



~~POST SUMMARY MINUTES~~

Council Chambers
C. E. "Red" McDaniel City Services Center- Second Floor
2960 Macon Road, Columbus, GA 31906

February 24, 2026
5:30 PM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors John Anker, Travis L. Chambers, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, R. Walker Garrett (via teleconference), Byron Hickey, Bruce Huff, and Toyia Tucker (via teleconference). Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin, Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall, Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore and Deputy Clerk of Council Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: Councilor Glenn Davis was absent.

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Dallas Sims- Director of Victory Mission Columbus

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Skip Henderson

MINUTES:

Mayor's Agenda #1: Vote Result: APPROVED

1. Approval of minutes for the February 10, 2026, Council Meeting.

Mayor's Agenda #2: Vote Result: APPROVED

RESOLUTIONS

2. A Resolution authorizing a general operational audit of the Golf Course Authority by the Internal Auditor. *(Requested by Councilor Toyia Tucker, as Chair of the Auditor Committee)*

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor's Agenda #3: No Action Taken

3. Internal Audit of the Office of Crime Prevention – Donna McGinnis, Internal Auditor and Compliance Office (ADD-ON)

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

City Attorney's Agenda #1: Vote Result: ADOPTED

1. **2nd Reading-** An ordinance regulating the vehicular traffic in Columbus, Georgia, by amending City Code Section 20-8.1.1 **Through Streets Designated** by deleting "Averette drive" as an intersecting street with the through street of Preston Drive; by amending Columbus Code Section 20-8.1.2 **Multi-way Stops Designated** for the purpose of establishing a multi-way stop at the intersection of Preston Drive and Averett Drive; authorizing the installation of official traffic control devices indicating said stop intersections and repealing any conflicting ordinances and for other purposes. (Councilors Garrett and Crabb)

City Attorney's Agenda #2: PUBLIC HEARING HELD

2. **1st Reading-** An ordinance providing for the demolition of various structures located at:
 - 1) **2317 Forsyth Street** (Trevonte Johnson, Owner);
 - 2) **5 Patton Drive** (Edward Hickey, Owner);
 - 3) **3810 16th Avenue** (Virginia Royal, Owner);
 - 4) **1543 Floyd Road** (Marrina Jo Amerson, Owner);
 - 5) **222 21st Avenue** (W & D Ventures LLC, Owner);
 - 6) **3016 3rd Avenue** (Benjamin Hardy, Owner);
 - 7) **2801 Baldwin Street** (Taryn Daniel Araos, Owner);
 - 8) **1344 16th Street** (William Glenn Perkins, Owner);
 - 9) **928 Lawyers Lane** (Sammie T. Harvey & King Bernice Harvey, Owner); and

10) **828 1st Avenue** (FF Asset Fund I, LLC, Owner) (Mayor Pro-Tem)

City Attorney's Agenda #3: PUBLIC HEARING HELD

- 3. 1st Reading-** An Ordinance repealing various ordinances in order to abolish the Civic Center Advisory Board; and for other purposes. (Councilor Crabb)

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Ms. Kayce Burdett, Re: Environmental and Community Impacts of Data Centers ***No Action Taken***
2. Mr. David Gibbs, Re: Mismanagement ***No Action Taken***
3. Mrs. Alyssa Nia Williams, Re: Public Agenda Process ***Not Present***
4. Ms. Marietta W. Helms, Re: Requesting entitlement for property damage due to source / runoff water. ***Not Present***
5. Mr. Max Burnett, Re: The proposed data center investment, "Project Ruby" ***No Action Taken***
6. Mr. Troy Keller, Re: Moratorium on new data centers ***No Action Taken***
7. Ms. Patricia Stephens, Re: Economic Development ***Not Present***
8. Ms. Pamela Moss, Re: Data Center ***Not Present***
9. Mr. Paul Olson, Re: Data Center Coming to Columbus ***Not Present***
10. Dr. Natalie Nicole, representing Role Model Academy of Arts, Re: Governance Standards and Enforcement Consistency ***Not Present***

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

City Manager's Agenda #1: Vote Result: APPROVED

- 1. Street Acceptance – James Way and that portion of Charleston Way**

Approval is requested for the acceptance of James Way and that portion of Charleston Way located in Section Three, Charleston Place.

City Manager's Agenda #2: Item Removed (Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin)

2. 2026 Legislative Agenda Items – Additional Proposed Items

Consideration is requested of the resolutions for the 2026 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly.

