

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

March 10, 2026
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S A G E N D A

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, Bruce Huff (arrived at 9:51 a.m.), and Toyia Tucker (arrived at 9:06 a.m.). Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin, Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall, Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore and Deputy Clerk of Council Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: N/A

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) MA#5: Columbus Ahead Regional Prosperity Strategy 2026-2030; (2) CM#9(A): A.J. McClung Memorial Stadium Renovation Cost Breakout 2WR Architects

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) PA#3: Governance Standards and Enforcement Consistency; (2) CM#9(B): Columbus Consolidated Government Monthly Finance Snapshot FY2026-January 2026

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Reverend Grace Burton Edwards- St. Thomas Episcopal

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Skip Henderson

MINUTES:

1. Approval of minutes for the February 24, 2026, Council Meeting and Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Huff being absent for the vote.

PROCLAMATIONS

2. **Proclamation:** Intellectual and Developmental Disability Awareness Month-

Receiving: Chloe Landreth, New Horizons

Councilor Byron Hickey read the proclamation into the record proclaiming March as *Intellectual and Developmental Disability Awareness Month*, recognizing the importance of increasing awareness, promoting inclusion, and supporting services for individuals with developmental disabilities in the community.

3. **Proclamation:** Girl Scouts Day

Receiving: Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia

(Note: The proclamation was delayed due to recipients not being present.)

PRESENTATIONS

4. Fountain City Classic Update – Presented by Calvin Smyre

(Note: The presentation was delayed due to the presenter not being present.)

5. Regional Prosperity Initiative New 2026-2030 Strategic Plan – Presented by Tabetha Getz, Executive Director of Columbus Ahead

Tabetha Getz, Executive Director of Columbus Ahead presented an update on the Columbus Ahead strategy, the region’s new five-year strategic plan through 2030, and highlighted the accomplishments of the previous Columbus 2025 initiative.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made for staff to provide Council with an update on the Dragonfly Trail master plan, including future connectivity and planned trail expansions. *(Councilor Tucker)*

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (26-005) - 2nd Reading-** An ordinance providing for the demolition of various structures located at:

- 1) **2317 Forsyth Street** (Trevonte Johnson, Owner);
- 2) **5 Patton Drive** (Edward Hickey, Owner);
- 3) **3810 16th Avenue** (Virginia Royal, Owner);
- 4) **1543 Floyd Road** (Marrina Jo Amerson, Owner);
- 5) **222 21st Avenue** (W & D Ventures LLC, Owner);
- 6) **3016 3rd Avenue** (Benjamin Hardy, Owner);
- 7) **2801 Baldwin Street** (Taryn Daniel Araos, Owner);
- 8) **1344 16th Street** (William Glenn Perkins, Owner);
- 9) **928 Lawyers Lane** (Sammie T. Harvey & King Bernice Harvey, Owner); and
- 10) **828 1st Avenue** (FF Asset Fund I, LLC, Owner)

(Mayor Pro-Tem)

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Huff being absent for the vote.

2. **Ordinance (26-006) - 2nd Reading-** An Ordinance repealing various ordinances in order to abolish the Civic Center Advisory Board; and for other purposes. (Councilor Crabb) Councilor Crabb made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Huff being absent for the vote.

3. **1st Reading-** REZN-11-25-2091: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **2055 Old Guard Road** (parcel # 074-001-008) from Residential Estate – 1 (RE1) Zoning District to Single Family Residential – 4 (SFR4) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Davis)

4. **1st Reading-REZN-02-26-0208:** An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **2045 Old Guard Road** (parcel # 079-001-045) from SFR4 (Single Family Residential 4) Zoning District with conditions to SFR4 (Single Family Residential 4) Zoning District with amended conditions. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.)(Councilor Davis)

Joshua Mura, President of Samford Group (Auburn, AL), Applicant, presented a request to rezone property located at 2055 Old Guard Road to SFR-4 with amended conditions, including the removal of existing age restrictions and a previously approved site-specific plan for one parcel, and the rezoning of the adjoining parcel located at **2045 Old Guard Road** to SFR-4 to allow for a unified residential development with connectivity between the two properties.

