

COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers
C. E. "Red" McDaniel City Services Center- Second Floor
311 Citizens Way, Columbus, GA 31906

September 10, 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 Travis L. Chambers, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis (arrived at 10:13 a.m.), Bruce Huff (arrived at 9:03 a.m.), Judy W. Thomas and Toyia Tucker (arrived at 9:34 a.m.). City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis, and Deputy Clerk Pro Tem Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: Councilors R. Walker Garrett and Byron Hickey were absent.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) Board of Assessors Update Presentation; (2) Columbus Animal Care and Control Update Presentation

The following document was distributed around the Council table: (1) Document Submitted by PA#1 Rev. Lynn Meadows-White

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Pastor Wayne Anthony, St. Peter UMC of Columbus, Georgia

NOTE: Councilor Huff arrived at 9:03 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson.

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the August 27, 2024, Council Meeting and Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Davis and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

PROCLAMATION:

2. **Proclamation:** Public Safety Week

Receiving: Wayne Anthony, St. Peter UMC of Columbus, Georgia

Mayor Pro Tem Allen read the proclamation into the record proclaiming September 8-14, 2024, as *Public Safety Week*, recognizing all Public Safety personnel for their dedication, commitment and sacrifice to protect and serve.

3. **Proclamation:** Big Brothers Big Sisters Month

Receiving: Erin D. Griffin, Regional Program Manager

The proclamation was deferred on the Mayor's Agenda.

4. **Proclamation:** Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Receiving: Kathleen McRae

Councilor Chambers read the proclamation into the record proclaiming September 2024, as *Childhood Cancer Awareness Month*, recognizing Alexis Jane McRae for using her personal battle with cancer to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer research.

5. **Proclamation:** Hispanic Heritage Month

Receiving: Natalie Bouyett, Community Reinvestment

Councilor Huff read the proclamation into the record proclaiming September 15 - October 15, 2024, as *Hispanic Heritage Month*, recognizing the Tri-City Latino Association and supporting the mission of bringing awareness and education to the Tri-City area by celebrating the diversity within the Latino cultures throughout the community.

6. **Proclamation:** Constitution Week

Receiving: Julie Hobbs, Daughters of the American Revolution

Councilor Crabb read the proclamation into the record proclaiming September 17 - 23, 2024, as *Constitution Week*, recognizing the Daughters of the American Revolution in celebrating the United States Constitution, which stands as a testament to the tenacity of Americans throughout history to maintain liberty, freedom and inalienable rights.

PRESENTATION:

7. Board of Assessors Update

Chief Appraiser Suzanne Widenhouse approached the rostrum to provide an update on House Bill 581, which is known as the "Save Our Homes Act". Chief Appraiser Widenhouse provided an outline, which highlighted the changes to notices of assessment, the floating homestead and the passage of HR 1022. She also discussed the pros and cons of opting out of the homestead exemption in House Bill 581.

NOTE: Councilor Tucker arrived at 9:34 a.m.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CHIEF APPRAISER WIDENHOUSE:

- A request was made to receive a list of all properties that are homesteaded and have a tax bill less than \$1,000 because of the freeze. (*Request of Councilor Crabb*)

FOR THE MAYOR:

- A request was made to set up a meeting with the School District to see what they are planning to do and how it would affect what the Council is planning to do. (*Request of Councilor Thomas*)

NOTE: Councilor Davis arrived at 10:13 a.m.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA**ORDINANCES**

1. **2nd 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.) (as amended by substitute 9-10-24) (Councilor Cogle). Councilor Thomas made a motion to withdraw the ordinance at the request of the applicant, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members of Council present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

2. **1st Reading-** REZN-07-24-1562: An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **5710 Warm Springs Road** (parcel # 101-031-003) from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District with conditions. (Planning Department and PAC recommend conditional approval) (Mayor Pro-Tem) (**Public Hearing Held**)

