

~~ MINUTES ~~

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE



Councilor Judy W. Thomas- Chairperson

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen

Councilors: Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis,
R. Walker Garrett, John M. House, Bruce Huff, Toyia Tucker
and Evelyn ‘Mimi’ Woodson

May 25, 2021 / 3:30 PM /Call to Order at 3:35 PM
South Hall of Columbus Convention & Trade Center
801 Front Avenue
Columbus, GA 31901

I. CALL TO ORDER - Chairperson Judy W. Thomas

PRESENT: Chairperson Judy W. Thomas, Vice Chairperson John M. House and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen (arrived 3:36 p.m.) and Councilors Charmaine Crabb, R. Walker Garrett, Bruce Huff (arrived 3:48 p.m.), Toyia Tucker and Evelyn ‘Mimi’ Woodson (via teleconference). Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III, City Manager Isaiah Hugley, Deputy City Managers Lisa Goodwin and Pamela Hodge, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall, Finance Director Angelica Alexander, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis and Deputy Clerk Pro Tem Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: Councilors Jerry ‘Pops’ Barnes and Glenn Davis.

City Manager Hugley informed the Committee that the state provides pay raises to the Public Defender’s Office. He said when they provide those pay raises, the cost for the city further increases to cover employee benefits. He said some years the state will get a 2% pay increase and the city employees get no pay increase. He said if the state and the city were to give a pay raise, the state employees would get the local pay raise and the state pay raise.

Finance Director Alexander further explained that the city pays the salary for some state employees and the benefits associated with those salaries. She said there are certain county paid positions in

the Public Defender's Office and there are also state paid positions. She said they are requesting adjustments to the county paid positions.

AGENDA

1. ADD/DELETE List

PAGE ONE (GENERAL FUND):

ADD/DELETE LIST Item #1: VOTE RESULT: Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve Clerk of Superior - Addition of one (1) Full-time Deputy Clerk II in the amount of \$44,096. Seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Barnes and Davis being absent from the meeting.

ADD/DELETE LIST Item #2: VOTE RESULT: Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve Sheriff - Reclassify Health Services Administrator G21 to License Clinical Social Worker / License Practicing Counselor G20. Seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Barnes and Davis being absent from the meeting.

ADD/DELETE LIST Item #3: VOTE RESULT: Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve Tax Commissioner - Reclassify nineteen (19) Tax Clerk I G10 and Tax Clerk II G11 to Tax Clerk I G12 and Tax Clerk II G13 in the amount of \$48,661. Seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried by a vote of seven to one, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Garrett, House, Huff, Thomas, Tucker and Woodson voting yes and Councilor Crabb voting no, with Councilors Barnes and Davis being absent from the meeting.

ADD/DELETE LIST Item #4: VOTE RESULT: Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve Tax Commissioner - Reclassify Tax Specialist G16 to Financial Analyst G19 in the amount of \$6,275. Seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Barnes and Davis being absent from the meeting.

ADD/DELETE LIST Item #5: VOTE RESULT: Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve Tax Commissioner - Postage Increase in the amount of \$16,000. Seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Barnes and Davis being absent from the meeting.

ADD/DELETE LIST Item #6: VOTE RESULT: Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve Tax Commissioner - Contractual Services Increase in the amount of \$9,000. Seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Barnes and Davis being absent from the meeting.

ADD/DELETE LIST Item #7: VOTE RESULT: Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve Tax Commissioner - Reclassify Chief Deputy Tax Commissioner G21D to G23B in the amount of \$10,772. Seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Barnes and Davis being absent from the meeting.

ADD/DELETE LIST Item #8: VOTE RESULT: Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve Tax Commissioner - Office Supplies Increase in the amount of \$12,500. Seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Barnes and Davis being absent from the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen then made a motion to table the following items until the end of the discussion: Public Defender - Item #9 (General Fund) 3% Pay Raise for State Paid Attorneys and Supplements for Chief and Assistant Chief Public Defender plus Administrative fees in the amount of \$41,978, Item #10 (General Fund) addition of one (1) new State Paid Attorney at \$52,000 salary plus Administrative fees in the amount of \$88,901 and Item #1 (OLOST FUND) 3% Pay Raise for State Paid Attorneys and Supplements for Chief and Assistant Chief Public Defender plus Administrative fees in the amount of \$4,765. Seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members of present, with Councilors Barnes and Davis being absent from the meeting.