Councilor Davis made a motion to amend the ordinance removing conditions 1 and 3; replacing condition 2 with a new site and landscape plan, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present with Councilor Huff being absent for the vote. (*NOTE: The new site and landscape plan was not provided to the Clerk of Council.*)

Deputy City Manager Hodge clarified for the record that the zoning conditions being removed applied only to the 2045 Old Guard Road parcel, while the 2055 Old Guard Road parcel had no existing conditions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- *Austin Gower representing Greystone Properties* – Expressed concerns about the proposed 276-lot subdivision being next to their property, the significant zoning change and the uncertainty surrounding the development.
- *Beth Leatherwood* – Expressed concerns about increased housing density, additional traffic, and the removal of previously approved conditions, including sidewalks.

5. **1st Reading:** An ordinance amending Article I of Chapter 4 of the Columbus Code to insert a new code section which defines nonprofit community handmade and artisan events sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation; to clarify applicable permit requirements; to provide for a fee waiver; and for other lawful purposes. (Councilors Cogle and Garrett)

Director of Parks & Recreation Holli Browder expressed concerns about the proposed ordinance allowing certain nonprofit vendors to be exempt from fees when selling on city property. She

cautioned that it could create an unfair precedent by allowing some vendors to sell without paying fees while others would still be required to pay.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made for staff to coordinate a meeting with residents and the applicant regarding the Buena Vista Road development to address concerns raised by nearby property owners. (*Councilor Tucker*)

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mr. Kirk Holcombe, representing Access 2 Independence, Re: CDBG Funding *Not Present*
2. Dr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: What is a “Gentleman’s Agreement” and why do they exist?
3. Dr. Natalie Nicole, representing Role Model Academy of Arts, Re: Governance Standards and Enforcement Consistency
4. Miss. Emily Downs, Re: Chattahoochee Dam Alarm Notification on Riverwalk *Not Present*
5. Mrs. Darlene Laird, Re: Requesting a Moratorium on Data Centers. *Not Present*
6. Mrs. Leslie Landi, Re: Project Ruby / Overlay Rezoning Proposal *Not Present*
7. Mr. Gregory Foster, Re: Expressing Support for the Project Ruby Data Center
8. Mrs. Kim Hicks, Re: Concerns Regarding Proposed Data Center
9. Mr. Joshua Ferguson, Re: In support of Project Ruby and Choose Columbus for bringing these sorts of opportunities to the area.
10. Ms. Jessica Warchal, Re: Speaking as to the health quality effects of proposed data center campus.
11. Miss. Esther Warchal, Re: Effects on the natural world that I have come to reverence and love.
12. Mr. Liam Warchal, Re: Noise Pollution Concerns
13. Mr. Justin Sellers, Re: Concerns on Data Center Proposal

14. Mrs. Christine DiFelicianantonio, Re: Requesting a Moratorium on Project Ruby.
15. Mr. Jon LeGallais, Re: Opposition to the proposed “Project Ruby” Data Center
16. Ms. Michele Williams, Re: Data Center *Not Present*
17. Mr. Steve Craft, Re: Project Ruby
18. Mrs. Caroline Rowell, Re: Benefit to the Community

(Note: Councilor Hickey left the meeting at approximately 10:12 a.m.)

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE IT DEPARTMENT & CHOOSE COLUMBUS:

- A request was made to develop a centralized online resource, including a Q&A section on the Choose Columbus and Columbus Consolidated Government websites, to compile and address citizen questions and concerns regarding the proposed data center. *(Councilor Tucker)*

FOR CHOOSE COLUMBUS:

- A request was made to convene a joint public meeting including all relevant stakeholders and other subject matter experts to provide coordinated responses to community questions regarding the proposed data center. *(Councilor Tucker)*

Missy Kendrick, President and CEO of Choose Columbus, responded to concerns regarding the proposed data center, explaining that no development or air permits have been issued yet and that all required permits and environmental reviews will be public record. She stated the project is expected to utilize only about 15 percent of the 900-acre site rather than clear-cutting the entire property. She also addressed concerns about water and sewer capacity, stating the city has sufficient permitted capacity. Additionally, she emphasized the importance of establishing clear regulations and guardrails through the proposed overlay district and indicated that the city is working to develop a publicly accessible FAQ to address community questions and misinformation.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CHOOSE COLUMBUS:

- A request was made for information regarding the proposed substation associated with the data center project, regarding potential sound or decibel levels. *(Councilor Garrett)*

- A request was made for discussion of possible safeguards, including requiring adherence to a site plan and exploring conservation easements to preserve undeveloped portions of the property. *(Councilor Davis)*
- A request was made for information on potential alternative sites for the proposed data center project, including locations in neighboring Talbot Count. *(Councilor Cogle)*

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Street Acceptance –Swedish Ivy Court

Resolution (055-26) – A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, authorizing the acceptance of a deed to Swedish Ivy Court located In Ivy Park Commercial Development, on behalf of Columbus, Georgia. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Hickey being absent for the vote.

