

COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

Council Chambers
Second Floor of City Services Center
3111 Citizens Way, Columbus, GA 31906

October 29, 2019
9:00 a.m.
Consent Agenda/Work Session

CONSENT AGENDA/WORK SESSION

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Turner Pugh and Councilors R. Gary Allen, Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, John M. House, Bruce Huff (arrived 9:06 a.m.), Judy W. Thomas and Evelyn “Mimi” Woodson. City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis and Deputy Clerk Pro Tem Tameka Colbert.

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) Columbus Water Works FY 2019-20 Rate Update; (2) Ideas & Needs Capital Projects Discussion SPLOST Update; (3) Liberty District Committee Members; (4) Liberty Theater cultural Center; (5) Overview & Process: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Outdoor Learning trail Heritage Interpretation Project; (6) Recreation Vehicle Ordinance Review.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III, Presiding.
2. **INVOCATION:** Pastor Minister Alicia Cooper- Faith Worship Center International, Inc.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by students from Aaron Cohn Middle School.
4. **MINUTES:** Approval of minutes for the October 22, 2019 Council Meeting and October 8, 2019 Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Turner Pugh made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

OATH OF OFFICE:

5. **SWEARING-IN CEREMONY:** The Oath of Office for **Valerie A. Thompson** as the District Four Councilor for the City of Columbus to become effective November 1, 2019. (Oath of Office administered by Superior Court Chief Judge Gil McBride and Probate Court Judge Marc D'Antonio)

Valerie A. Thompson approached the rostrum and offered her thanks for the appointment as the District Four Councilor and introduced family members and others seated in the audience.

PRESENTATION HONORING RETIREMENT:

After Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Turner Pugh congratulated newly appointed Councilor Valerie A. Thompson, City Manager Hugley and Mayor Henderson each read and presented a plaque to Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Turner Pugh honoring her retirement.

RESOLUTION:

6. **Resolution (370-19)** - A resolution appointing the Mayor Pro-Tem for Columbus, Georgia to fill the unexpired term of Mayor Pro-Tem Evelyn Turner Pugh. Mayor Pro Tem Turner Pugh made a motion to appoint Councilor R. Gary Allen as Mayor Pro Tem, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

PRESENTATION:

- 7. Water and Sewer Rate Study. (Presented by Steve Davis, President of Columbus Water Works and Jon Davis, Executive Vice President of Raftelis)

Steve Davis, President of Columbus Water Works came forward to provide an overview of Columbus Water Works’ financial analysis to include the capital improvement planning process.

Jon Davis, Executive Vice President of Raftelis also approached the rostrum to provide additional information regarding Columbus Water Works’ financial analysis as it relates to the financial planning results and rate priorities.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Would like to have a meeting and a conversation directed specifically at the upcoming city budget just before the January Proclamation meeting or the 3rd Tuesday in January.
(Request of Councilor Thomas)

CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTIONS:

- (1) **Resolution (371-19)** - A resolution excusing Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Turner Pugh from the October 22, 2019 Council Meeting. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.
- (2) **Resolution (372-19)** A resolution excusing Councilor Evelyn “Mimi” Woodson from the October 22, 2019 Council Meeting. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

INFORMATION:

Mayor Henderson advised Council that Mr. Melton who is working on the Standing Boy Trails, would be applying for a grant and he has to have a letter of support for the government. He said the Mayor’s Office intends to send the letter provided that the grant request does not contain any obligation on the part of the City.

WORK SESSION AGENDA:

(THE PRESENTATIONS AND UPDATES ARE LISTED IN NUMERICAL ORDER AS PROVIDED ON THE AGENDA.) NOTE: The order presented differs from the agenda listing and is notated as such.

- 1). Public Safety Advisory Commission Recommendation to Consolidate the Sheriff and Marshal's Office Update - Reather Hollowell, Human Resource Director (*Note: Presented 1st*)

Human Resource Director Rather Hollowell came forward to give a presentation updating the Mayor and Council on the Public Safety Advisory Commission’s recommendation to consolidate the Sheriff and Marshal's Office.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley made several comments regarding this matter as well as answered questions from Council. In addition, he read from an email that was forwarded to him whereby the Marshal was cancelling a scheduled meeting to discuss this matter.

