COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

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

May 12, 2020
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen (arrived at 9:10 a.m.) and Councilors Jerry 'Pops' Barnes, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, John M. House, Bruce Huff, Judy W. Thomas, Valerie A. Thompson (arrived at 9:10 a.m.) and Evelyn 'Mimi' Woodson (arrived at 9:11 a.m.). City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis and Deputy Clerk of Council Lindsey McLemore were present via video conference.

NOTE: Due to the World Health Organization declaring Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) a world health emergency and pandemic, the Governor has issued a Statewide Executive Order to Shelter in Place. In accordance, this Council may alternatively utilize virtual meetings during the period of emergency in accordance with O.C.G.A. 50-14-1(g).

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson.

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the April 28, 2020 Council Meeting and Executive Session. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Woodson being absent for the vote.

UPDATE:

2. An update on COVID-19.

UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Re-Opening of Government Buildings and Facilities – Lisa Goodwin, Deputy City Manager.

Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin introduced an update on the re-opening of government buildings and facilities. *(NOTE: This presentation was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item 6 "A")* She also explained the Council Meetings/Budget Review Committee Meetings scheduled for May 26, 2020 and June 9, 2020 will be held at the Civic Center, where social distancing will be practiced and the public will be welcome to attend.

As the Interim Director for the Civic Center/Ice Rink, Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin explained that the facility would remain closed apart from the Administrative Offices, which would reopen on May 18, 2020.

Deputy Director Kyle McGhee explained recycling services would resume as soon as possible, but with strict restrictions for those working in the recycling facility.

Deputy Director Becky Glisson (Parks & Recreation) explained the Administrative Offices, Marina, Ma Rainey House and Cooper Creek Tennis Center would open with restrictions such as social distancing on May 18, 2020. Recreation centers, senior centers, athletic fields, boxing gym, skateboard park and the Aquatics Center are expected to reopen on June 12, 2020. She stated the outdoor pools reopening would be evaluated on June 12, 2020, but it is expected they will remain closed for the season due to lack of staffing.

Director Jim Arendt (Golf Courses) explained the courses have been open and are following the guidelines set by the City of Columbus, as well as, the recommended guidelines from PGA (Professional Golfers' Association of America).

Director Hayley Tillery explained the safety protocols put in place at the Columbus Convention & Trade Center for reopening of the Administrative Office on May 18, 2020, to include virtual meetings and tours with clients. Restrictions for scheduled events will be implemented in phases depending upon the trends of COVID-19 cases.

Director Nancy Boren (Elections & Registration) explained the polls will be open for early voting starting May 18, 2020. The hours of operation will be Monday thru Friday 7am to 7pm, and 9am to 4pm on the weekends, except for Sunday, May 24 and Monday, May 25, 2020 in recognition of Memorial Day.

Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson explained there is a virtual townhall meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. to answer questions from the public on the current pandemic. He stated with the uncertainty this pandemic has caused for the upcoming year, he will be asking Council to postpone the request for a SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) until November 2021.

RESOLUTION:

1. Director of Community Reinvestment and Real Estate

(NOTE: This resolution was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item #1)

Resolution (112-20): A resolution authorizing the appointment of Mr. Robert Scott as Director of the Community Reinvestment and Real Estate Department. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Approval is requested for the appointment of Mr. Robert Scott as Director of Community Reinvestment and Real Estate. A resolution and resume are attached.

Mr. Robert Scott thanked the City Manager, Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve as the Community Reinvestment Director.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution (113-20)**- A resolution designating the Columbus Civic Center and the Columbus Iron Works Trade and Convention Center as additional available courthouse facilities for the purpose of holding Municipal Court proceedings for the time period of June 13, 2020 until September 15, 2020. (Request of Municipal Court Judge Steven D. Smith) (Mayor Pro Tem Allen) Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

2. **Resolution (114-20)** - A resolution amending Resolution No. 199-19 to Delay the Intent to Seek a Special Local Option Sales Tax Referendum until November 2021. (Request of Mayor Henderson) Councilor Barnes made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

3. **Resolution (115-20)** - 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)

PUBLIC AGENDA

{Public Comments were provided by the individuals listed below; unless otherwise stated.}

1. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Liberty Theatre roof repair.
2. Mr. Robert Westfall, Re: A request to re-open Lake Oliver Marina for the boat launches, bait and fuel only. ***(Cancelled)***
3. Ms. Susan Gallagher, representing New Horizon's Behavioral Health, Re: The next public health crisis.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. **Director of Community Reinvestment and Real Estate**

(NOTE: This resolution, as provided by City Manager Hugley, was called upon earlier in the meeting before the conclusion of the Mayor's Agenda.)

