

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 13, 2023
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR’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, Tyson Begly, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, Bruce Huff (via Microsoft Teams), 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: Councilor R. Walker Garrett was absent from the meeting.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) Final Employee Appeals Update and Analysis Presentation; (2) American Rescue Plan Act Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionally Impacted Communities Grant Program Presentation; (3) Pickleball in Columbus, GA Presentation; (4) Columbus City Hall Update Presentation

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) Council Referrals; (2) Proposed Ordinance Amendment – 6395 Psalmond Road

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Rev. Ralph Huling - St. James Missionary Baptist Church of Columbus, Georgia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson

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** began the Taxpayer Bill of Rights Public Hearing by stating the word “increase” is referring to the tax digest for all of Muscogee County. He stated the property values are expected to go up and as a result, three public hearings are required; but if a citizen has a homestead exemption, they will not see an increase.

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum to explain that each year the Board of Tax Assessors is required to assess the value of the taxable property in the county, which includes residential and commercial properties. She stated when there has been an increase in the fair market value of the property due to any specific improvements or property sales, the Board of Tax Assessors is required by law to redetermine the value of the property and adjust the assessment. She stated the State of Georgia requires the county to compute a rollback millage rate that would afford the county the same total revenue in taxes as the previous year had there been no reassessments. She stated the for Urban Service District 1 the rollback millage is 17.53 mills, Urban Service District 2 is 11.53, and Urban Service District 4 is 10.63; which are the same rates that were in FY 2023 and are being proposed for FY 2024.

Mr. John Anker (477 Champions Way, Columbus, GA 31909) approached the rostrum to request the Council roll back the millage rate and be careful with spending.

Mr. Frank Lumpkin (3225 Cathryn Drive, Columbus, GA 31906) approached the rostrum to express his concerns with the increase of his property taxes for the past few years.

Mr. Charles Mordic (8643 Creekside Drive, Columbus, GA 31904) approached the rostrum to express his concerns as a landlord, stating he is there on behalf of his tenants since this increase in property taxes will have to be passed down to them.

Ms. Madeline Burns (4621 Nickerson Court, Columbus, GA 31907) approached the rostrum to express her concerns for residents on fixed incomes with the increase on property taxes and the cost of everyday items due to inflation.

Mr. Louie Robinson (3252 Maricopa Drive, Columbus, GA 31907) approached the rostrum to express his concerns regarding the increase in property taxes and the increase in rent for tenants to help cover the cost.

City Attorney Fay declared the public hearing for the Taxpayers Bill of Rights as being concluded.

MINUTES

- 2. Approval of minutes for the May 30, 2023 Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

PROCLAMATION:

- 3. **Proclamation:** Alternative Baseball Day
Receiving: Taylor Duncan

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen read the proclamation into the record, proclaiming Saturday, September 2, 2023, as *Alternative Baseball Empowerment Day*, recognizing the Columbus Cobras Alternative Baseball Team that was established to encourage physical and social skills for teens and adults with autism and special needs.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **1st Reading-** REZN-03-23-0515: An Ordinance amending a condition of Ordinance No. 11-13 as it pertains to property located at **6395 Psalmound Road** (parcel # 120-001-034). (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (As amended and continued on 1st Reading.) (Mayor Pro Tem.) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to amend the ordinance by adding Condition #5 requiring the developer to plant and maintain a natural buffer of at least 15 feet on the south side and 10 feet on the west side each to be planted with dense evergreen screening foliage along the entire property line, as approved by the City Arborist, seconded by Councilor Barnes and carried unanimously by the nine members present with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

2. **1st Reading-** REZN-03-24-0544: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **5335 Miller Road** (parcel # 099-008-024) from SFR1 (Single Family Residential 1) Zoning District to RO (Residential Office) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval) (1st Reading delayed 5-23-23) (Councilor Crabb)

3. **1st Reading-** REZN -04-23-0630: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **910 Talbotton Road** (parcel # 016-027-001/002/003/016/022) from Residential Office (RO) Zoning District to Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District. (Councilor Cogle)

4. **1st Reading-** REZN-04-23-0714: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **6700 & 6708 Green Island Drive** (parcel # 180-006-002 / 180-006-003) from Single Family Residential 1 (SFR1) Zoning District to Single Family Residential 2 (SFR2) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Davis)

5. **1st Reading-** REZN CUVA: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain portions of a district known as the Conservation Use Valuation Assessment, from RE1 (Residential Estate 1) Zoning District to RE5 (Residential Estate 5) / RE10 (Residential Estate 10) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Mayor Pro-Tem and Councilor Davis)

