

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

November 15, 2022
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 Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis (arrived at 5:35 p.m.), R. Walker Garrett (via Microsoft Teams), John M. House, Bruce Huff (arrived at 5:34 p.m.), Judy W. Thomas, Toyia Tucker and Evelyn “Mimi” Woodson. City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis, and Deputy Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore were present.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) Homeland Security- Emergency Management Presentation; (2) American Rescue Plan Grant Presentation

The following documents were distributed to the members of Council: (1) Muscogee County School District Strategic Plan Snapshot; (2) Columbus Consolidated Government Monthly Finance Snapshot (Unaudited) FY2023 – October 2022

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Reverend Grace Burton-Edwards, St. Thomas Episcopal Church of Columbus, Georgia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the November 8, 2022, Council Meeting and Executive Session. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Huff being absent for the vote.

PRESENTATIONS:

2. Muscogee County School District Highlights (Presented by Dr. David Lewis, Superintendent of Education, Muscogee County School District and Patricia Hugley-Green, Board Chair, Muscogee County Board of Education)

Superintendent of Education Dr. David Lewis (Muscogee County School District) approached the rostrum to provide information on the strategic plan, progress and 2022 to 2023 initiatives. He explained many of the initiatives are formatted to encourage students to take responsibility and take the lead in their educational goals.

3. New Siren Technology (Presented by Chance Corbett, Director, Emergency Management & Homeland Security)

Emergency Management & Homeland Security Director Chance Corbett approached the rostrum to provide a presentation on the severe weather notification system. He explained the current outdoor warning sirens were installed approximately twenty years ago, but they are working on getting the siren system upgraded. He stated the new upgrades include the ability to schedule testing, remote capabilities, upgraded software system, text and email notifications when sirens are activated, better activation history, and polygon-based warning capabilities.

RESOLUTION (ADD-ON):

4. **Resolution (366-22):** A resolution authorizing the appointment of Ms. Donna McGinnis as Internal Auditor/ Compliance Officer. Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve the appointment of Donna McGinnis as the Internal Auditor/Compliance Officer, seconded by Councilor Barnes and carried by a seven-to-three vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Barnes, House, Huff, Thomas, Tucker, and Woodson voting in favor, and Councilors Crabb, Davis, and Garrett voting in opposition.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (22-058) - 2nd Reading-** REZN-09-22-1673: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **7513 Veterans Parkway** (parcel # 073-029-002) from LMI (Light Manufacturing / Industrial) Zoning District to GC (General Commercial) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Davis) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.
2. **Ordinance (22-059) - 2nd Reading-** REZN-09-22-1674: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia; this amendment changes certain boundaries of a district located at **3201 / 3203 / 3205 / 3209 / 3213 / 3215 / 3217 / 3223 6th Avenue** (parcel # 014-018-022 / 023 / 024 / 025 / 046 / 026 / 026A / 026B) from RMF1 (Residential Multifamily 1) / LMI (Light Manufacturing / Industrial) Zoning District to RMF2 (Residential Multifamily 2) Zoning District with conditions. (Planning Department and PAC recommend conditional approval.) (Councilor Garrett) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

RESOLUTION

3. **Resolution (367-22):** A resolution approving a contract with Georgia Probation Services, Inc. to provide probations services for Superior, Municipal and Recorder's Courts. (Mayor Pro-Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Ms. Abby Moorman, representing The Center at 909, Re: To present the functions, social services, and forensic medical services provided by Sexual Assault Support Center, Inc. dba The Center at 909.
2. Mr. Wane Hailes, representing the NAACP, Re: A request for the City Council to vote on a casino in Columbus, Georgia. *Not Present*

Councilor Toyia Tucker read a message from NAACP President Wane Hailes, requesting for the members of Council consider approving the resolution to allow casinos in the State of Georgia to send to the local legislative delegation.