Approval is requested for the appointment of Mr. Robert Scott as Director of Community Reinvestment and Real Estate. A resolution and resume are attached.

2. **Amendment to the Citizen Participation Plan of the FY 2017 – FY 2021 Five Year Consolidated Plan.**

Resolution (116-20): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, authorizing the filing of amendments to the Citizen Participation Plan of the FY 2017 - FY 2021 Five Year Consolidation Plan. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

Approval is requested for the filing of amendments to the Citizen Participation Plan of the FY 2017 – FY 2021 Five Year Consolidated Plan. The amendments will include virtual hearings as an allowed method for citizen participation and a 5-day public comment period.

3. Variance for Hampton Inn Hotel Canopy Encroachment

Approval is requested for the construction of a canopy over the right of way at 1201 Broadway that will encroach approximately 14 ft. 10 in. onto the City's right of way along 12th Street for a distance of 30 ft 6 in.

Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve the resolution, which died from lack of a second.

Councilor Woodson requested a two-week delay on this item due to Uptown Columbus not being aware of the request and the concern for the already limited parking in the area, seconded by Councilor Davis and later carried unanimously by the ten members present after discussions.

Councilor Thomas gave some insight on the limited parking needed by Columbus State University students attending classes in the area, which is primarily utilized on 12th Street and Front Avenue.

Councilor Davis voiced his concerns on the value of the parking spaces that would be eliminated if this encroachment were approved.

Director Donna Newman (Engineering) explained the canopy ties directly into the drop-off area and for this reason, those twelve spaces would be eliminated. She also stated that the normal parking regulations have been waived for Uptown.

Mr. Newt Aaron (Newton Aaron & Associates, Inc.) stated his company is serving as the Project Managers for this development and explained with the addition of the 90-space parking deck, this development is not taking away from but adding to the parking in the area.

Mr. Tracy Sayers (Tracy Sayers Investments, LLC) stated they have provided twenty-four spaces by their 1222 Broadway Building for the past ten years free to the public in the evenings and weekends. He explained he is more than willing to meet with those Councilors who have concerns.

At the suggestion of the City Attorney, Councilor Barnes made a motion to amend the language in the resolution to add a height of the canopy at 10 feet 5 ½ inch minimum, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Ask the Developer to provide a clear diagram of the twelve parking spaces that would no longer be available if request is approved. *(Request of Councilor Woodson)*

- An estimate on how much revenue would be recognized if there were parking meters installed on those twelve spaces. *(Request of Councilor Woodson)*

- A request for compensation from the developer for the loss of the parking spaces, which could be put into a fund to be invested back into the area. *(Request of Councilor Davis)*

- Revisit the parking situation as done in the past by Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin. *(Request of Councilor Barnes)*

4. U.S. Department of Justice Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program Grant Solicitation

Resolution (117-20): A resolution authorizing the City Manager or his designee to submit an application for, and if awarded, accept a Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of $339,756, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match requirement, to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount of the award. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, is seeking applications for the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program. The Columbus Consolidated Government is eligible to apply for up to $339,756 in funding.

5. <u>PURCHASES</u>

A. Reese Road Bridge at Cooper Creek – RFB No. 20-0061

Resolution (118-20): A resolution authorizing the execution of a construction contract with Southeastern Site Development, Inc. (Newnan, GA) in the amount of $2,252,061.14 for the Reese Road Bridge at Cooper Creek. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

B. Ammunition for Police Department – Georgia Statewide Contract

Resolution (119-20): A resolution authorizing the purchase of ammunition for the Police Department's Training Division from Gulf States Distribution, Inc. (Montgomery, AL), for the amount of $44,790.00 (9mm 124 grain - $37,800.00 and Federal 12 Gauge - $6,999.00), via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-001-SPD0000157-0004. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

C. Plumbing & Irrigation Supplies (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0046

Resolution (120-20): A resolution authorizing the annual contract with West Georgia Plumbing Supply, Inc., (Columbus, GA) to purchase plumbing and irrigation supplies for the Public Works Department/Facilities Maintenance Division, on an "as needed" basis, for the estimated annual contract value of $61,919.85. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

6. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Re-Opening of Government Buildings and Facilities – Lisa Goodwin, Deputy City Manager.