6. **1st Reading and Public Hearing-** An Ordinance adopting an operating and capital improvement budget for the Fiscal Year 2024 beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, 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) Councilor Thomas made a motion to amend the ordinance by adding 7 Firefighter/EMT and 3 Lieutenant Positions for \$1,200,036 to the Fire & EMS Department and 1 Citizen Services Technician Position for \$46,672 in 311 out of contingency, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting. Councilor Cogle made a motion to amend the ordinance to earmark 3 days of Reserve Fund that amount to

\$1,801,527 for pickleball courts and EA Sports, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting. Councilor Begly made a motion to amend the ordinance to add \$42,490 to Parks and Recreation's Budget for equipment, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried by a seven-to-two vote, with Councilors Barnes, Begly, Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Huff and Tucker voting in favor, Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilor Thomas voting in opposition, and Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum to explain there was funding put aside in contingency for the funding of seven Firefighter/EMT positions and three Lieutenant Positions to the Fire and EMS Department for \$1,200,036, to include overtime and equipment. She also explained that staff is requesting the addition of one Citizen Services Technician Position in 311 for \$46,672. She stated the money for these requests would just be reallocated and would not require additional funding from reserves.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley spoke on the need for an additional Citizen Services Technician, who would act as a concierge at the new City Hall.

Fire Chief Sal Scarpa approached the rostrum to speak on the need for additional Firefighter/EMT positions and Lieutenants. He explained with the privately owned ambulance service pulling out earlier in the year, their calls have increased by about 18%.

Parks and Recreation Director Holli Browder approached the rostrum to respond to a motion made by Councilor Begly to add additional funding to the Parks and Recreation Budget for equipment that would professionally regrade the athletic fields. She explained this equipment would allow the staff to make sure the fields are up to standard and safer for the little league players by leveling the field. She also spoke on the other facilities around the city and the maintenance issues due to lack of funding.

Councilor Glenn Davis stated for the record, the City of Columbus has a good Parks and Recreation Director and Department. He stated the members of Council are just trying to figure out how they can help address some of the issues.

Finance Director Angelica Alexander stated after the three amendments to the budget ordinance, the operating budget is at \$336,183,384, with 69.05 in General Fund Reserve Days, 40.70 OLOST, for a total of 109.75 Reserve Days.

Ms. Stephanie Callahan (5239 Ray Drive, Columbus, GA 31904), who serves as Co-Chair on the Columbus Golf Course Authority, approached the rostrum to express her concerns regarding Godwin Creek Golf Course. She stated that Godwin Creek Golf Course does not receive funding from the city and is maintained by the Fore Kids Charity and requested for the golf course to be included in the FY 2024 Budget.

Mr. Ricky Wright (6100 Marlowe Drive, Columbus, GA 31904), who serves as Chairman on the Columbus Golf Course Authority, approached the rostrum to speak on the policy of one golf course not being maintained out of another golf courses budget.

Golf Course Director Jim Arendt approached the rostrum and stated the Golf Course Authority never discussed transferring funds from the budgets for Oxbow or Bull Creek to Godwin Creek. He explained that he was charged with requesting \$50,000 in funding for Godwin Creek, which he did

and was told that the means to do so was not available but that he could get the funding from Bull Creek. He stated now he realizes that was a mistake, but that was the only way he could get the request from the Golf Authority on the table.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Send the Councilors the presentation that was done for Parks & Recreation during the budget session. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*
 - Let's have three members of Council meet with the Parks & Recreation Director to determine the needs of the department. *(Request of Councilor Barnes)*
 - Let's have the Director of Parks & Recreation set up those meetings. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*
7. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance adopting non-operating budgets for the fiscal year 2024 beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, for certain funds of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, and appropriating the amounts shown in each budget. (Budget Review Committee)
 8. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance providing for contributions to the Columbus, Georgia General Government Employees' Pension Plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024. (Budget Review Committee)
 9. **1st 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, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024. (Budget Review Committee)
 10. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance providing for Government funding of a Major Disability Income Plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024. (Budget Review Committee)
 11. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance providing for Government funding of a Death Benefit Escrow for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024. (Budget Review Committee)
 12. **1st 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)
 13. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance to amend Section 20-21.1 of the Columbus Code to expand the authorized routes which may be used by Personal Transportation Vehicles (PTV's) which comply with all other conditions of the code section; and for other purposes. (Councilor Cogle)

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen stated he is concerned with allowing the personal transportation vehicles to cross Veterans Parkway. He explained his recommendation would be for the access to be stopped a block before they reach Veterans Parkway, so no one is tempted to cross.