MEETING TYPE CHANGE:

An oral resolution changing the November 29, 2022 Meeting from a Consent Agenda / Work Session to a Regular Meeting and Work Session. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the change, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. 2023 Legislative Agenda Add Ons – Child Abuse Hotline Posting & Legitimation Procedures

A resolution requesting that the Local Legislative Delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce statewide legislation supporting the legislative study of legitimation procedures to make them more affordable and accessible to fathers of limited means who desire to take responsibility for a role in the life of their biological children.

Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Tucker. After some additional discussion, Councilor Crabb withdrew her motion to approve.

Councilor Glenn Davis requested that he be allowed additional time to look over the resolution regarding legitimation procedures.

Resolution (368-22): A resolution requesting that the Local Legislative Delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce statewide legislation that will require posting of appropriate hotlines to report abuse at child-caring institutions, foster care homes, and personal care homes. Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

2. Transportation Investment Act of 2010 Project Agreement Steam Mill Road Improvements

Resolution (369-22): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) in order to receive Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) Funds and to proceed with all elements of work as outlined in the agreement to include but not limited to right of way acquisition, permanent and temporary construction easements utility relocation, environmental mitigation and other necessary agreements to deliver the Steam Mill Road Improvements Project. Councilor House made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

3. Street Acceptance – Hals Way, that portion of Plateau Drive, that portion of Elliotts Avenue, and that portion of Providence Lane located in Phase One, Elliotts Walk

Resolution (370-22): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, authorizing the acceptance of a deed to Hals Way, that portion of Plateau Drive, that portion of Elliotts Avenue and that portion of Providence Lane located in Phase One, Elliotts Walk, on behalf of Columbus, Georgia. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

4. Hawks Foundation Grant

Resolution (371-22): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, to authorize Parks and Recreation Department to apply for grants available through the Hawks Foundation and Georgia Recreation and Parks Association to accept any funds if awarded and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount of the award. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

5. Unused Sick Leave Payment

Resolution (372-22): A resolution authorizing payment to employees for unused sick leave in accordance with 16B-15-6(2) of the Columbus Code of Ordinances. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

6. Columbus Police Department: Donations

Resolution (373-22): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept donated funds of \$6,125.00 from two donors on behalf of the Columbus Police Department, with no additional funds required. Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

***NOTE:** Councilor Woodson was not present for the votes listed on the City Manager’s Agenda Items #1 through #6 but requested her vote be cast in the affirmative for these items upon returning to her respective seat.*

7. Kemp ARP Neighborhood Grant- Add-On Resolution

Resolution (374-22): A resolution authorizing the City to apply for the grant and if awarded, accept monies up to \$2.9 million from the Kemp Neighborhood Improvement Grant. Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor House and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

8. PURCHASES

A. Declaration of Surplus and Donation of Structural Firefighting Pants and Jackets

Resolution (375-22): A resolution authorizing to declare eighty-one (81) structural firefighting pants and ninety-one (91) structural firefighting jackets as surplus, in accordance with Section 7-501 of the Charter of Columbus Consolidated Government; and authorize the donation of the surplus equipment as follows: Harris County EMS (30 jackets/30 pants); Northside Highschool Fire Academy (30 jackets/25 pants); and West Georgia Technical College (31 jackets/26 pants). Councilor House made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

B. Bus Shelters (Annual Contract) - RFB No. 23-0011

Resolution (376-22): A resolution authorizing the purchase of bus shelters from Brasco International, Inc. (Madison Heights, MI). METRA has historically budgeted \$20,000, per year, for the purchase of bus shelters. Councilor House made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

C. Extension of the Motorola Migration Assurance Plan (MAP) Lease Purchase Agreement for the 800 MHZ Radio System

Resolution (377-22): A resolution authorizing the agreement from Motorola Solutions to extend the current map (Mitigation Assurance Plan) for the 800 MHZ radio system for an additional seven (7) years, through March 20, 2031, at a total cost of \$15,381,029.00, which will be paid over the seven years as follows: FY25- \$1,786,381.00; FY26- \$2,440,922.00; FY27- \$2,137,926.00; FY28- \$2,492,237.00; FY29- \$2,089,813.00; FY30- \$2,173,406.00; FY31- \$2,260,344.00. Councilor House made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

ENCLOSURES - INFORMATION ONLY

1. 2023 Legislative Agenda – Add Ons

Approval is requested of the add on resolutions for the 2023 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly, which the Mayor and Council deem appropriate.

9. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. ARP Grant Program Update- Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager of Finance, Planning and Development

Community Reinvestment Director Rob Scott approached the rostrum to provide an update on the second round of American Rescue Plan (ARP) Grant Program. He explained the criteria for non-profit organizations to apply for grant funding.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- In the future, see about reducing the minimum operating budget threshold for non-profits to \$50,000.
(Request of Councilor Tucker)

B. Monthly Finance Update - Angelica Alexander, Finance Director

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum to provide a monthly finance update for October 2022.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Provide an update on the sales tax revenue during the November 29, 2022, meeting. (Request of Mayor Pro Tem Allen)

FLAGPOLE LIGHTING UPDATE:

At the request of Councilor Thomas, **Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin** came forward to provide an update on the flagpole lighting. She then announced that there is lighting on the flagpole, and we are looking at other city-owned facilities that may be flying the flag as well.

BID ADVERTISEMENT

November 16, 2022

1. Dumpster/Roll Off Container Rental and Servicing (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 23-0016

Scope of Bid

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia (the City) is seeking vendors to provide dumpsters/roll-off containers on a rental basis, to include servicing the equipment on an “as needed” basis. Services will be procured both during the week and on weekends.

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

2. Minnow Tank for Parks and Recreation – PQ No. 23-0008

Scope of PQ

The Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is seeking quotes from qualified vendors to provide one (1) minnow tank, 8 ft, with 6 compartments with a window in each. Two (2) carbon filter cells 16”, air manifold system to aerate tank and additional tubing and chemicals included for indoor use at the Parks & Recreation Lake Oliver Marina Bait Shop.

November 30, 2022**1. PI 0011435 – Metra Park and Ride Facility – RFB No. 23-0019****Scope of Bid**

Provide a park and ride facility for METRA Transit System. The project consists of grading a vacant lot and installing a parking lot and features for METRA Transit System. The project location is 1646 9th Avenue in Columbus, GA.

2. Service Contract for Various Types of Transmissions (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 23-0020**Scope of Bid**

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is requesting bids to repair and rebuild B400R and 6R140 transmissions for METRA Transit System. The services will be procured on an as-needed basis. The City reserves the right to add additional transmissions as METRA Transit System receives new vehicles within the contract period.

The contract period shall be for three years.

3. Protective Driver Door Shields for Mass Transit Buses – RFB No. 23-0022**Scope of Bid**

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, is seeking bids from qualified vendors to provide and install twenty-two (22) protective driver door shields for mass transit buses operated by the METRA Transit System.

4. Backhoe Loader Rental (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 23-0021**Scope of Bid**

Provide rental of a backhoe on an “as needed” basis. The backhoe will be used by the Public Works Department for various projects. The contract term will be for two (2) years, with the option to renew for three additional twelve-month periods.

December 7, 2022**1. Watershed Fertilization (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 23-0023****Scope of Bid**

The Columbus Consolidated Government is seeking bids from vendors to provide erosion control at various watershed lakes.

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

December 9, 2022**1. Grounds Maintenance Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 23-0013****Scope of RFP**

Provide routine grounds maintenance services on a weekly, monthly and yearly basis, to include fertilizing, weekly mowing, edging, weed control, irrigation, pruning, mulching, disease and insect control, etc. The Public Works Department manages one hundred and eleven (111) grounds maintenance sites within nine contract areas in Muscogee County. These areas enhance the appearance of major road arteries and high visibility areas and improve the quality of life for citizens.