ADD/DELETE LIST Item #11: VOTE RESULT: Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve Probate Court - Reclassify Senior Deputy Clerk G14B to License Clerk Supervisor G15B in the amount of \$2,189. Seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Barnes and Davis being absent from the meeting.

ADD/DELETE LIST Item #12: VOTE RESULT: Councilor House made a motion to approve Public Works - Delete Fleet Maintenance Tech I Pos# 0512 and Delete Fleet Maintenance Tech III Pos# 0437 in the amount of (\$87,128.) Seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Barnes and Davis being absent from the meeting.

ADD/DELETE LIST Item #13: VOTE RESULT: Councilor House made a motion to approve Public Works – Addition of one (1) Full-time Car Shop Supervisor G17 and Reclassify Assistant Fleet Manager G19E to Financial Operations Administrator G20E in the amount of \$57,821. Seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Barnes and Davis being absent from the meeting.

ADD/DELETE LIST Item #14: VOTE RESULT: Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve Finance Department - Addition one (1) Full-time Payroll Specialist G16 in the amount of \$54,802. Seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Barnes and Davis being absent from the meeting.

ADD/DELETE LIST Item #15: VOTE RESULT: Councilor House made a motion to approve Coroner's Office - Reclassify Administrative Assistant G12B to Administrative Coordinator G14A in the amount of \$3,013. Seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Barnes and Davis being absent from the meeting.

PAGE FOUR (OTHER FUNDS):

ADD/DELETE LIST Item #1: VOTE RESULT: Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve Public Works - Increase Overtime / FICA in the amount of \$19,840. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Barnes and Davis being absent from the meeting.

ADD/DELETE LIST ITEMS DELAYED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2021 BUDGET REVIEW MEETING:

Finance Director Alexander advised that the last items remaining are from the Public Defender's Office that were deferred until the end of this meeting and are provided as follows:

PAGE ONE (GENERAL FUND):

ITEM #9: Public Defender - 3% Pay Raise for State Paid Attorneys and Supplements for Chief and Assistant Chief Public Defender plus Administrative fees in the amount of \$41,978. (General Fund)

ITEM #10: Public Defender - Add one (1) new State Paid Attorney at \$52,000 salary plus Administrative fees in the amount of \$88,901 (General Fund)

PAGE THREE OLOST FUND:

ITEM #1: Public Defender: 3% Pay Raise for State Paid Attorneys and Supplements for Chief and Assistant Chief Public Defender plus Administrative fees in the amount of \$4,765 (OLOST Fund)

Mayor Pro Tem Allen then made a motion to delay these three items on the ADD/DELETE list until midyear. Seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members of present.

REFERRAL(S):

- A request was made to look at putting the Public Defender's requested pay raises at 2% instead of 3%. (*Councilor Huff*)
- A request was made for the Finance Director to break down the information to show how the employees get paid and how the pay raise would affect the budget. (*Councilor Huff*)

Finance Director Angelica Alexander provided the Committee with a calendar update, which is as follows:

- 1st Taxpayer Bill of Rights Hearing – June 8, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.
- 2nd Taxpayer Bill of Rights Hearing – June 8, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Special Called Meeting – June 15, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.
- 3rd Taxpayer Bill of Rights Hearing – June 15, 2021
- 2nd Reading of the Budget Ordinance – June 15, 2021
- 1st Reading of the Millage Ordinance – June 15, 2021
- 2nd Reading of the Millage Ordinance – June 22, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for the adjournment of the May 25, 2021, Budget Review Committee Meeting, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present with Councilors Barnes and Davis being absent from the meeting with the time being 4:29 p.m.

Tameka Colbert
Deputy Clerk Pro Tem