3. **1st Reading-** An ordinance providing for the demolition of various structures located at:
 - 1) 1119 37th Street (168 ADELIN AVE LLC, Owner)
 - 2) 1821 St. Elmo Drive (AMY M OURSO & ROBERT BRADFORD BICKERSTAFF II, Owner)
 - 3) 2734 Mimosa Street (WILLIE J. PASSMORE, Owner)
 - 4) 2935 Schaul Street (GLEN E. HEINZELMAN, Owner)
 - 5) 4207 Bellamy Street (GREEN PRIOR LEWIS, JR., Owner)
 - 6) 4245 Meritas Drive (JERAQUIS CHANEY, Owner)
 - 7) 4703 Connor Road (YAUNITA ARRINGTON, Owner)
 - 8) 245 Robert E. Lee Drive (CORTEZ TAYLOR, JR., Owner)

and for demolition services for the Inspections and Code Department in accordance with the attached Tabulation of Bid sheet. (Mayor Pro-Tem) (**Public Hearing Held**)

4. **1st Reading-** An ordinance amending the procurement ordinance, Section 2-3.03 of the Columbus Code, to revise procurement purchasing limits; and for other purposes. (Councilor Tucker) (**Public Hearing Held**)

Councilor Toyia Tucker stated that there were some questions and concerns among the Council regarding the proposed ordinance. She said the two main concerns discussed were raising the purchase threshold and addressing the purchasing authority. She said another issue that was discussed was increasing the spending limit on the purchasing card.

Finance Director Angelica Alexander came forward to address Council's concerns regarding thresholds and purchase authority, clarifying that the City does not issue black cards or have unlimited credit at the bank. She said although she fully supports adjusting the spending limits, she does not recommend raising the purchase card limit to such a high amount. She cautioned against significantly raising the purchase card limit, as this could lead to exceeding the overall purchase limit.

Deputy Chief Daniel Hord came forward to provide some examples of the challenges that the department has faced when trying to make purchases with the current restraints. He also explained how the proposed ordinance would benefit the Fire & EMS Department.

After several minutes of discussion regarding this item, Councilor Cogle made a motion to amend the ordinance to remove \$2,500 for small purchases and replace with \$5,000 and for Competitive quotation purchases amend by removing \$2,501 and replace with \$5,001 to \$25,000, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried by a vote of seven to one with Councilors Chambers, Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Huff, Thomas and Tucker voting yes and Mayor Pro Tem Allen voting no, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

5. **1st Reading-** An ordinance amending Section 2-298(b) of the Columbus Code to allow members of the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board to serve on more than one Council appointed board; and for other purposes. (Councilor Thomas) **(Public Hearing Held)**

RESOLUTIONS

6. **Resolution (345-24):** A resolution authorizing execution of Federal Aviation Administration Grant Airport Improvement Program (AIP) runway improvement. GRANT NO. 3-13-0035-062-2024 (Request of Columbus Airport Commission). Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members of Council present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.
7. **Resolution (346-24):** A resolution authorizing execution of Federal Aviation Administration Grant Airport Improvement Program (AIP) equipment. GRANT NO. 3-13-0035-061-2024 (Request of Columbus Airport Commission). Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members of Council present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.
8. **Resolution (347-24):** A resolution approving a Mutual Aid Agreement between the Columbus Fire and EMS Department and the Columbus Airport Commission for the provision of emergency services. (Request of the Columbus Airport Commission). Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members of Council present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Rev. Lynn Meadows-White, representing The Methodist Children's Home, Re: Information on the new Foster Child Success Tax Credit.
2. Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: Treatment of private citizens. (*Relinquished his time to speak*)

3. Rev. Johnny Flakes, III, representing IMA, Re: Ethics.
4. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, Re: Lame Duck Politicians and Term Limits.
5. Mrs. Stacy McDowell, Re: Animal control procedures.
6. Mrs. Sandy Gunnels, Re: Hiring Practices at CCG.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

Councilor Crabb made a motion to call up the Columbus Animal Control & Care Center Update as the next order of business, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent for the vote.

