

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

June 21, 2022
9:00 AM
Special Called Meeting

MAYOR’S A G E N D A

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III (arrived at 9:18 a.m.) and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors Charmaine Crabb (arrived at 9:31 a.m.), Glenn Davis (arrived at 9:09 a.m.), John M. House, Bruce Huff (arrived at 9:33 a.m.), Judy W. Thomas, and Toyia Tucker. 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: Councilors Jerry “Pops” Barnes, R. Walker Garrett and Evelyn “Mimi” Woodson

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) City Boards, Commissions, Committees & Authorities: Recommendation for the Next Level for City Boards Presentation; (2) Grown Man Issues: The Stage Play Presentation; (3) Tax Allocation District Update Presentation

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen, Presiding

INVOCATION: Offered by Pastor Sheryl Snead of Peters Chapel AME Church of Columbus, Georgia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen

POINT OF PRIVILEGE:

City Manager Isaiah Hugley recognized Mr. Willie King in the audience, who is a Vietnam Veteran and his neighbor. He thanked Mr. King for his service.

Mr. Willie King approached the rostrum to talk about his time in the United States Army as a Pathfinder.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. **TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS PUBLIC HEARING:** 9:00 a.m. The budget tentatively adopted by the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, requires a millage rate higher than the rollback millage rate. Therefore, before the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, may finalize the tentative budget and set a final millage rate, Georgia Law requires that three public hearings be held to allow the public an opportunity to express their opinions on this increase.

City Attorney Clifton Fay introduced the third and final Taxpayer Bill of Rights Public Hearing for FY 2023, explaining this hearing is required by Georgia Statute 48-5-32.1 when the digest or value of all real property in the county is projected to increase.

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum to explain the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. She stated the Board of Tax Assessors are required to review the values of the properties in the county and when there is an increase in the fair market value of any specific property due to significant improvements or property sales, the board is required to redetermine a value and adjust the assessment, this being a reassessment. She explained when the total digest of all the taxable property is prepared, a rollback millage rate must be calculated by the Tax Commissioner to determine what the rate would be to produce the same total revenue in the digest had no reassessments occurred. She stated the purpose of this hearing is because what is included in the budget is a millage rate that is higher than the rollback millage rate, but not higher than what it was the previous year. She stated the tentatively proposed millage rate is unchanged from FY 2022 with Urban Service District 1 at 17.51 mills, Urban Service District 2 at 11.53 mills and Urban Service District 4 at 10.63 mills.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley stated for the record, that he is proud of the fact that Muscogee County has not had a millage increase on citizens since 2008. He stated, in fact, the millage rate has decreased for the citizens over the past five years.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

9. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance providing for the establishment of taxing districts, including a county-wide general services district and three (3) urban services districts and three (3) Business Improvement Districts (BID); providing for the levy, assessment, and collection of taxes for Columbus, Georgia within such districts for the year 2022 as provided under the Charter of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia; providing penalties for violations of the provisions of said ordinance; and for other purposes. (Budget Review Committee) (*NOTE: This ordinance was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Attorney's Agenda Item 9)*)

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum to explain the difference in tax due dates this year as compared to previous years. She explained the first installment of taxes are due on October 17th and will be delinquent on October 18th, with the second installment being due on December 1st and the total assessment being delinquent on December 2nd.

10. **1st Reading -** An Ordinance providing for the levy, assessment, and collection of taxes for the public school system of Columbus, Georgia; and for other purposes. (Request of the Muscogee County School District) (*NOTE: This ordinance was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Attorney's Agenda Item 10)*)
11. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance amending Chapter 2 and Chapter 11 of the Columbus Code to revise provisions concerning emergency management and homeland security; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem) (*NOTE: This ordinance was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Attorney's Agenda Item 11)*)

CITY MANAGER’S AGENDA

6. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. City Boards, Commissions, Committees and Authorities - Sandra Davis, Clerk of Council

