

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

September 13, 2022
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors Jerry "Pops" Barnes (arrived at 9:30 a.m.), Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, John M. House, Bruce Huff (arrived at 9:08 a.m., via Microsoft Teams), Judy W. Thomas, Toyia Tucker, and Evelyn "Mimi" Woodson (arrived at 9:58 a.m.). City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis, and Deputy Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore were present.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) Standing Boy Trails Management Plan- Fall 2022 Presentation; (2) Classification & Compensation Plan Presentation; (3) Comprehensive Camera Project Update Presentation

The following documents were distributed to the members of Council: (1) An Open Memorandum, Re: Employee Appeals Under the Proposed Pay Plan

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

INVOCATION: Offered by former Councilor Wayne Anthony

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the August 30, 2022, Council Meeting. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Huff and Woodson being absent for the vote.

PROCLAMATIONS:

2. **PROCLAMATION:** Help the Hooch Days

RECEIVING: Lisa Thomas-Cutts, Director of the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission

Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson acknowledge the efforts of the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission to keep our community and waterways clean and beautiful at the leadership of Director Lisa Thomas-Cutts.

4. **PROCLAMATION:** Constitution Week

RECEIVING: The George Walton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Oglethorpe DAR Chapter, Coweta Falls Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Chapter, Lucy Spell Raiford CAR Society

Councilor John House read the proclamation into the record, proclaiming the week of September 17-23, 2022, as *Constitution Week*, recognizing the importance of the ratification of the American Constitution.

3. **PROCLAMATION:** Public Safety Week

RECEIVING: Public Safety Officials

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen read the proclamation into the record, proclaiming the week of September 4-11, 2022, as Public Safety Week, recognizing the dedication of the men and women of public safety in keeping the community safe.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

5. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

B. Standing Boy Trails Update – Blake Melton, Chair, Standing Boy INC.

Chairman Blake Melton (Standing Boy, INC) approached the rostrum to provide an update on the Standing Boy Trail System. He explained there are twenty-five miles of multi-use trails, six miles of hiking only trails, and five miles of biking only trails, for a total cost of \$2.5 million. He stated the proposal is for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to enter into an agreement with the City of Columbus but would retake possession of the park during the two-youth turkey hunts a year, ensuring the City of Columbus would have no responsibility during these events. He also explained it is being proposed that the City of Columbus enter into a management agreement with Standing Boy, INC for management of the park. (*NOTE: This update was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item 5 "B"*)

A. Compensation Pay Plan Update - Reather Hollowell, Human Resource Director

City Manager Isaiah Hugley approached the rostrum to provide an update on the proposed compensation pay plan. He explained his conversation with a long-term employee who was recommended to receive a pay increase of \$13,000 a year, where this employee expressed her concerns on the possibility of the plan not being approved. He stated an appeals process has been put in place and the correction process has been expanded, but employees are still able to file an appeal within two years as set in the policies set by the Human Resources Department. (*NOTE: This update was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item 5 "A"*)

Human Resources Director Reather Hollowell approached the rostrum to provide information on the request for correction process. She explained during the correction process employees may appeal their hire date, last class date, job title or position title, pay grade, pay rate, or a comparison of one position versus another position. She stated the appeals invitation letter was sent to each employee from Evergreen Solutions on September 6, 2022, with the deadline to submit an appeal being September 16, 2022.

Project Manager Mark Holcombe approached the rostrum to respond to questions asked by the members of Council present. He explained he believes the appeals will only take a few weeks, but they have already begun addressing the appeals that have been received.

IT Director Forrest Toelle approached the rostrum to respond to questions and comments made regarding the implementation of the new pay for each employee as it pertains to the IT Department's involvement.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance (22-045) - 2nd Reading- An ordinance adopting a new Classification and Compensation Plan for The Consolidated Government and amending Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Ordinance No. 22-027; restating and modernizing other pay plan provisions included in Section 16B of the Columbus Code; providing for a delayed effective date; and for other purposes. (Continued on 1st Reading from 8-23-22) (Mayor Pro-Tem) Councilor Davis made a motion to amend the ordinance to authorize the City Manager and Human Resources Director to proceed with all necessary steps to implement the Pay Plan as set forth herein subject to the adoption of an additional implementation resolution of Council prior to the implementation date, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the ten members present. Councilor Davis made a motion to adopt the ordinance as amended, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Councilor Toyia Tucker provided the comprehensive pay plan timeline for the record. She stated the Council requested the pay study begin in January 2022, Council discussed what they wished to accomplish from the study on February 23rd, employees had the opportunity to complete the job assessment from March 7 to March 25th, department heads reviewed the assessments completed by their employees from March 29th to April 11th, Evergreen then used the information to draft job descriptions and recommend appropriate job titles and salaries, Council was presented the recommendations in a report summary without details on July 26th, and the ordinance was listed on 1st reading and the full report was provided on August 8th. She explained the members of Council were not given enough time to fully analyze the information provided in the report, so they would be able to address any issues before the pay plan is approved.

