

**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	January 9, 2024 9:00 AM Regular Meeting
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**M A Y O R ’ S   A G E N D A**

**PRESENT:** Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III (arrived at 9:03 a.m.) and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors Jerry “Pops” Barnes (arrived at 9:21 a.m. via teleconference), Tyson Begly, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis (arrived at 9:03 a.m.), R. Walker Garrett, Bruce Huff (arrived at 10:35 a.m.), Judy W. Thomas and Toyia Tucker. City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis, and Deputy Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore were present.

**The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet:** (1) Golf Course Authority Presentation; (2) Columbus Police Department Recruitment & Retention Presentation

**The following documents were distributed around the Council table:** (1) Information and Photos submitted by PA#1 Lisa Sparks;

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III, Presiding  
**INVOCATION:** Offered by Reverend Thad Haygood, St. Luke Church of Columbus, Georgia  
**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen

**MINUTES**

1. Approval of minutes for the December 12, 2023, Council Meeting and Executive Session and December 21, 2023, Special Called Meeting and Executive Session. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Barnes and Huff being absent for the vote.

**Councilor Charmaine Crabb** stated she wishes to change her vote from being in favor of Resolution 463-23, which was approved at the December 21, 2023, Council Meeting, to being in opposition. She expressed that she was of the understanding that the approval of this resolution was to authorize staff to go out and establish the terms of the bonds and come back to Council for approval, but she has heard on several occasions that approval of Resolution 463-23 was to authorize the issuance of bonds and she was not in favor of doing this.

**City Attorney Clifton Fay** explained that the approval of Resolution 463-23 was authorizing staff to go out and explore financing for the issuance of bonds and was not approving the issuance of bonds itself.

**Councilor Charmaine Crabb** requested the records reflect that her understanding is as stated by City Attorney Fay.

**RECOGNITION:**

2. Saudi Aramco Group and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)

**Fire & EMS Chief Sal Scarpa** approached the rostrum to share information and introduce the Saudi Aramco Group. He stated the Saudi Aramco Group has been working at three of the fire stations as part of the Fellowship Program with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). He explained this program provides an opportunity for firefighters from Saudi Arabia to see how firefighters in the United States fight fires.

**Mr. Jeff Dulin, Strategic Advisor (International Association of Fire Chiefs)** approached the rostrum to provide information on the Fellowship Program and to thank the Mayor and Council for supporting the dedication of Fire Chief Sal Scarpa.

**PROCLAMATION:**

3. **Proclamation:** National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

**Councilor Toyia Tucker** read the proclamation into record, proclaiming Tuesday, January 9, 2024, as *National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day*, recognizing and showing appreciation for the sacrifices made by our local law enforcement officers every day to keep our community safe.

**REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION:**

**Councilor Judy W. Thomas** requested a discussion be held today at the conclusion of the City Manager's Agenda on the concerns expressed by citizens daily regarding trash pickup. She further requested either the Public Works Director or another representative to be present during the discussion to respond to questions.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA****ORDINANCES**

1. **Ordinance (24-001) - 2nd Reading-** An Ordinance providing an increase to the Local Supplement for Muscogee County Sheriff Gregory Countryman effective January 1, 2024; and for other purposes. (As amended) (Councilor Tucker) Councilor Crabb made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Huff being absent for the vote.
2. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **4228 3rd Avenue** (parcel # 013-001-041) from Light Manufacturing/Industrial (LMI) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily - 1 (RMF1) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Garrett)

3. **1st Reading-** REZN-10-23-2056: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **3300 6th Avenue** (parcel # 014-019-010A) from Residential Multifamily- 2 (RMF2) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily - 1 (RMF1) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Garrett)
4. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance amending the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) of the Columbus Code to revise the text of a section in Chapter 6 pertaining to the application process for Resource Conservation Subdivisions. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Mayor Pro-Tem)
5. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain portions of a district known as the Conversation Use Valuation Assessment, from RE1 (Residential Estate 1) Zoning District to RE10 (Residential Estate 10) Zoning District. (Planning Department recommends approval.) (Councilors Allen and Davis)

## **RESOLUTIONS**

6. **Resolution (001-24):** A resolution establishing qualifying fees for county offices of the Consolidated Government to be filled in the 2024 elections. (Mayor Pro-Tem) Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Huff being absent for the vote.
7. **Resolution (002-24):** A resolution authorizing payments to The Medical Center, Inc. dba Piedmont Columbus Regional Midtown for indigent care services provided during FY 2023. (Councilors Barnes, Cogle, Davis, and Tucker) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to allow Councilor Begly to recuse himself from voting on this item, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Begly being recused and Councilor Huff being absent for the vote. Councilor Tucker then made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Begly being recused and Councilor Huff being absent for the vote.

