

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

May 28, 2024
5:30 PM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen (*Councilor District 1 Seat – Vacant*) and Councilors Tyson Begly, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis (arrived at 5:33 p.m.), R. Walker Garrett (via teleconference), Bruce Huff, 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.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) Board of Tax Assessors Presentation; (2) Upcoming HARP Presentation; (3) Building Permitting and Inspections Update Presentation

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) FY2025 Budget Session- Add/Delete List; (2) Renters' Bill of Rights Pamphlet

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Paul Thomas, Evangel Temple of Columbus, Georgia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the May 14, 2024, Council Meeting and Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.*)

PROCLAMATION:

2. **Proclamation:** Foster Care Awareness Month

Receiving: Shawna Love, Boyz 2 Men Development, Inc.

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen read the proclamation into the record proclaiming May 2024 as *Foster Care Awareness Month*, recognizing Boyz 2 Men Development, Inc. for their efforts in recruiting foster parents and providing foster care services to the community.

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATION

Councilor Charmaine Crabb stated she would ask that the members of Council vote on a replacement for Councilor Barnes' seat and submitted Byron Hickey as a nominee.

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen spoke on the touching sentiments shared by the members of Council in remembrance of Councilor Jerry "Pops" Barnes at the April 23, 2024 Council Meeting. He stated he has spoken with many residents from various subdivisions in District 1 and he is confident in nominating Simi Barnes to finish out her late father's term as the City Councilor for District 1.

After being called upon by Mayor Henderson, Councilor Crabb restated her motion to nominate Byron Hickey to fill the unexpired term of Councilor Barnes, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried by a six-to-three vote, with Councilors Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Garrett, Thomas and Tucker voting in favor, and Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Begly and Huff voting in opposition. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced Councilor Garrett's vote for Byron Hickey.)*

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

1. **ADD-DELETE LIST:** Chairperson Judy W. Thomas, Presiding Officer

Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson stated there is some unfinished business from the May 21, 2024 Budget Review Committee Meeting, where some items on the Add/Delete List did not receive six votes so those items would not amend the Mayor's Recommended Budget. He then turned the meeting over to the Budget Review Committee Chairperson, Councilor Judy W. Thomas.

At the request of Budget Chair Thomas, **City Attorney Fay** referenced Columbus Charter Section 7-402(2) where it states Council may amend the proposed Operating Budget and Columbus Code Section 2-3(J) where it requires at least six votes on all matters for Council to take action. He also referenced a time in 2014 where Council reaffirmed the requirements set by the Charter and, at that time, Mayor Henderson served as Budget Chair and noted a change in the process for a simple majority for the Budget Review Committee changing to six required votes.

Chairperson Judy W. Thomas asked for a motion to reconsider the action taken at the May 21, 2024 Budget Review Committee Meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to reconsider action taken on those items with less than six votes, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

ADD/DELETE LIST (General Fund) Item #3 - (Non-Departmental) Add Setup Project to Implement Animal Care/Training Program for \$300,000 (0.45 General Fund Balance Days) Councilor Davis made a motion for approval, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

ADD/DELETE LIST (General Fund) Item #4 – (Muscookee County Prison) Add \$2,500 Base Pay Increase for MCP Sworn Officers for \$346,920 (0.52 General Fund Balance Days) Councilor Davis made a motion for approval, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

ADD/DELETE LIST (General Fund) Item #5 – (Sheriff) Add \$5,000 Base Pay Increase for Sheriff’s Department Sworn Officers for \$1,889,475 (2.85 General Fund Balance Days) Councilor Tucker made a motion for approval, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

ADD/DELETE LIST (General Fund) Item #6 – (Fire/EMS) Add \$2,500 Base Pay Increase for Fire/EMS Sworn Officers for \$1,235,902 (1.86 General Fund Balance Days) Councilor Tucker made a motion for approval, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

ADD/DELETE LIST (General Fund) Item #14 – (Clerk of Superior Court) Add 2 Senior Deputy Clerk G117 Positions for \$100,780 (0.15 General Fund Balance Days) Councilor Crabb made a motion for approval, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

ADD/DELETE LIST (General Fund) Item #15 – (Clerk of Superior Court) Add 5 Deputy Clerk II G115 Positions for \$235,490 (0.35 General Fund Balance Days) Councilor Crabb made a motion to add 3 Deputy Clerk II G115 Positions for \$141,294, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