2. Street Designation as a Public Street.

Resolution (056-26) – A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, authorizing the designation of that portion of 5th Street running between 5th Avenue and 6th Avenue as a public street. Authorizing the acceptance of a quitclaim deed to that portion of 5th Street running between 5th Avenue and 6th Avenue on behalf of Columbus, Georgia. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Hickey being absent for the vote.

3. Surplus Property – 14 Properties in the Liberty District

Resolution (057-26) – A resolution declaring the city properties as listed on the attached document surplus and to authorize the Community Reinvestment Department to advertise, accept sealed bids, and sell said property in accordance with Section 7-501(1) of the Columbus Charter. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Hickey being absent for the vote.

4. Cooperative Extension MOU Extension

Resolution (058-26) – A resolution authorizing the Mayor or his designee to enter into a contract with the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, acting on behalf of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, for educational outreach programs offered in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, and 4-H youth development. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Hickey being absent for the vote.

5. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Outdoor Warning Sirens

Resolution (059-26) – A resolution authorizing the Mayor or his designee to submit and accept, if awarded, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security, in the amount of \$368,809.00, or as otherwise awarded, with a local match required in the amount of \$92,202.25 and amend the multi-governmental fund budget by the amount awarded. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Hickey being absent for the vote.

6. Congressionally Directed Spending Grant – Fire & EMS

Resolution (060-26) – A resolution to apply for and accept if awarded a grant for the purchase of a Spot robot with public safety payloads for \$412,154.95, or as otherwise awarded, from the congressionally directed spending grant program with no matching funds required. The multi-governmental fund will be amended by the amount of the award. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Hickey being absent for the vote.

7. Muscogee County Sheriff's Office Back the Blue Act Donation

Resolution (061-26) – A resolution authorizing acceptance of a donation from the Georgia Sheriff's Association, Inc. in the amount of \$5,735.28 as part of the 2025 disbursement from the Back the Blue Act Funds defined in O.C.G.A. 40-2-26.1. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Hickey being absent for the vote.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made for staff to organize a public meeting at the City Services Center, with virtual access, to provide updates on projects within the Liberty District. *(Councilor Tucker)*

8. PURCHASES

- A. Three (3) Chevrolet Silverado Trucks for Fire & EMS Department – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (062-26) – A resolution authorizing the purchase of three (3) Chevrolet Silverado Trucks for the Fire & EMS Department from Hardy Automotive Fleet (Dallas, GA) at a unit price of \$49,096.00 and a total cost of \$147,288.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia State Contract #99999-SPD-SPD0000218-0001. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.

- B. Ten (10) Ford Explorer Interceptors for Sheriff’s Office – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (063-26) – A resolution authorizing the purchase of ten (10) Ford Explorer Interceptors for the Sheriff Department from Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) at a unit price of \$50,675.00 and a total cost of \$506,750.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia State Contract #99999-001-SPD-SPD0000218-0006. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.

- C. Four (4) Ford Explorer Interceptors for Columbus Police Department – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (064-26) – A resolution authorizing the purchase of four (4) 2025 Ford Explorer Interceptors for the Columbus Police Department from Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) at a unit price of \$49,670.00 and a total cost of \$ 198,680.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract # 99999-001-SPD0000183-0006. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.

- D. One (1) Ford Explorer Interceptor for Columbus Police Department – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (065-26) – A resolution authorizing the purchase of one (1) 2026 Ford Explorer Interceptor for the Columbus Police Department from Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) at a total cost of \$ 50,675.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contracts # 99999-001-SPD0000183-0006. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.