City Attorney Clifton Fay read for the record the wording that would be included in the ordinance when brought back on second reading if the crossing of Veterans Parkway is still permitted. He read “PTVs shall not be driven on Veterans Parkway; however, they may cross at Veterans Parkway with its intersection with 15th Street in accordance with all traffic regulations.”

Councilor Thomas made a motion to amend by deleting the crossing at Veterans Parkway and 14th down to 6th. This motion died for the lack of a second.

RESOLUTIONS

- 14. Resolution (190-23):** A Resolution concerning The Development Authority of Columbus, Georgia’s issuance of bonds to finance facilities to be located in Columbus, Georgia (Request of the Development Authority of Columbus) Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting. *(Upon returning to her respective seat Councilor Crabb requested her vote be listed in the affirmative.)*
- 15.** A Motion to Reconsider Resolution No. 187-23 adopted on 5-30-23 which amended Paragraph (2) of Resolution 360-16 to allow parking fees to be charged in all parking garages and parking lots owned by the City in the Uptown Zoning District (UPT) and the Central Riverfront Zoning District (CRD) to include the RiverCenter Garage for certain special events that are anticipated to create extraordinary parking demand and public safety concerns. (Councilor Davis) Councilor Davis made a motion to rescind Resolution 187-23, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting. *(Upon returning to her respective seat Councilor Crabb requested her vote be listed in the affirmative.)*

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- When the discussion on parking fees is revisited, let’s look into having a cashless option in order to keep track of the fees. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*

- 16. Resolution (191-23):** A Resolution amending Resolution No. 361-20 which is the Finance Department’s grant policy to provide for audits of the recipients at Council’s request. (Councilor Davis) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to amend the resolution to add “will be subject to audit of funds as described above”, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting. Councilor Davis made a motion to approve as amended, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mr. Ricket Carter, Sr., Re: His experience with being a former businessperson in Columbus.
2. Mrs. Alice Flatt, representing Neighborhood Watch of Biltmore Forest (Council Court), Re: The inability to remove squatters and neighborhood nuisances.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Portion of Right-of-Way Abandonment for 35th Street between 5th Avenue and 6th Avenue

Resolution (192-23): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, authorizing the changing of the official street map of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia by officially closing and abandoning a segment of 35th Street right of way beginning at the east right of way line of 5th Avenue and running in easterly direction for a distance of approximately 241 +/- . Authorizing the disposal of the said right of ways in accordance with applicable State Law; reserving utility and access easements and for other purposes. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

2. Supreme Services Facility-Variance for Sidewalk Installation at 6018 Business Park Drive

Resolution (193-23): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, granting a variance request to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), Section 7.10.1. – Required Sidewalk, excusing the requirement to install sidewalk along 6018 Business Park Drive and for other purposes. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

3. Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement with Historic Westville, Inc.

Resolution (194-23): A resolution authorizing the amendment of the Memorandum of Agreement with Historic Westville, Inc. to December 31, 2023. Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

4. Extension of the Subrecipient Agreement with the Columbus Department of Public Health for Cure Violence Columbus

Resolution (195-23): A resolution authorizing the extension of the subrecipient agreement with the Columbus Department of Public Health to fund the Cure Violence Columbus Initiative for an award amount up to \$500,000.00 to address community violence exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge approached the rostrum to respond to questions from the members of Council. She explained the original agreement expires June 30, 2023 and Cure Violence Columbus has requested an extension through March of 2024.

5. Subrecipient Agreement with the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley for Poverty Reduction Initiative Columbus

Resolution (196-23): A resolution authorizing the execution of a subrecipient agreement with the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley to fund the Poverty Reduction Initiative for an award amount up to \$400,000.00 to address the poverty rate in Columbus. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

6. PURCHASES

A. 18-Yard Dump Truck for Public Works Department – Georgia State Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (197-23): A resolution authorizing the purchase of one (1) 18-yard dump truck (New International MV607 Tandem Chassis with dump body mounted on complete unit) from Rush Truck Center (Atlanta, GA) in the amount of \$159,861.00 for the Rainwater Division. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-SPD-SPD0000155-0001. 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 Garrett being absent from the meeting.

