

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 23, 2025
5:30 PM
Regular Meeting

M A Y O R ' 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, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, Byron Hickey, Bruce Huff and Toyia Tucker. 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: Councilor Charmaine Crabb was absent.

<p><u>The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet:</u> (1) CM#5(A) - Columbus Water Works Future Campus; (2) CM#5(B) - Drop Update CCG Pension Plan; (3) CM#5(C) - FY25 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)</p>

<p><u>The following documents were distributed around the Council table:</u> (1) MA#4 – Housing Solutions Group; (2) CA#7 Columbus, Georgia Series 2025 Bonds – Pricing Results Presentation; (3) PA#6 Taxpayer Dollar for Philanthropy. Crime Prevention Grant Program Metrics and outcomes</p>

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Karen Connally – Tri City Prayer Initiative

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Quincy Munoz- Association of Sickie Cell, Lower Chattahoochee Region Youth Ambassador

MINUTES:

1. Approval of minutes for the September 16, 2025, 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 Chambers being absent from the meeting.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MASCOT

Muscogee County Sheriff Gregg Countryman introduced the new mascot for the Sheriff's Department and recognized the youth who participated in naming him. He explained that a video was shared on social media asking children in the community, from pre-K through sixth grade, to help name the mascot, which will work in conjunction with the Park Police. Councilor Glenn Davis announced the first, second, and third prize winners, and the 11 runners-up were recognized by the Mayor and Council.

PROCLAMATIONS:

2. **Proclamation:** National Sickle Cell Awareness

Receiving: Lois Williams

Councilor Bruce Huff read the proclamation into the record proclaiming the month of September 2025, as *National Sickle Cell Awareness month*, recognizing those who have been affected by the Sickle Cell disease while acknowledging the impact of the disease, and emphasizing the importance of awareness and recognition at all levels.

3. **Proclamation:** National Diaper Need Awareness Week

Receiving: Jamie Thomas

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen read the proclamation into the record proclaiming the week of September 15-21, 2025, as *National Diaper Need Awareness Week*, recognizing the challenges faced by families who cannot afford an adequate supply of clean diapers, which can negatively affect the health and well-being of children and their families.

PRESENTATIONS:

4. Housing Solutions Group – Pat Frey, Vice President of United Way

President & CEO of United Way Ben Moser announced that Cathy Williams is stepping away from the project to focus on other priorities. He stated that he and Pat Frey, Vice President of United Way, will now lead the group in partnership with the facilitator they plan to hire.

Mr. Moser requested investment from the City, presented the members of the group, and outlined the goals and timeline aimed at addressing the community's housing and homelessness challenges.

Councilor Garrett made a motion to support half of the request for \$34,748 cost associated with the Housing Solutions Group Plan, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR UNITED WAY:

- A request was made for the United Way to provide Council with a copy of the previous plan.
(*Councilor Cogle*)

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge stated that staff will develop an agreement and bring it back before Council for approval of the funding.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (25-051) - 2nd Reading** - REZN-07-25-1262: An Ordinance rezoning property located at **109 23rd Street** from Residential Multifamily – 2 (RMF2) Single Family Residential 4 (SFR4). (The Planning Department and PAC recommended Approval.) (Councilor Cogle) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting. (*Note: Due to technical difficulties, Councilor Glenn Davis provided his affirmative vote verbally.*)
2. **Ordinance (25-052) - 2nd Reading** - REZN-07-25-1264: An Ordinance rezoning property located at **5350 Veterans Parkway** from Single Family Residential 3 (SFR3) zoning district to General Commercial (GC) zoning district. (The Planning Department and PAC recommend Approval.) (Councilor Garrett) 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 Crabb being absent from the meeting. (*Note: Due to technical difficulties, Councilor Glenn Davis provided his affirmative vote verbally.*)
3. **Ordinance (25-053) - 2nd Reading** - REZN-07-25-1303: An Ordinance rezoning property located at **2210 Wynnton Road** from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) zoning district to General

Commercial (GC) zoning district. (The Planning Department and PAC recommended Approval.) (Councilor Huff) Councilor Huff made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting. *(Note: Due to technical difficulties, Councilor Glenn Davis provided his affirmative vote verbally.)*