Clerk of Council Sandra Davis approached the rostrum to provide a presentation on city boards, commissions, committees, and authorities. She explained the Clerk of Council Subcommittee has discussed having an in-depth review of the current boards, commissions, committees, and authorities to make recommendations to Council. She provided the recommendation to dissolve the Columbus Aquatics Commission and reduce the membership of the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission, the Recreation Advisory Board, and the Tree Board. (*NOTE: This update was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager’s Agenda Item 6“A”*)

City Manager Isaiah Hugley stated he would like to bring this back after he has had an opportunity to have further discussions with the Deputy City Managers and the Parks and Recreation Director.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CLERK OF COUNCIL:

- Have conversations with the boards that changes are being recommended for. (*Request of Councilor Thomas*)

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Have the Animal Control Advisory Board listed on the City Manager’s Agenda to offer an update to the Council, as they have requested. (*Request of Councilor Crabb*)

MAYOR’S AGENDA (continued)

MINUTES

2. Approval of minutes for the June 14, 2022 Council Meeting and Executive Session. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

UPDATE:

3. An update on COVID-19. **Update not presented.*

CITY ATTORNEY’S AGENDA (continued)

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (22-026) - 2nd Reading-** REZN-04-22-0776: A request to rezone 20.36 acres of land located at 11011 Veterans Parkway from RE1 (Residential Estate 1) to RE10 (Residential Estate10) with conditions. (Planning Department and PAC recommend conditional approval) (Davis). Councilor Davis made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

2. **Ordinance (22-027) - 2nd Reading** - An Ordinance adopting an operating and capital improvement budget for the Fiscal Year 2023 beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023, for certain funds of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, and appropriating the amounts shown in each budget; and for other purposes. (Budget Review Committee) (as amended on 1st Reading) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

3. **Ordinance (22-028) - 2nd Reading-** An Ordinance adopting non-operating budgets for the fiscal year 2023 beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023, for certain funds of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, and appropriating the amounts shown in each budget. (Budget Review Committee) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

4. **Ordinance (22-029) - 2nd Reading-** An Ordinance providing for contributions to the Columbus, Georgia General Government Employees' Pension Plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023. (Budget Review Committee) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Thomas and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

5. **Ordinance (22-030) - 2nd Reading-** An Ordinance providing for the governmental contributions to the Columbus, Georgia Pension Plan for employees of the Department of Public Safety for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023. (Budget Review Committee) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Thomas and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

6. **Ordinance (22-031) - 2nd Reading-** An Ordinance providing for Government funding of a Major Disability Income Plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023. (Budget Review Committee) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Thomas and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

7. **Ordinance (22-032) - 2nd Reading-** An Ordinance providing for Government funding of a Death Benefit Escrow for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023. (Budget Review Committee) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Thomas and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

8. **Ordinance (22-033) - 2nd Reading-** An Ordinance amending Article VII of Chapter 13 of the Columbus Code Solid Waste Collection and Disposal by updating the guidelines for an offset to the residential rate for low-income households; and for other purposes. (Budget Review Committee) Councilor Tucker made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

9. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance providing for the establishment of taxing districts, including a county-wide general services district and three (3) urban services districts and three (3) Business Improvement Districts (BID); providing for the levy, assessment, and collection of taxes for Columbus, Georgia within such districts for the year 2022 as provided under the Charter of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia; providing penalties for violations of the provisions of said ordinance; and for other purposes. (Budget Review Committee)

(NOTE: This First Reading of an Ordinance, as provided by City Attorney Fay, was called upon earlier in the meeting during the Mayor's Agenda.)

10. **1st Reading -** An Ordinance providing for the levy, assessment, and collection of taxes for the public school system of Columbus, Georgia; and for other purposes. (Request of the Muscogee County School District)

(NOTE: This First Reading of an Ordinance, as provided by City Attorney Fay, was called upon earlier in the meeting during the Mayor's Agenda.)

11. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance amending Chapter 2 and Chapter 11 of the Columbus Code to revise provisions concerning emergency management and homeland security; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem)

(NOTE: This First Reading of an Ordinance, as provided by City Attorney Fay, was called upon earlier in the meeting during the Mayor's Agenda.)

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mr. Devyne Stephens and Natasha Rogers, representing "Grown Man Issues" Stage Play, Re: An announcement of the "Grown Man Issues" an Urban Stage Play to be held at the River Center for the Performing Arts on June 26, 2022.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. FY2023 5303 Grant Application for Planning Assistance

Resolution (157-22): A resolution authorizing the City Manager of Columbus, Georgia to submit an application for, and if awarded, accept a grant, from the Department of Transportation, United States of America, and Georgia Department of Transportation, under Title 49 U.S.C., Section 5303. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

2. FY2023 FTA 5307 Grant Application for Capital and Planning Assistance

Resolution (158-22): A resolution authorizing the Mayor or City Manager of Columbus, Georgia to submit an application for, and if awarded, accept a grant in the amount of \$3,820,955 or otherwise awarded, from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on behalf of the City should the application

receive approval. Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

3. FFY 2023 Congressional Appropriations Spending Request for Electric Buses

Resolution (159-22): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, authorizing the City Manager to accept, if awarded, and amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount awarded up to \$5,000,000 in funding from FY 2023 Congressionally Directed Spending Program. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

4. Street Acceptance – That portion of Hereford Lane, and that portion of Holstein Hill located in Phase One, Section Two, Heiferhorn Farms

Resolution (160-22): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, authorizing the acceptance of a deed to that portion of Hereford Lane, and that portion of Holstein Hill located in Phase One, Section Two, Heiferhorn Farms, on behalf of Columbus, Georgia. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

5. PURCHASES

A. Amendment 1 for Copier Rental Services

Resolution (161-22): A resolution authorizing the execution of Amendment 1 with Ricoh USA, Inc. (Macon, GA) in the amount of \$13,089.51 per month, for copier rental services and applicable per-copy charges, for all City Departments. Amendment 1 extends the current contract on a month-to-month basis for an additional six-month period, beginning July 1, 2022. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

B. Management Services for Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 22-0024

Resolution (162-22): A resolution authorizing the execution of an annual contract with Evidence-Based Associates, LLC (Powder Springs, GA) for management services for the Georgia Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant for the Muscogee County Juvenile Court, on an as-needed basis. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

6. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. City Boards, Commissions, Committees and Authorities - Sandra Davis, Clerk of Council

(NOTE: This update, as provided by Clerk of Council Sandra Davis, was called upon earlier in the meeting during the Mayor’s Agenda.)

B. Tax Allocation District Update - Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge approached the rostrum to provide an update on Tax Allocation Districts (TAD). She explained a TAD is a tool for redevelopment and the property taxes acquired that is above the base value set prior to the establishment of the TAD is used to offset the cost of redevelopment within that specific area. She then provided information on the eight Tax Allocation Districts in Muscogee County.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- Provide this presentation to the members of Council. *(Request of Councilor Huff)*

C. Monthly Finance Update - Angelica Alexander, Finance Update

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum to provide the finance update for May 2022.

BID ADVERTISEMENT

June 22, 2022

- 1. Roofing Services at Metra Lower Maintenance Shop – RFB No. 22-0041**
Scope of Bid
Provide all labor, equipment, and materials to remove and replace the existing roofing at the Metra Lower Maintenance Shop in full compliance with the project documents.
- 2. Trees for Planting on City Right-of-Ways (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 22-0040**
Scope of Bid
Provide trees for planting on City Right-of-Ways for Columbus Consolidated Government’s Department of Public Works, to be purchased on an "as needed" basis.