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

2. Court Reporter Services for Recorder’s Court (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 23-0014**Scope of RFP**

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is requesting proposals for court reporter services for all preliminary felony hearings at Recorder’s Court. The court reporter shall also provide services for Advisement of Rights sessions that are held at 8 A.M. on Saturdays and some holidays. The services will be procured on an as-needed basis, and the contract shall commence on February 1, 2023 (date subject to change). **Existing City employees are prohibited from providing court reporting services for Recorder’s Court.**

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

CLERK OF COUNCIL’S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

- 1. **RESOLUTION (378-22)** - A Resolution appointing Jayne Govar to the Board of Tax Assessors for a term of office to begin on January 1, 2023 and expires on December 31, 2028. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.
- 2. Travel Authorization Request for Councilor Toyia Tucker to attend NACo 2023 Legislative Conference during the month of February 2023. Councilor Woodson made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilor Barnes and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

Councilor Toyia Tucker explained she would like to provide a report at the first meeting in March 2023 to the members of Council regarding the 2023 NACo Legislative Conference.

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

Board of Tax Assessors, #33-22

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

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

A. BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

A nominee for the seat of Vincent Allen (*Resigned*) for a term that expires on March 24, 2023, on the Building Authority of Columbus (*Council’s Appointment*). There were none.

B. COLUMBUS AQUATICS COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Janet Bussey (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) for a term that expired on June 30, 2022, on the Columbus Aquatics Commission (*Council’s Appointment*). Councilor Woodson renominated Janet Bussey to serve another term on the Columbus Aquatics Commission.

A nominee for the seat of Richard Leary (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) for a term that expired on June 30, 2022, as the Columbus Hurricanes Representative on the Columbus Aquatics Commission (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Woodson renominated Richard Leary to serve another term as the Columbus Hurricanes Representative on the Columbus Aquatics Commission.

A nominee for the seat of Barbara Cummings (*Not eligible to succeed*) for a term that expired on June 30, 2022, on the Columbus Aquatics Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of David Helmick (*Not eligible to succeed*) for term a that expired on June 30, 2022, on the Columbus Aquatics Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Bruce Samuels (*Not eligible to succeed*) for a term that expired on June 30, 2022, on the Columbus Aquatics Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat with a term that expired on June 30, 2022 on the Columbus Aquatics Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

C. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Fred Greene (*Resigned*) for a term that expires on January 31, 2024, as the Historic District Resident on the Historic & Architectural Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

D. TREE BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Kristin Youngquist (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2022, as an At-Large Representative on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Huff renominated Kristin Youngquist to serve another term on the Tree Board.

A nominee for the seat of Lisa Thomas-Cutts (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2022, as the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission Director or Commissioner Representative on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Huff renominated Lisa Thomas- Cutts to serve as the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission Director or Commissioner Representative on the Tree Board.

A nominee for the seat of Tannis Danley (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2022, as the Landscape/Forestry Representative on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Huff renominated Tannis Danley to serve another term as the Landscape/Forestry Representative on the Tree Board.

A nominee for the seat of Catherine Trotter (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) for a term expiring on December 31, 2022, as an At-Large Representative on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Huff renominated Catherine Trotter to serve another term on the Tree Board.

A nominee for the seat of Chris Henson (*Does not desire reappointment*) for a term that expired 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 December 31, 2020, as the Residential Development Representative on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- There is a memorial at J. R. Allen Parkway right before you cross over the bridge going into Alabama. Let's look into it further to find a more appropriate location for the dedication to the Korean War veterans. (*Request of Councilor Davis*)
- Replace signage and have trees cut back at the intersection of Walker Street and Howe Avenue. (*Request of Councilor Woodson*)

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to adjourn the November 15, 2022 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council, and the time being 7:54 p.m.



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