4. **Ordinance (25-054) - 2nd Reading** - An Ordinance amending the Columbus Code Section 8-14.1. to provide permitting and inspection fees for solar panel work; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.
5. **Ordinance (25-055) - 2nd Reading** - An Ordinance providing for the demolition of various structures located at:

- 1) **3407 Victory Drive** (Ricky Johnson, Owner)
- 2) **1553 Holland Avenue** (Holmer Jenkins Jr., Owner)
- 3) **225 21st Avenue** (Marcelo Ramirez, Owner)
- 4) **517 Chesterfield Avenue** (Tawana Mckelvey, Owner)
- 5) **2614 Jones Avenue** (Alice Butler, Owner)
- 6) **4212 7th Avenue** (Winston Marchan Jr., Owner)
- 7) **2928 10th Street** (Audrey Palmore & Robert Holston, Owner)

and for demolition services for the Inspections and Code Department in accordance with the Tabulation of Bid sheet attached as Exhibit A; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

In response to a question from Councilor Huff regarding 517 Chesterfield Avenue, **Inspections & Code Assistant Director Phillip Smith** reported that no information has been received from the property owner. He advised that 2024 property taxes are delinquent and there are two outstanding code enforcement liens on the property.

6. **1st Reading-** REZN-06-25-1190: An Ordinance rezoning property located at **2506 Riverside Drive** from Residential Multifamily– 2 (RMF2) zoning district to Residential Multifamily – 1 (RMF1) zoning district with conditions. (Planning Department and PAC recommended Approval.) (Delayed on 1st Reading from 9-16-25) (Councilor Garrett)

(NOTE: The applicant was recognized as present, and the floor was declared open for public comment. No public comment and no questions from the Council.)

RESOLUTIONS

7. **Resolution (318-25)** - A Bond Resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia to regulate and provide for the issuance of \$48,790,000 in aggregate principal amount of Columbus, Georgia, General Obligation Sales Tax Bonds, Series 2025 (the “bonds”), to provide money for the purpose of completing the acquisition, construction and equipping of judicial facilities in Columbus, Georgia and to pay costs associated with issuance of the bonds; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

Senior Vice President of Davenport & Co. Courtney Rodgers presented the results of the bond sale. He reported that the City of Columbus held a successful bond sale, with results described as highly favorable. The issuance, originally planned for spring but delayed, benefited from improved market rates and reaffirmed ratings. The sale drew 13 bidders, with Bank of America Securities as the winner, and generated a premium that reduced the total debt needed while still funding the project.

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge added that because of the additional bond proceeds, the \$7.5 million previously allocated from the General Fund toward the project is expected to be reimbursed at the end of the process, creating a rebate back to the General Fund.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mrs. Betty Lawrence, Re: Business and Alcohol License Delays. ***Not Present***
2. Mr. Timothy Veals, Re: Community Concerns.
3. Mrs. Monica Luker, Re: Appreciation for Addressing Traffic Concerns on Preston Drive.
4. Ms. Jennifer Le Denney, representing the Disabled Community, Re: Absence of Housing Assistance for Special Needs on CAPERS.

5. Dr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: Speaking for the Homeless.
6. Dr. Natalie Nicole, representing Role Model Academy of Arts, Re: Taxpayer Dollar for Philanthropy. Crime Prevention Grant Program Metrics and Outcomes.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CLERK OF COUNCIL:

- Provide document submitted by Dr. Natalie Nicole to the Internal Auditor, who will be conducting an audit on Crime Prevention soon. (*Councilor Tucker*)

7. Ms. Velicia Watkins, representing Rena's Hope Project, Re: Upcoming Event – HIV Awareness Walk. ***Not Present***

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Street Acceptance – That portion of Mountain Ivy Drive and Climbing Ivy Court

Resolution (319-25) - A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, authorizing the acceptance of a deed to that portion of Mountain Ivy Drive and Climbing Ivy Court located in Section Two, Phase Two, North Ivy Park, on behalf of Columbus, Georgia. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Hickey and was carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

2. 2026 Legislative Agenda

Approval is requested of resolution(s) for the 2026 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly, which the Mayor and Council deem appropriate.