## **INDIGENT CARE PAYMENT:**

**City Manager Isaiah Hugley** stated that staff still needs clarification on how payment to Piedmont for indigent care is to be validated. He stated staff is not able to just cut a check, so further discussion is needed.

## **PUBLIC AGENDA**

1. Ms. Lisa Sparks, Re: To discuss neglect of the elderly.
2. Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: The purchase of a business cell phone for City Council Members.
3. Ms. Rachel Glance, Re: The dangerous pit bulls in the neighborhood.

**REFERRAL(S):****FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY:**

- Pull all ordinances, resolutions, and state laws that the Council can use to address dangerous animals. *(Request of Councilor Crabb)*

**FOR THE CITY MANAGER:**

- Put together an informational flyer that can be provided to citizens, so they understand who to contact when dealing with aggressive animals and answer frequently asked questions. *(Request of Councilor Davis)*
- Provide recommendations and best practices that can be implemented in addressing aggressive animals. *(Request of Councilor Begly)*
- Give informational flyers to 911 dispatchers so they are able to provide accurate information to citizens when they call to report an aggressive animal. *(Request of Councilor Thomas)*

**Public Works Director Drale Short** approached the rostrum to address the comments made by the members of Council. She explained pet owners are held responsible for their pets and many times victims do not want to press charges when it comes to aggressive animals.

5. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Wage gap and poverty. ***Not Present***
6. Mr. Nathan Smith, Re: Internal audit response.
4. Ms. Evelyn Golden, Re: To discuss neglect of the elderly.
7. Mr. Timothy Veals, Re: Concerns about the neighborhood not being cleaned up and safety on Head Street for pedestrians.

**CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA****1. PURCHASES****A. Weather Alert Radios – RFB No. 24-0015**

**Resolution (003-24):** A resolution authorizing the purchase of fifteen hundred (1,500) Midland WR120 NOAA Desktop Weather Alert Radios and batteries from Midland Radio Corporation (Kansas City, MO) at a unit price of \$26,15 and a total cost of \$39,225.00. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

**Emergency Management & Homeland Security Director Chance Corbett** approached the rostrum to provide additional information on the purchase request for weather alert radios. He explained this was part of a grant awarded through the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), allowing the purchasing of 1,500 weather radios that will be placed in all city facilities, schools, and healthcare facilities, with approximately 500 remaining that will be given to the public at various events.

B. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Sidewalk Project – RFB No. 24-0014

**Resolution (004-24):** A resolution authorizing the execution of a construction contract with Alexander Contracting Company, Inc. (Fortson, GA) in the amount of \$406,710.50 for the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Sidewalk Project. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

C. Change Order 2 – METRA Park and Ride PI #0011435

**Resolution (005-24):** A resolution authorizing the execution of Change Order 2 with Southeastern Site Development, Inc. (Newnan, GA) in the amount of \$30,544.00 for the Metra Park and Ride Project. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

D. Demolition Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 23-0024

**Resolution (006-24):** A resolution authorizing the execution of annual contracts with W.T. Miller, LLC (Cataula, GA) and SACAL Environmental & Management Company (Macon, GA) for demolition services. The Inspections and Code Department will procure the services on an as-needed basis. Other City Departments may utilize the contract, including the Community Reinvestment Department, Highway Coordinator Division of the Planning Department, and the Public Works Department. The City reserves the right to issue separate solicitations for projects that are funded in whole or in part by state and federal agencies or if deemed in the City's best interest. The City will be the sole judge of the factors and will proceed accordingly. The Inspections and Code Department budgets approximately \$150,000.00 annually for the services and the Community Reinvestment Department budgets up to \$325,000.00 annually for the services. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

E. Staffing Software for Fire & EMS Department – RFP No. 19-0004

**Resolution (007-24):** A resolution authorizing payment to Aladtec, Inc. (River Falls, WI), in the amount of \$32,295.71, for the annual Aladtec Workforce Management System Software subscription fees for the period from January 18, 2024 through January 17, 2025. As well as, authorizing payment for the annual software subscription fees for subsequent years, including cost increases for all aspects of the system, which will be budgeted in the appropriate fiscal years. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