- C. Columbus Animal Control & Care Center Update – Drale Short, Director, Public Works.
(*NOTE: This update was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item 12 "C"*)

Public Works Director Drale Short came forward to provide an update on the processes that have been taken to address the challenges of the Animal Control and Care Center such as hiring a veterinarian and securing medical assistance. She also discussed the shelter's status regarding Zoonotic diseases, compliance with the Department of Agriculture policies, the temporary closure of the shelter, as well as the closure of other shelters in Georgia counties due to the disease. Additionally, she addressed cleaning protocols, the importance of vaccinations, the status of the play area and the types of calls the shelter will handle going forward.

1. FY 2025 Georgia Department of Transportation – Transportation Planning Contract

Resolution (348-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation for Financial Assistance to carry out the FY 2025 Transportation Planning Work Activities of the Columbus-Phenix City Transportation Study (C-PCTS) and to amend the Multi- Governmental Fund by the amount of the contract and local match. This is an annual contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration which will require a 20% match of 84,787.30. 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 Huff being absent for the vote and Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

2. FY 2025 Georgia Department of Transportation – Y410 Funds - Transportation Planning Contract

Resolution (349-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation for Financial Assistance to carry out the FY 2025 Y410 Planning funds for Safe & Accessible Transportation Options - (H.R. 3684 - Sect, 11206), as outlined in the

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). This funding is required to be included in the Transportation Planning Work Activities of the Columbus-Phenix City Transportation Study (C-PCTS). The Y410 Transportation planning funds in the amount of \$8,696.12 is requested in the form of a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount awarded. This is a five-year annual contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration which began in FY 2023 and will conclude in FY 2027, as outlined in the IIJA. This will require the creation of a new budget by the Finance Department. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

3. TIA 1 Agreement for METRA

Resolution (350-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of a contractual agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to receive TIA 1 funds available in METRA project PI# 0011435 in the amount of \$3,500,000 or as otherwise made available in a supplemental agreement with GDOT. This agreement is drafted and proposed by GDOT. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

4. American Rescue Plan – Public Safety Project Reallocation

Resolution (351-24): A resolution authorizing the reallocation of available American Rescue Plan funding to the Fire/EMS Department for one ambulance and Fire/EMS Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program for \$545,145.90 and Columbus Police Department IBIS coverage for \$7,297 and Columbus Police Department equipment for \$292,703. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

5. American Rescue Plan – Project Reallocation

Resolution (352-24): A resolution authorizing the reallocation of available American Rescue Plan funding to the Liberty Theatre HVAC project for \$600,000 for a total allocation of \$950k and the Trade Center HVAC project for \$350,000 for a total allocation of \$2.6 million and to authorize an additional \$600k from the General Fund Reserves for the HARP program. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

6. Inclement Weather Policy for Pools

A resolution authorizing the acceptance of the attached policy as the applicable policy for all public pools operated by the City. Councilor Cogle made a motion to delay the resolution for 30 days, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent for the vote and Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

7. Retiree Health Insurance Plan

Resolution (353-24): A resolution authorizing the renewal of the Medicare-eligible healthcare plan benefits and the United Healthcare Medicare Advantage plan. 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 Crabb being absent for the vote and Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

Larry Campbell of the Retirees' Health Benefits Committee came forward on behalf of the Committee, expressing excitement for favorable federal-level changes, as well as, no health insurance premium increases. He thanked Human Resources Director Reather Hollowell and her staff for their cooperative efforts and commended the Council for what they do for the retirees and the citizens of Columbus.