B. Forklift for Engineering Department - Sourcewell Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (198-23): A resolution authorizing the purchase of one (1) Forklift (Hyundai 35LN-9A 7KLB) from Thompson Truck Lift Company (Lithia Springs, GA) in the amount of \$46,200.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Sourcewell Contract #091520-HCE. 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 Garrett being absent from the meeting.

C. Mobile Command Vehicle for Emergency Management & Homeland Security – OMNIA Partners Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (199-23): A resolution authorizing the purchase of a mobile command vehicle (FSV Custom Coach Style 45) from Farber Special Vehicles (Columbus, OH) in the amount of \$1,350,286.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Omnia Partners Cooperative Purchase Contract #128867. 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 Garrett being absent from the meeting.

D. Lawn Maintenance Equipment & Supplies (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 23-0033

Resolution (200-23): A resolution authorizing the purchase of lawn maintenance equipment & supplies on an “as needed” basis from Home Hardware, Inc. (Columbus, GA) for the estimated annual contract value of \$163,754.48. 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 Garrett being absent from the meeting.

E. Contract Extension for Integrated Transit System (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 20-0015

Resolution (201-23): A resolution authorizing the extension of an annual contract with Syncromatics Corporation d/b/a GMV Syncromatics (Los Angeles, CA) for an integrated transit system in the annual amount of \$130,591.00 for METRA Transit System. The contract extension will be for a period of three years, beginning July 1, 2023, with the option to renew for two additional twelve-month periods. 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 Garrett being absent from the meeting.

INFORMATION ONLY: EXIGENT “OFF THE LOT” VEHICLE PURCHASE

1. TWO (2) 2023 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500HD PICKUP TRUCKS FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

On May 17, 2023, a purchase order was executed for two (2) 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD pickup trucks for the Public Works Department due to exigent circumstances, as approved by Council per Resolution No. 067-23.

The vehicles were purchased from Sons Chevrolet LLC (Columbus, GA) at a unit price of \$60,237.00 and \$60,281.00 respectively, and a total price of \$120,518.00. Sons Chevrolet LLC had vehicles available on their lot. The vehicles will be used by Facilities Maintenance staff as Service Vehicles performing duties to maintain and service City facilities. These are replacement vehicles.

Funds are budgeted in the FY23 Budget: General Fund – Public Works – Facilities Maintenance – Light Trucks; 0101-260-2700-MNTN-7722.

2. ONE (1) ANIMAL ADOPTION TRAILER FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

On May 17, 2023, a purchase order was executed for one (1) animal adoption trailer (Forest River 7x20TA2) for the Public Works Department due to exigent circumstances, as approved by Council per Resolution No. 067-23.

The trailer was purchased from Trax and Trailers (Perry, GA) at a unit price of \$50,886.00. It will be used by the Animal Care and Control Division staff to transport highly adoptable animals to off-site adoption events, or any public or private event whereby the City is invited to participate.

Trax and Trailers was selected because the trailer is custom built equipment and the vendor has built the last three (3) custom trailers purchased by the CCG.

Funds are budgeted in the FY23 Budget: General Fund – Public Works – Animal Control – Other Equipment; 0101-260-2400-ACCC-7762.

3. ONE (1) ANIMAL HORSE TRAILER FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

On May 18, 2023, a purchase order was executed for one (1) animal horse trailer (2023 Adam 2H Rustler Trailer) for the Public Works Department due to exigent circumstances, as approved by Council per Resolution No. 067-23.

The trailer was purchased from Horse Pro Trailers (Gainesville, GA) at a unit price of \$22,895.00. It will be used by the Animal Care and Control Division staff to transport horses and other large animals required for pickup.

Horse Pro Trailers was selected because this is a specialized vehicle and the vendor had the trailer available for under \$25,000.00.

Funds are budgeted in the FY23 Budget: General Fund – Public Works – Animal Control – Other Equipment; 0101-260-2400-ACCC-7762.

4. **ONE (1) 2023 NISSAN FRONTIER PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE COLUMBUS FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT**

On May 22, 2023, a purchase order was executed for one (1) 2023 Nissan Frontier pickup truck for the Columbus Fire Department due to exigent circumstances, as approved by Council per Resolution No. 067-23.

The vehicle was purchased from Headquarter Nissan of Columbus (Columbus, GA) at a unit price of \$36,017.00. The vehicle will be used by the Fire Department Battalion Chief in support of their assigned duties. According to Fleet Management, the vehicle is not under a Cooperative Contract.

