

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 27, 2023
5:30 PM
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, R. Walker Garrett (via Microsoft Teams), Bruce Huff (arrived at 5:35 p.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.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) Indigent Health Care Update Presentation; (2) City Hall Update Presentation; (3) Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations Presentation

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) Documents submitted by Jeremy Frady; (2) Columbus Consolidated Government Monthly Financial Snapshot (Unaudited) FY2023 – May 2023

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Pastor Walter Johnson, God’s Way Ministries

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the June 20, 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 Huff being absent for the vote.

PROCLAMATION:

2. **Proclamation:** Nova Python Day
Receiving: Nova Pythons All-Star Cheerleaders, Summit National Champions

Councilor Joanne Cogle read the proclamation into the record, proclaiming Sunday, April 30, 2023, as *Nova Python Day*, recognizing the Nova Pythons All-Star Cheerleaders for an amazing season and for being named the 2023 Summit National Champions.

RESOLUTION

3. **Resolution:** Georgia Police and Fire Games
- Receiving:** Chief Sal Scarpa, Columbus Department of Fire & EMS; Interim Chief Stoney Mathis, Columbus Police Department; Sheriff Greg Countryman, Muscogee County Sheriff’s Office; Merri Sherman, Columbus Georgia Sports Council

Resolution (215-23): A resolution whereas, during the week of June 19, 2023, Columbus, Georgia hosted the Georgia Police and Fire Games. Councilor Barnes made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

Councilor Jerry “Pops” Barnes read the resolution into the record, recognizing the Fire & EMS Department, Muscogee County Sheriff’s Department, Columbus Police Department, and Columbus Sports Council for their planning and participation in the 2023 Georgia Police and Fire Games.

PRESENTATION:

4. Pratt & Whitney Expansion Update – Presented by Jerald Mitchell, President & CEO of the Greater Columbus, GA Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Jerald Mitchell approached the rostrum to provide an update on the expansion of Pratt & Whitney. He stated Pratt & Whitney is expanding by adding 396 positions with an estimated \$25 million in new payroll averaging \$63,000 a year for those positions. He explained they are spending \$206 million on 2 separate components, a forging center for metal work and an engine center for aircraft engines. He stated they would be working with Georgia Quick Start and Columbus Technical College to ramp up with skill sets that will support this growth. He explained the Chamber offered a bond inducement for 1.1 million per year for 20 years as an investment in the community.

CITY ATTORNEY’S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (23-038) - 2nd Reading** - 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. (as amended 6-13-23) (continued on 2nd Reading from 06-20-23) (Budget Review Committee) Councilor Thomas made a motion to amend the ordinance to reclassify one Sergeant position to Lieutenant for \$10,955 for the Columbus Police Department, seconded by Councilor Barnes and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council. Councilor Thomas made a motion to amend the ordinance for the creation of a Director of Accountability Courts Position at Step 34, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council. Councilor Davis made a motion to amend the ordinance to reduce the operating budget by \$7,000,000 to roll back the millage rate for the Urban Service Districts to reflect that amount, with \$500,000 from Contingency, \$2 million from Indigent Care, and \$4.5 million from Fund Balance Reserves, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance as amended, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

Interim Police Chief Stoney Mathis approached the rostrum to request that Council allow him to reclassify one of the three Sergeant positions available at the Columbus Police Department to Lieutenant.

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum to breakdown the motion made by Councilor Davis, where she explained that Risk Management Fund is not part of the Operating Budget but is referred to as an internal service as it is funded by all other funds for workers compensation claims and risk management claims. She made additional comments regarding the purpose of the Contingency Fund and the money being set aside to be allocated later for specific projects.

Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III made comments regarding the hard work put in to get the Reserve Day Fund Balance back to where it did not appear that the City of Columbus was propping up the fund by using OLOST days. He stated it is projected that another recession is coming and that is what the fund is for. He also stated that he wishes that he and others were made aware of the request.