8. FY2025 Exigent Vehicle Purchases

Resolution (354-24): A resolution authorizing “off the lot” vehicle purchases, due to on-going supply chain issues, for vehicles that have been approved as part of the budget for FY2025, with the exception of vehicles purchased using federal funds, that have been either directly awarded or passed through another entity to CCG. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution as amended to remove the dollar amount, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

9. Donations Accepted on Behalf of Greenpower Racing Program

Resolution (355-24): A resolution authorizing the acceptance of any and all cash and in-kind donations to the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department on behalf of the Greenpower Racing program for Fiscal Year 2025 and 2026, ending on June 30, 2026. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

10. Columbus Police Department: Donations

Resolution (356-24): A resolution authorizing the acceptance a donation of \$2,000 for sponsorship of the Columbus Police Department’s 2nd Annual Family Fun Day and other employee activities and a donation of \$100 to support the recently created Heritage Center of the Columbus Police Department. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

11. PURCHASES

- A. One (1) 2024 Ford Explorer for Parks and Recreation – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (357-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of one (1) 2024 Ford Explorer for the Parks and Recreation Department from Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) in the amount of \$37,895.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-001-SPD0000183-0006. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

- B. Sixteen (16) John Deere Zero Turn Mowers for Parks and Recreation – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (358-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of sixteen (16) John Deere Zero Turn Mowers, for the Parks and Recreation Department, from Deere and Company (Carey, NC) at a unit price of \$11,102.96, and a total cost of \$177,647.36. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-001-SPD0000177-0026. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

C. CISCO Smartnet Software Maintenance Renewal for Information Technology – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (359-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of Cisco SMARTnet software maintenance renewal, for the Information Technology Department, from CPAK Technology Solutions (LaGrange, GA) in the amount of \$43,160.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract # 99999-SPD-T20120501-0006. Additionally, it is requested that Council approve payment, plus associated cost increases, for future renewals of the software maintenance. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

D. Provision and Installation of Playground Equipment at Charlie Hill Park – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (360-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of playground equipment, at Charlie Hill Park, from Miracle Recreation-PlayPower, Inc. (Huntersville, NC) in the amount of \$123,282.40. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Sourcewell Contract #010521-LTS. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

E. Provision and Installation of Playground Equipment at Lakebottom Park – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (361-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of playground equipment, at Lakebottom Park, from Miracle Recreation-PlayPower, Inc. (Huntersville, NC) in the amount of \$483,965.29. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Sourcewell Contract #010521-LTS. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

F. Provision and Installation of Playground Equipment at Boxwood Park – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (362-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of playground equipment, at Boxwood Park, from Miracle Recreation-PlayPower, Inc. (Huntersville, NC) in the amount of \$117,128.14. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Sourcewell Contract #010521-LTS. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

G. Outdoor Speakers with Accessories for the Civic Center – OMNIA Partners Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (363-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of four (4) outdoor speakers with accessories, for the Civic Center, from B & H Photo (New York City, NY) in the amount of \$6,084.98. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Omnia Partners contract #R201202. This purchase will be funded from the Friends of Columbus Account for the Civic Center. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

H. Tables and Table Truck Carts for the Civic Center – BuyBoard Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (364-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of twenty (20) tables and two (2) table truck carts, for the Civic Center, from Worthington Direct (Dallas, TX) in the amount of \$13,043.21. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via BuyBoard contract #667-22. This purchase will be funded from the Friends of Columbus Account for the Civic Center. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

I. Additional Telescopic Seating for the Civic Center Arena Bowl – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (365-24): A resolution authorizing additional telescopic seating for the Civic Center arena bowl from Hussey Seating (North Berwick, ME) in the amount of \$20,254.32. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #091719-HSC. This purchase will be funded from the Friends of Columbus Account for the Civic Center. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

J. Provision and Installation of Outdoor Stage, Deck and Handrail for the Civic Center – OMNIA Partners Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (366-24): A resolution authorizing the provision and installation of an outdoor stage, deck and handrail, for the Civic Center, from Wenger Corporation (Owatonna, MN) in the amount of \$34,294.57. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Omnia Partners contract #R191204. This purchase will be funded from the Friends of Columbus Account for the Civic Center. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