ADD/DELETE LIST (General Fund) Item #24 – (Sheriff) Add \$150,000 for Legal Fees (0.23 General Fund Balance Days) Councilor Davis made a motion for approval, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

ADD/DELETE LIST (General Fund) Item #26 – (City Manager) Delete Marketing Coordinator for \$66,988 (0.10 General Fund Balance Days) Councilor Crabb made a motion to delete the position, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried by a six-to-three vote, with Councilors Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Garrett, Thomas and Tucker voting in favor, and Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Begly and Huff voting in opposition. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

City Manager Isaiah Hugley explained the Director of Public Works had requested a full-time Marketing Coordinator for Animal Care & Control and the Director of Parks & Recreation made a request for someone to handle the marketing for all the recreational events. He stated instead of asking for a full-time position for each department, the request is for one full-time position under the City Manager’s Office to cover both departments.

ADD/DELETE LIST (General Fund) Item #27 – (Public Works) Delete Communications Officer for \$44,782 (0.07 General Fund Balance Days) Councilor Crabb made a motion to delete the position, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried by a seven-to-two vote, with Councilors Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Garrett, Huff, Thomas and Tucker voting in favor, and Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilor Begly voting in opposition. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

ADD/DELETE LIST (General Fund) Item #28 – Delete Oxbow Creek Golf Subsidy \$100,000 (0.15 General Fund Balance Days) Councilor Davis made a motion to delete the subsidy, seconded

by Councilor Tucker and failed with a five-to-four vote, with Councilors Crabb, Davis, Garrett, Thomas and Tucker voting in favor, and Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Begly, Cogle and Huff voting in opposition. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

ADD/DELETE LIST (General Fund) Item #29 – (Tax Assessors) Delete 2 Tax Appraisal Technicians for \$89,564 (0.13 General Fund Balance Days) Councilor Crabb made a motion to delete the positions, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried by a six-to-three vote, with Councilors Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Garrett, Thomas and Tucker voting in favor, and Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Begly and Huff voting in opposition. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

ADD/DELETE LIST (General Fund) Item #30 – (Tax Commissioner) Delete Technical Support Analyst for \$64,810 (0.10 General Fund Balance Days) Councilor Davis made a motion to delete the position, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried by a six-to-three vote, with Councilors Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Garrett, Thomas and Tucker voting in favor, and Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Begly and Huff voting in opposition. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

ADD/DELETE LIST (General Fund) Item #31 – (Tax Commissioner) Delete Career Ladder Adjustments for Tax Clerks for \$6,125 (0.01 General Fund Balance Days) Councilor Davis made a motion to delete the adjustments, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried by a six-to-three vote, with Councilors Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Garrett, Thomas and Tucker voting in favor, and Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Begly and Huff voting in opposition. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

ADD/DELETE LIST (General Fund) Item #32 – (Tax Commissioner) Delete Reclass for Administrative Operations Manager for \$8,127 (0.01 General Fund Balance Days) Councilor Davis made a motion to delete the reclassification, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried by a six-to-three vote, with Councilors Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Garrett, Thomas and Tucker voting in favor, and Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Begly and Huff voting in opposition. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

In response to a question from Councilor Huff, **Chairperson Judy W. Thomas** explained there were 8 positions in the Finance Department that were deleted from the Mayor's Recommended Budget. She explained this was done due to there being several vacant positions that have yet to be filled and last week Council was not in favor of adding additional positions until those are filled.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley explained the need of the Finance Department for the eight positions that were eliminated from the budget by Council. He explained the temporary positions that were approved to aid in addressing the issues in the Finance Department will expire at the end of Fiscal Year 2024.

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge further explained the temporary positions that were requested to become permanent in the budget. She also stated she has received several compliments on how smooth the licensing process has been lately, and she credited this to the additional positions in the Finance Department.