1(1) MUSCOGEE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CLERK – SALARIES

The Columbus Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce legislation to amend the local act found at Georgia Laws 1984, page 4314. The requested amendment would provide that the salary of the Muscogee County Superior Court Clerk shall be no less than 75% of the state base salary of the superior court judges for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit or any future judicial circuit that includes Muscogee County. Based upon the terms of office served by the Muscogee County Superior Court Clerk, longevity and cost of living increases shall be added to the salary of clerk of said court under the same provisions and in the same manner as provided for longevity and cost of living increases pursuant to general law. The salary of the Chief Deputy Clerk appointed pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-6-59 shall be recommended by the Muscogee County Superior Court Clerk and approved in the Clerk of Superior Court's Budget. In no event shall such Chief Deputy Clerk's salary be less than 70% of the base salary of the Muscogee County Superior Court Clerk excluding any longevity or cost of living increases. *(Request of Councilor Toyia Tucker)*

City Manager's Agenda #3: Vote Result: APPROVED

3. FY2027 Family Connection Grant

Approval is requested to continue to serve as fiscal agent and to submit an application and, if approved, accept a grant for \$52,500, or as otherwise awarded, from the Georgia Department of Human Services with no local match required. Approval is also requested to amend the Family Connection Partnership Fund (Fund 0985) by the amount of the award.

City Manager's Agenda #4: Vote Result: APPROVED

4. Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) Grant Request

Approval is requested to apply for and accept, if awarded, funds made available to METRA by the State Fiscal Year 2026 (SFY26) Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) in the amount of \$298,215 to be used for the procurement and installation of up to forty-eight (48) 5G routers and up to forty-eight (48) Roof-mounted 5G antennas on METRA's buses. These items are needed on each bus to run "tap-to-pay" features on METRA's new "Fast Fare" fareboxes and to run a live view capability for METRA's bus security cameras.

City Manager's Agenda #5: Vote Result: APPROVED

5. FY27 Sec. 5307 and Sec. 5339 Annual Grant Applications for Capital and Planning Assistance

Approval is requested to submit a grant application and, if awarded, accept funding from the Federal Transit Administration's Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 Formula Grant Program for Capital and Planning Assistance in an amount up to \$2,696,849, or as otherwise awarded, and amend the Transportation Fund by the amount of the grant award. Approval is also requested to submit a grant application and, if awarded, accept funds from the Federal Transit Administration's Title 49 U.S.C. Section 5339 Formula Grant Program for Capital Assistance in an amount up to \$279,031 or as otherwise awarded, and amend the Transportation Fund by the amount of the grant award. Both grants require a 20% local match.

City Manager's Agenda #6: Vote Result: APPROVED

6. Juvenile Accountability Court State Grant Request

Approval is requested to submit a grant application and, if awarded, accept funds from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the operation of the Muscogee County Juvenile and Family Treatment Courts up to \$500,000.00, or as otherwise awarded, and amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount of the grant award. There is a 15% local match requirement, and the grant period is from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027.

City Manager's Agenda #7: Vote Result: APPROVED

7. Bureau of Justice Assistance - FY25 The Kevin and Avonte Program Grant

Approval is requested for the Mayor, or their designee to apply for and accept, if awarded, a grant to the Columbus Police Department from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for the FY25 Kevin and Avonte Program: Reducing Injury and Death of Missing Individuals with Dementia and Developmental Disabilities, in the amount of \$150,000, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match requirement, and to amend the Multi-governmental Fund by the amount awarded. This will be used to fund the AngelSense Program, which utilizes state-of-the-art proactive GPS monitoring and real-time mapping to track at risk individuals.

8. PURCHASES

City Manager's Agenda #8(A-F): Vote Result: APPROVED

- A. Dump Truck Rental (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 26-0025
- B. Two (2) Ford Explorers for Information Technology Department- Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase
- C. Dragonfly Trail – Midtown Connector Phase I – RFB No. 26-0003

- D. Rifles And Accessories for the Sheriff’s Office – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase
- E. Declaration Of Surplus and Donation of Fareboxes
- F. Radio Equipment Replacement for Muscogee County Prison –Sourcewell Cooperative Purchase

9. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. 8th Ave. Streetscapes Update - Scott Holmes, Principal, Architect, McMillan, Pazdan, Smith

CLERK OF COUNCIL’S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES – ACTION REQUESTED

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #1: Vote Result: RECEIVED

- 1. Resignation(s): James Barker, Dannell Mastream Marks, and Philip Badcock have submitted their resignations from the Airport Commission.

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #2: Vote Result: APPROVED

- 2. Travel Authorization Request: Authorization is being requested for Councilor Bruce Huff to attend the 2026 ACCG Annual Conference during the month of April 2026.