K. Repair of Bulldozer (Vehicle # 11300) for Public Works

Resolution (367-24): A resolution authorizing the payment to Yancey Brothers (Fortson, GA), in the amount of \$49,790.15, for the repair of a 2012 Caterpillar D6T XL T4 Bulldozer, Vehicle #11300. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

L. Repair of Bulldozer (Vehicle # 11554) for Public Works

Resolution (368-24): A resolution authorizing approve payment to Yancey Brothers (Fortson, GA), in the amount of \$158,056.56, for the repair of a 2016 Caterpillar D6T XL T4 Bulldozer, Vehicle #11554. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

M. Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) and Accessories for Risk Management (Annual Contract)– BuyBoard Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (369-24): A resolution authorizing an annual contract for the purchase of automatic external defibrillators (AEDS) and accessories on an as needed basis, for Risk Management, from AED Brands (Kennesaw, Ga). The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Buyboard Contract #698-23. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

N. On-Call Services for Installation or Replacement of Storm Sewer/Combined Sewer Systems (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 23-0035

Resolution (370-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of annual contracts with Alexander Contracting Company, Inc. (Fortson, Ga), Gordy Construction Company (Fortson, Ga), Kam, Inc. (Columbus, Ga), and Strack, Inc. (Fairburn, Ga) to install or replace elements of storm sewer/combined sewer systems on an as-needed basis. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

O. Multi-Purpose Dog Handler Packages (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 24-0018

Resolution (371-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of an annual contract with Custom Canine Unlimited (Gainesville, Ga) to provide multi-purpose dog handler packages for the Columbus Police Department. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

12. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS (continued)

A. FY24 Budget Update Sheriff's Office – Greg Countryman, Sheriff, Sheriff's Office

Finance Director Angelica Alexander advised that Lt. Colonel Joe McCrea of the Sheriff's Office is appearing before Council pursuant to Ordinance 13-39, requesting an additional appropriation of 1.2 million dollars for the Sheriff's Office's FY 2024 Budget for operating costs.

Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the request for additional appropriation in the FY24 Budget for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of 1.2 million dollars, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent for the vote.

B. Sign Ordinance Enforcement Update – Ryan Pruett, Director, Inspections & Code

Inspections & Code Director Ryan Pruett approached the rostrum to provide the Council with an outline of the actions that have been taken to enforce the Sign Ordinance. He also offered recommendations to improve the enforcement of the ordinance.

C. Columbus Animal Control & Care Center Update – Drale Short, Director, Public Works
(*NOTE: This item was called upon earlier in the meeting during the City Manager’s Agenda.*)

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: September 10, 2024

SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFPs

September 11, 2024

1. **Liberty Theater Re-Roofing Project – RFB No. 25-0003**

Scope of Bid

Provide all labor, equipment and materials to remove the existing roof at the Liberty Theater and install a new fully-adhered Colonial Red FiberTite KEE fleecback roof system (or equal), in full compliance with the project manual.

September 13, 2024

1. **Auditing Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0006**

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting proposals to establish a contract for the professional services of a Certified Public Accountant for financial and compliance audits. The contract will be for five consecutive fiscal years beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and ending with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, with an option to renew for five additional twelve-month periods.

September 20, 2024

1. **Consulting Services for Recycling Center – RFP No. 25-0009**

Scope of RFP

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia (the City) invites qualified and interested individuals or firms to provide consulting services to perform a needs assessment/recommendation. The consultant will assist with the purchasing of equipment, technology and the writing of specifications for these and other management services pertaining to the efficient operations of the City’s Recycling Facility, to include the processing, sales, marketing of the single stream recycling materials.