- E. Contract Extension for Inmate Medical & Pharmacy Services for Muscogee County Prison (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 18-0022

Resolution (066-26) – A resolution authorizing the extension the annual contract with CorrectHealth Muscogee, LLC (Atlanta, GA), through September 30, 2026, for comprehensive medical and pharmacy services for inmates incarcerated in the Muscogee County Prison. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.

- F. Traffic Light Preemption System (Including Software and Equipment) for Fire & EMS – State of Georgia/Department of Transportation (GDOT) Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (067-26) – A resolution authorizing the purchase of a traffic light preemption system (including software and equipment) from Temple, Inc. (Decatur, AL) in the amount of \$164,961.64. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via State of Georgia/Department of Transportation (GDOT) Contract #48400 197 DOT0002307 012. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.

- G. Ambulances for Fire & EMS – Sourcewell Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (068-26) – A resolution authorizing the purchase of three (3) ambulances from ETR/Emergency-Tactical-Rescue Vehicles (Sandford, FL) in the total amount of \$586,899.00. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Cooperative Contract #122123-RVG. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.

H. Cardiac Monitor Defibrillators with Accessories for Fire & EMS – Sourcewell Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (069-26) – A resolution authorizing the purchase of two (2) cardiac monitor defibrillators with accessories, for Fire & EMS, from Stryker Sales, LLC (Chicago, IL) in the amount of \$109,560.56. The Purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #041823-STY. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.

I. Power Load Stretchers with Components for Fire & EMS – Sourcewell Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (070-26) – A resolution authorizing the purchase of two (2) power load stretchers with components, for Fire & EMS, from Stryker Sales, LLC (Chicago, IL) in the amount of \$71,420.49. The Purchase will be made by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #041823-STY. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made for a report on inmates who have received medical treatment outside the jail facility, including the associated costs, and to clarify how those expenses may be covered, including the potential use of the indigent care fund. *(Councilor Tucker)*
- A request was made for staff to review the new four-way stop at Preston and Apron Roads. *(Councilor Crabb)*
- A request was made for staff to bring back the resolution regarding the inclement weather policy for the Aquatic Center. *(Councilor Cogle)*
- A request was made for staff to provide information on the City’s roadway maintenance and striping program. *(Councilor Tucker)*

9. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. AJ McClung Stadium Update – Holli Browder, Director, Parks & Recreation, Scott Allen, Senior Principal, Partner, 2WR

Scott Allen, Senior Principal, Partner, 2WR outlined proposed improvements to the AJ McClung Stadium, including construction of new north and south locker rooms, turf replacement and expansion, drainage improvements, and related site renovations.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made for staff to provide information on the potential return on investment associated with the proposed soccer field improvements. (*Councilor Tucker*)

- A request was made for staff to develop and present two to three potential funding options for the proposed stadium improvements. (*Councilor Davis*)

B. Finance Update - Angelica Alexander, Director, Finance

Finance Director Angelica Alexander provided a financial update comparing January 2026 to January 2025. She reported that General Fund revenues are up 4.88%, primarily due to increased property tax revenue following the millage reallocation approved in the FY26 budget.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made for update on revenues generated from the Synovus Park facility fee and the status of the special project fund associated with those revenues. (*Councilor Tucker*)

- A request was made to place discussion of the proposed jail project and its financial impact on the March 31 work session agenda. (*Councilor Anker*)

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - INFORMATION ONLY

1. Upcoming Board Appointments: Development Authority

2. Upcoming Board Appointments: Housing Authority of Columbus

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

3. **Request to Declare Vacancy:** Memo from the Clerk of Council requesting Council declare the seat of Mike Welch, District 9 Representative, vacant on the Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC). Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to declare the seat vacant, seconded by Councilor Anker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.

4. **Minutes of the following boards**

Airport Commission 01-28-26

Board of Tax Assessors #06-26

Board of Tax Assessors #07-26

Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) 01-21-26

Golf Authority 02-09-26

Hospital Authority of Columbus 01-27-26

Planning Advisory Commission (PAC) 07-16-25

Planning Advisory Commission (PAC) 08-20-25

Planning Advisory Commission (PAC) 10-01-25

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

5. **MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS – ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:**

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

A nominee for the vacant seat with a term expiring on March 1, 2026, on Commission on International Relations and Cultural Liaison Encounters. (*Mayor's Appointment*). Mayor Henderson nominated Patrick Donahoe to fill the vacant seat on the Commission on International Relations and Cultural Liaison Encounters. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.

