

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

July 9, 2024
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, Bruce Huff (arrived at 9:04 a.m.), Toyia Tucker and Judy W. Thomas. City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis, Deputy Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore, and Deputy Clerk Pro Tem Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: Councilors Travis Chambers and R. Walker Garrett were absent.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) C-PCTS MPO MTP Process Update Presentation

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) Petition Submitted by Larry Duncan, Re: Rezoning 1953 7th Avenue; (2) QR Code Submitted by PA#2 Jose Ruiz; (3) Documents Submitted by PA#5 Angela White, Owner of Tuesday's Taco Truck; (4) Documents Submitted by PA#6 Kathy Tanner; (5) Documents Submitted by PA#7 Sandy Gunnels; (6) Columbus Consolidated Government Monthly Financial Snapshot (Unaudited) FY2024- May 2024

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA:

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (24-036) - 2nd Reading-** An ordinance amending the Columbus, Georgia Pension Plan for General Government Employees, and the Columbus, Georgia Pension Plan for Employees of the Department of Public Safety (collectively, the "Plans") to address the treatment of retirees in pay status who are thereafter appointed or elected to the Columbus Council. (Councilor Davis) Councilor Tucker made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

Councilor Bruce Huff stated his only concern regarding this ordinance is for retired employees of the Columbus Consolidated Government wishing to run for other elected positions within the city government and them not being able to receive their pension while in office if elected.

MAYOR'S AGENDA (continued):**OATH OF OFFICE:**

1. Oath of Office administered to the newly appointed Columbus Councilor District 1- Byron Hickey by Chief Superior Court Judge Arthur L. Smith, III.

NOTE: Newly appointed Councilor Byron Hickey took his respective seat at the Council dais.

MINUTES:

2. Approval of minutes for the June 18, 2024 Council Meeting and Executive Session. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

PROCLAMATION:

3. **Proclamation:** Heart of the Village Coalition, Inc.

Receiving: Judy Tucker

Councilor Toyia Tucker read the proclamation into the record proclaiming Tuesday, July 9, 2024, as *Heart of the Village Coalition, Inc. Day*, recognizing the dedication of the organization in providing support and valuable information to uplift families for the betterment of the community.

PRESENTATION:

5. Update on Memorial Marker – Norman Hardman, Past Chair, Mayor's Commission on Unity, Diversity, and Prosperity

Mr. Norman Hardman approached the rostrum to provide an update on the memorial marker as part of the Community Remembrance Project that began in 2018 that focuses on lynching and racial terrorism. He explained the location of the marker at the intersection of 11th Street and Broadway has been approved, which is where the lynching of Jesse Slayton and Will Miles took place in 1896.

PROCLAMATION:

4. **Proclamation:** Mayor's Commission on Unity, Diversity, and Prosperity

Receiving: Norman Hardman, Past Chair

Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen read the proclamation into the record proclaiming Tuesday, July 9, 2024, as *Norman Hardman Day*, recognizing the leadership and dedication of Norman Hardman, who worked diligently in bringing the community together to address historical and social issues during his time as Chairman on the Mayor's Commission on Unity, Diversity and Prosperity.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

2. **Ordinance (24-037) - 2nd Reading-** REZN-06-23-0113: An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **1720, 1728, 1730, 1744 Warm Springs Road and 1818 Spring Circle** (parcel #036-013-002/036-013-003/036-013-004/036-013-005/036-013-007/036-013-008) from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Garrett) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

3. **Ordinance (24-038) - 2nd Reading-** REZN-03-24-0630: An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **3711 Hamilton Road** (parcel # 030-019-011) from General Commercial (GC) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily - 2 (RMF 2) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Garrett) Councilor Crabb made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

4. **Ordinance (24-039) - 2nd Reading-** REZN-03-24-5716: An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **5617 Eastside Drive** (parcel # 083-014-019) from Single Family Residential - 1 (SFR1) Zoning District to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Crabb) Councilor Crabb made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

5. **Ordinance (24-040) - 2nd Reading-** REZN-04-24-0767: An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **5470 Schatulga Road** (parcel # 111-015-027) from Light Manufacturing/Industrial (LMI) Zoning District to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Mayor Pro-Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

6. **Ordinance (24-041) - 2nd Reading-** An ordinance renewing Business Improvement Districts in Columbus, Georgia through December 31, 2034; and for other purposes. (continued from 6-4-24 and 6-18-24) (Mayor Pro-Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