F. Membership Dues for Georgia Municipal Association

**Resolution (008-24):** A resolution authorizing payment to Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), in the amount of \$44,425.51, for 2024 membership dues for the City of Columbus, Georgia. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

G. Video Wall Addition for Police Department

**Resolution (009-24):** A resolution authorizing the purchase of video wall addition for the Police Department from Sun Video, Inc. d/b/a Columbus Tape and Video (Columbus, GA) in the amount of

\$35,653.81. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

#### H. Camera Integration Platform for Police Department

**Resolution (010-24):** A resolution authorizing the purchase of a camera integration platform for the Police Department from FUSUS, Inc., (Peachtree Corners, GA), in the amount of \$125,000.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via RFP/Contract #2023-04-1547 awarded by the City of New Haven, CT. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

#### I. Additional License Plate Reader (LPR) Cameras for Police Department

**Resolution (011-24):** A resolution authorizing the purchase of additional License Plate Reader (LPR) Cameras for the Police Department from the Flock Group, Inc. d/b/a Flock Safety (Atlanta, GA), in the amount of \$837,150.00. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

### **EMERGENCY PURCHASES**

#### **1. DRONE FOR FIRE & EMS:**

On December 19, 2023, the Information Technology Department, on behalf of the Fire & EMS Department, requested the emergency purchase of a drone to be utilized by the Fire and EMS Department.

The DJI Matrice 250 RTK drone will be purchased from Flymotion (Tampa, FL), in the amount of \$37,966.22, by Cooperative Contract purchase via Sourcewell Contract #011223-FLM. The Drone has the ability to drop a personal flotation device to a person in distress in the river.

The equipment and the technology aspects of the purchase were vetted by Fire & EMS and the Information Technology Departments.

The purchase will be 100% funded by the 2023 SMART (Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation) grant. The purchase had to be expedited to take advantage of the 2023 grant funding. Consequently, the City Manager approved the emergency purchase on December 19, 2023, as a matter of public safety.

#### **2. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS**

##### A. Godwin Creek Golf Course Update – Jim Arendt, Golf Director, Bull Creek/Oxbow/Godwin Creek Golf Courses

**Golf Director Jim Arendt** approached the rostrum to provide an update on Godwin Creek Golf Course. He explained in addition to previous practices at Godwin Creek, they plan to implement PGA programs and PGA instruction/supervised instruction. He requested funding, not to exceed \$100,000 to operate Godwin Creek from January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024.

Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the funding request not to exceed \$100,000 to operate Godwin Creek from January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

**REFERRAL(S):**

**FOR THE CITY MANAGER:**

- Have Mr. Arendt get with the Parks & Recreation Department to see about providing transportation for the youth from the Frank Chester Center to the Golf Course to find out how the process was handled and, at some point, spread the concept to all of the recreation centers. *(Request of Councilor Huff)*

- B. Columbus Police Department Recruitment and Retention – Reather Hollowell, Director, Human Resources, Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager, Finance, Planning & Infrastructure and Angelica Alexander, Director, Finance

**Human Resources Director Reather Hollowell** approached the rostrum to provide a presentation on recruitment and retention at the Columbus Police Department in response to a referral made by Council. During the presentation she provided information on the police pay reform and restructuring that took place in 2015.

**Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge** approached the rostrum to provide information on the 2008 OLOST Public Safety Commitment to improve emergency response time by adding 100 police officers on the street, 10 additional police beats, additional motor squad units, enhance tactical squad, and adding patrol for parks, downtown and the Riverwalk.

**Finance Director Angelica Alexander** approached the rostrum to provide information on the salary savings recognized from vacant positions over the years and the funding for those vacant budgeted sworn positions being used for recruitment, retention, and longevity pay and for “above and beyond” in the new pay plan. She went on to explain the proposal from CPD is to award a \$5,000 pay increase to sworn CPD Officers and E-911 Communications Techs by eliminating 44 sworn positions with an implementation cost of \$2.749 million. She stated the total number of CPD sworn positions would be adjusted to 372.

**Police Chief Stoney Mathis** approached the rostrum to provide information on the positive impact this pay increase would have on CPD with the sworn officers and E-911 Communications Techs.