B. PENSION FUND, EMPLOYEES' BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

A nominee for a vacant seat with a term that expires on June 30, 2026, as a representative of the Business Community on the Pension Fund, Employees' Board of Trustees (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

6. NOMINATIONS – CONFIRMED BY COUNCIL:

A. AIRPORT COMMISSION:

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term expiring on December 31, 2026, on the Airport Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

B. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (BHAR):

A nominee for a vacant seat (*Board of Realtors Representative*) for a term expiring on January 31, 2026, on the Historic & Architectural Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). Clerk of Council McLemore announced that Councilor Crabb is nominating Tracy N. Dean to fill the vacant seat as the Board of Realtors Representative. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote.

A nominee for a vacant seat (*Columbus Home Builders Association Representative*) for a term expiring on January 31, 2028, on the Historic & Architectural Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

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

A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

A nominee for the vacant seat of the District 1 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council (*District 1 – Hickey*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Tracy Belt (*Not Eligible*) the District 4 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council (*District 4 – Tucker*). There were none.

A nominee for the vacant seat of the District 5 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council (*District 5 – Crabb*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Mike Welch (*Eligible for reappointment*) the District 9 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council (*District 9 – Anker*). There were none.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Paul T. Berry, III (*Not interested in serving another term*) for a term that expired on October 31, 2025, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*District 5 – Crabb*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Scott Taft (*Not Eligible*) for a term that expired on October 31, 2025, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*District 9 – Anker*). There were none.

8. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – ANY NOMINATIONS WOULD BE LISTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

A. ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for the vacant seat of the Georgia Veterinary Technician with a term expiring on October 15, 2026, on the Animal Control Advisory Board (*Council’s Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the vacant seat of the Animal Rescue Shelter Representative with a term expiring on October 15, 2026, on the Animal Control Advisory Board (*Council’s Appointment*). There were none.

B. BOARD OF HEALTH:

A nominee for the seat of Yasmine Cathright (*Not Eligible*) with the term expiring on December 31, 2025, on the Board of Health (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

C. BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

A nominee for a vacant seat for *a* term that expires on March 24, 2026, on the Building Authority of Columbus (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

D. LIBERTY THEATRE & CULTURAL ARTS CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for a vacant seat for *a* term that expired on August 14, 2026, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat for *a* term that expires on August 14, 2026, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat for *a* term that expires on August 14, 2027, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board (*Civic Center Director Recommendation / Confirmed by Council*). There were none.

E. NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH – MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTIVE DISEASES AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES- COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Judge David Ranieri (*Does not desire reappointment*) for a term that expired on June 30, 2025, on the New Horizons Behavioral Health – Mental Health, Addictive Diseases and Developmental Disabilities – Community Service Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

F. PERSONNEL REVIEW BOARD:

A nominee for a vacant seat (*Alternate Member 1*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2027, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat (*Alternate Member 2*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2027, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat (*Alternate Member 3*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2027, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Delano Leftwich (*Not Eligible – Alternate Member 4*) for a term that expired on December 31, 2025, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council’s Appointment*). There were none.

PUBLIC AGENDA (continued)

2. Dr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: What is a “Gentleman’s Agreement” and why do they exist?
11. Miss. Esther Warchal, Re: Effects on the natural world that I have come to reverence and love.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation and real estate acquisition and disposal as requested by City Attorney Fay. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote, and the time being 1:10 p.m.

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 1:59 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in Executive Session to discuss litigation and real estate acquisition and disposal; however, there were no votes taken.

ADD-ON RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution (071-26) - A resolution authorizing the Mayor, or his designee, the City Attorney and the Finance Director to make payments which total \$530,000.00 to settle the above referenced claims of Erin Shephard McLemore against any and all parties, including attorney’s fees.

Resolution (072-26) A resolution authorizing the Mayor, or his designee, the City Attorney and the Finance Director to make payments which total \$15,000.00 to settle the above referenced claims of the Plaintiffs against any and all parties, including attorney’s fees. .

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Skip Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Garrett to adjourn the March 10, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote, and the time being 2:00 p.m.

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