7. **Ordinance (24-042) - 2nd Reading-** An ordinance to amend Article VIII of Chapter 14 of the Columbus Code to revise certain requirements on businesses that offer Class B Coin Operated Amusement Machines on their premises; and for other purposes. (Councilors Huff, Cogle and Tucker) Councilor Tucker made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.
8. **Ordinance (24-043) - 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) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.
9. **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. (continued on 2nd Reading from 6-11-24) (Councilor Garrett) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Cogle and resulted in an inconclusive vote of four-to-four, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Cogle, Davis and Thomas voting in favor, Councilors Crabb, Hickey, Huff and Tucker voting in opposition, and Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

Councilor Joanne Cogle expressed that she still wishes to address commercial properties first and then follow up with residential within a year, to which **City Attorney Clifton Fay** explained that would be an administrative policy issue. **City Manager Isaiah Hugley** stated he has no issue following the direction of Councilor Cogle.

10. **1st Reading-** REZN-05-24-0918: An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **1953 7th Avenue** (parcel # 016-025-001) from Residential Office (RO) Zoning District to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District with Conditions. (Planning Department Recommends Approval with conditions. PAC recommends denial.) (Councilor Cogle) (**Public Hearing Held**)

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to amend the ordinance to add the following conditions: (1) lights would be directed internal (2) plant mature evergreen shrubs and trees 3 to 5 feet high along the southeast and west of the property as specified by the City Arborist as a buffer (3) hours of operation restricted to 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. (4) no coin operated amusement machines as defined in Georgia Law, seconded by Councilor Thomas and carried by a six-to-two vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Crabb, Hickey, Huff, Thomas and Tucker voting in favor, Councilors Cogle and Davis voting in opposition, and Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

Attorney Austin Gibson, Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker & Ford, P.C., approached the rostrum to represent the applicant to explain the rezoning request. He stated that planned use of the property is for a 2,000 square foot convenience store with two gas pumps and a 2,000 square foot restaurant.

Mr. Raghu Damidi (Applicant/Developer), GA Petro Operations, LLC came forward to provide information on his background in development. He shared images of his developed properties in Murphy, North Carolina and Farmville, Virginia.

Planning Assistant Director John Renfro approached the rostrum to share the concerns of the Planning Advisory Commission (PAC). He stated the members of PAC were concerned about how the traffic was going to be handled at the location, which a condition was added to address this concern, and the members considered the concerns on the homeless population in the area.

Ms. Theresa El-Amin came forward to speak on the proposed rezoning, expressing her concern about development coming before the homeless in our community.

Reverend Edward Kvietkus, Jr., Rose Hill Baptist Church, came forward to speak in opposition to the proposed rezoning. He expressed the safety concerns of his congregation with the crime that is often associated with convenience stores.

Church Administrator Larry Duncan, Rose Hill Baptist Church, came forward to speak in opposition of the proposed rezoning. He explained that as the Church Administrator he hires police officers for security to keep elderly church goers from being approached by people asking for money.

Ms. Erin Bouthillier came forward to speak in opposition to the proposed rezoning as a business owner in the area. She explained she is part of a group of stakeholders in the Rosehill Neighborhood, who has worked tirelessly with city officials to clean up the area and she shared her safety concerns regarding the proposed rezoning for a convenience store.

Ms. Natalie McDowell came forward to speak as a business owner in the Rose Hill Neighborhood. She stated that she believes it is counterproductive to discourage economic development in certain areas, but homelessness is an issue that needs to be addressed. She explained that she walks the neighborhood every morning to pick up trash and she has never felt unsafe.

Ms. Teresa Jordan came forward as a member of Rose Hill Baptist Church to speak in opposition of the proposed rezoning. She shared her concerns regarding the homeless and traffic, stating a convenience store will attract more to the area.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY:

- Pull all the ordinances on homelessness and determine if we need to make any changes. (*Request of Councilor Crabb*)

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- For the upcoming Work Session, include a discussion about signs on the right-of-way and the possibility of reigniting the Sign Committee. (*Request of Councilor Davis*)
- Include signs advertising businesses in the discussion. (*Request of Councilor Thomas*)

11. 1st Reading- An ordinance to revise and clarify certain provisions of Article XIII of Chapter 20 of the Columbus Code to revise and update provisions relating to parking management districts and enforcement areas; and for other purposes. (Councilor Cogle) **(Public Hearing Held)**

METRA Assistant Director Everett Flemings approached the rostrum to provide information on the proposed ordinance to revise Article XIII of Chapter 20 of the Columbus Code of Ordinances. He explained these revisions address the Parking Management Districts.