2. Ordinance (22-046) - 2nd Reading- An ordinance regulating vehicular traffic in Columbus, Georgia by establishing a list of roadways approved for the use of speed detection devices on behalf of the Columbus Consolidated Government; repealing conflicting ordinances; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

3. Ordinance (22-047) - 2nd Reading- An ordinance amending the operating and capital improvement budget for the Fiscal Year 2023 beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023, for certain funds of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to provide for a five percent increase to the current salaries of Juvenile Court Judges serving Muscogee County pursuant to an order of the Chief Judge of Superior dated June 30, 2022; and for other purposes. (Request of Muscogee County Superior Court) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

- 4. 1st Reading-** REZN-07-22-1374: An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at 1310 13th Avenue / 1315 Delauney Avenue (parcel # 026-005-006 / 026-005-005) from NC (Neighborhood Commercial) Zoning District to GC (General Commercial) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval) (Councilor Woodson)

Mr. Ernie Smallman approached the rostrum to explain the reasons for the proposed rezoning. He explained the rezoning would allow the property to have more uses under General Commercial.

- 5. 1st Reading-** REZN-07-22-1377: An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at 3408 5th Avenue, 3414 5th Avenue, 500 35th Street, 502 35th Street , 504 35th Street, 506 35th Street, 508 35th Street, 3419 6th Avenue, 3417 6th Avenue, 3413 6th Avenue, 3411 6th Avenue, 3409 6th Avenue, 3403 6th Avenue, 3401 6th Avenue, 3319 6th Avenue, 3317 6th Avenue, 3313 6th Avenue, 3309 6th Avenue, and 3305 6th Avenue from RMF1 (Residential Multifamily 1) and RMF2 (Residential Multifamily 2) Zoning District to RMF2 (Residential Multifamily 2) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval) (Councilor Garrett)

RESOLUTIONS

- 6.** A resolution disapproving the pay plan pursuant to Section 8-304(2) of the Charter to prevent its implementation without Council action. (Request of Councilor Thomas) Councilor Thomas withdrew this resolution.

PUBLIC AGENDA

- Ms. Pat Hugley Green, representing the Columbus Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Re: The Columbus Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc would like to encourage our great City of Columbus and the Tri-County Area to become registered voters and vote in every election.
- Mr. Ladarius Colbert, Re: A request for rectification of systematic injustice during the administration of criminal law. ***Not Present***
- Ms. Jennifer Le Denney, Re: The proposed pay raises for all city employees without caps. ***Not Present***

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Retiree Health Insurance Plan

Resolution (285-22): A resolution authorizing renewal of the Medicare Eligible Health Plan Benefits and the United Healthcare Medicare. Councilor House made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Woodson being absent for the vote.

Mr. Larry Campbell approached the rostrum to thank the Mayor and Council for their support for the retirees of the Columbus Consolidated Government.

2. Supplemental Contract for the Military Drive Project

Resolution (286-22): A resolution authorizing the City Manager or designee to enter into a supplemental agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to receive additional funding for the preliminary engineering phase of the Military Drive Project. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Woodson being absent for the vote.

3. SS4A Grant Applications

Resolution (287-22): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, authorizing the City Manager to make application and receive grant funds under the safe streets and roads for all (SS4A) for South Lumpkin Road. Councilor House made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Woodson being absent for the vote.

4. PURCHASES

A. Engineering Services for Military Drive P.I. #0017138 – RFP No. 22-0005

Resolution (288-22): A resolution authorizing the execution of a negotiated contract with Heath & Lineback Engineers, Inc. (Marietta, GA) for engineering services related to the construction of Military Drive. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Woodson being absent for the vote.

B. One (1) Remote-Operated Tracked Slope Mower for the Public Works Department – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (289-22): A resolution authorizing the purchase of one (1) remote-operated tracked slope mower (RC Mowers TK-52XP) for the Public Works Department, from Jet-Vac Equipment Company, LLC (Atlanta, GA) by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-001-SPD0000177-0002, at a unit price of \$65,000.00. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Woodson being absent for the vote.