Funds are budgeted in the FY23 Budget: LOST-Public Safety Fund – Fire & EMS – Public Safety-LOST – Light Trucks; 0102-410-9900-LOST-7722.

5. **ONE (1) 2023 FORD F-150 PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE COLUMBUS FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT**

On May 22, 2023, a purchase order was executed for one (1) 2023 Ford F-150 pickup truck for the Columbus Fire/EMS Department due to exigent circumstances, as approved by Council per Resolution No. 067-23.

The vehicle was purchased from Son’s Ford LLC (Auburn, AL) at a unit price of \$45,930.50. The vehicle will be used by the Fire Department Battalion Chief in support of their assigned duties. According to Fleet Management, the vehicle is not under a Cooperative Contract.

Funds are budgeted in the FY23 Budget: LOST-Public Safety Fund – Fire & EMS – Public Safety-LOST – Light Trucks; 0102-410-9900-LOST-7722.

6. **TWO (2) 2023 RAM PROMASTER 1500 HIGH ROOF VANS FOR THE COLUMBUS FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT**

On May 22, 2023, a purchase order was executed for two (2) 2023 RAM ProMaster 1500 High Roof Vans for the Columbus Fire/EMS Department due to exigent circumstances, as approved by Council per Resolution No. 067-23.

The vehicles were purchased from Warner Robins Motors LLC (Warner Robins, GA) at a unit price of \$61,550.00 and \$54,510.00 respectively, and a total price of \$116,060.00. The vehicles will be used by the department’s Dive Team and Support Team to transport supplies to needed locations. According to Fleet Management, the vehicle is not under a Cooperative Contract.

Funds are budgeted in the FY23 Budget: LOST-Public Safety Fund – Fire & EMS – Public Safety-LOST – Light Trucks; 0102-410-9900-LOST-7721.

7. **ONE (1) 2023 FORD F-150 PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE COLUMBUS FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT**

On May 22, 2023, a purchase order was executed for one (1) 2023 Ford F-150 pickup truck for the Columbus Fire/EMS Department due to exigent circumstances, as approved by Council per Resolution No. 067-23.

The vehicle was purchased from Rivertown Ford (Columbus, GA) at a unit price of \$42,769.00. The vehicle will be used by the Fire Department Battalion Chief in support of their assigned duties. According to Fleet Management, the vehicle is not under a Cooperative Contract.

Funds are budgeted in the FY23 Budget: LOST-Public Safety Fund – Fire & EMS – Public Safety-LOST – Light Trucks; 0102-410-9900-LOST-7722.

8. ONE (1) 2023 FORD F-150 4X2 SUPER CREW PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE COLUMBUS FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

On May 22, 2023, a purchase order was executed for one (1) 2023 Ford F-150 4x2 Super Crew pickup truck for the Columbus Fire/EMS Department due to exigent circumstances, as approved by Council per Resolution No. 067-23.

The vehicle was purchased from Rivertown Ford (Columbus, GA) at a unit price of \$46,678.00. The vehicle will be used by the Fire Department Battalion Chief in support of their assigned duties. According to Fleet Management, the vehicle is not under a Cooperative Contract.

Funds are budgeted in the FY23 Budget: LOST-Public Safety Fund – Fire & EMS – Public Safety-LOST – Light Trucks; 0102-410-9900-LOST-7722.

9. ONE (1) 2023 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE COLUMBUS FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

On May 22, 2023, a purchase order was executed for one (1) 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 pickup truck for the Columbus Fire/EMS Department due to exigent circumstances, as approved by Council per Resolution No. 067-23.

The vehicle was purchased from Sons Chevrolet LLC (Columbus, GA) at a unit price of \$42,658.00. The vehicle will be used by the Fire Department Battalion Chief in support of their assigned duties. According to Fleet Management, the vehicle is not under a Cooperative Contract.

Funds are budgeted in the FY23 Budget: LOST-Public Safety Fund – Fire & EMS – Public Safety-LOST – Light Trucks; 0102-410-9900-LOST-7722.

10. ONE (1) 2023 FORD F-150 PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

On May 22, 2023, a purchase order was executed for one (1) 2023 Ford F-150 pickup truck for the Information Technology Department due to exigent circumstances, as approved by Council per Resolution No. 067-23.

The vehicle was purchased from Rivertown Ford (Columbus, GA) at a unit price of \$59,342.53. The vehicle will be used by IT personnel as they provide technology services for CCG Departments. According to Fleet Management, the vehicle is not under a Cooperative Contract.