Mr. Richard Bishop came forward to comment as a resident of one of the districts addressed in the proposed ordinance.

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

- Allow a 30-day grace period for residents in the area by issuing a warning. *(Request of Councilor Cogle)*
- If citations are going to be issued for vehicles that back their vehicles to park on 3rd Avenue, between 10th & 11th Street, make sure it is specified in the ordinance. *(Request of Councilor Thomas)*
- Council needs an information fact sheet for sitting councilors and those interested in running for office. Include what can be done and what cannot be done. *(Request of Councilor Davis)*
- Include information packet/sheet online for citizens interested in running for a council seat. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*
- Only allow voting and no recreational activities at Shirley B. Winston Recreation Center during early voting and on Election Day. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Ms. Pat Liddell, Re: Discuss the Veterans' Day Parade.
2. Mr. Jose Ruiz, Re: Information on the elimination of parking minimums and elimination of zoning codes for rent and housing affordability.
3. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, Re: 13th Avenue Street Closure and Building a Village.
4. Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: Thanks to all City Employees for Columbus being named 12th Best Run City in the nation and (2) Tax Commissioner Election.
5. Ms. Angela White, representing Tuesday's Taco Truck, Re: Revenue Division – Business License.

Finance Director Angelia Alexander came forward to respond to comments made by Ms. White regarding the Revenue Division, the issuance of business licenses, and renewal notices that were previously sent out as a courtesy.

Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall stated she does not recommend the Council approve the request for a waiver since the requirement comes from an ordinance. She went on to explain the existing ordinance would have to be revised by ordinance and if the Council approves one waiver; then, they should expect to receive additional requests.

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

- We need to send out license renewal notices to businesses owners and possibly even follow-up notices. *(Request of Councilor Davis)*

FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY:

- Based on comments from the Council, bring back a recommendation to look at possibly waiving the licensing late fees for a specified time. *(Request of Mayor Henderson)*

6. Mrs. Kathy Tanner, Re: City Tethering Ordinance
7. Mrs. Sandy Gunnels, Re: Columbus Animal Control's progress toward becoming a "No Kill Shelter".

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Provide an update on the housing of the dogs that are impounded from the dogfighting rings as evidence. Include information on who is responsible for those animals and if they must be housed at Animal Care & Control. *(Request of Councilor Cogle)*

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Memorandum of Understanding - Columbus Area Habitat for Humanity, Inc.

Resolution (219-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of a memorandum of understanding with Columbus Area Habitat for Humanity, Inc. to administer the Columbus Consolidated Government Homeowner Accessibility Rehabilitation Program funded through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote, and Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Have Community Reinvestment Director Rob Scott provide an update to the Council once funds have been allocated and the impact this program is making. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*
- See if there is a way to expedite this program with the assistance of other organizations focused on the same or similar missions. *(Request of Councilor Davis)*

2. Memorandum of Understanding - Uptown Playground and Splash Pad

Resolution (220-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of a memorandum of understanding with Uptown Columbus, Inc. for improvements to the playground and splash pad. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

3. Street Acceptance – Georgia Fire Street

Resolution (221-24): A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, authorizing the acceptance of a deed to Georgia Fire Street location in Old Town, a mixed community, on behalf of Columbus, Georgia. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

4. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Resolution (222-24): A resolution authorizing the application and acceptance of a Hazard Mitigation Grant from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$1,404,713.00, or as otherwise awarded, to purchase eleven full-service generators. This grant is aligned with the approved Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan currently in effect for Columbus, GA/Muscogee County. This pre-application is to be submitted to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency for funding consideration. If fully awarded, this grant requires a local match of 25% totaling \$351,178.25 and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the applicable amount. This grant shall be administered by the Columbus Consolidated Government's Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

5. Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic (H.E.A.T.) Grant

Resolution (223-24): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant of \$335,000.00, or as otherwise awarded, from the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic (H.E.A.T.) Grant, with no local match requirement, and amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount rewarded. The funds will be utilized to enforce traffic laws that concern aggressive driving, DUI, speeding, etc., to reduce fatalities within Muscogee County. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

6. Columbus Police Department: Donation

Resolution (224-24): A resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept donated funds of \$10,000.00 from Columbus Affordable Housing Services, Inc. on behalf of the Columbus Police Department. Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

7. Donation of Pottery Chairs

Resolution (225-24): A resolution authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation to accept a donation of eight (8) pottery wheelchairs having a value of approximately \$1,000.00. Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