Chief Appraiser Suzanne Widenhouse approached the rostrum to respond to the discussion and answer questions regarding the tax digest and how Tax Allocation Districts play a part. She explained the money collected for Tax Allocation Districts is untouchable.

City Attorney Clifton Fay stated Council sets the millage rate and they have the authority to increase or decrease the millage rate every year, which is taxation as to value. He explained that Council does not have the authority to grant flat increases on ad valorem tax bills, but they can give citizens credit on their business license fees, which they have total control over.

3. **Ordinance (23-039) - 2nd 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 2023 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) Councilor Davis made a motion to adopt the ordinance to reflect the amendments to the operating budget ordinance, with a reduction of 1.03 mills in General Services and 0.41 in Indigent Care, seconded Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.
2. **Ordinance (23-040) - 2nd 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. (continued on 2nd Reading from 6-20-23) (Budget Review Committee) Councilor Davis made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.
4. **Ordinance (23-041) - 2nd 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 Muscogee County School District) Councilor Davis made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

- 5. **Ordinance (23-042) - 2nd Reading-** An Ordinance adopting changes to the Evergreen Solutions recommended classification and pay plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem) Councilor Davis made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.
- 6. **Ordinance (23-043) - 2nd 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. (as amended) (Councilor Cogle) Councilor Cogle made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by a nine-to-one vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Barnes, Begly, Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Garrett, Huff and Tucker voting in favor, and Councilor Thomas voting in opposition.
- 7. **Ordinance (23-044) - 2nd Reading-** An Ordinance amending Section 3-15.2 of the Columbus Code to establish an entertainment district subject to the requirements of Columbus Code Section 3-15.1 at Midland Commons; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the ten members present.

RESOLUTIONS

- 8. **Resolution (216-23):** A Resolution authorizing payment of attorney fees which may be incurred for legal services rendered regarding various city issues during fiscal year 2024. (Mayor Pro Tem) Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.
- 9. **Resolution (217-23):** A Resolution requesting that the Georgia Prosecuting Attorney’s Council intervene at the state and federal level to ensure continued funding of the VOCA grant program which serves victims of crime in Columbus, Georgia and the entire Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit. (Mayor Pro Tem) Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.
- 10. **Resolution (218-23):** A Resolution requesting that the Development Authority of Columbus, Georgia and the Muscogee County Board of Tax Assessors provide certain information to the Council of Columbus, Georgia. (Councilor Davis) Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by a nine-to-one vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Barnes, Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Garrett, Huff, Thomas and Tucker voting in favor, and Councilor Begly voting in opposition.

PUBLIC AGENDA

- 1. Mr. Jack Rosenhammer, representing Columbus Street Hockey, Re: Discuss a new street hockey program for kids.
- 2. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Evictions and Affordable Housing. *Not Present*

- 3. Mr. Jeremy Frady, Re: Noise ordinance within residential areas pertaining to business dumpsters being emptied before 7am and a potential new ordinance established or stronger penalties for repeat offenders.
- 4. Mrs. Olivia Rose, representing Chattahoochee Adventure Co., Re: Consideration for additional activities on the Whitewater course.

Uptown Columbus President Ed Wolverton approached the rostrum to explain the vendor bid process for Uptown Columbus.

- 5. Mr. Erwin Jenkins, representing AAMCO Transmissions of Columbus, GA, Re: The Columbus Consolidated Government's support of non-tax paying businesses over its own taxpaying businesses in the City of Columbus.