Funds are budgeted in the FY23 Budget: General Fund – Information Technology – Information Technology – Light Trucks; 0101-210-1000-ISS-7722.

7. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Final Employee Appeals Update-Pay Study – Reather Hollowell, Director, Human Resources

Human Resources Director Reather Hollowell approached the rostrum to provide an update on the final employee appeals for the newly adopted pay plan. She explained there were a total of 142 final appeals submitted by employees to the City Manager, with 110 coming from General Government Employees and 32 coming from Public Safety Employees. She stated out of the 110 appeals submitted, 52 were approved and 90 were denied or rather the City Manager agreed with the recommendation from the consultants. She stated the total cost impact of the approved appeals is \$292,037 and the cost was included in the FY24 Budget Recommendation but did not include any retroactive pay.

- B. Outdoor Parks Grant - Holli Browder, Director, Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Director Holli Browder approached the rostrum to provide a presentation on the American Rescue Plan Act – Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionally Impacted Communities Grant Program. She explained the areas that were applied for were required to be within the census track provided by the Governor’s Office. She stated for Grant 1 the playgrounds at Boxwood, Charlie Hill Park, and Lakebottom Park would be replaced, Grant 2 will fund the replacement of lights at A. J. McClung Memorial Stadium, and Grant 3 will fund renovations to the Bibb City Soccer Field.

- C. Pickleball Update – Holli Browder, Director, Parks & Recreation

Parks and Recreation Director Holli Browder approached the rostrum to provide a presentation on pickleball in Columbus, where information on the court locations and schedules were provided.

- D. City Hall Update - Ryan Pruett, Director, Inspections & Code

Inspections & Code Director Ryan Pruett approached the rostrum to provide an update on the Columbus City Hall. He provided information on the various phases of the project and the departments that would be moving throughout each phase.

BID ADVERTISEMENT

June 14, 2023

- 1. Concrete Slabs for Exterior Exercise Equipment – RFB No. 23-0042

Scope of Bid

Provide all labor, equipment, and materials required to pour and finish three concrete 35' x 65' slabs for the Parks and Recreation Department. The concrete slabs are for exterior exercise systems at Britt David Park, Cooper Creek Park, and Rigdon Park. **Bidders must have relevant experience in work of this nature.**

June 16, 2023

- 1. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – RFP No. 23-0039

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting proposals for a professional firm to provide an updated County Hazard Mitigation Plan for its Emergency Management Division of the Homeland Security Department. The plan shall meet or exceeds FEMA and Georgia Emergency Management Agency requirements. **The successful firm shall complete the updated plan by October 11, 2023.**

2. Bulk Mailing Services for Various Departments (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 23-0012
Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide bulk mailing services for various Departments on an “as needed” basis. Such projects will consist of mailings in excess of one thousand (1,000) pieces.

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

June 23, 2023

1. Demolition Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 23-0024
Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting proposals for qualified vendors to provide all necessary equipment, materials, transportation, and labor for residential and commercial demolition services.

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

July 14, 2023

1. Automated Speed Detection for School Zone Safety Enforcement (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 23-0036
Scope of RFP

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting proposals for automated speed detection for school zone safety enforcement systems and services, specifically LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) with ALPR (Automated License Plate Readers) functions to integrate with the existing Flock Safety system for the Columbus Police Department.

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

CLERK OF COUNCIL’S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - INFORMATION ONLY

1. Certificate of Need Application submitted by Ultra Care of Georgia, Inc. to expand its existing home health agency in State Service Delivery Region-8.
2. Certificate of Need Application submitted by Axzons Homecare Ltd. proposing to establish a new home health agency in State Service Delivery Region-8.

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

- 3. **RESOLUTION (202-23)** - A resolution canceling the July 4, August 1, and September 5, 2023, Proclamation Sessions. 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 Garrett being absent from the meeting.

- 4. **RESOLUTION (203-23)** - A resolution excusing Councilor R. Walker Garrett from the June 13, 2023 Council Meeting. 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 Garrett being absent from the meeting.

- 5. **RESOLUTION (204-23)** - A resolution approving an Honorary Street Designation Application submitted by Pastor L. Darnel Skinner, Jr. with the Bread of Life Christian Center requesting signage to be placed at the intersecting streets at each end of the one block area of Manchester Expressway and 46th Street in honor of Bishop L.D. Skinner, Sr. *(The Board of Honor met on May 24, 2023 and recommends approval.)* 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 Garrett being absent from the meeting.