8. PURCHASES

A. Fuel Purchases for Fiscal Year 2025

Resolution (226-24): A resolution authorizing payment for Fiscal Year 2025 fuel purchases awarded to the vendor submitting the lowest, responsive, responsible quote via the daily fuel quote process. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

B. Federal and State Mandated Fees for Fiscal Year 2025

Resolution (227-24): A resolution authorizing payment for various Federal and State Mandated Fees during Fiscal Year 2025. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

C. Cancer Screening Kits for Fire & EMS Department

Resolution (228-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of 275 (two hundred seventy-five) Cancer Screening Kits and accessories from 20/20 GeneSystems, Inc., (Gaithersburg, MD), in the amount of \$30,485.00; and further authorizing additional purchases of the Cancer Screening Kits from the vendor. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

D. Repair of Landfill Excavator for Public Works

Resolution (229-24): A resolution authorizing payment to Tractor and Equipment Company (Columbus, GA/Birmingham, AL), in the amount of \$35,966.96, for the repair of a 2005 Komatsu Landfill Excavator, Vehicle # 10915. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

E. Change Order 3 – METRA Park and Ride Project PI #0011435

Resolution (230-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of Change Order 3 with Southeastern Site Development, Inc. (Newnan, GA) in the amount of \$14,310.70 for the Metra Park and Ride Project. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

F. Ergonomic Training Services for Human Resources

Resolution (231-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with CareATC, Inc. (Tulsa, OK) to provide Ergonomic Training Services, for the Human Resources Department, in the monthly amount of \$6,554.42 (\$78,653.04 annually), for a one-year period, as well as a one-time implementation fee of \$11,500.00. After the one-year period, it is requested that Council authorize the Department to implement this program for a longer contract term, contingent on employee participation, as well as the decrease of workplace injuries and return on investment. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

Columbus Fire & EMS Deputy Chief Daniel Hord came forward, at the request of Councilor Thomas, to share information on a grant opportunity that was mentioned by a local news station. He explained the department recently applied for a grant that would fund the replacement of the antiquated power generators at the fire stations throughout the city.

In response to questions from Councilor Davis, **City Manager Isaiah Hugley** stated waste pick up is behind due to several reasons. He explained drivers are calling out because they are required to work ten-hour days, six days a week since routes are requiring two drivers, with one truck following the other. He stated the issue can be fixed by requiring citizens to utilize the carts issued by the city and the purchase of additional carts if needed to keep trash bags off the curbs.

Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson stated at this time the Clerk of Council's Agenda needs to be handled and the Executive Session requested by the City Attorney's earlier in the meeting to ensure there is a quorum present.

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. **RESOLUTION (232-24)** – A resolution excusing Councilor Travis Chambers from the July 9, 2024 Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried by a seven-to-one vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Cogle, Davis, Hickey, Huff, Thomas and Tucker voting in favor, Councilor Crabb voting in opposition, and Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.
2. HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS: Email Correspondence from Attorney Jack Schley, Board Secretary, advising of the selection of John R. "Bob" Jones to fill the unexpired term of Betty Tatum. (*Council confirms the appointment.*) Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to confirm the appointment of John R. "Bob" Jones to serve on the Hospital Authority of Columbus, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.
3. Email Correspondence from Ms. Julee Fryer resigning from her seat on the Animal Control Advisory Board. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the resignation with regrets, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.
4. **Minutes of the following boards:**
 - Airport Commission, May 22, 2024
 - Board of Honor, July 3, 2024
 - Board of Tax Assessors, #19-24, #20-24 & #21-24
 - Board of Water Commissioners, June 17, 2024
 - Columbus Golf Course Authority, June 25, 2024
 - Convention & Visitors, Board of Commissioners, May 15, 2024
 - Hospital Authority of Columbus, February 27, March 26, April 30, and May 28, 2024
 - Pension Fund, Employees' Board of Trustees, June 13, 2024
 - Planning Advisory Commission, May 15, 2024
 - Tree Board, June 20, 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 Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION:

RESOLUTION (233-24) - A resolution excusing Councilor R. Walker Garrett from the July 9, 2024 Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

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

A. **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 4 Representative for the 2024-2025 School Year (*Council District 4- Tucker*). Councilor Tucker nominated Javi Moore to serve as the District 4 Representative. Councilor Tucker made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

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.