ADD/DELETE LIST (General Fund) Item #21 – (Public Works) Add 1 Cruelty Investigator, 3 Animal Control Officers and all operational costs for Investigator for \$196,526 (0.30 General Fund Balance Days). Councilor Davis made a motion to add back to the FY2025 Budget 1 Cruelty Investigator, 3 Animal Control Officers and all operational costs for Investigator for \$196,526 (0.30 General Fund Balance Days), seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

CITY ATTORNEY’S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (24-025) - 2nd Reading-** An ordinance providing for the demolition of various structures located at:

- 1) **1118 Broadway** (Mary C Wohlwender, Owner)

- 2) **1120 Broadway** (Mary C Wohlwender, Owner)

and for demolition services for the Inspections and Code Department in accordance with the attached Tabulation of Bid sheet. (Continued on 2nd Reading from 4-23-24.) (Mayor Pro-Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

2. **2nd Reading-** An ordinance to revise and clarify certain provisions of the Columbus Code which provide for the foreclosure of liens on property for which funds are due and owing to the consolidated government; and for other purposes. (Councilor Begly) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Begly and resulted in an inconclusive five-to-four vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Begly, Garrett, Huff and Thomas voting in favor, and Councilors Cogle, Crabb, Davis and Tucker voting in opposition. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*
3. **Ordinance (24-026) - 2nd Reading-** Adoption of an ordinance listing the roadways approved for use of speed detection devices (radar) on all GDOT Routes and non-GDOT Routes in Columbus-Muscogee County. (Mayor Pro-Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Thomas and carried unanimously by eight members with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Begly, Cogle, Davis, Garrett, Huff, Thomas and Tucker voting in favor, and Councilor Crabb voting in opposition. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: A decrease in Crime Prevention Grants.
2. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: HB404 enforcement, renters’ rights.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Acquisition of Property for Fire/EMS Department Administration

Resolution (179-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of a purchase and sales agreement for approximately 2.52 acres located at 1112 Veterans Parkway to house the Fire & EMS Department's Administration upon completion of all due diligence and contingent upon removal of easements from the parcel. Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

Fire & EMS Chief Sal Scarpa approached the rostrum to express his appreciation for the opportunity for the Fire & EMS Department to acquire this property and the positive benefits for the organization.

City Manager Isaiah Hugley explained this property consists of 2.52 acres and 22,706 square feet available to consolidate the administration and training operations of the Fire & EMS Department in this one location. He went on to explain this property is large enough for the department to have a permanent classroom training facility and provide the option to relocate Fire Station No. 1 in the future if necessary.

2. Uptown Tax Allocation District Fund Grant – Riverfront Place, LLC, Affiliate of WC Bradley Co. Real Estate, LLC

Resolution (180-24): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute and deliver an agreement with Riverfront Place, LLC, affiliate of W.C. Bradley Real Estate Co., LLC for the purposes of allocating Uptown District Tax Allocation District funds for the construction and financing of certain public infrastructure improvements to develop mixed use development called Riverfront Place at 1300 Front Avenue in an amount not to exceed fifty-two million dollars (\$52,000,000). Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

3. Ignite Pro Hockey, L.L.C. Agreement

Resolution (181-24): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a five-year agreement between the Columbus Civic Center and Ignite Pro Hockey, L.L.C. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

4. Marathon First Responder Grant

Resolution (182-24): A resolution authorizing the application and acceptance if awarded a grant for fire and rescue equipment to support Columbus Fire and Emergency Medical Services operations at the Marathon Petroleum Facility and throughout the community in the amount of \$5,000.00, or as otherwise awarded, from the Marathon Community Investment Programs with no matching funds required, the Multi-Governmental Fund will be amended by the amount of the award. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

5. PURCHASES

- A. General Contractor Services and Housing Inspection Services for the Community Redevelopment Department (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 24-0012

Resolution (183-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of annual contracts with Granville Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Supreme Service Company (Columbus, GA) and National Property Institute, LLC (Lithonia, GA) for general contractor services and with Granville Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Supreme Service Company (Columbus, GA) and the W Real Estate and Investment Group (Atlanta, GA) for housing inspection services for single-family housing located throughout Columbus-Muscogee County. The Community Reinvestment Department will procure the services on an as-needed basis. As projects arise, the Community Reinvestment Department will obtain written quotes from the contractors. The City has been awarded \$3,000,000.00 to complete several projects within the scope of the contracts. Vendor engagement will occur until all funding has been exhausted. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

- B. Contract Extension for Temporary Staffing for the Civic Center and Other City Departments (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 17-0021

Resolution (184-23): A resolution authorizing the extension of the annual contract for temporary staffing for the Civic Center and other City Departments with Global Personnel Services (Columbus, GA), and Labor Finders (Columbus, GA) for an additional four-month period. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