**Deputy Chief Roderick Graham** approached the rostrum to provide information on the recruitment efforts of the Columbus Police Department. He explained the culture of CPD has changed significantly and is attractive to officers from other agencies who want to be a part of the CPD team.

Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve the request to use funding from 44 sworn positions to award a \$5,000 pay increase to sworn CPD Officers and E-911 Communications Techs for an implementation cost of \$2.749 million, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members of Council with Councilor Begly being absent for the vote.

**REFERRAL(S):**

**FOR THE CITY MANAGER:**

- Advise if there has been some resolve to police officers sitting in court all day with cases not moving through timely. *(Request of Councilor Thomas)*

- Provide salary savings from vacant positions in CPD for the last 3 years. (*Request of Councilor Tucker*)
- Provide the fiscal year and calendar year information from slides 10 and 11 of the presentation together and that same information for the last 12 months. (*Request of Councilor Begly*)

### **WASTE PICKUP DISCUSSION:**

**City Manager Isaiah Hugley** called on the request made by Councilor Thomas earlier in the meeting to have a discussion regarding waste pickup.

**Councilor Judy W. Thomas** stated she wants the Councilors to have an opportunity to express their concerns and experiences in dealing with the citizens regarding trash pickup. She stated the Council was told in September that there was no problem with the city taking over the waste pickup, with us having the personnel and equipment to handle it. She explained that every day she receives one to five calls from citizens saying their garbage has not been picked up in several weeks. She stated citizens should not have to contact a councilor to have their trash picked up.

**Councilor R. Walker Garrett** stated he has the same concerns as expressed by Councilor Thomas. He said this has been a systemic problem, and it seems that if a councilor does not call it in; then, the citizens are having a difficult time.

**Councilor Joanne Cogle** explained she gets tagged on social media and receives calls from citizens regarding their trash not being picked up. She stated this is a service that citizens pay for each month. She stated that she did not receive as many calls when AmWaste was helping with trash pickup. She said she believes it was not taken into consideration how long it takes for an automated truck to pick up trash with other trucks following behind to manually pickup recycling and/or yard waste.

**Councilor Glenn Davis** stated he had concerns with going in the direction of automated trash pickup. He stated he believes the city is going to have to add additional routes, drivers and trucks to make it work.

**Councilor Charmaine Crabb** stated she believes we need the trucks being utilized by Amwaste that she has seen while traveling.

**Public Works Director Drale Short** approached the rostrum to respond to comments from Council. She stated that citizens have an automated truck that comes through to pick up the black household waste cart, another automated truck that comes to pick up the green yard waste cart, then an old rear loader truck comes to pick up the bags of trash that are put on the curb, because they did not fit in the cart. She stated the plastic trash bags left on the curb is where the problem lies, and this is the reason they have been urging citizens to only put trash in the city issued carts and not on the curb. She explained the city went in the direction of automated trucks due to the lack of inmate involvement in the future.

**Councilor Bruce Huff** shared that he has watched the system used for trash pickup in California when visiting his brother. He stated they have three carts, and the system works smoothly with the residents knowing what is expected. He explained that everyone needs to recycle so that the household trash will fit in one cart.

### **REFERRAL(S):**

**FOR THE CITY MANAGER:**



- Find out what can be done to educate the citizens while handling the services. *(Request of Councilor Thomas)*
- Bring a comprehensive plan at a Work Session to address the concerns shared by the Councilors. *(Request of Councilor Thomas)*
- See about repurposing OLOST positions marked for the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office to do something similar to what is being done for the Columbus Police Department. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*
- List Chief Recorder's Court Judge David Ranieri on the next agenda to provide an update on Recorder's Court. *(Request of Mayor Pro Tem Allen)*

### **BID ADVERTISEMENT**

**DATE:** January 9, 2024

#### **January 12, 2024**

**1. General Contractor Services and Housing Inspection Services for the Community Reinvestment Department (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 24-0012**

**Scope of RFP**

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) invites qualified vendors to provide general contractor services (Option A) and housing inspection services (Option B) for rehabilitative single-family housing located throughout Columbus-Muscogee County. The Community Reinvestment Department will procure the services on an as-needed basis. **Vendors may submit proposals for one, both or all options.**

*Some activities could be a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded project which utilizes Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Contracts utilizing CDBG funding are subject to state and local laws, as well as federal regulations found in §2 CFR 200.317 through §2 CFR 300.327 and §24 CFR 570.611. Potential bidders must assure that all project activities will be administered in compliance with labor and civil rights laws and regulations for CDBG funded projects.*

The 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.