2 (1). COUNCIL APPOINTMENT – 30 DAYS AFTER VACANCY:

The Columbus Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce an amendment to Section 6-201 so as to allow at least 30 days after a Council vacancy before a council appointment to fill an unexpired term pursuant to this Section. (***Request of Councilor Travis Chambers***) Councilor Chambers made a motion to withdraw his request for this item, seconded by

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

2 (2). **SENIOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS REFERENDUM:**

Resolution (320-25) – A resolution requesting an increase the amount of homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes levied in Muscogee County for the Consolidated Government and for the Muscogee County School District which applies to the homestead of each qualified resident 65 years of age or older; and to increase the amount of homestead exemption from ad valorem taxes levied in Muscogee County for the Muscogee County School District which applies to the homestead of each qualified resident 62 years of age or older. Councilor Anker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Anker, Chambers, Cogle, Davis, Garrett, Hickey, Huff and Tucker voting in favor, Mayor Pro Tem Allen voting in opposition, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting. (*Note: During discussion regarding Item CM# 2(3) PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR AMENDMENT, Mayor Pro Tem Allen directed the Clerk of Council to change his vote from “in favor” to “opposed” on this item.*)

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made for an analysis of the financial impact of the proposed exemptions. (*Mayor Pro Tem Allen*)

2 (3). **PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR AMENDMENT:**

The Columbus Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly enact local legislation to amend the Charter of Columbus, Georgia to remove the Mayor’s assigned duties to direct, supervise, and coordinate the administration and activities of the Department of Public Safety; to create a new position of Public Safety Director; and to provide for the qualifications, appointment, removal of that position. The Charter amendments referred to herein shall not become effective and shall not apply unless this act is approved by a majority of Muscogee County voters at a referendum set as specified by the General Assembly for November, 2026. (*Request of Councilor Toyia Tucker*)

Assistant Chief Lance Deaton, Columbus Police Department, approached the rostrum and addressed the Council regarding the proposal to establish a Public Safety Director position. He acknowledged that other jurisdictions in Georgia and across the country use this model and suggested that Columbus is large enough to consider such an approach. He emphasized that it can be beneficial

when public safety leaders report to someone with direct experience in the field. He encouraged the Council to explore how this model might work for Columbus.

During the discussion, Council members raised concerns about the fiscal impact of creating the position and sought clarification on whether this change might add unnecessary costs, given that communication duties were previously handled internally. Several Councilors expressed that while they are open-minded to the concept, they need additional information and analysis before making a decision.

(Note: During the discussion Mayor Pro Tem Allen directed the Clerk of Council to change his vote on item CM# 2(2). SENIOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS REFERENDUM, from “in favor” to “opposed”.)

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made for an analysis of the financial impact of the new position, staff, office accommodation, and other associated expenses. *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen)*
- Provide financial impact information to the public. *(Councilor Cogle)*
- A request was made to hear from all four Public Safety Directors *(Councilor Cogle)*

Councilor Byron Hickey asked Chief Deaton to confirm whether the Police Department currently employs a Public Information Officer and whether this role added additional costs. Assistant Chief Deaton confirmed both points. Councilor Hickey then inquired who had previously handled these responsibilities. Assistant Chief Deaton explained that they were managed by a lieutenant or sergeant in the past. Councilor Hickey acknowledged the response and stated he wanted the clarification on the record.

(NOTE: Councilor Tucker requested that the resolution was delayed for further discussion until October 14, 2025, Council Meeting to allow staff time to collect and present additional information.)

2 (4). OPEN MEETINGS AMENDMENT:

Resolution (321-25) - A resolution requesting that the Local Legislative Delegation introduce legislation to amend the Georgia Open Meetings Act to allow that local governmental entities may hold public meetings via teleconference or other digital means on the same basis as state agencies.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

2 (5). **WEAPONS IN RECREATION CENTERS:**

Resolution (322-25) – A resolution requesting Statewide Legislation to restrict prohibit the carry of weapons in a public recreation center which is owned by a local government. Councilor Tucker made a motion to amend the resolution to include the additional language suggested by Councilor Garrett stating, “This prohibition will not apply to the grounds surrounding the recreation building” and approve, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

Parks and Recreation Director Holli Browder approached the rostrum and explained her role representing Columbus and Muscogee County on the Georgia Recreation Association’s Public Policy Committee and the National Association of Counties Parks and Recreation Officials. She said these roles allow her to engage in state and national policy discussions affecting recreation agencies. Browder highlighted House Bill 60, which came into legislation in 2014. This legislation changed rules on weapons in public facilities. Prior to the bill, recreation centers were treated like schools and universities, prohibiting weapons; afterward, enforcement was limited unless scanners or officers were present. She emphasized the need for cities and counties to unite in advocating for legislative changes to restore prior standards for recreational facilities.

Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion died for lack of a second.

Assistant Chief Lance Deaton stated that while he supports the Second Amendment, firearms in parks and recreation facilities pose serious safety concerns. He noted that many carrying weapons in these spaces are not law-abiding citizens and stressed the need for a common-sense approach. He explained that ID checks and better staff training could help enforce existing laws and suggested restricting firearms in these facilities would enhance safety. He added that without such measures, the only alternative would be costly staffing increases to provide constant police presence.

Councilor Joanne Cogle asked for clarification on whether the current process gives department directors the ability to directly ask individuals if they are carrying a weapon, rather than only relying on ID verification. She noted that she wanted this question posed and answered for the record, to which Assistant Chief Deaton clarified that if an individual shows signs of carrying a firearm and their ID indicates they are underage or otherwise not qualified, directors and staff then have clear justification to directly ask if the person is carrying a weapon.

After further comments, Councilor Cogle seconded Councilor Tucker's original motion to approve the resolution.

Councilor Garrett made a substitute motion that the Council ask the Legislative Delegation to consider revoking the open carry law, seconded by Councilor Anker and opened for discussion.

After conferring with the Assistant City Attorney, **Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore** explained Council can return to the original motion for approval from Councilor Tucker, which later received a second, due to all present councilors not submitting their vote verbally or raising of their hand for Councilor Garrett's substitute motion.

Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall clarified that Councilor Garrett's request to ask the Legislative Delegation to consider revoking the open carrying law should be treated as a separate motion rather than a substitute motion.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- Add resolution to the legislative agenda, requesting the Legislative Delegation consider revoking the open carrying law. (*Councilor Garrett*)

2(6). AMENDMENT OF CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST PROVISION FOR REDEVELOPMENT POWERS LAW:

Resolution (323-25) – requests that the local delegation to the General Assembly introduce/support the attached proposed amendment to O.C.G.A. § 36-44-21 or any similar proposal, which clarifies that code section by providing standard definitions and eliminates the prohibition against the acquisition of property in TADs by all CCG employees. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

2 (7). MILITARY RETIREE STATE TAX EXEMPTIONS:

Resolution (324-25) - A resolution requesting that the Local Legislative Delegation introduce legislation that would allow an exemption similar to that in Alabama from state income tax for military retirees. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

3. FY2027 5303 Grant Application for Planning Assistance

Resolution (325-25) - A Resolution authorizing the City of Columbus, Georgia, to submit an application for, and if awarded, accept a grant from the Department of Transportation, United States of America, and the Georgia Department of Transportation, under Title 49 U.S.C., Section 5303. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

4. PURCHASES

A. Contract Extension for Post-Accident Drug Screening: After-Hours, Weekends, Holidays

Resolution (326-25) - A Resolution Authorizing the extension of the annual contract for Post-Accident Drug Screening: After-Hours, Weekends, Holidays with 4D GA Fastest Labs (Columbus, GA) through December 17, 2025. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

B. Contract Extension for Elevator Maintenance Services (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 19-0025

Resolution (327-25) - A resolution authorizing the extension of the the annual contract for Elevator Maintenance Services with Elevated Facility Services (Tampa, FL) through March 31, 2026. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

C. Declaration of Surplus and Donation of Taser Cartridges to the Eufaula, Alabama Police Department

Resolution (328-25) - A Resolution authorizing Council to declare 1,314 Training Cartridges (no serial number) and 261 Taser Cartridges (serial number) from the Police Department, as surplus, in accordance with section 7-501 of the Charter of Columbus Consolidated Government; and further authorized to donate the equipment to the Eufaula, Alabama Police Department. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent for the vote and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

- D. Software as a Service (SAAS) Renewal Agreement for Tyler Odyssey Court Management System