- C. One (1) 2024 Silverado 2500HD 2WD Double Cab for Engineering Department – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (185-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of one (1) 2024 Silverado 2500HD 2WD Double Cab for the Engineering Department from Alan Jay Fleet Group (Sebring, FL) at a total price of \$68,000.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Sourcewell Contract #091521-NAF. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

- D. Two (2) Toro RM3100 Reel Mowers for Parks and Recreation – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (186-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of two (2) Toro RM3100 Reel Mowers for Parks and Recreation from Jerry Pate Turf & Irrigation (Atlanta, GA) at a unit price of \$57,332.66 per unit and a total cost of \$114,645.32. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-001-SPD-0000177-0014. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

- E. One (1) 2023 Ford T350 LR Passenger Van XL for Parks and Recreation – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (187-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of one (1) 2023 Ford T350 LR Passenger Van XL from Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) in the amount of \$48,530.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-001-SPD-ES40199373-009S. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

- F. One (1) 2023 Ford T350 LR Passenger Van XL for Parks and Recreation – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (188-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of one (1) 2023 Ford T350 LR Passenger Van XL from Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) in the amount of \$55,035.00. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-001-SPD-ES40199373-009S. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

- G. E911 Dispatch Consoles for Police Department – HGACBUY Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (189-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of E911 Dispatch Consoles from Russ Bassett (Whittier, CA) in the total amount of \$505,680.25 (\$431,893.85 to replace consoles at E911 located in the Public Safety Building and \$73,786.40 to replace consoles at the backup center). The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via HGACBuy Contract #EC07-23. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

- H. First-In Alerting Smart Station System for Fire & EMS – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (190-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of the First-In Alerting Smart Station System from Westnet, LLC (Hunting Beach, CA) in the amount of \$145,357.43. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Sourcewell Contract #042021-WNT. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

- I. One (1) 2024 Ford F-150 Police Pursuit Rated Pick-Up Truck for Muscogee County Prison – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (191-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of one (1) 2024 Ford F-150 Police Pursuit Rated Pick-Up Truck from Allan Vigil Ford (Morrow, GA) in the amount of \$51,945.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-001-SPD0000183005. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

INFORMATION ONLY: EXIGENT “OFF THE LOT” VEHICLE PURCHASES – RESOLUTION NO. 106-24

1. ONE (1) 2024 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN FOR ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

On May 17, 2024, a purchase order was executed for one (1) 2024 Chevrolet Suburban for the Engineering Department due to exigent circumstances, as approved by Council per Resolution No. 106-24.

The vehicle will be purchased from Sons Chevrolet (Columbus, GA) at a unit price of \$75,413.00. The vehicle will be used by Survey Crews from the Engineering Department who survey City property and right-of-ways. This is a replacement vehicle.

Funds are budgeted in the FY24 Budget: Sewer (Stormwater) Fund – Engineering Department – Highways and Roads – Light Trucks; 0203-250-2200-STRM-7721.

2. ONE (1) 2024 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4DR 4x2 FOR ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

On May 17, 2024, a purchase order was executed for one (1) 2024 Ford Explorer for the Engineering Department due to exigent circumstances, as approved by Council per Resolution No. 106-24.

The vehicle will be purchased from Rivertown Ford (Columbus, GA) at a unit price of \$40,000. The vehicle will be used by the Engineering Department’s Traffic Operations Supervisor to visit work sites for signal/sign shop. This is a replacement vehicle.

Funds are budgeted in the FY24 Budget: General Fund – Engineering Department – Traffic Engineering – Light Trucks; 0101-250-2100-TRAF-7722.

6. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. School Zone Camera Update (Public and Private Schools) - Greg Countryman, Sheriff, Sheriff’s Department and Clyde Dent, Deputy Chief Bureau of Patrol Services, Columbus Police Department

Muscookee County Sheriff Greg Countryman approached the rostrum to introduce the presentation on the School Zone Camera System. He started by reminding that currently the system is in place for St. Luke and Brookstone, and they are speaking with three other private schools about getting involved.

Deputy Chief Clyde Dent, Columbus Police Department, came forward to provide a presentation on the Columbus Electronic School Zone Safety Program. During the presentation, he provided the history and process of the program, and explained the plan to implement the system in other school zones before the next school year.

- B. Tax Assessors Update - Suzanne Widenhouse, Chief Appraiser, Muscookee Board of Assessors

Chief Appraiser Suzanne Widenhouse approached the rostrum to provide an update on the Tax Assessors Office. She stated property tax notices were sent out to owners on May 21, 2024, and the appeal process will end on July 5, 2024. She explained there were no major Fair Market Value adjustments made to Residential and Commercial real estate, with an increase to the digest around 2.4%.