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #3: Vote Result: RECEIVED

3. Minutes of the following boards:

- 457 Deferred Compensation Plan 02-05-26
- Audit Committee Minutes 03-05-25, 07-07-25, 09-19-25, 01-08-26
- Board of Elections and Registration 01-08-26
- Board of Tax Assessor #04-26, 05-26
- Board of Water Commissioners 01-12-26
- Columbus Board of Health, 01-22-20, 04-22-20, 05-27-20, 06-24-20, 09-23-20, 10-28-20
- Columbus Board of Health, 02-24-21, 08-25-21, 12-01-21
- Columbus Board of Health, 01-26-22

Columbus Board of Health, 05-22-24, 08-28-24, 09-25-24, 10-23-24, 12-04-24

Columbus Board of Health, 05-28-25, 06-25-25

Columbus Iron Works Convention and Trade Center Authority 01-23-25, 04-24-25, 09-25-25, 10-30-25, 11-20-25

Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority 01-12-26

Golf Authority 06-27-23

Hospital Authority of Columbus 01-27-26

Clerk of Council’s Agenda (Add-On): Vote Result: APPROVED

ADD-ON: A resolution excusing the absence of Councilor Glenn Davis from the February 24, 2026, Council Meeting.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

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

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #4(A): No Action Taken

A. CIVIC CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:

_____ *Vacant*
Term Expires: March 1, 2026

Open for Nominations
(Mayor’s Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms: 3 Year Term Limit: 2, except for Hockey Association President
Meetings: Quarterly – 3rd Thursday (February, May, August & November)
Women: 3 Senatorial District 15: 5
Vacancies: 3 Senatorial District 29: 4

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #4(B): No Action Taken

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

5. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – LISTED FOR CONFIRMATION:

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #5(A): Vote Result: CONFIRMED

- A. BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:** Alissa Neal was nominated to serve another term. *(Councilor Crabb’s nominee)* Term expires: March 31, 2029

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #5(B): Vote Result: CONFIRMED

- B. BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:** Christopher Smith was nominated to serve another term. *(Councilor Crabb’s nominee)* Term expires: March 24, 2028

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #5(C): Vote Result: CONFIRMED

- C. BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:** Olive Vidal-Kendall was nominated to serve another term. *(Councilor Crabb’s nominee)* Term expires: March 24, 2028

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #5(D): Vote Result: CONFIRMED

- D. COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & CULTURAL LIAISON ENCOUNTERS (CIRCLE):** Mattie Hall was nominated to serve another term. *(Councilor Huff’s nominee)* Term expires: March 1, 2030

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #5(E): Vote Result: CONFIRMED

- E. PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION (PAC):** John R. Steed was nominated to serve another term. *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen’s nominee)* Term expires: March 31, 2029

6. NOMINATIONS – CONFIRMED BY COUNCIL:

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #6(A): Nomination(s): Clerk of Council McLemore announced that the Airport Commission has nominated Kevin Howard and Austin Gower to fill vacant seats on the Airport Commission; Vote Result: CONFIRMED

- A. AIRPORT COMMISSION:**

Vacant
Term Expires: December 31, 2028

Waiting on Nominee
(Confirmed by Council)

****The Airport Commission has nominated Kevin Howard as recommended in Resolution No. 395-25, approved by Council on December 9, 2025.***

Vacant

Term Expires: December 31, 2029

****The Airport Commission has nominated Austin Gowar as recommended in Resolution No. 395-25, approved by Council on December 9, 2025.***

Waiting on Nominee
(Confirmed by Council)

Vacant

Term Expires: December 31, 2026

Waiting on Nominee
(Confirmed by Council)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	5 Year	Term Limit:	n/a
Meetings:	Monthly – 4 th Wednesday		
Women:	1	Senatorial District 15:	2
Vacancies:	3	Senatorial District 29:	0

B. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD:

Vacant

Board of Realtors

Term Expires: January 31, 2026

****Waiting on potential nominee's application.***

Waiting on Nominee
(Confirmed by Council)

Vacant

Columbus Homebuilders Association

Term Expires: January 31, 2028

Waiting on Nominee
(Confirmed by Council)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year	Term Limit:	2
Meetings:	Monthly – 2 nd Monday		
Women:	5	Senatorial District 15:	7
Vacancies:	2	Senatorial District 29:	2

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

Clerk of Council's Agenda #7(A): Nomination(s): Councilor Garrett renominated John House (District 8) and Councilor Chambers renominated James Jordan (District 10) to serve another term on the Community Development Advisory Board; Vote Result: CONFIRMED

