

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

August 31, 2021
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting / Work Session

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 Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis (arrived at 9:04 a.m.), R. Walker Garrett, John M. House, Bruce Huff (arrived at 9:10 a.m.), Judy W. Thomas, Toyia Tucker, and Evelyn “Mimi” Woodson (arrived at 9:04 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.

ABSENT: Councilor Jerry “Pops” Barnes was absent.

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) Columbus Transportation Survey Presentation; (2) CFEMS Fleet Update Presentation; (3) Columbus Police Department Mid-Year Update Presentation; (4) Traffic Calming Requests Presentation.

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Rev. Danny Dieth at First Presbyterian Church of Columbus, Georgia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the August 24, 2021 Council Meeting and Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent for the vote, and Councilor Barnes being absent for the meeting.

UPDATE:

2. An update on COVID-19

Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson gave a brief update on the impact the COVID-19 Pandemic is having on the community. He explained the number of positive cases continues to go up, as well as the hospitalizations. The age group being impacted is younger with more severe symptoms. Our hospitals have requested more personnel with the challenge being not just those that have COVID-19 but those with non-related medical needs who need to get into the hospitals safely. He continued to urge the unvaccinated citizens to reach out to their physicians to determine if the vaccine would be beneficial to them.

CITY ATTORNEY’S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance: 2nd Reading-** REZN-06-21-1200: An ordinance amending the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) for Columbus, Georgia so as to revise Table 3.1.1, amend Section 3.2.76, amend Section 12.5.3, amend Section 1.2.7 and amend Chapter 13 – Definitions; and for other purposes. Planning Department and PAC recommend approval. (Mayor Pro Tem)

After City Manager Hugley requested a delay of this ordinance, Councilor Tucker made a motion to delay, seconded by Councilor Woodson. Mayor Pro Tem Allen suggested separating the ordinance by removing Sections 1 – 3 and that the Council move forward with Sections 4 and 5.

City Attorney Fay then restated the motion, as requested by Mayor Pro Tem Allen, to substitute a new ordinance which removes Sections 1 - 3 relating to a solid waste transfer station and to approve the new substitute ordinance that amends Sections 12.5.3 and 12.5.4, and to amend Section 1.2.7. Motion by Councilor Tucker, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Barnes being absent for the meeting.

Ordinance (21-050): 2nd Reading - An ordinance amending the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) for Columbus, Georgia so as to amend Sections 12.5.3 and 12.5.4, and to amend Section 1.2.7; and for other purposes: (Substitute Ordinance)

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to substitute a new ordinance to amend Table 3.1.1, amend Section 3.2.76 and amend Chapter 13- Definitions relating to a solid waste transfer station, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Barnes being absent for the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen then made a motion to delay the new substitute ordinance relating to the solid waste transfer station until the September 14, 2021 Meeting, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Barnes being absent for the meeting.

2. **Ordinance (21-051): 2nd Reading-** REZN-06-21-1222: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia; to change certain boundaries of a district located at **4006 / 4018 / 4026 Buena Vista Road & 3913 / 3923 / 3925 North Linden Drive** (parcel # 87-028-004 / 002 / 001 / 016 / 017 / 018) from NC (Neighborhood Commercial) Zoning District to GC (General Commercial) Zoning District. Planning Department and PAC recommend approval. (Councilor Barnes) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Barnes being absent for the meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

3. **Resolution (301-21):** A resolution re-imposing a Public Health State of Emergency in Columbus, Georgia; providing for public meetings to be held using telephonic or video

participation; confirming the mayor's current directive that facemasks be worn in all Columbus Consolidated Government indoor facilities; providing authorization for the mayor to respond to ongoing COVID-19 developments by Executive Order; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem) Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried by an eight-to-one vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Davis, Garrett, House, Huff, Thomas, Tucker and Woodson voting in favor and Councilor Crabb voting no.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION:

Resolution (302-21): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to provide for the closing of Carver Park except during the hours of 7:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday for the next thirty (30) days. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Barnes being absent for the meeting.