Public Works Director Drale Short approached the rostrum to address the comments made by Mr. Jenkins regarding the services contract between the Columbus Consolidated Government and AAMCO Transmissions.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Risk Management Legal Services

Resolution (219-23): A resolution authorizing payment of attorney fees which may be incurred for legal services rendered regarding risk management issues during Fiscal Year 2024. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

2. FY2024 U.S. Literacy Matters Grant

Resolution (220-23): A resolution authorizing the application and acceptance, if awarded, of a Federal Literacy Matters Grant sponsored by Congressman Sanford Bishop, in the amount of \$34,000, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match required, for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. This funding will support the Columbus/Muscogee County Family Connection Collaborative in creating and enhancing childhood literacy efforts, and to amend the Family Connection Fund 0985 by the amount of the award. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

3. PURCHASES

- A. Masonry Products (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 23-0024

Resolution (221-23): A resolution authorizing the annual contract for the purchase of masonry products from Ferguson Waterworks (Columbus, GA) for the estimated annual contract value of \$96,978.00. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

- C. Dual Axle Utility Trailers – RFB No. 23-0036

Resolution (222-23): A resolution authorizing the purchase of fifteen (15) dual axle utility trailers from Rockland Cargo Equipment, Inc. (Conyers, GA) at a unit price of \$4,997.00, and a total price

of \$74,955.00. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

D. Flatbed Dump Trucks with 12FT Body – RFB No. 23-0038

Resolution (223-23): A resolution authorizing the purchase of six (6) flatbed dump trucks with 12FT body from Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) at a unit price of \$72,010.00, and a total price of \$432,060.00. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

E. Repair of Bulldozer for Public Works Department

Resolution (224-23): A resolution authorizing payment to Yancey Brothers (Fortson, GA), in the amount of \$50,152.76, for the repair of a 2014 Caterpillar D4K2 Bulldozer, Vehicle #11459. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

B. Ball Field Groomers – RFB No. 23-0037

Resolution (225-23): A resolution authorizing the purchase of two (2) ball field groomers from Tri-State Pump and Control, Inc. (Liberty, SC) at a unit price of \$20,970.00, and a total price of \$41,940.00. Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

4. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

B. Indigent Care - Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager, Finance, Planning & Development

Councilor Begly requested to be recused from voting on this matter due to a conflict. Councilor Crabb made a motion to recuse Councilor Begly, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members of Council. *(Note: Councilor Begly immediately exited the meeting and returned after the discussions and vote on this item.)*

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge approached the rostrum to provide an update on indigent care. Before beginning her presentation, she explained this is an active RFP; therefore, she would not be able to share all the information. She explained there were four proposals received, The Medical Center, Inc. dba Piedmont Columbus Regional Midtown, MercyMed of Columbus, Inc., St. Francis Health, LLC dba St. Francis Hospital/Emory Healthcare, and Tree of Life Healthcare, Inc. She stated the voting members of the RFP committee unanimously recommended The Medical Center, Inc. dba Piedmont Columbus Regional Midtown and MercyMed of Columbus, Inc.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Provide a detailed list of the criteria that were included with the RFP. *(Request of Councilor Cogle)*

3. PURCHASES (continued)

F. Professional Healthcare Services for Medically Indigent Persons in Muscogee County (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 23-0009

Councilor Barnes made a motion to reject the RFP, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Begly being recused, and Councilor Davis being absent for the vote.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley stated all vendors that submitted bids on this RFP will be refused and he would like to hear from the members of Council on what they would like to see as part of the future RFP for indigent care services.

4. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS (continued)

A. City Hall Update – Ryan Pruett, Director, Inspections & Code

Inspections & Code Director Ryan Pruett approached the rostrum to provide an update on the move to City Hall, with which departments have already moved and a timeline for the remaining departments. He also responded to questions regarding the parking deck.

C. Electric Charging Stations Update - Everett Flemming, Assistant Director, Metra

Metra Assistant Director Everett Flemming approached the rostrum to provide a presentation on the electric vehicle charging stations. He explained the Metra Transit Department has been given the opportunity to purchase electric vehicle parking stations with TIA Funding as part of their Park and Ride Program. He provided information on the largest electric charging company, ChargePoint, the benefits of purchasing these stations, and proposed locations.

D. Finance Update - Angelica Alexander, Director, Finance

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum to provide a financial update for the month of May 2023.

