

COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

Council Chambers
C. E. “Red” McDaniel City Services Center- Second Floor
3111 Citizens Way, Columbus, GA 31906

June 3, 2025
5:30 PM
Regular Meeting

M A Y O R ’ S A G E N D A

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors Travis L. Chambers, Joanne Cogle (via teleconference), Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis (arrived at 5:33), R. Walker Garrett, Byron Hickey, Bruce Huff and Toyia Tucker (via teleconference). Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore and Deputy Clerk of Council Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: Councilor John Anker was absent.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: n/a

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: n/a

- CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III, Presiding
- INVOCATION:** Offered by Sgt. Angela Florence, Columbus Police Department
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Mayor Skip Henderson

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the May 27, 2025 Council Meeting and Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Anker being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Cogle and Tucker.)*

PUBLIC HEARING:

2. **TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS PUBLIC HEARING:** 6:00 p.m. The budget tentatively adopted by the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, requires a millage rate higher than the rollback millage rate. Therefore, before the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, may finalize the tentative budget and set a final millage rate, Georgia Law requires that three public hearings be held to allow the public an opportunity to express their opinions on this increase. *(NOTE: This public hearing was called upon later in the meeting after the City Manager’s Agenda due to the advertised time of 6:00 p.m.)*

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (25-025) - 2nd Reading-** An Ordinance amending Section 11-17.15 of the Columbus Code to revise the definition of division chief positions in the Columbus Department of Fire and Medical Emergency Services; and for other purposes. (Mayor Pro-Tem) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Anker being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Cogle and Tucker.)*
2. **1st Reading and Public Hearing-** An ordinance adopting an operating and capital improvement budget for the Fiscal Year 2026 beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, for certain funds of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, and appropriating the amounts shown in each budget; and for other purposes. (Budget Review Committee)

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum and stated the total operating budget for FY26 is \$394,618,281, and the reserve total is 86.79 days.

(NOTE: The floor was declared open for public comment. No public comment and no questions from the members of Council.)

3. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance adopting non-operating budgets for the fiscal year 2026 beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, for certain funds of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, and appropriating the amounts shown in each budget. (Budget Review Committee)

(NOTE: The floor was declared open for public comment. No public comment and no questions from the members of Council.)

REFERRAL(S):

FOR HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR:

- A request was made for a report to be delivered to Council by or before the next meeting. This report should include a list of vacant positions in each department, the number of years the position has been vacant, indicate if it is a new position that's a part of the budget, a dollar amount for each position including benefits, the total dollar amount per department and a total dollar amount for all departments combined. *(Request of Councilor Crabb)*

4. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance providing for contributions to the Columbus, Georgia General Government Employees' Pension Plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026. (Budget Review Committee)

(NOTE: The floor was declared open for public comment. No public comment and no questions from the members of Council.)

5. **1st Reading-** An Ordinance providing for the governmental contributions to the Columbus, Georgia Pension Plan for employees of the Department of Public Safety for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026. (Budget Review Committee)

(NOTE: The floor was declared open for public comment. No public comment and no questions from the members of Council.)

- 6. 1st Reading-** An Ordinance providing for Government funding of a Major Disability Income Plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026. (Budget Review Committee)

(NOTE: The floor was declared open for public comment. No public comment and no questions from the members of Council.)

- 7. 1st Reading-** An Ordinance providing for Government funding of a Death Benefit Escrow for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026. (Budget Review Committee)

(NOTE: The floor was declared open for public comment. No public comment and no questions from the members of Council.)

- 8. 1st Reading-** An Ordinance amending Article VII of Chapter 13 of the Columbus Code Solid Waste Collection and Disposal to update the landfill, residential and commercial waste disposal fees, to update the guidelines for an offset to the residential rate for low-income households; and for other purposes (Budget Review Committee)

(NOTE: The floor was declared open for public comment. No public comment and no questions from the members of Council.)

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: Termination of City Manager Isaiah Hugley
2. Mr. John Fitzpatrick, Jr., Re: What Now?
3. Miss. Alazjah Bonner, Re: Columbus City Matters. ***Not Present***

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

- 1. Memorandum of Agreement- Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Inc.**

Resolution (178-25): A resolution requesting to execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Columbus Consolidated Government (CCG) and Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Inc. (CRK) to install, maintain, and operate trash traps located at Cooper Creek Park and Dinglewood Park for a period of one year. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Anker being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Cogle and Tucker.)*

Mr. Henry Jacobs, Deputy Director of Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, approached the rostrum to provide information on Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, a statewide organization dedicated to keeping the Chattahoochee River clean. Their efforts include water monitoring, operating trash traps, conducting trash cleanups, and running floating classroom programs that benefit several local schools.

2. Adoption of the 2025 Liberty District Master Plan

Resolution (179-25): A resolution authorizing the Council of Columbus to approve the 2025 Liberty District Master Plan. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Anker being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Cogle and Tucker.)*

In response to questions from Councilor Davis, **Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge** approached the rostrum explaining the master plan will guide how property is evaluated and developed. She stated any property to be disposed of will go before Council through an RFP process, and proposals that change in any way from the original plan will come back to Council for consideration.