C. Computer Software Security Program for Information Technology – Federal GSA Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (290-22): A resolution authorizing the purchase of a computer software security program (Cisco Duo) from Port 53 Technologies (San Francisco, CA), in the amount of \$86,214.80, by cooperative purchase via Federal GSA (MAS Schedule) Contract #GS-35F-303DA. Additionally, it is requested that Council authorize future payments to the vendor for the annual software license/maintenance fee. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Woodson being absent for the vote.

D. One (1) Ford Expedition for the Coroner's Office – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (291-22): A resolution authorizing the purchase one (1) 2022 Ford Expedition for the Coroner’s Office, from Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-001-SPD0000183-0006, at a total cost of \$55,800.00. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Woodson being absent for the vote.

5. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Compensation Pay Plan Update - Reather Hollowell, Human Resource Director

(NOTE: This update, as provided by Human Resources Director Reather Hollowell, was called upon earlier in the meeting during the City Attorney’s Agenda.)

B. Standing Boy Trails Update – Blake Melton, Chair, Standing Boy INC.

(NOTE: This update, as provided by Chairman Blake Melton, was called upon earlier in the meeting during the Mayor’s Agenda.)

C. Comprehensive Camera Update - Lisa Goodwin, Deputy City Manager

Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin approached the rostrum to provide an update on the comprehensive camera system. She explained the project would provide camera coverage city-wide as they are installed on various city facilities, with Phase I out of three coming to completion.

BID ADVERTISEMENT

September 14, 2022

1. Feeding the Valley Midland Addition – RFB No. 23-0001

Scope of Bid

The project consists of a 24,000 square foot storage facility that will primarily be a pre-engineered metal building that includes 3 loading dock doors. The connection to the existing facility shall be a load-bearing CMU construction with a TPO roof on steel structure.

This is a Section 3 Covered Contract under the HUD Act of 1968 and Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns are encouraged to apply –If Section 3 documents are not properly signed and submitted with the bid, a section 3 preference cannot be made. If no section 3 preference is being claimed, these documents are not required with the bid. Completed Section 3 paperwork will be required of the successful Bidder if a contract is awarded.

2. Pharmaceutical Supply Services (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 23-0013

Scope of RFB

The City of Columbus, Georgia is seeking bids from area hospitals, non-area hospitals, wholesale distributors and/or other vendors, interested in providing Pharmaceutical Supply Services for the Columbus Fire and Emergency Medical Services. The contract period will be for two (2) years with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

September 16, 2022

1. Point-of-Sale System for Columbus Civic Center – RFP No. 23-0003

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide hardware and software for a Point-of-Sale System for Concessions which will replace the system currently used at the Columbus Civic Center.

September 21, 2022

1. Bus Shelters (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 23-0011

Scope of Bid

Columbus Consolidated Government is seeking qualified vendors to provide bus shelters to METRA on an “as needed” basis. The contract term will be for three years.

2. Drill Field Maintenance and Inspections for Fire & EMS Department (Annual Contract) RFB No. 23-0014

Scope of RFB

It is the intent of the Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) to secure an annual contract with a vendor to provide drill field maintenance and inspections. The contract period will be for two (2) years with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

Upon notification by Columbus Fire and EMS, the successful vendor shall provide preventive maintenance services, semi-annual inspections, and equipment repairs for the department drill field burn tower located at 4191 Macon Road, (behind Station 9 at 3601-3773 Giddens Road) Columbus, GA 31907 to include the natural gas ignition system.

September 23, 2022

1. Security Surveillance & Security Access Equipment (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 23-0002

Scope of Proposal

Columbus Consolidated Government is seeking to enter into a contractual agreement with a qualified contractor for the provision and maintenance services of security surveillance and security access equipment for various locations. The contract term will be for two years with the option to renew for three additional twelve-month periods.

September 28, 2022

1. PI 0011436 – Muscogee County Buena Vista Road Improvements at Spiderweb-Phase II – RFB No. 23-0005

Scope of Bid

Phase II of the Buena Vista Road Improvements at the Spiderweb includes the construction of two (2) bridges, one (1) of which requires Norfolk southern permitting; construction of a roundabout at Illges Road and Ace Way Drive; construction of Buena Vista Road east of the intersection with Annette Avenue, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard north of Brewer Elementary School, Illges Road, Lindsay Drive, Andrews Road, Morris Road and Ace Way Drive, as well as the installation of traffic signals.