#### **January 19, 2024**

**1. Professional Surveying Services for Finance Department/Revenue Division and Engineering Department (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 24-0002**

**Scope of RFP**

Provide the Finance Department Revenue Division professional surveying services, on an "as needed" basis, in conjunction with the following: a) Application process for an Alcoholic Beverage License; and b) Application process for Class B Coin Operated Amusement Machines. Additionally, provide the Engineering Department with professional surveying services, on an "as needed" basis, in conjunction with various projects.

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

#### **January 24, 2024**

**1. Design and Construction Services for Golden Park Improvements – RFP No. 24-0019**

**Scope of RFP**

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is requesting proposals from qualified contractors to engage a Design-Builder to design and construct improvements to Golden Park in order to bring it up to standards required by Major League Baseball. Applicants should have experience in designing and building baseball facilities. The estimated project cost is \$50 million. Project must be completed by April 2025. The selected Design-Builder will be responsible for all programing, design, and construction.

**January 31, 2024**

**2. Swim Gear and Lifeguard Accessories (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 24-0021**

**Scope of RFB**

It is the intent of the Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) to secure an annual contract with a vendor to provide various types of swimming gear and lifeguard accessories, on an “as needed” basis, to the Columbus Parks and Recreation Division of the City of Columbus, Georgia.

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

**CLERK OF COUNCIL’S AGENDA**

**ENCLOSURES - INFORMATION ONLY**

- 1. Notice from Chief Appraiser- Suzanne Widenhouse, in accordance with Resolution No. 218-23, Re: Update to prior notice of August 1, 2023 and October 2, 2023, Tax Abatement Agreement on 2023 Series Bonds.

**ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED**

- 2. A resolution excusing Councilor Toyia Tucker from the December 21, 2023, Special Called Meeting. *(See Below the final vote when the resolution was called forward for a second time later in the meeting.)*
- 3. **Minutes of the following boards:**
  - Audit Committee, August 16, 2023
  - Board of Elections & Registration, November 2, 2023
  - Board of Tax Assessors, #41-23 and #42-23
  - Board of Water Commissioners, December 11, 2023
  - Civic Center Advisory Board, November 16, 2023
  - Development Authority, November 16, 2023
  - Planning Advisory Commission, July 19, September 20, October 18 and November 1, and November 15, 2023
  - Recreation Advisory Board, May 27, July 29, and September 30, 2020 and March 31, August 25, September 29, and November 17, 2021

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Thomas being absent for the vote.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED**

**4. MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:**

**A. CIVIC CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:**

A nominee for the seat of Orrin Hergott (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) for a term expiring on March 1, 2024, as the Columbus Hockey Association Representative on the Civic Center Advisory Board (*Mayor’s Appointment*). Mayor Henderson renominated Orrin Hergott for another term. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Thomas being absent for the vote.

A nominee for the seat of Jed Harris, Jr. (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expired on March 1, 2023, on the Civic Center Advisory Board (*Mayor’s Appointment*). There were none.

**B. COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & CULTURAL LIAISON ENCOUNTERS (CIRCLE):**

A nominee for the seat of Aaron Guest (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on March 1, 2024, on the Commission on International Relations & Cultural Liaison Encounters (*Mayor’s Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Merrill Rushin (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on March 1, 2024, on the Commission on International Relations & Cultural Liaison Encounters (*Mayor’s Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the vacant seat formerly held by Akear Mewborn (*Does not desire reappointment*) for a term that expired on March 1, 2022, on the Commission on International Relations & Cultural Liaison Encounters (*Mayor’s Appointment*). There were none.

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

**A. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD:** Ms. Marjorie “Mollie” Smith, *as the Historic District Resident*, was nominated to serve another term of office. (*Mayor Pro Tem Allen’s nominee*) Term expires: January 31, 2027. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Thomas being absent for the vote.

**B. TREE BOARD:** Mr. Clifton Ruehl was nominated to succeed Mr. Troy Keller for the *Educator Seat*. (*Councilor Cogle’s nominee*) Term expires: December 31, 2026. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis and Thomas being absent for the vote.