Councilor Glenn Davis added for the record, there are additional areas under consideration for inclusion or expansion, such as the railyard and South Commons projects. He noted that plans may evolve based on the progression of development over time.

3. PURCHASES

A. Muscogee County Jail Roof Project – RFB NO. 25-0006

Resolution (180-25): A resolution authorizing to rescind resolution no. 072-25 for Muscogee County Jail Roof Project, awarded to Integrated Building Services, Inc. (Marietta, Ga), and approve the execution of a contract with Skyline Construction Services, Inc. (Eatonton, Ga) in the amount of \$520,120.00 for the Muscogee County Jail Roof Project. The recommended total includes the base bid of \$505,790.00 and an additional \$14,300.00 for alternate 1 – additive alternate to retrofit Section H with a new loose laid TPO roof system, in lieu of repairs to existing, and reinstall the ballast. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Anker being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Cogle and Tucker.)*

B. Alcohol Management Services for Columbus Civic Center Locations (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 24-0005

Resolution (181-25): A resolution authorizing the execution of an annual contract with Ovations Food Services, L.P. d/b/a OVG Hospitality (Philadelphia, PA) to provide alcohol management services for Columbus Civic Center locations. Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Anker being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Cogle and Tucker.)*

C. Traffic Incident Management Services and Towing Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0001

Resolution (182-25): A resolution authorizing the execution of an annual contract with Griffin and Griffin Towing, Inc. (Columbus, GA) to provide Traffic Incident Management Services (TIMS), which are overseen by Public Safety Departments, and Towing Services for City-owned vehicles and equipment on an “as needed” basis. Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor

Anker being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Cogle and Tucker.)*

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: June 3, 2025
TO: Mayor and Councilors
FROM: Finance Department
SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFQs

June 6, 2025

1. Grant Writing Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0020

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is seeking qualified, experienced individuals, groups, or firms to provide Grant Writing Services. The Successful Proposer will secure grant funding through the preparation and submittal of grant proposals to federal, state agencies, and any other applicable entities.

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

MAYOR’S AGENDA (continued)

PUBLIC HEARING:

2. **TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS PUBLIC HEARING:** 6:00 p.m. The budget tentatively adopted by the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, requires a millage rate higher than the rollback millage rate. Therefore, before the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, may finalize the tentative budget and set a final millage rate, Georgia Law requires that three public hearings be held to allow the public an opportunity to express their opinions on this increase. *(NOTE: This public hearing was called up as the next order of business as listed on the Mayor’s Agenda Item 2 at the advertised time of 6:00 p.m., as required.)*

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum and explained the purpose of the taxpayer bill of rights hearing. She explained that the hearing is required anytime the projected value of tax digest is expected to increase. By law, this requires the Tax Commissioner to calculate a rollback millage rate to maintain the same revenue level. She said the millage for the urban service districts remains unchanged. She said Urban Service District #1 at 16.07 mills, Urban Service District #2 at 10.09 mills, and Urban Service District #4 at 9.19 mills. She also stated that homeowners with a homestead exemption should not see a tax increase from the city.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- *Marvin Broadwater, Sr.* – Concerned about reassessment after property upgrades
- *John Scott* – Concerned about rising property taxes
- *Karen Gaskins* – Spoke about the impact of tax increases on low-income residents

In response to questions raised by councilors and citizens, **Chief Appraiser Suzanne Widenhouse** approached the rostrum clarifying that homeowners with a frozen homestead exemption may see an increase in their frozen value only if significant upgrades or changes to the property's footprint have been made. She advised not all property taxes are frozen, and reassessments are legally required at

least once every three years. For properties without a frozen homestead, market changes can lead to valuation increases. She stated the county is legally obligated to maintain fair market value, which determines assessment ratios. She also explained the appeal process available to property owners who dispute their assessments.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY:

- A request was made that a change to the layout of the annual Notice of Assessment form be added to the legislative agenda. *(Request of Councilor Crabb)*

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made for a list of all city-owned properties in the area and throughout the city. *(Request of Councilor Tucker)*

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

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

Board of Tax Assessors, #17-25

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Anker being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Cogle and Tucker.)*

ADD-ON RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution (183-25): A resolution excusing Councilor John Anker from the June 3, 2025, Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Hickey and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Anker being absent from the meeting. *(Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Cogle and Tucker.)*

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

2. **MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS – ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:**

A. COLUMBUS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT AUTHORITY:

A nominee for a new seat as a Certified Public Accountant, on the Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority. *(Mayor's Appointment)*. There were none.

A nominee for a new seat as a Law Enforcement Representative, on the Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority. *(Mayor's Appointment)*. There were none.