Resolution (329-25) – A resolution authorizing the execution of a Software as a Service (SaaS) renewal agreement for the Tyler Odyssey Court Management System with Tyler Technologies (Plano, TX). The renewal agreement will cover a 3-year period beginning October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2028. Upon expiration of the initial term, the agreement may be renewed by mutual written consent of both parties for two additional one (1) year periods. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent for the vote and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

- E. Telecom Billing Error Detection and Correction Management Services (Annual Contract) – City of Jacksonville, Florida Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (330-25) – A resolution authorizing the execution an agreement with S2K Consulting (Winter Park, Florida) to provide Telecom Billing Error Detection and Correction Management Services. The City will pay the vendor 38% of all first-year savings on any services disconnected and/or billing errors corrected. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via the City of Jacksonville, Florida, Invitation to Quote No. ITQ 16332-25. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent for the vote and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

5. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Columbus Water Works Campus Master Plan Update – Jeremy Cummings, President

President of the Columbus Water Works Jeremy Cummings approached the rostrum to report ongoing infrastructure issues at the current main office of the Columbus Water Works. He presented two options for relocation: (1) develop a new consolidated service center on the Bellwood Property (located on Alexander Street), which is city owned; or (2) consider a land swap, though he noted this option may limit their ability to fully invest in community improvements.

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge advised staff will work with Columbus Water Works to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and bring it back to Council for consideration.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made to set up a citizen participation process prior to bringing back the proposed MOU. (*Councilor Tucker*)

B. Pension Update - Reather Hollowell, Director, Human Resources

Human Resources Director Reather Hollowell approached the rostrum and provided an overview of the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP), which is part of the City's pension plan. She explained the criteria for participation, outlined how the program functions, and shared information about the number of employees currently enrolled.

Deputy Chief Roderick Graham, Columbus Police Department, approached the rostrum and addressed Council regarding succession planning within the Columbus Police Department. He emphasized the importance of preparing and training future officers for leadership roles, stating that without proper planning, the department will face significant gaps in leadership when experienced personnel retire. He pointed out that this issue has already surfaced.

President of Columbus Water Works Jeremy Cummings stated that while the DROP retirement program is beneficial, the current rule allowing employees to extend with only 30 days' notice creates major challenges for succession planning and budgeting. (*NOTE: Columbus Water Works participates in the CCG Pension Plan.*)

Councilor Glenn Davis stated for the record he did not believe the DROP program is being abused or creating a financial burden on the government. He explained that while succession planning has been raised as a concern, especially in larger departments like public safety, he does not view the program itself as the cause.

Parks & Recreation Director Holli Browder, Chair of the Employee Benefits Committee, delivered a statement on behalf of members regarding the DROP program. She suggested the creation of an employee representative committee to study the pension plan, which has not been revisited since 2014, and to ensure fairness in future modifications.

Mr. Tommy Beauchamp, Employee Benefits Committee Member, stated that succession planning in Public Works begins early, and the program helps retain valuable institutional knowledge. He reported that long-tenured Public Works employees do not support losing the DROP option.

C. FY25 CAPER Update - Robert Scott, Director, Community Reinvestment

Community Reinvestment Director Rober Scott approached the rostrum to provide an update on the FY25 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). He reported \$11.7 million in funding across 40 projects that expanded affordable housing, improved infrastructure, and reduced poverty. He also highlighted the success of current programs and shared details on upcoming initiatives aimed at further strengthening community development.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT:

- A request was made to bring an update and presentation on the current statues of the Homeowner Accessibility Rehabilitation Program (HARP). (*Councilor Tucker*)
- A request was made for a follow-up on how federal budget cuts would impact Community Reinvestment programs. (*Councilor Tucker*)

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made for a status update on the roundabout located on County Line Road. (*Councilor Chambers*)

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: September 23, 2025
TO: Mayor and Councilors
FROM: Finance Department
SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFQs

October 8, 2025

1. Double Churches Pool Repairs – RFB No. 26-0006

Scope of Bid

Provide all labor, equipment and materials to repair the pool at Double Churches Park.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled at 09:30 AM on Friday, September 26, 2025.

October 1, 2025

1. Used & Confiscated Firearms for credit or Swap – RFB No. 26-0005

Scope of Bid

The Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) Police Department is offering used and confiscated firearms for sale to a licensed firearms dealer who can issue a credit to purchase or swap for Heckler & Koch VP9A1F 9mm semi-automatic pistols with accessories.