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

A. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:**

A nominee for the seat of Charlotte Ingram (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) for a term expiring on March 27, 2024, as the District 1 Representative on the Community Development Advisory Council (*Council District 1- Barnes*). Clerk of Council Davis stated Councilor Barnes is renominating Charlotte Ingram for another term. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Thomas being absent for the vote.

A nominee for the seat of Tracy Belt (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) for a term expiring on March 27, 2024, as the District 4 Representative on the Community Development Advisory Council (*Council District 4- Tucker*). Councilor Tucker renominated Tracy Belt for another term. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Thomas being absent for the vote.

A nominee for the seat of Michael L. Ernst (*No longer a resident of District 5*) for a term expiring on March 27, 2024, as the District 5 Representative on the Community Development Advisory Council (*Council District 5- Crabb*). Councilor Crabb nominated Tollie Strode to succeed Michael L. Ernst. 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 Mary B. Garcia (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on March 27, 2024, as the District 7 Representative on the Community Development Advisory Council (*Council District 7- Cogle*). Clerk of Council Davis stated Mary B. Garcia is no longer eligible to serve on this board due to her accepting a position with the Columbus Consolidated Government. There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Glenn Kyle Albright (*Eligible to succeed- Does not desire reappointment*) for a term expiring on March 27, 2024, as the District 8 Representative on the Community Development Advisory Council (*Councilor District 8- Garrett*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Mike Welch (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving another term*) for a term expiring on March 27, 2024, as the District 9 Representative on the Community Development Advisory Council (*Councilor District 9- Thomas*). Councilor Thomas renominated Mike Welch for another term. Councilor Thomas then made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

A nominee for the seat of Evan M. Collins (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on March 27, 2024, as the District 10 Representative on the Community Development Advisory Council (*Councilor District 10- Begly*). Clerk of Council Davis stated her office will continue to reach Mr. Collins regarding his interest in reappointment. There were none.

A nominee for the vacant seat of the District 2 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2024, on the Community Development Advisory Council (*Council District 2- Davis*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Virginia Dickerson (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on March 27, 2024, as the District 3 Representative on the Community Development Advisory Council (*Council District 2- Davis*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of John Partin (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on March 27, 2024, as the District 6 Representative on the Community Development Advisory Council (*Council District 6- Allen*). Mayor Pro Tem Allen nominated Adrian Wade to succeed John Partin. Councilor Tucker made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

**B. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:**

A nominee for the seat of Jennifer S. Upshaw (*Vacant – Appointed to another board*) for a term expiring on October 31, 2025, as the District 5 Representative on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 5 – Crabb*). Councilor Crabb nominated Daniel Street, Jr. to fill the vacant District 5 seat on the Public Safety Advisory Commission. Councilor Crabb then made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

A nominee for the seat of David Rohwedder (*Resigned*) for a term expiring October 31, 2026, as the District 8 Representative on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 8 – Garrett*). Councilor Garrett nominated David Horiuchi to fill the District 8 seat on the Public Safety Advisory Commission. Councilor Garrett made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Thomas and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

**7. COUNCIL’S CONFIRMATION– RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ORGANIZATIONS / AGENCIES MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:**

**A. UPTOWN FACADE BOARD:**

A nominee for the seat of Ramon Brown (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expired on October 31, 2023, as a representative of Uptown Columbus, Inc. on the Uptown Façade Board. Clerk of Council Davis stated Uptown Columbus, Inc. is recommending Douglas L. Koppang to succeed Ramon Brown. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members of Council.

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

**A. BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:**

A nominee for the seat of Kathleen Mullins (*Eligible to succeed – Interested in serving another term*) for a term expiring on March 31, 2024, on the Board of Zoning Appeals (*Council’s Appointment*). Councilor Crabb renominated Kathleen Mullins to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Douglas M. Jefcoat (*Eligible to succeed – Interested in serving another term*) for a term expiring on March 31, 2024, on the Board of Zoning Appeals (*Council’s Appointment*). Councilor Crabb renominated Douglas M. Jefcoat to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Tomeika Farley (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on March 31, 2024, on the Board of Zoning Appeals (*Council’s Appointment*). There were none.