Councilor Toyia Tucker explained the resolution allowing the City Manager to close Carver Park on Saturdays and Sundays in order to study and evaluate some public safety concerns. She stated there have been multiple shootings and murders in the park, and these are the reasons the park hours were changed in the past and the reason for the resolution being proposed today.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley assured the members of Council that Parks and Recreation Director Holli Browder will continue to work with law enforcement to ensure the gates are locked and unlocked at the appropriate times.

Police Chief Freddie Blackmon approached the rostrum stating he has been working with Parks and Recreation Director Browder since the beginning of the year. He explained police officers currently lock the gates at night and a member of the Parks and Recreation Staff unlocks the gates in the morning. He stated they will review the reports made over the past few years to decide on the best option to improve the safety in the park going forward.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Permanently close the back entrance of Carver Park. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*
- Look into connecting cameras in the park to the Buena Vista Road Precinct and the cost of the software needed. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*
- Timeline on camera project. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*
- Periodic updates and estimated timelines on the completion of the camera project. *(Request of Councilor Woodson)*

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mr. Jerome Lawson, Re: To address some matters on public record and voice the concern that the community has on a few topics that needs to be addressed. ***Not Present***

- 2. Ms. Katherine Dillard, Re: Non-Discrimination Ordinance. *Not Present*
- 3. Mr. Jeremy Hobbs, representing Colgay Pride, Re: Non-Discrimination Ordinance.
- 4. Ms. Royce J. Morris, Re: Request for the City of Columbus to increase tourism by creating a Blues museum and music hall downtown to capitalize on being the hometown of Ma Rainey. *Not Present*

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Housing Authority - Request for Release of Funding (RROF)

Resolution (303-21): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a request for Release of Funding (RROF) with the Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to gain access to \$100,000 for the demolition of two (2) apartment units at Rivers Homes located at 1050 Adair Avenue. 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 Barnes being absent for the meeting.

WORK SESSION AGENDA

- A. Columbus Public Transportation Survey Update - Kristin Barker, Program Manager for Better Work Columbus

Program Manager Kristin Barker approached the rostrum to give an update on a survey conducted on the public transportation needs in Columbus, Georgia. She explained the employers and employees throughout the City of Columbus took part in the survey to address the public transportation needs of citizens.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley recalled there was a comprehensive review conducted years ago to address the ridership in Columbus. He then advised that he would have Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin and METRA to follow-up with Ms. Barker on the survey results.

- B. Columbus Fire & Emergency Services Fleet Status - Sal Scarpa, Fire Chief

Fire & EMS Chief Sal Scarpa came forward to give an update on the status of the fleet for the Columbus Fire and EMS Department. He went over the various types of equipment that makes up their fleet, explaining the number of primary equipment and reserve equipment that is available. He stated the fleet challenges they have recognized is with an aging stock of equipment, no perceptible preventative maintenance, repair challenges, and replacement hurdles. Chief Scarpa went over the strides being taken to assist in meeting the needs of the citizens while working through the fleet challenges.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE FIRE CHIEF:

- Provide a detailed report on the revenue and expenses associated with the ambulance services. *(Request of Councilor Davis)*

D. Columbus Police Department Update - Freddie Blackmon, Police Chief

Police Chief Freddie Blackmon came forward to provide an update on the Columbus Police Department and address the latest violent crimes in the community. He explained the various struggles faced by the Columbus Police Department, to include the issue of hiring new officers. He outlined the statistical data for recruitment and retention since 2008 and spoke of some recruitment strategies, as well as, expanding the Cadet Program.

C. Traffic Calming Request Update - Donna Newman, Engineering Director

Engineering Director Donna Newman approached the rostrum to give an update on traffic calming requests. She explained the process of citizens and councilors requesting traffic calming studies and the reasons some requests are submitted. She went over the various solutions to calming traffic in neighborhoods and the participation of the community in the surveys during the studies that are conducted.