B. PENSION FUND, EMPLOYEES' BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

A nominee for a vacant seat with a term expiring on June 30, 2025, as a representative of the Business Community on the Pension Fund, Employees' Board of Trustees (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

C. YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL:

A nominee for the Youth Advisory Council (*Mayor's Nominee*). There were none.

3. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – READY FOR CONFIRMATION:

A. 457 DEFERRED COMPENSATION BOARD: Rhonda T. Davis was nominated to serve another term. (*Councilor Crabb's nominee*) Term expires: May 31, 2028. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Anker being absent from the meeting. (*Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Cogle and Tucker.*)

B. AUDIT COMMITTEE: Michael Bruder was nominated to serve another term. (*Councilor Davis's nominee*) Term expires: June 30, 2027. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Anker being absent from the meeting. (*Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Cogle and Tucker.*)

C. BOARD OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES: Chandler Padgett was nominated to serve another term. (*Councilor Crabb's nominee*) Term Expires: June 30, 2028. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Anker being absent from the meeting. (*Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Cogle and Tucker.*)

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

A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

A nominee for the vacant seat of the District 1 Representative for a term expiring on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council (*District 1 – Hickey*). There were none.

B. YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL:

A nominee for the District 1 Representative on the Youth Advisory Council (*District 1 – Hickey*). There were none.

A nominee for the District 2 Representative on the Youth Advisory Council (*District 2 – Davis*). There were none.

A nominee for the District 3 Representative on the Youth Advisory Council (*District 3 – Huff*). There were none.

A nominee for the District 4 Representative on the Youth Advisory Council (*District 4 – Tucker*). There were none.

A nominee for the District 5 Representative on the Youth Advisory Council (*District 5 – Crabb*). There were none.

A nominee for the District 7 Representative on the Youth Advisory Council (*District 7 – Cogle*). There were none.

A nominee for the District 8 Representative on the Youth Advisory Council (*District 8 – Garrett*). Councilor Garrett nominated *Kalel Le Denney*. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Anker being absent from the meeting. (*Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Cogle and Tucker.*)

A nominee for the District 9 Representative on the Youth Advisory Council (*District 9 – Anker*). There were none.

A nominee for the District 10 Representative on the Youth Advisory Council (*District 10 – Chambers*). There were none.

5. APPOINTMENTS – NOMINATIONS ARE CONFIRMED BY COUNCIL:

A. COLUMBUS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT AUTHORITY:

A nominee for the new seat of the RiverCenter Representative on the Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority (*Confirmed by Council*). Clerk of Council McLemore stated Councilor Cogle is nominating Jim Rutland to serve as the RiverCenter representative on the Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Anker being absent from the meeting. (*Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Cogle and Tucker.*)

6. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – ANY NOMINATIONS WOULD BE LISTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

A. COLUMBUS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT AUTHORITY:

A nominee for a new seat as a Promotional Entity-Professional Hockey Representative, on the Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority. (*Council's Appointment*). There were none. *The previous appointment resided outside Muscogee County.*

B. DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:

A nominee for the seat of Ernest Smallman, IV (*Not Eligible to succeed – Currently serves on the Board of Zoning Appeals*) for the term expiring on August 15, 2023, on the Downtown Development Authority (*Council's Appointment*). Clerk of Council McLemore stated Councilor Cogle is

nominating Bruce McPherson to succeed Ernest Smallman, IV on the Downtown Development Authority.

A nominee for a vacant seat for the term expiring on August 15, 2023, on the Downtown Development Authority (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

C. KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION:

A nominee for a vacant seat with the term expiring on June 30, 2027, for a Senatorial District 15 Representative on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

D. NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH – MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTIVE DISEASES AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES- COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD:

A nominee for the seat Judge David Ranieri (*Does not desire reappointment*) for a term expiring on June 30, 2025, on the New Horizons Behavioral Health – Mental Health, Addictive Diseases and Developmental Disabilities – Community Service Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

E. RETIREES' HEALTH BENEFITS COMMITTEE:

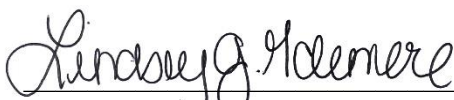
A nominee for the seat of Cheryl B. Tate (*Eligible to serve another term*) for a term expiring on June 30, 2025, on the Retirees' Health Benefits Committee (*Council's Appointment*). Councilor Crabb renominated Cheryl B. Tate to serve another term on the Retirees' Benefits Committee.

A nominee for the Thomas Barron (*Not Eligible to serve another term*) for a term expiring on June 30, 2025, on the Retirees' Health Benefits Committee (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

PUBLIC AGENDA (continued):

1. Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: Termination of City Manager Isaiah Hugley

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Huff to adjourn the June 3, 2025, Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Anker being absent from the meeting, with the time being 6:56 p.m. (*Clerk of Council McLemore confirmed and announced the affirmative vote of Councilors Cogle and Tucker.*)


 Lindsey G. McLemore
 Clerk of Council
 Council of Columbus, Georgia