- C. Home Accessibility Rehabilitation Program (HARP) Update - Robert Scott, Director, Community Reinvestment

Community Reinvestment Director Robert Scott approached the rostrum to provide an update on the Homeowner Accessibility Rehabilitation Program (HARP). He explained the program funding scope is to address issues and repairs to roofs, critical systems, doors/windows, electrical, plumbing, and to make improvements for ADA accessibility.

- D. Inspections and Code Update - Permit Fee Change - Ryan Pruett, Director, Inspections & Code

Inspections & Code Director Ryan Pruett approached the rostrum to provide an update on the permit fee change necessary to comply with State Law. He explained Georgia HB 461 was signed into law by the Governor on May 6, 2024, with an effective date of July 1, 2024. He stated State Law prohibits local governments from using building permitting and inspections as a revenue generating source, requiring total revenue generated to equal expenses incurred. He then provided information on the proposed permit fee structure going forward.

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: May 28, 2024

May 29, 2024

1. **PI 0011436 Muscogee County Buena Vista Road Improvements at Spiderweb Phase II (Re-Bid) – RFB No. 24-0029**

Scope of Bid

Phase II of the Buena Vista Road Improvements at the Spiderweb includes the construction of two (2) bridges, one (1) of which requires Norfolk Southern permitting; construction of a roundabout at Illges Road and Aceway Drive; construction of Buena Vista Road east of the intersection with Annette Avenue, Martin Luther King Boulevard north of Brewer Elementary School, Illges Road, Lindsay Drive, Andrews Road, Morris Road and Ace Way Drive, as well as the installation of traffic signals. This Re-Bid includes an alternative for maintaining traffic throughout construction and an alternative for complete closure.

Utilities were relocated in Phase I of the project. The Annette Ave. roundabout at MLK and Annette Ave. were constructed in Phase I.

REFERRALS:

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

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

Airport Commission, April 24, 2024

Board of Health, April 24, 2024

Board of Tax Assessors, # 15-24, and # 16-24

Board of Water Commissioners, May 13, 2024

Convention & Visitors, Board of Commissioners, March 20, and April 17, 2024

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 Councilor Huff being absent for the vote. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

2. MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

A. PENSION FUND, EMPLOYEES' BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

A nominee for the seat of Crystal Shahid *(Does not desire reappointment)* for a term expiring on June 30, 2024, as a Business Community Representative on the Pension Fund, Employees' Board of Trustees *(Mayor's Appointment)*. There were none.

3. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- READY FOR CONFIRMATION:

A. BOARD OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES: Ms. Jennifer Melvin was nominated to serve another term of office in the *Former Foster Parent* seat. *(Councilor Tucker's nominee)* Term expires: June 30, 2029. Councilor Tucker made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

B. COLUMBUS AQUATICS COMMISSION: Mr. Donald W. Hoffman 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. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

C. REGION 6 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: Ms. Marianne Young was nominated to serve another term of office. *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen's nominee)* Term expires: June 30, 2027. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

D. REGION 6 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: Mr. Christopher Posey was nominated to serve another term of office. *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen's nominee)* Term expires: June 30, 2027. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*

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

A. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Saundra Ellison (*Seat Declared Vacant*) for a term that expired on March 27, 2024, as the District 3 Representative on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*Council District 3- Huff*). Councilor Huff nominated Tracy Walton-King to fill the vacant seat of Saundra Ellison. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Thomas and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.*)

B. YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL:

A nominee for a seat on the Youth Advisory Council as the District 2 Representative for the 2024-2025 School Year (*Council District 2- Davis*). There were none.

A nominee for a seat on the Youth Advisory Council as the District 3 Representative for the 2024-2025 School Year (*Council District 3- Huff*). Councilor Huff nominated Kyana Ramos to serve as the District 3 Representative. Councilor Huff made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.*)

A nominee for a seat on the Youth Advisory Council as the District 4 Representative for the 2024-2025 School Year (*Council District 4- Tucker*). There were none.

A nominee for a seat on the Youth Advisory Council as the District 5 Representative for the 2024-2025 School Year (*Council District 5- Crabb*). There were none.