Inspections by Appointment Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

October 3, 2025

1. Course Instructors for the HR Department/The Learning Center (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 26-0015

Scope of RFP

The Department of HR/The Learning Center is seeking multiple contractors to provide instructors in various training modules to employees interested in growing and developing their skills within the Columbus Consolidated Government. Training will be conducted on an ‘as needed’ basis.

October 15, 2025

1. Plumbing and Irrigation Supplies (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 26-0002

Scope of Bid

Provide plumbing & irrigation supplies on an “as needed basis” to be picked up or delivered to Columbus Consolidated Government. The contract term will be for two (2) years with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

CLERK OF COUNCIL’S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

- 1. Resolution (331-25)** – A resolution excusing the absence of Councilor Charmaine Crabb from the September 23, 2025, Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

2. **Resolution (332-25)** – A resolution canceling the Consent Agenda / Work Session on September 30, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

3. **Minutes of the following boards**

Board of Tax Assessors #29-25

Board of Tax Assessors #30-25

Board of Tax Assessors #31-25

Columbus Iron Works Convention and Trade Center Authority 06-20-25

Development Authority of Columbus 08-11-25

Development Authority of Columbus 09-03-25

Planning Advisory Commission 11-20-24

Planning Advisory Commission 12-18-24

Planning Advisory Commission 01-15-25

Planning Advisory Commission 03-05-25

Planning Advisory Commission 03-19-25

Planning Advisory Commission 04-16-25

Planning Advisory Commission 05-21-25

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

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

A. BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

A nominee for a vacant seat with a term expiring on March 24, 2025, on the Building Authority of Columbus, (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

B. CONVENTION & VISITORS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (CVB):

A nominee for the seat of Lauren Becker (*Not Eligible to serve another term*) for a term that expired on December 31, 2025, on the Convention & Visitors Board of Commissioners (*Council's Appointment*). Mayor Henderson nominated Miller Robinson to succeed Lauren Becker on the Convention & Visitors Board of Commissioners. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote, and Crabb being absent from the meeting.

A nominee for the seat of Miles Greathouse (*Not Eligible to serve another term*) for a term that expired on December 31, 2025, on the Convention & Visitors Board of Commissioners (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

C. PENSION FUND, EMPLOYEES' BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

A nominee for a vacant seat with a term that expired on June 30, 2025, as a representative of the Business Community on the Pension Fund, Employees' Board of Trustees (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

5. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – READY FOR CONFIRMATION:

- A. ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:** Dr. Jo April Brown was nominated to fill the vacant seat designated for a Georgia Licensed Veterinarian. (*Councilor Crabb's nominee*) Term expires: October 15, 2026. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

6. 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 2 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council (*District 2 – Davis*). There were none.

A nominee for the vacant seat of the District 6 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council (*District 6 – Allen*). There were none.

A nominee for the vacant seat of the District 8 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council (*District 8 – Garrett*). 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 expiring 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 expiring on October 31, 2025, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*District 9 – Anker*). There were none.

C. YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL:

A nominee for the District 9 Representative on the Youth Advisory Council (*District 9 – Anker*). There were none.

A nominee for the District 10 Representative on the Youth Advisory Council (*District 10 – Chambers*). There were none.

7. 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. KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION:

A nominee for a vacant seat with the term expiring on June 30, 2026, as a Senatorial District 29 Representative on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

C. LIBERTY THEATRE & CULTURAL ARTS CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for a vacant seat with a term that expired on August 14, 2025, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

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

D. 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.

E. PERSONNEL REVIEW BOARD:

A nominee for a vacant seat (*Regular Member 5*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2025, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). Mayor Pro Tem Allen nominated Natalie N. McDowell, who currently serves as Alternate Member 5, to fill the vacant seat as the Regular Member 5 on the Personnel Review Board.

A nominee for a vacant seat (*Alternate Member 1*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2025, 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, 2025, 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, 2025, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

PUBLIC AGENDA (continued):

4. Ms. Jennifer Le Denney, representing the Disabled Community, Re: Absence of Housing Assistance for Special Needs on CAPERS.
5. Dr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: Speaking for the Homeless.

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 23, 2025, Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting, and the time being 10:54 p.m.

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