Utilities were relocated in Phase I of the project. The Annette Avenue roundabout at Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Annette Avenue were constructed in Phase I.

2. Roofing Services at Edgewood Senior Center – RFB No. 23-0007

Scope of Bid

Provide all labor, equipment, and materials to remove the existing roof at the Edgewood Senior Center and replace with a thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) roof system, in full compliance with the project manual.

3. Fox Senior Center Wall and Roof Project – RFB No. 23-0008

Scope of Bid

Provide all labor, equipment, and materials to repair the designated roof and walls, in full compliance with the project manual, at Fox Senior Center.

4. Exterior Wall Renovation at 29th Street Gym – RFB No. 23-0009

Scope of Bid

Provide all labor, equipment, and materials to repair the designated walls, in full compliance with the project manual, at the 29th Street Gym.

5. **Public Safety Building Deck and Wall Restoration – RFB No. 23-0010**

Scope of Bid

Provide all labor, equipment, and materials to repair the designated deck and walls, in full compliance with the project manual, at the Public Safety Building.

October 7, 2022

1. **Architectural & Engineering Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 23-0007**

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting proposals from qualified firms to provide professional architectural and engineering services on an as-needed basis for various construction projects.

The contract term shall be for two years with the option to renew for three additional twelve-month periods. Contract renewal shall be contingent upon the mutual agreement of the City and the Contractors.

2. **Roofing Consulting Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 23-0008**

Scope of RFP

Provide complete roofing consulting services, on an as-needed basis, for individual buildings. Columbus Consolidated Government owns buildings consisting of approximately 60 buildup roofs, 40 metal roofs and 75 shingle roofs; however, services may not be required for all the buildings.

The contract term shall be for two years with the option to renew for three additional twelve-month periods. Contract renewal shall be contingent upon the mutual agreement of the City and the Contractors.

CLERK OF COUNCIL’S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

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

Board of Elections & Registration, August 22, 2022

Board of Tax Assessors, #25-22 and #26-22

Community Development Advisory Council, June 9, 2022

Development Authority, August 22, 2022

Tree Board, August 22, 2022

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent for the vote.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

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

A. COLUMBUS IRONWORKS CONVENTION & TRADE CENTER AUTHORITY:

A nominee for the seat of Craig Burgess (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) for a term that expires on October 24, 2022, on the Columbus Ironworks Convention & Trade Center Authority (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Lauren Chambers (*Not eligible to succeed*) for a term that expires on October 24, 2022, on the Columbus Ironworks Convention & Trade Center Authority. (*Mayor's Appointment*). Mayor Henderson nominated John Stacy to succeed Lauren Chambers on the Columbus Ironworks Convention & Trade Center Authority. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to confirm the appointment of John Stacy, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent for the vote.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Pete Temesgen (*Accepted a judgeship*) for a term that expires on October 31, 2023, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

3. COUNCIL'S DISTRICT SEAT APPOINTMENT- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

A. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Byron Hickey (*Not eligible to succeed*) as the District 1 Representative for a term that expires on October 31, 2022, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 1- Barnes*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Friar Noel Danielewicz (*Seat Declared Vacant*) as the District 3 Representative for a term that expires on October 31, 2022, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 3- Huff*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Donald Watkins (*Not eligible to succeed*) as the District 5 Representative for a term that expires on October 31, 2022, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 5- Crabb*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Lisa Branchcomb (*Eligible to succeed- Does not desire reappointment*) as the District 7 Representative for a term that expires on October 31, 2022, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 7- Woodson*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Scott Taft (*Eligible to succeed*) as the District 9 Representative for a term that expires on October 31, 2022, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 9- Thomas*). There were none.

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

A. BOARD OF HONOR:

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

All of the members serving on this board must be a former elected official of Muscogee County.

B. PERSONNEL REVIEW BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Dr. Shanita Pettaway (*Resigned*) as Alternate Member 5 for a term that expires on December 31, 2022, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

UPCOMING BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

A. Hospital Authority of Columbus (Council Confirmation / Authority Selection)

B. Housing Authority of Columbus (Mayor's Appointment)

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel as requested by Councilor Davis. Councilor Thomas made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the nine members present with Councilor Garrett being absent for the vote, with the time being 11:37 a.m.

The regular meeting reconvened at 11:58 a.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in executive session to discuss matters of personnel; however, there were no votes taken.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to adjourn the September 13, 2022 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present, with the time being 11:58 a.m.

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