A nominee for a seat on the Youth Advisory Council as the District 9 Representative for the 2024-2025 School Year (*Council District 9- Thomas*). Councilor Thomas nominated Amy Recinos-Agular to serve as the District 9 Representative. Councilor Tucker made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.*)

5. **COUNCIL'S CONFIRMATION – RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ORGANIZATIONS / AGENCY OR BOARDS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:**

A. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Rev. Curtis West (*No longer a resident of Muscogee County*) for a term expiring on January 31, 2024, as the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Board Representative on the Historic & Architectural Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). Clerk of Council Davis stated in accordance with Ordinance 24-012, this seat is slated for a member serving on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board, and the Chairperson is recommending Arreasha Z Lawrence to fill the seat of Reverend Curtis West. Councilor Tucker made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.*)

6. **COUNCIL APPOINTMENT- VOTE TABULATION:**

A. **COLUMBUS GOLF COURSE AUTHORITY:**

A nominee for the seat of Richard Wright (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on June 30, 2024, on the Columbus Golf Course Authority (*Council's Appointment*). Clerk of Council Davis stated Mayor Pro Tem Allen nominated Karen Stewart and Councilor Crabb nominated Stephanie Leohr for the seat of Richard Wright. A vote tabulation was held with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Begly and Garrett voting for Karen Stewart. (*Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced Councilor Garrett's vote for Karen Stewart.*); and Councilors Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Huff, Thomas and Tucker voting for Stephanie Leohr. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation of Stephanie Leohr, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the nine members present. (*Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.*)

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

A. **COLUMBUS AQUATICS COMMISSION:**

A nominee for the seat of Jensen Melton (*Eligible to succeed- Interested in serving*) for a term expiring on June 30, 2024, on the Columbus Aquatics Commission (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Huff renominated Jensen Melton to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of Timothy Crabb (*Does not desire reappointment*) for a term expiring on June 30, 2024, on the Columbus Aquatics Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Richard Leary (*Eligible to succeed- Does not desire reappointment*) for a term expiring on June 30, 2024, as the Columbus Hurricanes Representative on the Columbus Aquatics Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Janet Bussey (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on June 30, 2024, on the Columbus Aquatics Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

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

B. **COLUMBUS GOLF COURSE AUTHORITY:**

A nominee for the seat of Richard Mahone (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on June 30, 2024, on the Columbus Golf Course Authority (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Huff renominated Richard Mahone to serve another term.

A nominee for the seat of James Houston, Jr. (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on June 30, 2024, on the Columbus Golf Course Authority (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Huff renominated James Houston, Jr. to serve another term.

C. HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

A nominee for the seat of Betty Tatum (*Resigned*) for a term expiring on November 14, 2025, on the Hospital Authority of Columbus (*Council's Nomination*). Clerk of Council Davis explained the Council three nominees to the Hospital Authority for each seat and the Hospital Authority selects the successor for Council's confirmation. Councilor Crabb made a motion to submit Mike Mayhew, Bob Jones and Tracy Sayers as nominees for selection, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent for the vote. (*Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.*)

D. KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of David Houser (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring June 30, 2024, as a representative of Senatorial District 15 on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Pamela Green Thomas (*Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring June 30, 2024, as an At-Large Member on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Tracy Walton-King (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring June 30, 2024, as an At-Large Member on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Tucker nominated Kara Brakefield to succeed Tracy Walton-King.

A nominee for the seat of Eddie Florence (*Resigned*) for a term expiring June 30, 2026, as a representative of Senatorial District 15 on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee to fill a vacant seat with a term expiring on June 30, 2026, as a representative of Senatorial District 29 on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Tucker nominated Skyler Dexter to fill the vacant seat of a representative of Senatorial District 29.

PUBLIC AGENDA (continued) – Additional 3 minutes:

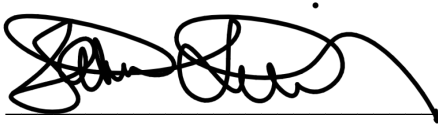
1. Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: A decrease in Crime Prevention Grants.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss matters of acquisition and disposal of real estate 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 Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with the time being 8:28 p.m. (*Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.*)

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 8:50 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in executive session to discuss matters of acquisition and disposal of real estate; however, there were no votes taken.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Tucker to adjourn the May 28, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with the time being 8:50 p.m. *(Clerk of Council Davis confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilor Garrett.)*



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