(NOTE: This presentation, as provided by Deputy City Manager Goodwin, was called upon earlier in the meeting before the conclusion of the Mayor's Agenda.)

B. Stormwater Update – Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager, Donna Newman, Engineering Director, David Bishop and Scott Thompson, Barge Design Solutions.

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge introduced **Mr. David Bishop** and **Mr. Scott Thompson** of Barge Design Solutions, who gave a presentation on the Stormwater Project Prioritization where each project was graded based on the status of completion.

C. Tax Allocation Districts Update – Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager and Rick Jones, Planning Director.

Deputy Director Pam Hodge gave an update on the various TADs (Tax Allocation Districts) in the City, focusing on the Liberty District.

D. Monthly Finance Update – Angelica Alexander, Finance Director.

Finance Director Angelica Alexander gave the monthly finance update for April 2020.

BID ADVERTISEMENT

May 13, 2020

1. **Ammunition (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0062**

Scope of Bid
Provide ammunition and munitions of various types and quantities on an "as needed" basis to Columbus Consolidated Government to be utilized by the Public Safety Departments. The contract term will be for two (2) years with option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

May 27, 2020

1. **Mott's Green Plaza P. I. #0015287 – RFB No. 20-0003**
Scope of Bid
The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia (the Owner) invites bids for construction of the proposed trail and landscape improvements along the Columbus Riverwalk. The work primarily involves installation of concrete paving and decorative planters and structures with landscaping, as depicted on the drawings. The DBE goal for this project is 8%.

The Bidder is advised that the governing specifications for this project, including such items as bidding requirements, general conditions, technical specifications and related items, shall be in accordance with the State of Georgia, Department of Transportation

Standard Specifications, 2013 Edition, and applicable Supplemental Specifications and Special Provisions. The Owner assumes the Bidder is a pre-qualified bidder with the Department of Transportation and therefore is familiar with the stated reference documents or has access to same.

2. **Compact Track Loader with Attachments (Re-Bid) – RFB No. 20-0064**
   Scope of Bid
   Provide one (1) compact track loader with attachments to be used at job sites throughout Muscogee County by Rainwater Division staff to maintain detention ponds, repair cave-ins, and replace storm water pipes.

3. **Stone (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0060**
   Scope of RFB
   Provide various grades of stone to be purchased on an "as needed" basis by the Public Works Department. The contract term will be for two (2) years with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods. This contract will be awarded to a Primary and Secondary Contractor.

4. **Cleats for AL-Jon 500 Compactor (Re-Bid) – RFB No. 20-0071**
   Scope of RFB
   The Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is seeking bids from qualified vendors to provide 96 cleats for an AL-JON 500 compactor.

June 3, 2020

1. **Cargo Van with Buildout Unit – RFB No. 20-0069**
   Scope of Bid
   Provide one (1) cargo van with buildout unit to be used by Engineering staff to carry weather sensitive equipment, such as traffic controllers and other electronic equipment, for the traffic shop.

2. **Trailer Mounted Attenuator – RFB No. 20-0068**
   Scope of Bid
   Provide one (1) trailer mounted attenuator to be used and/or pulled behind vehicle by Beautification Division staff working in traffic areas.

3. **Equipment Truck with Modifications (Re-Bid) – RFB No. 20-0070**
   Scope of Bid
   Provide one (1) equipment truck with modifications to be used by staff of the Traffic Engineering Division for sign installation and replacement.

4. **Roadside Traffic Counters/Recorders (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 20-0016**
   Scope of RFP
   The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide roadside traffic counters/recorders to be provided to the Traffic Engineering Division on an "as needed" basis. The contract term will be for two (2) years with option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

June 10, 2020

1. **Commercial Logging Loader (Grab-All) (Re-Bid) – RFB No. 20-0066**
   Scope of Bid
   Provide one (1) commercial logging loader (grab-all) to be used by the staff of the Forestry Department to pick up large trees during tree removal and cleaning up storm debris.