**B. BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:**

A nominee for the seat of Olive Vidal-Kendall (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on March 24, 2024, on the Building Authority of Columbus (*Council’s Appointment*). Councilor Huff renominated Olive Vidal-Kendall to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Christopher Smith (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on March 24, 2024, on the Building Authority of Columbus (*Council’s Appointment*). Councilor Thomas renominated Christopher Smith to serve another term.

**C. COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & CULTURAL LIAISON ENCOUNTERS (CIRCLE):**

A nominee for the seat of Pythias “Pete” Temesgen (*Eligible to succeed – Interested in serving another term*) for a term expiring March 1, 2024, on the Commission on International Relations & Cultural Liaison Encounters (*Council’s Appointment*). Councilor Garrett renominated Pythias “Pete” Temesgen to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Chie Canady (*Eligible to succeed – Interested in serving another term*) for a term expiring March 1, 2024, on the Commission on International Relations & Cultural Liaison Encounters (*Council’s Appointment*). Councilor Huff renominated Chie Canady to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Alia Teetshorn (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring March 1, 2024, on the Commission on International Relations & Cultural Liaison Encounters (*Council’s Appointment*). There were none.

**D. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD:**

A nominee for the seat of Libby Smith (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring January 31, 2024, as the Historic District Resident on the Historic & Architectural Review Board (*Council’s Appointment*). There were none.

**E. PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION:**

A nominee for the seat of Brad P. Baker (*Eligible to succeed – Interested in serving another term*) for a term expiring March 31, 2024, on the Planning Advisory Commission (*Council’s Appointment*). Councilor Crabb renominated Brad P. Baker to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Patricia A. Weekley (*Does not desire reappointment*) for a term expiring March 31, 2024, on the Planning Advisory Commission (*Council’s Appointment*). Councilor Davis nominated Lakshmi Karthik to succeed Patricia A. Weekley.

A nominee for the seat of James Dudley (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring March 31, 2024, on the Planning Advisory Commission (*Council’s Appointment*). Councilor Crabb nominated Michael Ernst to succeed James Dudley.

#### **F. TREE BOARD:**

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

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss matters of real estate acquisition and disposal, litigation and potential litigation as requested by City Attorney Fay earlier in the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by nine members of Council, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and the time being 1:21 p.m.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 3:10 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, litigation and potential litigation; however, there were no votes taken.

### **CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA (continued)**

#### **ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED**

2. **RESOLUTION (012-24)** - A resolution excusing Councilor Toyia Tucker from the December 21, 2023, Special Called Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote.

**Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis** requested the vote for Item #2 on the Clerk of Council's Agenda be called for a second time to ensure enough councilors are present in the chamber at the time of the vote.

#### **ADD-ON RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION (013-24)** – A resolution authorizing payment to HRC – Manchester – Armour, LLC or its contractor in the amount of \$20,000.00 for infrastructure improvements to the storm sewer piping at the intersection of Armour Road and Manchester Expressway. 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 Tucker being absent for the vote.

**RESOLUTION (014-24)** – A resolution authorizing the Mayor, City Manager or their designee to execute a lease with Diamond Baseball Holdings, LLC to lease the stadium at Golden Park in the South Commons of Columbus, Georgia. Councilor Begly made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried by a six-to-three vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Barnes, Begly, Garrett, Huff and Thomas being in favor; Councilors Cogle, Crabb and Davis voting in opposition, and Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote.

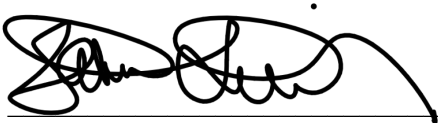
Mayor Pro Tem Allen made motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present with the time being 3:18 p.m.

Mayor Henderson then recognized the presence of **Executive Vice President Shea Guinn** who then approached the rostrum to express the eagerness of Diamond Baseball Holdings, LLC to move forward with the project.

**City Attorney Fay** advised that he has one other resolution for the Council to take a vote on. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to reconvene, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Crabb and Tucker being absent for the vote.

**RESOLUTION (015-24)** – A resolution authorizing a payment of \$33,922.50 to settle all damage claims of The CEI Group, LLC on behalf of Jonathan Leisner stemming from the incident which occurred on September 1, 2022, and to execute all appropriate settlement documents to this effect. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Crabb and Tucker being absent for the vote.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to adjourn the January 9, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Crabb and Tucker being absent for the vote, and the time being 3:23 p.m.



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