- 2). County Health Rankings and Community Health Assessment - Asante' Hiltz, DrPH, MPH, District Program Manager, West Central Health District (*Note: Presented 4th*)

Asante' Hiltz, DrPH, MPH, District Program Manager, West Central Health District came forward to provide the Mayor and Council with information regarding the Community Health Assessment Process. She also informed the Council of the Hepatitis breakout in Georgia. She advised that Columbus has not been affected by the breakout, but the Hepatitis A vaccine is available at the Columbus Health Department. She announced the Drive-thru Flu Shot Clinic to be held in the Civic Center parking lot on, October 29, 2019.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Put this information on CCG-TV (*Request of Councilor Barnes*)
- 3). Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission Litter Update - William Kent, Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission Chair (*Note: Presented 5th*)

Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission Chair William Kent came forward with an update on litter in the community.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Put a small video on CCG- TV that shows how trash affects the water supply. (*Request of Councilor Woodson*)
 - Would like to see the Environmental Court work with Keep Columbus Beautiful and force people into community service. (*Request of Councilor Garrett*)
 - Get the Youth Advisory Commission engaged in a movement to clean up litter in our community. (*Request of Councilor Davis*)
- 4). SPLOST Update - Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager (*Note: Presented 7th*)

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge came forward with a SPLOST update to include options to fund capital projects and a timeline for a 2020 SPLOST. In addition, she outlined the Government Center Options to study.

- 5). Liberty District Update - Rick Jones, Planning Department (*Note: Presented 6th*)

Planning Director Rick Jones came forward to provide the Mayor and Council with an update on the Liberty District. He made reference to a spreadsheet that outlined the meeting dates for the Liberty District Committee.

- 6). Liberty Theater Update - Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager (*Note: Presented 2nd*)

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge came forward to provide an update on the Liberty Theater. She also provided some historical data on the Liberty Theater, as well as, the current challenges and opportunities.

Mayor Pro Tem Turner Pugh made a motion to conduct a feasibility study on the Liberty Theater, seconded by Councilor House and carried by the ten members present.

Mayor Henderson introduced Representative Calvin Smyre, a member of the Local Delegation who was present for this update.

Representative Calvin Smyre made comments regarding the Liberty Theatre and the Liberty District. He also gave thanks to Mayor Pro Tem Turner Pugh for her years of service. He then informed the Mayor and Council of his application for a grant for the Department of Community Affairs.

- 7). Martin Luther King Jr. Outdoor Learning Trail Update - Rick Jones, Planning Director
(*Note: Presented 3rd*)

Planning Director Rick Jones came forward to introduce presenters of the update on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Outdoor Learning Trail: Mr. Ronzell Buckner, Professor Amanda Rees and Nicholas McMillan.

Ronzell Buckner came forward to make some comments regarding the Martin Luther King Jr. Outdoor Learning Trail. He also thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing this project to go forward.

Professor Amanda Rees came forward to continue the presentation by explaining the process of the Heritage Interpretation Project.

Assistant Professor of Arts Nicholas McMillan concluded the presentation by speaking on the design of the forthcoming panels to be installed on the Martin Luther King Jr. Outdoor Learning Trail.

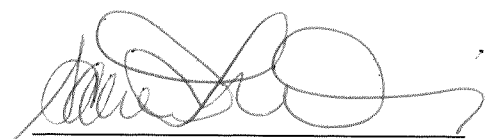
- 8). Long Range Transportation Plan - Rick Jones, Planning Department

(*The following presentation was postponed.*)

- 9). Recreational Vehicle Ordinance Update - Rick Jones, Planning Department (*Note: Presented 8th*)

Planning Director Rick Jones came forward to provide the Mayor and Council with an update on the Recreational Vehicle Ordinance. He explained that the staff from the Planning Department, Engineering Department and Inspections and Code Department began a three-month review of the ordinance to look into any enforcement concerns while comparing it to other communities within the State of Georgia. This review resulted in staff members making a determination that the current UDO requirements serves the needs of the community.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Turner Pugh to adjourn the October 29, 2019 Consent Agenda/Work Session, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present, with the time being 1:02 p.m.



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