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. **RESOLUTION (121-20):** A Resolution to change the time for the Regular Council Meeting of June 9, 2020 to 5:30 p.m.; the Council would hold a Special Called Meeting on June 16, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. and changing the time of the Regular Council Meeting of June 23, 2020 to 9:00 a.m. The June 2, 2020 Proclamation Session and the June 30, 2020 Consent Agenda / Work Session are hereby cancelled. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

2. **Minutes of the following Boards:**

   Board of Tax Assessors, #13-20 and #14-20.

   Board of Zoning Appeals, March 5, 2020.

   Columbus Iron Works Convention & Trade Center Authority, February 27, 2020.

   Columbus Iron Works Convention & Trade Center Authority, March 26, 2020.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

3. **COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- READY FOR CONFIRMATION:**

   A. **BOARD OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES:** Ms. Tolua Puailoa was nominated to serve another term of office. *(Councilor Barnes' nominee)* New Term expires: June 30, 2025. Councilor Woodson made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

   B. **COLUMBUS AQUATICS COMMISSION:** Mr. David Helmick was nominated to serve another term of office. *(Councilor Crabb's nominee)* New Term expires: June 30, 2022. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

   C. **COLUMBUS AQUATICS COMMISSION:** Mr. Bruce Samuels was nominated to serve another term of office. *(Councilor Crabbs's nominee)* New Term expires: June 30, 2022. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

   D. **COLUMBUS AQUATICS COMMISSION:** Mr. John P. Steed was nominated to serve another term of office. *(Councilor Crabbs's nominee)* New Term expires: June 30, 2022. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

E. **COLUMBUS AQUATICS COMMISSION:** Ms. Barbara Cummings was nominated to serve another term of office. *(Councilor Crabbs's nominee)* New Term expires: June 30, 2022. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

F. **COLUMBUS AQUATICS COMMISSION:** Dr. Janet C. Bussey was nominated to serve in a vacant seat. *(Councilor Barnes' nominee)* New Term expires: June 30, 2022. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

G. **COLUMBUS GOLF COURSE AUTHORITY:** Mr. James B. Houston, Jr. was nominated to serve another term of office. *(Councilor Thomas' nominee)* New Term expires: June 30, 2024. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

H. **COLUMBUS GOLF COURSE AUTHORITY:** Mr. Tommy Nobles was nominated to succeed Mr. Richard L. Wright. *(Councilor Crabb's nominee)* New Term expires: June 30, 2024. Councilors Huff and Garrett nominated Mr. Richard L. Wright for another term.

I. **KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION:** Ms. Sharon Baker was nominated to serve another term of office. *(Councilor Huff's nominee)* New Term expires: June 30, 2022. Councilor Garrett made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

J. **KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION:** Mr. Kenneth Leuer was nominated to serve another term of office. *(Councilor Huff's nominee)* New Term expires: June 30, 2022. Councilor Garrett made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

K. **REGION SIX REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES:** Ms. Annie Davis was nominated to serve another term of office. *(Councilor Huff's nominee)* New Term expires: June 30, 2023. Councilor Huff made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Thompson and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

L. **REGION SIX REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES:** Ms. Cynthia Smith was nominated to serve another term of office. *(Councilor Huff's nominee)* New Term expires: June 30, 2023. Councilor Huff made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Thompson and carried unanimously by the ten members present

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

A. KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Warren Wagner *(Resigned)* on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2021 *(District 5- Crabb)*. There were none.

5. **COUNCIL'S APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS WOULD BE LISTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING:**

A. COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & CULTURAL LIAISON ENCOUNTERS:

A nominee for the seat of Tatsiana Savashynskaya *(Vacant)* on the Commission on International Relations & Cultural Liaison Encounters for a term that expires on March 1, 2021. There were none.

B. KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION- AT-LARGE MEMBERS:

A nominee for the seat of Larry Derby *(Eligible to succeed- Does not desire reappointment)* on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Ashley Lee *(Eligible to succeed- Does not desire reappointment)* on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Cortney Laughlin *(Eligible to succeed- Does not desire reappointment)* on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2020. There were none.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Garrett to adjourn the May 12, 2020 Regular Meeting, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members present, with the time being 1:15 p.m.

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