- 6. **RESOLUTION (205-23)** - A resolution approving an Honorary Designation Application submitted by Deputy Director Becky Summerlin- Department of Parks & Recreation to rename the Cooper Creek Tennis Center Clubhouse in honor of Mr. Rick Gordon. *(The Board of Honor met on May 24, 2023 and recommends approval.)* Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

- 7. Email Correspondence from Ms. Emma Kimbrel- Community Reinvestment Planner requesting that the seat of Ms. Sendreka Lakes be declared vacant due to the lack of attendance. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to declare the seat of Sendreka Lakes vacant, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

- 8. Letter of Resignation from Ms. Jennifer Upshaw resigning from her seat on the Public Safety Advisory Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the resignation with regrets, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

- 9. **Minutes of the following boards:**

Board of Honor, May 25, 2023

Board of Tax Assessors, #18-23 and #19-23

Board of Zoning Appeals, May 5, 2023

Convention & Visitors Bureau, Board of Commissioners, April 19, 2023

Development Authority, April 13 and May 4, 2023

Hospital Authority, April 25, 2023

Housing Authority, April 19, 2023

New Horizons Behavioral Health- Mental Health, Addictive Diseases and Developmental Disabilities- Community Service Board, January 11, February 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, August 9, September 13, October 11, and December 13, 2021

Personnel Review Board, May 24, 2023

Uptown Facade Board, April 17, 2023

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

10. MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

A. CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

A nominee for the seat of Michelle Spivey (*Eligible to succeed – Interested in serving another term*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2023, as a Hotel/Motel Industry Representative on the Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Commissioners (*Mayor's Appointment*). Mayor Henderson renominated Michelle Spivey to serve another term. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

A nominee for the seat of Pace M. Halter (*Eligible to succeed – Interested in serving another term*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2023, as a Hotel/Motel Industry Representative on the Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Commissioners (*Mayor's Appointment*). Mayor Henderson renominated Pace M. Halter Spivey to serve another term. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

A nominee for the seat of Dan Gilbert (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2023, as a Restaurant/Retail Trade Representative on the Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Commissioners (*Mayor's Appointment*). Mayor Henderson renominated Dan Gilbert to serve another term. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

Clerk of Council Davis explained that the appointments for the Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Commissioners are made in the month of July for the terms beginning the following January.

B. RETIREES’ HEALTH BENEFITS COMMITTEE:

A nominee for the seat of Peri V. Johnson (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expires on June 30, 2023, on the Retirees’ Health Benefits Committee (*Mayor’s Appointment*). Mayor Henderson nominated Christi Johnson to succeed Peri V. Johnson. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

11. COUNCIL APPOINTMENT- READY FOR CONFIRMATION:

- A. COLUMBUS AQUATICS COMMISSION:** Mr. Christopher Kennedy was nominated to serve another term of office. (*Councilor Crabb’s nominee*) Term expires: June 30, 2025. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.
- B. KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION:** Mr. Eddie Florence was nominated to serve another term of office. (*Councilor Tucker’s nominee*) Term expires: June 30, 2026. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.
- C. RETIREES’ HEALTH BENEFITS COMMITTEE:** Ms. Renee McAneny was nominated to serve another term of office. (*Councilor Crabb’s nominee*) Term expires: June 30, 2026. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

12. COUNCIL’S DISTRICT SEAT APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

A. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Pamela Williams (*Seat declared vacant*) for a term that expires on October 31, 2023, as the District 2 Representative on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 2- Davis*). There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term that expires on October 31, 2023, as the District 6 Representative on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 6- Allen*). There were none.

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

A. BOARD OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES:

A nominee for the seat of Toula Puailoa (*Seat declared vacant*) for a term that expires on June 30, 2025, on the Board of Family & Children Services (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Barnes nominated Dr. Chandler Padgett, for the Pediatric healthcare provider seat to fill the unexpired term of Toula Puailoa.

In accordance with O.C.G.A. 49-3-2 (Amended via 2015 SB 138) the governing authority (Local County Board of Commissioners) shall ensure that all appointments made on or after July 1, 2015, are made from the following categories: (1) Pediatric healthcare providers (active or retired); (2) Emergency responders (active or retired); (3) Law enforcement personnel (active or retired); (4) Private child welfare service providers (active or retired); (5) Alumni of the child welfare system and (6) Former foster parents.

B. BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS:

A nominee for the seat of Rebecca Rumer (*Eligible to succeed – Not seeking reappointment*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2023, on the Board of Water Commissioners (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Thomas nominated Jennifer S. Upshaw to succeed Rebecca Rumer. Clerk of Council Davis stated she is requesting that Council allow Ms. Upshaw to serve out the remainder of Ms. Rumer's current term of office, which expires on December 31, 2023 and begins her first full-term on January 1, 2024. There were no objections.

Clerk of Council Davis explained that the appointments for the Board of Water Commissioners are made in the month of July for the terms beginning the following January.

C. BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

A nominee for the seat of Leila Carr (*Eligible to succeed – Not seeking reappointment*) for a term that expired on March 24, 2023, on the Building Authority of Columbus (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Vincent Allen (*Resigned*) for a term that expired on March 24, 2023, on the Building Authority of Columbus (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Begly nominated Tyler Martindill to succeed Vincent Allen.

D. COLUMBUS AQUATICS COMMISSION:

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.

E. KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of William Bandy (*Eligible to succeed – Does not desire reappointment*) for a term that expires on June 30, 2023, as a SD-29 Representative on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (*Council's Appointment*). Mayor Pro Tem Allen nominated Kimberly Wright to succeed William Bandy, as recommended by Keep Columbus Beautiful Director Lisa Thomas-Cutts.

A nominee for the seat of Lee Jordan (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expires on June 30, 2023, as a SD-29 Representative on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (*Council’s Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Dr. Kar’retta Venable (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expires on June 30, 2023, as an At-Large Member on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (*Council’s Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Matt Horne (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expires on June 30, 2023, as a SD-15 Representative on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (*Council’s Appointment*). Councilor Begly nominated Dorris Bishop to succeed Matt Horne.

A nominee for the seat of Alyssa Williams (*Seat declared vacant*) for a term that expires on June 30, 2024, as an At-Large Member on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (*Council’s Appointment*). Mayor Pro Tem Allen nominated Pamela Green Thomas to succeed Alyssa Williams, as recommended by Keep Columbus Beautiful Director Lisa Thomas-Cutts.

A nominee for the seat of Doug McLeod, Jr. (*Seat declared vacant*) for a term that expires on June 30, 2024, as a SD-15 Representative on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (*Council’s Appointment*). Mayor Pro Tem Allen nominated David Houser to succeed Doug McLeod, Jr., as recommended by Keep Columbus Beautiful Director Lisa Thomas-Cutts.

F. MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL AUTHORITY:

Nominees for the seat of Rodney Mahone (*Eligible to succeed – Not seeking reappointment*) for a term that expired on December 31, 2022, on the Medical Center Hospital Authority (*Council’s Appointment*). Clerk of Council Davis explained the Council submits three (3) nominees to the Medical Center Hospital Authority for each seat and the Medical Center Hospital Authority selects the successor for Council’s confirmation. Councilor Thomas nominated Woodruff W. McWilliams, III, Murray Solomon and Tracy L. Sayers for the seat of Rodney Mahone. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to submit the nominees to the Medical Center Hospital Authority, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

G. PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Sheila Brown (*No longer a resident*) for a term that expires on August 31, 2023, on the Planning Advisory Commission (*Council’s Appointment*). Mayor Pro Tem Allen nominated Rick Stallings to succeed Sheila Brown.

H. REGION 6 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES:

A nominee for the seat of Cynthia Smith (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expires on June 30, 2023, on the Region 6 Regional Advisory Council for Department of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities (*Council’s Appointment*). Councilor Barnes nominated Dr. Janet Bussey to succeed Cynthia Smith.

I. RETIREES' HEALTH BENEFITS COMMITTEE:

A nominee for the seat of Mike Massey (*Eligible to succeed – Not seeking reappointment*) for a term that expires on June 30, 2023, on the Retirees' Health Benefits Committee (*Councils' Appointment*). Councilor Thomas nominated John D. Hawk to succeed Mike Massey.

UPCOMING BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

A. Planning Advisory Commission (Council's Appointment)

STATEMENT OF POLICY FOR COUNCIL AGENDAS:

Councilor Cogle made a motion for an oral resolution as a statement of policy for the members of Council to receive the Council Agenda by the close of business on Wednesday prior to the Council Meeting date to become effective July 1, 2023, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss matters of real estate acquisition and disposal 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 Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent from the meeting, and the time being 2:32 p.m.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 2:48 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in executive session to discuss matters of real estate acquisition and disposal; however, there were no votes taken.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to adjourn the June 13, 2023 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Begly being absent for the vote, Councilor Garrett being absent for the meeting, and the time being 2:48 p.m.



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