



~~POST SUMMARY MINUTES~~

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

March 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, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, Byron Hickey, Bruce Huff, and Toyia Tucker. 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: N/A

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Reverend Daniel Potter, Minister to Students – First Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Skip Henderson

MINUTES:

Mayor's Agenda #1: Vote Result: APPROVED

1. Approval of minutes for the March 10, 2026, Council Meeting and Executive Session.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor's Agenda #2: *No Action Taken (Proclamation read into the record by Councilor Chambers)*

2. **Proclamation:** Let's Grow STEAMx

Receiving: Robbie Branscomb, CEO of Let's Grow STEAMx, and STEAMx Community Members

Mayor's Agenda #3: *No Action Taken (Proclamation read into the record by Councilor Huff)*

3. **Proclamation:** National Community Development Week

Receiving: Robert Scott, Director of Community Reinvestment

Mayor's Agenda #4: *No Action Taken (Proclamation read into the record by Councilor Huff)*

4. **Proclamation:** Jordyn Hunter Appreciation

Receiving: Jordyn Hunter

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

City Attorney's Agenda #1: *Vote Result: AMENDED adding a new site and landscape plan just 2045 Old Guard Road; Vote Result: AMENDED adding an additional condition requiring that if the subject property is not developed in accordance with the approved site plans within 24 months of the adoption of the ordinance, the properties will revert to their prior zoning classifications ; Vote Result: ADOPTED AS AMENDED*

1. **2nd Reading-** REZN-11-25-2091: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **2055 Old Guard Road** (parcel # 074-001-008) from Residential Estate – 1 (RE1) Zoning District to Single Family Residential – 4 (SFR4) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Davis)

City Attorney's Agenda #2: *Vote Result: AMENDED adding a condition requiring that if the subject property is not developed in accordance with the approved site plans within 24 months of the adoption of the ordinance, the properties will revert to their prior zoning classifications; Vote Result: ADOPTED AS AMENDED*

2. **2nd Reading**-REZN-02-26-0208: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **2045 Old Guard Road** (parcel # 079-001-045) from SFR4 (Single Family Residential 4) Zoning District with conditions to SFR4 (Single Family Residential 4) Zoning District with amended conditions. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.)(As amended on 1st Reading)(Councilor Davis)

City Attorney's Agenda #3: Vote Result: ADOPTED

3. **2nd Reading:** An ordinance amending Article I of Chapter 4 of the Columbus Code to insert a new code section which defines nonprofit community handmade and artisan events sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation; to clarify applicable permit requirements; to provide for a fee waiver; and for other lawful purposes. (Councilors Cogle and Garrett)

City Attorney's Agenda #4: PUBLIC HEARING HELD

4. **1st Reading:** An ordinance amending Section 2-3.02. of the Columbus Code to insert a new paragraph (c) which provides that members of the Columbus Airport Commission may be residents of Muscogee County or any adjacent county; and for other lawful purposes. (Councilors Davis and Crabb)

RESOLUTIONS

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

5. A Resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia (the "Council"), authorizing the issuance of \$_____ Columbus Georgia, Water and Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2026; to authorize the Mayor and other officials of Columbus to take such further actions as are necessary to provide for the sale, issuance and delivery of such bonds for the purpose of refunding certain Series 2014A bonds and Series 2016 bonds as defined herein; to ratify the execution and delivery of a bond purchase agreement relating to the sale of such bonds; and for other purposes. (Request of the Columbus Board of Water Commissioners)

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Miss. Emily Downs, Re: Chattahoochee Dam Alarm Notification on Riverwalk
(Rescheduled from 03-10-2026) **Not Present**
2. Ms. Tracy Doughty, Re: Concerns regarding Project Ruby and the introduction of data centers within Muscogee County. **Not Present**
3. Mrs. Jessica Warchal, Re: Quality of Life Concerns **No Action Taken**

4. Ms. Liz Elliott, Re: The Presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agents in Columbus. ***No Action Taken***
5. Mrs. Leslie Landi, Re: Questions on Layfield Road Potential Project. ***No Action Taken***
6. Dr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: Silencing Certain Constituents. ***No Action Taken***
7. Mr. Ernest Washington, Re: Hyperscale Data Center Proposal ***No Action Taken***
8. Mr. Mick Etchison, Re: Economic Viability of Project Ruby ***No Action Taken***
9. Mr. Paul Olson, Re: Data Center ***No Action Taken***
10. Mr. George McDowell, Re: The State of Our City. ***No Action Taken***
11. Ms. Amy Borton, Re: Reducing the Impact of Data Centers. ***No Action Taken***
12. Mrs. Darlene Laird, Re: The Dangers of Data Centers to Communities. (*Rescheduled from 03-10-2026*) ***No Action Taken***
13. Mr. Eric Kuhlenberg, Re: Data Center. ***No Action Taken***
14. Dr. Natalie Nicole, representing Role Model Academy of Arts, Re: Enhancing Transparency and Public Trust. ***No Action Taken***
15. Mrs. Sandra Turner, Re: Moratorium on Project Ruby. ***No Action Taken***
16. Mr. Ric Rivera, Re: Hyperscale Data Center. ***No Action Taken***
17. Mr. Gregory Foster, Re: Reminding Council that Columbus has Bills to Pay. ***No Action Taken***
18. Ms. Amy Spencer, Re: Opposition to Hyperscale Data Centers in Muscogee County. ***Not Present***
19. Rev. Mark Lawrence, representing IMA, Re: Finding Solution for the Future. ***No Action Taken***
20. Mr. Richard Parker, Re: Data Center Opposition. ***Not Present***

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel as requested by City Attorney Fay. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the ten members present, with the time being 8:32 p.m.