The contract shall be for two (2) years with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

June 29, 2022

- 1. Removal of Residual Ground Material & Removal and Disposal/Reuse of Large Tree Trunks (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 22-0037**
Scope of Bid
The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia (City) invites qualified contractors to submit bids to provide the following services on an “as needed” basis:

Option 1: Residual waste removal on an “as needed” basis, for either Pine Grove or Granite Bluff Landfill. Such ground material could be used as fuel, mulch, or some other recyclable commodity.

Option 2: Removal and disposal/reuse of large tree trunks on an “as needed” basis. The contract would be awarded to the vendor that can provide the greatest economic benefit to the City for each option.

The contract term shall be for two years with the option to renew for three additional twelve-month periods. The renewal shall be contingent upon the mutual agreement of the City and the contractor.

2. **Side Loader 31-Yard Refuse Truck Bodies (Re-Bid) – RFB No. 22-0042**

Scope of Bid

Provide a minimum of thirty (30), but not to exceed forty (40), side loader 31-yard refuse truck bodies. *Bodies will need to be manufactured to fit Peterbilt 520 Dual Steer cab and chassis.*

July 6, 2022

1. **Welding/Metal Fabrication Services (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 22-0043**

Scope of Bid

Provide welding and fabrication services for various facilities and equipment owned by the City. 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.

July 15, 2022

1. **Naming Rights Consulting Services – RFP No. 22-0031**

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government invites qualified consultants to submit proposals to provide a valuation study and assist or in whole find a sponsor for naming rights at the Columbus Civic Center and Ice Rink.

CLERK OF COUNCIL’S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. **Minutes of the following boards:**

Medical Center Hospital Authority, January 26, 2022

Public Safety Advisory Commission, April 21, 2022

River Valley Regional Commission, April 27 and May 25, 2022

Uptown Facade Board, April 21 and May 16, 2022

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

2. **MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:**

A. CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

A nominee for the seat of Donna S. Hix (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2022 on the Convention & Visitors Board of Commissioners (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

3. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- READY FOR CONFIRMATION:

A. BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS: Mr. Clint W. Cox was nominated to serve another term of office. (*Councilor Woodson's nominee*) New Term expires: December 31, 2026. Councilor House made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

B. TREE BOARD: Ms. Beautie Moore was nominated to serve another term of office. (*Councilor Woodson's nominee*) New Term expires: July 1, 2025. Councilor Huff made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

C. TREE BOARD: Mr. Jeremy Cummings was nominated to serve another term of office as the Public Utility Representative. (*Councilor Woodson's nominee*) New Term expires: July 1, 2025. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

D. TREE BOARD: Ms. Sherletha Thomas-Cutts was nominated to fill the vacant seat as the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission Director or Commissioner Representative. (*Councilor Crabb's nominee*) New Term expires: December 31, 2022. Councilor House made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting.

E. VALLEY PARTNERSHIP JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: Mr. Mike Welch was nominated to fill the unexpired term of the late Mr. Gary Jones. (*Councilor Thomas' nominee*) Term expires: June 30, 2023. Councilor Thomas withdrew her nomination of Mike Welch until further information on the Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority is received.

4. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS WOULD BE LISTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

A. TREE BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Chris Henson (*Does not desire reappointment*) for a term that expires on July 1, 2022, as the Environmental Advocacy Representative on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Troy Keller (*Not eligible to succeed*) for a term that expired on December 31, 2020, as the Educator Representative on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.


A nominee for the seat of Frank Tommey (*Not eligible to succeed*) for a term that expired on December 31, 2020, as the Residential Development Representative on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel as requested earlier in the meeting by City Attorney Fay. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett, and Woodson being absent for the meeting, and the time being 10:11 a.m.

The regular meeting reconvened at 11:36 a.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in executive session to discuss matters of personnel; however, there were no votes taken.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Tucker to adjourn the June 21, 2022, Special Called Meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes, Garrett and Woodson being absent for the meeting, and the time being 11:36 a.m.



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