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

A. **HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD:** Mr. Mike Johnson was nominated to fill the expired term of Ms. Libby Smith as the *Historic District Resident*. (*Councilor Cogle's nominee*) Term expires: June 30, 2027. Councilor Davis made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

B. **KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION:** Mr. David Houser was nominated to serve another term of office as the *SD-15 Representative*. (*Mayor Pro Tem Allen's nominee*) Term expires: June 30, 2027. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

C. **REGION 6 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES:** Ms. Jennifer LeDenney was nominated to succeed Mr. Christopher Posey. (*Councilor Cogle's nominee*)

Term expires: June 30, 2027. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

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

A. **ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:**

A nominee for the seat of Sabine Stull (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expired on April 11, 2024, as the Animal Rescue Representative on the Animal Control Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). Clerk of Council Davis stated Councilor Garrett is nominating Paige Shields, Director of Operations at Animal Ark Rescue, for the seat of Sabine Stull. Councilor Joanne Cogle nominated Claire Anna Daniels for the seat of Julee Fryer on the Animal Control Advisory Board.

B. **DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:**

A nominee for the seat of Travis Chambers (*Elected to City Council*) for a term expiring on April 30, 2028, on the Development Authority of Columbus (*Council's Appointment*). Mayor Pro Tem Allen nominated Doug Jenkins and Clerk of Council Davis stated Councilor Chambers is nominating Karl Douglass for the seat formerly held by Councilor Travis Chambers.

C. **KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION:**

A nominee for the seat of William Bandy (*Eligible to succeed- Not seeking reappointment*) for a term that expired June 30, 2023, as a representative of Senatorial District 29 on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none. Clerk of Council Davis explained Ms. Skyler Dexter was confirmed to serve in this seat; however, she was unable to accept the appointment.

D. **LAND BANK AUTHORITY:**

A nominee for the seat of Lance Hemmings (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term that expired on October 31, 2023, on the Land Bank Authority (*Council's Appointment*). Clerk of Council Davis explained Ms. Jackie Leonard was confirmed to serve; however, she is not a resident of Muscogee County. Councilor Huff nominated Tomika Farley to succeed Lance Hemmings on the Land Bank Authority.

UPCOMING BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

- A. Animal Control Advisory Board – (Council's Appointment)
- B. Board of Honor – (Council's Appointment)
- C. Columbus Ironworks Convention & Trade Center Authority – (Mayor's Appointment)
- D. Uptown Facade Board – (Council's Appointment)

Councilor Judy Thomas nominated Wayne Anthony for the vacant seat formerly held by the late Bob Hydrick on the Board of Honor.

COUNCIL HEARINGS

8. Request for Waiver of Penalty and Interest on property tax as submitted by Mr. Tom Flowers of TLEGMF for property located in Columbus, Georgia.

Mr. Tom Flowers approached the rostrum to request a waiver in penalty and interest on the property tax for his business for the year 2022. He explained that he did not receive a bill for the year 2022 and was not aware of being late until he went to pay his property taxes for 2023 and returned three days later with payment for the previous year. He explained that he has never appealed an increase in his property taxes and has never been late in the past.

Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve the request to waive penalties and interest in the amount of \$6,678.22, seconded by Councilor Crabb and opened for further discussion.

Muscogee County Tax Commissioner Lula Huff came forward to clarify the amount, stating the penalties and interest is in the amount of \$5,992.87. She explained the amount of \$6,678.22 listed in the letter received by Mr. Flowers included the total amount of principal, interest and taxes.

Councilor Crabb made a motion to amend the amount to \$5,992.87 and approve the request for waiver of penalty and interest for this amount, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

9. Request for Waiver of Penalty and Interest on property tax as submitted by Mr. Geoffrey & Mrs. Jennifer Edsell for property located in Columbus, Georgia.

Mrs. Jennifer Edsell approached the rostrum to request a waiver in penalty and interest on her property tax for the year 2022. She stated she mailed the payment on October 3, 2022, but was later made aware that her payment was not received on her property tax bill for 2023. She explained that she checked her banking transactions and confirmed that the check had not cleared her account.

Muscogee County Tax Commissioner Lula Huff came forward stating her office cannot be responsible for the mail service.

Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the request for waiver of penalty and interest on property tax in the amount of \$468.98, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC AGENDA (continued):

7. Mrs. Sandy Gunnels, Re: Columbus Animal Control's progress toward becoming a "No Kill Shelter".

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

- Add certifications and any mandatory schooling to the job description for the Veterinarian position at the Animal Care & Control Center. (*Request of Councilor Davis*)
- Have the Director of Parks & Recreation listed on the Work Session Agenda for July 30, 2024 to answer questions regarding the progression and/or lack of progression of some of the facilities. I do

not want a PowerPoint Presentation, just for her to answer questions. (*Request of Councilor Thomas*)

- Provide an update at the July 30, 2024 Work Session on TSPLOST/Infrastructure Projects. (*Request of Councilor Huff*)

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss matters of property acquisition and disposal, personnel, and 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 Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting, and the time being 1:20 p.m.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 2:25 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in executive session to discuss matters of property acquisition and disposal, personnel, and litigation; however, there were no votes taken.

NOTE: Councilors Crabb and Councilor Thomas left before the regular meeting reconvened at 2:25 p.m.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA (continued):

9. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Columbus Phenix City Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization (CPTS - MPO) Metropolitan Transportation Plan Process Update – Kat Onore, Pond Company

Planning Director Will Johnson came forward to introduce Ms. Kat Onore, who is the Planning Operations Director at Pond & Co. He explained Pond & Co. are the consultants working with the city on the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which is done every five years.

Planning Operations Director Kat Onore, Pond & Co., approached the rostrum to provide an update on the Columbus Phenix City Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization (CPTS – MPO) Metropolitan Transportation Plan. During the presentation, she explained the next steps are to hold a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Meeting on August 15, 2024, the compilation of MTP Sections, developing a work program, and the adoption of the MTP in December 2024.

- B. Department of Labor (DOL) Overtime Rule Update - Reather Hollowell, Director, Human Resources. **DELAYED**
- C. Tyler Technology Odyssey Update - Forrest Toelle, Director, Information Technology. **DELAYED**
- D. Finance Update - Angelica Alexander, Director, Finance. **DELAYED**

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: July 9, 2024
TO: Mayor and Councilors
FROM: Finance Department
SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFQs

July 19, 2024**1. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Plan – RFB No. 24-0036****Scope of RFP**

The Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is accepting proposals from qualified firms to support the creation of a city-wide Safety Action Plan in accordance with Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) guidelines. The SS4A Action Plan will be in accordance with the U.S. Department of Transportation guidelines.

July 31, 2024**1. PI 0015285 Infantry Road and Follow Me Trail – RFB No. 24-0040****Scope of Bid**

Project PI No. 0015285 consists of an extension of the existing Follow Me Trail which will be constructed from the current southern end point to Infantry Road and will follow Infantry Road parallel to the roundabout on S. Lumpkin Road. The DBE goal for this project is 10%.

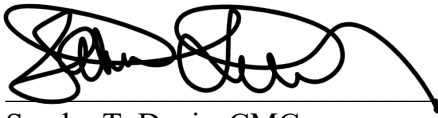
The Bidder is advised that the governing specifications for this project, including such items as bidding requirements, general conditions, technical specifications and related items, shall be in accordance with the State of Georgia, Department of Transportation Standard Specifications, 2021 Edition, and applicable Supplemental Specifications and Special Provisions. The Owner assumes the Bidder is a pre-qualified bidder with the Department of Transportation and therefore is familiar with the stated reference documents or has access to same.

August 7, 2024**1. Flood Abatement Project 19th Street System – RFB No. 24-0016****Scope of Bid**

The project's Bid consists of 4,628 feet of 8-foot x 6-foot reinforced concrete box culvert, 128 feet of 84-inch to 36-inch, 129 feet of 24-inch, 50 feet of 18-inch, 16 feet of 15-inch reinforced concrete pipe; 49 feet of 48-inch, 192 feet of 24-inch, 237 feet of 16-inch Ductile Iron Pipe; cast-in-place structures; precast concrete manholes, catch basins and headwalls; 45 feet of 12-inch and 80 feet of 6-inch ductile iron pipe water main, including line stops, tapping sleeves & valves, water service changeovers and cleanup & testing of water lines; 229 square yards of light duty pavement replacement, 4,138 square yards of heavy duty pavement replacement and 2,277 square yards of asphalt resurfacing, 2,599 feet of 30-inch curb & gutter, asphalt milling and pavement marking; 5-inch thick concrete sidewalks, pedestrian access ramps and concrete driveway apron; Norfolk Southern railroad crossing; grading of a flood basin, Meritas Mill site and reconstruction of the ball field parking. Erosion, sedimentation & pollution control of the site.

REFERRALS:

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to adjourn the July 9, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Crabb and Thomas being absent for the vote, Councilors Chambers and Garrett being absent from the meeting, and the time being 2:36 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra T. Davis', written over a horizontal line.

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