director, Engineering, Will Johnson, Director, Planning.

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge introduced an infrastructure update and shared the funding sources utilized to fund the infrastructure projects.

Directors Vance Beck, Will Johnson and Ryan Pruett provided an update on various projects their departments are overseeing and they responded to questions from members of the Council.

Councilor Toyia Tucker stated she has heard from several individuals in the community that CCG

is offering grants to help offset the profit loss for businesses in areas where transportation projects have affected their business; to which **City Manager Isaiah Hugley** replied that is not accurate.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Check into the barricades being pushed down to Ace Way to prevent drivers from turning around on Mr. Ronald Carthar's property due to the closing of Morris Road. *(Councilor Hickey)*
- There are no lights coming from Fort Benning by the new construction. *(Councilor Tucker)*
- Go by Neicy's BBQ while checking on Mr. Carthar's business. *(Councilor Huff)*
- Add information on the road closures to help citizens. *(Councilor Huff)*
- Check out the options available for his business at 3961 Cusseta Road to allow vendors to access the facility. *(Councilor Anker)*
- See if there is some type of tax relief or deferment for businesses impacted during the transportation projects. *(Councilor Chambers)*
- Provide the list of which streets are next to be resurfaced. *(Councilor Cogle)*

III. 311 Update - Danielle Frazier, Director of 311/Assistant to City Manager.

Director Danielle Frazier provided an update on the 311 Call Center. A presentation was provided on the service request capabilities of the 311 App and the application for Council Referrals.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Make it to where Councilors can view all referrals submitted and not just their own. *(Councilor Tucker)*

IV. Revenue Update - Angelica Alexander, Director, Finance.

Director Angelica Alexander provided an update on the Revenue Division. The presentation provided information on the expected completion timeline for 2025 license renewals, handling of delinquent accounts, the review and updating of operational policies and procedures, and the Civic Access Self Service (CASS) Portal that is live and open for public use.

V. Friends of Columbus Trust Fund Update - Angelica Alexander, Director, Finance.

Director Angelica Alexander provided an update on the Friends of Columbus Trust Fund. This presentation provided information on the history of this fund and the funds available for use by the Civic Center.

During the discussion Director Alexander shared some of the issues faced by the Finance Department in hiring personnel; to which **Councilor Glenn Davis** stated for the record that there has been a history of CCG having trouble with hiring employees.

VI. TAD Update - Pam Hodge - Deputy City Manager, Finance, Planning, and Development.

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge provided an update on Tax Allocation Districts (TADs) as requested by the Council. The presentation went over many details such as the purpose of TADs, the approval process, ways in which TADs are beneficial to communities, and policies and guidelines. She then provided details on the eight TADs in Columbus.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to adjourn the April 29, 2025, Consent Agenda/Work Session, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote, and the time being 12:24 p.m.

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