E. QAlert/Columbus311 Update - Teasha Johnson, Assistant to City Manager/311 CSC Manager

311 CSC Manager Teasha Johnson approached the rostrum to provide an update on the QAlert App that is linked to the 311 Center to provide services to the community. She explained citizens are able to submit work requests through the application, phone or email.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE FIRE CHIEF:

- Look into providing icons on the app to narrow down the long list of services. (*Request of Councilor Crabb*)

BID ADVERTISEMENT

September 1, 2021

1. Service Contract for Various Types of Engines for METRA (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 22-0001

Scope of Bid

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia is requesting bids to repair/rebuild various types of engines for METRA Transit System. The services will be procured on an as-needed basis.

The contract term shall be for three years.

September 3, 2021

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

Scope of RFP

The Columbus Consolidated Government is accepting proposals from qualified firms to provide professional engineering plans and drawings to be used in the construction of the new Military Drive, which will begin at Infantry Road (this road is not yet built) and end at the Hampton Inn located on South Lumpkin Road in Columbus, Georgia.

2. Treatment Providers for Mental Health Court and Veterans Treatment Court (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 21-0031

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government, on behalf of the Mental Health Court and Veterans Treatment Court, is soliciting proposals to provide treatment to participants in PTSD Counseling and Psychological Assessment. *Offerors may submit proposals to provide either or both areas of treatment. The services will be procured on an as-needed basis.*

The contract term shall be for two years with the option to renew for three additional twelve-month periods.

September 10, 2021

1. Property Damage Recovery Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 22-0008

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government is seeking proposals for a qualified firm to identify damaged property; investigate, through various means, the individuals or party responsible for the damage; and collect on property damage claims on City highways.

The contract term shall be for two years with the option to renew for three additional twelve-month periods.

2. Asbestos Abatement for Former Georgia State Farmers Market – RFP No. 22-0001

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is requesting proposals from qualified asbestos abatement contractors to provide all labor, materials, equipment, permits, and incidentals necessary to complete all tasks associated with remediating asbestos-containing building materials identified in structures located at the former Georgia State Farmers Market.

September 15, 2021

1. Forklift – RFB No. 22-0008

Scope of RFB

The Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is seeking bids from qualified vendors to provide one (1) forklift.

September 17, 2021

1. Inmate Telephone System/Muscogee County Prison (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 22-0003

Scope of RFP

The Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide a turnkey, fully operational, secure and reliable inmate telephone system designed to improve the management and control of inmate telephone usage in the Muscogee County Prison. Telephone system should include the provision of a mobile for isolation units, and a video visitation system for dorm units.

September 24, 2021

1. Juvenile Drug Court Treatment Providers (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 22-0009

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government, on behalf of Juvenile Drug Court, is seeking proposals to provide crisis intervention, individual and family counseling, psychological evaluations and in-home counseling services for Drug Court participants. *Offerors may submit proposals to provide either or all areas of treatment.*

The contract term shall be for two years with the option to renew for three additional twelve-month periods.

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

***NOTE:** The Clerk of Council's Agenda was deferred until the September 14, 2021 Council Meeting due to lack of quorum; the agenda items are outlined below with no action being taken.*

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. RESOLUTION - A Resolution excusing Councilor Judy Thomas from the August 24, 2021 Council Meeting.
2. **Minutes of the following boards:**
 - Board of Tax Assessors, #28-21
 - Community Development Advisory Council, December 10, 2020
 - Housing Authority of Columbus, June 16, 2021


ADD-ON RESOLUTION:

RESOLUTION - A Resolution excusing Councilor Jerry "Pops" Barnes from the August 31, 2021 Council Meeting.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

3. **COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- READY FOR CONFIRMATION:**
 - A. **BOARD OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES:** Pastor Johnny Flakes, III was nominated to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Charonda Huff to serve in the "Leaders within the faith-based community (active or retired)" category. (Mayor Pro Tem Allen's nominee) Term expires: June 30, 2022
4. **COUNCIL'S DISTRICT SEAT APPOINTMENT- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:**
 - A. **YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL:**
 - District 10 Nominee: Emily Rice

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson declared the August 31, 2021 Regular Meeting / Work Session adjourned due to the lack of a quorum with Councilors Davis, Garrett, Huff, Tucker and Woodson having left the meeting and Councilor Barnes being absent for the meeting with the time being 1:00 p.m.



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