A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Vacant
Term Expires: March 27, 2026

Open for Nominations
(District 1 – Hickey)

Tracy Belt
Not Eligible
Term Expires: March 27, 2026

Open for Nominations
(District 4 -Tucker)

Vacant
Term Expires: March 27, 2026

Open for Nominations
(District 5 – Crabb)

John House
Eligible
Term Expires: March 27, 2026

Open for Nominations
(District 8 - Garrett)

Mike Welch
Eligible
Term Expires: March 27, 2026

Open for Nominations
(District 9 -Anker)

James Jordan
Eligible
Term Expires: March 27, 2026

Open for Nominations
(District 10 -Chambers)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year (Mayor Appts); 2 Year (Council Appts)	Term Limit: 2
Meetings:	Quarterly – 2nd Thursday (March, June, September & December)	
Women:	4	Senatorial District 15: 7
Vacancies:	2	Senatorial District 29: 3

Clerk of Council's Agenda #7(B): No Action Taken

B. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

Paul T. Berry, III
Eligible
Term Expired: October 31, 2025
****Not interested in serving another term.***

Open for Nominations
(District 5 – Crabb)

Scott Taft
Not Eligible
Term Expired: October 31, 2025

Open for Nominations
(District 9 – Anker)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year	Term Limit:	2
Meetings:	Monthly – 3 rd Thursday		
Women:	3	Senatorial District 15:	4
Vacancies:	0	Senatorial District 29:	3

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

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #8(A): No Action Taken

A. ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:

Vacant
(Georgia Veterinary Technician)
Term Expires: October 15, 2025

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

Vacant
(Animal Rescue Shelter Representative)
Term Expires: October 15, 2026
Recommendations are submitted by a licensed animal shelter.

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

Note: The Animal Control Advisory Board is currently developing recommendations for Council’s consideration regarding the board’s composition.

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	2 Year	Term Limit:	2
Meetings:	Semiannually		
Women:	7	Senatorial District 15:	3
Vacancies:	3	Senatorial District 29:	4

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #8(B): No Action Taken

B. BOARD OF HEALTH:

Yasmine Cathright

Not Eligible

Term Expires: December 31, 2025

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	5 Year	Term Limit:	2
Meetings:	Monthly – 4 th Wednesday		
Women:	4	Senatorial District 15:	0
Vacancies:	1	Senatorial District 29:	5

Clerk of Council's Agenda #8(C): No Action Taken

C. BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

Vacant

Term Expires: March 24, 2027

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	2 Year	Term Limit:	n/a
Meetings:	As needed.		
Women:	1	Senatorial District 15:	1
Vacancies:	1	Senatorial District 29:	3

Clerk of Council's Agenda #8(D): No Action Taken

D. LIBERTY THEATRE & CULTURAL ARTS CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:

Vacant

Term Expired: August 14, 2025

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Vacant

Term Expired: August 14, 2026

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Vacant

Term Expired: August 14, 2027

Open for Nominations
(Civic Center Director Recommendation / Confirmed by Council)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms: 4 Year Term Limit: 3
Meetings: Bimonthly – 2nd Thursday (January, March, May, July, September & November)
Women: 5 Senatorial District 15: 4
Vacancies: 3 Senatorial District 29: 4

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #8(E): No Action Taken

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

Judge David Ranieri

Does not desire reappointment

Term Expired: June 30, 2025

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms: 3 Year Term Limit: n/a
Meetings: Monthly – 2nd Monday
Women: 2 Senatorial District 15: 2
Vacancies: 0 Senatorial District 29: 1

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #8(F): No Action Taken

F. PERSONNEL REVIEW BOARD:

Vacant

(Alternate Member 1)

Term expires: December 31, 2027

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

Vacant

(Alternate Member 2)

Term expires: December 31, 2027

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

Vacant

(Alternate Member 3)

Term expires: December 31, 2027

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

Delano Leftwich

Not Eligible

(Alternate Member 4)

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

Term expired: December 31, 2025

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year	Term Limit:	2
Meetings:	Monthly – 3rd Wednesday		
Women:	4	Senatorial District 15:	2
Vacancies:	4	Senatorial District 29:	4

PUBLIC AGENDA (continued)

2. Mr. David Gibbs, Re: Mismanagement *No Action Taken*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation as requested by City Attorney Fay. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting, and the time being 7:44 p.m.

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 8:14 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in Executive Session to discuss potential litigation; however, there were no votes taken.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Skip Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Allen to adjourn the February 24, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Davis being absent from the meeting, and the time being 8:14 p.m.