2. **Bullet Recovery System for the Police Department – RFP No. 25-0010**

Scope of RFP

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia (the City) invites qualified and interested parties to furnish and install one Bullet Recovery System for use in forensic firearms examinations for the Columbus Police Department.

On Hold

1. **Comprehensive Inmate Healthcare Services for Muscogee County Jail (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0005**
Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government, on behalf of the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office, is seeking proposals for the provision of healthcare services for offenders incarcerated at the Muscogee County Jail. The requested services consist of medical, dental, and mental health, as well as healthcare personnel. Medical services include but are not limited to x-ray, laboratory, and prescription drug services for a rated capacity of 1069 inmates.

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

REFERRALS:

Referrals 9.10.24

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. **Resolution (372-24):** A resolution excusing Councilor Byron Hickey from the September 10, 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.
2. **Resolution (373-24):** - A resolution excusing Councilor R. Walker Garrett from the September 10, 2024 Council Meeting. **(Add-On)** 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.
3. Travel Authorization Request for Councilor Tucker to attend the 2024 GARC Annual Conference in St. Simons Island, Georgia. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.
4. Email Correspondence from Emma Kimbrel, Board Secretary for the Community Development Advisory Council, requesting that the seats of Mr. Armando Fernandez (Mayor's Appointment) and Tamika McKenzie (Mayor's Appointment) be declared vacant due to a lack of attendance. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the email correspondence, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

5. Email Correspondence from Jeremy Cummings resigning from his seat on the Tree Board. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the letter of resignation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.
6. **Minutes of the following boards:**
 - Board of Tax Assessors, #29-24
 - Board of Zoning Appeals, May 1, June 5, and July 5, 2024
 - Columbus Golf Course Authority, August 20, 2024
 - Columbus Ironworks Convention & Trade Center Authority, June 27, 2024
 - Convention & Visitors Board of Commissioners, June 20, 2024
 - Hospital Authority of Columbus, June 25, and July 30, 2024
 - Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission, April 11, 2024
 - Retirees' Health Benefits Committee, November 15, 2023, February 21, and May 15, 2024

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

7. MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

A. COLUMBUS IRONWORKS CONVENTION & TRADE CENTER AUTHORITY:

A nominee for the seat of S. Carson Cummings (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on October 24, 2024, on the Columbus Ironworks Convention & Trade Center Authority (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

8. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- READY FOR CONFIRMATION:

A. ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD: Ms. Karen Gaskin was nominated to fill the expired term of Ms. Channon Emery. (*Councilor Hickey's nominee*) Term expires: October 15, 2026. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members of Council present, with Councilor Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

B. BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS: Mr. John Anker was nominated to fill the unexpired term of the late Mr. Todd Hammonds. (*Councilor Crabb's nominee*) Term expires: December 31, 2029. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members of Council present, with Councilor Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

9. 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 expiring on April 11, 2024, as the Animal Rescue Representative on the Animal Control Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Nancy Anderson (*Resigned*) for a term expiring on October 15, 2025, on the Animal Control Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss matters of litigation, personnel and real estate acquisition or disposal 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting, and the time being 1:34 p.m.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 4:47 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in executive session to discuss matters of litigation, personnel and real estate acquisition or disposal; however, there were no votes taken.

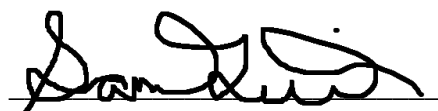
COMPLIANCE UPDATE:

Councilor Davis made a motion to authorize a compliance update with the Accounting Firm Acuitas, Inc. to follow up on the progress made in the Business License Revenue Collection Division, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION:

Resolution (374-24): A resolution authorizing payment of \$25,000.00 to Janathaen Strum and/or his attorney to settle all claims, including attorney's fees in exchange for a full release. The City Manager, City Attorney and Finance Director or their representatives are authorized to execute all appropriate settlement documents to this effect. 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 Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Tucker to adjourn the September 10, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting, with the time being 4:48 p.m.



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