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: June 27, 2023
TO: Mayor and Councilors
FROM: Finance Department
SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFQs

July 12, 2023

1. Removal of Residual Ground Material & Removal and Disposal/Reuse of Large Tree Trunks (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 23-0043

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.

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.

Referrals from 6.20.23

CLERK OF COUNCIL’S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

- 1. Minutes of the following boards:**
- Crime Prevention Board, January 18, February 15, March 22, April 19, May 3, May 25, and June 6, 2022; February 16, April 13, and May 17, 2023
- Development Authority, May 4, 2023
- River Valley Regional Commission, April 26, and May 24, 2023
- Councilor Tucker made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS- ACTION REQUESTED:

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

A. AUDIT COMMITTEE:

A nominee for a new member seat for a term that expires on June 30, 2025, as a Finance/Accounting or Governmental Representative on the Audit Committee (*Mayor’s Appointment*). Mayor Henderson nominated Mike Baker. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

A nominee for a new member seat for a term that expires on June 30, 2025, as a Finance/Accounting or Governmental Representative on the Audit Committee (*Mayor's Appointment*). Mayor Henderson nominated John Redmond. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

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

- A. **PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION:** Ms. Gloria Thomas was nominated to serve another term of office. (*Councilor Huff's nominee*) Term expires: August 31, 2026. Councilor Barnes made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

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

A. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:**

A nominee for the seat of Sendreka Lakes (*Seat declared vacant*) for a term expiring on March 27, 2024, as the District 9 Representative on the Community Development Advisory Council (*Council District 9- Thomas*). There were none.

B. **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:**

A nominee for the seat of Pamela Williams (*Seat declared vacant*) for a term expiring on October 31, 2023, as the District 2 Representative on the Community Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 2- Davis*). Councilor Davis nominated Christopher Poirier to fill this vacant seat. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

A nominee for the seat of Jennifer S. Upshaw (*Seat declared vacant*) for a term expiring on October 31, 2023, as the District 5 Representative on the Community Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 5- Crabb*). There were none.

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

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

A. **ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:**

A nominee for the seat of Stephen Waters (*Resigned*) for a term expiring on October 15, 2023, on the Animal Control Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Begly nominated Lori Turner to fill the unexpired term of Stephen Waters.

A nominee for the seat of Julee Fryer (*Resigned*) for a term expiring on October 15, 2024, on the Animal Control Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). Clerk of Council Davis explained it has

been brought to her attention that Julee Fryer wishes to finish her term if Council will allow. Councilor Thomas made a motion to allow Julee Fryer to withdraw her resignation on the Animal Control Advisory Board, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

B. AUDIT COMMITTEE:

A nominee for a new member seat for a term that expires on June 30, 2025, as a Finance/Accounting or Governmental Representative on the Audit Committee (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Davis nominated Michael Bruder.

A nominee for a new member seat for a term that expires on June 30, 2025, as a Council Representative on the Audit Committee (*Council's Appointment*). Mayor Pro Tem Allen nominated Councilor Tyson Begly. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

A nominee for a new member seat for a term that expires on June 30, 2025, as a Council Representative on the Audit Committee (*Council's Appointment*). Mayor Pro Tem Allen nominated Councilor Toyia Tucker. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

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. Councilor Huff nominated Mr. Johnny Byrd, II to succeed Ms. Leila Carr.

D. COLUMBUS AQUATICS COMMISSION:

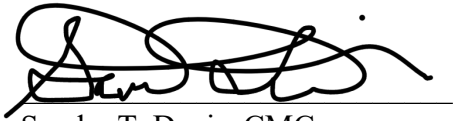
A nominee for the seat of Bruce Samuels (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expired on June 30, 2022, on the Columbus Aquatics Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss matters of litigation 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 ten members of Council, with the time being 9:40 p.m.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 10:18 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in executive session to discuss matters of litigation and 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 Thomas to adjourn the June 27, 2023 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Garrett being absent for the vote, and the time being 10:18 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra T. Davis', is positioned above a horizontal line.

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