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 9:27 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel; however, there were no votes taken.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

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

1. Three Chances LLC, Parking License Agreement

Approval is requested to authorize the Mayor to execute a parking license agreement with Three Chances LLC, for the purpose of leasing 16 parking spaces located at 18 W 11th St, Columbus, GA 31901.

City Manager's Agenda #2: Vote Result: APPROVED

2. FY27 Sec. 5307 Application for Renovation and Expansion of the METRA Transfer Center

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 Assistance in an amount up to \$5,254,230, or as otherwise awarded, and amend the Transportation Fund by the amount of the grant award. Funding will be used for the construction, renovation, and expansion of METRA's Transfer Center (located at 814 Linwood Blvd).

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

3. U.S. Department of Justice FY25 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

Approval is requested to submit an application and accept, if awarded, an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (JAG) grant for the Federal Fiscal Year 2025 solicitation in the amount of \$58,653, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match requirement, to be used for eligible law enforcement, prosecution, and courts projects as defined in the grant, and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount of the award.

4. PURCHASES

City Manager's Agenda #4(A-F): Vote Result: APPROVED

- A. Four (4) Chevrolet Tahoes for Sheriff's Office – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

- B. Two (2) Ford Broncos for Sheriff’s Office – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase
- C. Household Recycling Carts for Public Works – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase
- D. Contract Extension for Elevator Maintenance Services (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 19-0025
- E. Contract Extension for Public Employee Retirement System Pension and Benefit Trust (“The Pension Fund”) Investment Consultant Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 20-0007
- F. Annual Adobe Acrobat Pro DC Licensing Subscription Renewal for Information Technology – Federal GSA Cooperative Purchase

5. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

City Manager’s Agenda #5(A): Vote Result: APPROVED request for additional appropriation in the FY26 Budget for Probate Court in the amount of \$19,655.

- A. FY26 Budget Update – Judge Marc D’Antonio, Probate Court
- B. Finance Update - Angelica Alexander, Director, Finance *No Action Taken*

CLERK OF COUNCIL’S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES – ACTION REQUESTED

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

- 1. Travel Authorization Request: Approval is requested for Councilor Toyia Tucker to attend the 2026 NACo Annual Conference for July 16–21, 2026.

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

- 2. Minutes of the following boards:

Board of Election and Registration 02-02-22, 03-17-22

Board of Election and Registration 03-02-23, 05-04-23, 06-20-23

Board of Elections and Registration 02-05-26

Board of Tax Assessors #08-26, #09-26

Board of Zoning Appeals 01-07-26, 02-04-26

Convention & Visitors Board 04-16-25

Development Authority of Columbus 07-07-22

Development Authority of Columbus 01-09-25, 02-06-25,

Employee Benefits Committee 12-25-24

Employee Benefits Committee 03-19-25, 06-25-25

Land Bank Authority 09-18-24

Land Bank Authority 07-09-25, 09-10-25

Pension Board 04-13-22, 05-11-22, 06-08-22

Planning Advisory Commission 01-07-26, 02-18-26

The Medical Center Hospital Authority 01-22-2020, 04-22-20, 07-22-20, 10-28-20

The Medical Center Hospital Authority 01-27-21, 04-28-21, 07-28-21, 10-27-21

The Medical Center Hospital Authority Minutes 07-24-24, 10-23-24

The Medical Center Hospital Authority Minutes 01-22-25, 04-23-25, 07-23-25

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

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

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #3(A): Nomination(s): Clerk of Council McLemore announced that Mayor Henderson is renominating Larry Cardin and William J. Burgin to serve another term on the Housing Authority of Columbus. Vote Result: CONFIRMED

A. HOUSING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

Larry Cardin
Eligible
 Term Expires: April 26, 2026

Open for Nominations
(Mayor’s Appointment)

William J. Burgin
Eligible
 Term Expires: April 26, 2026

Open for Nominations
(Mayor’s Appointment)

**Interested in serving another term.*

Membership and Meeting Information

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

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #3(B): No Action Taken

B. PENSION FUND, EMPLOYEES’ BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Vacant
(Business Community)
Term Expires: June 30, 2026

Open for Nominations
(Mayor’s Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms: 4 Year Term Limit: n/a
Meetings: Monthly – 1st Wednesday
Women: 4 Senatorial District 15: 9
Vacancies: 1 Senatorial District 29: 2

4. NOMINATIONS – CONFIRMED BY COUNCIL:

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

A. AIRPORT COMMISSION:

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 – 4th Wednesday
Women: 1 Senatorial District 15: 2
Vacancies: 3 Senatorial District 29: 0

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

A. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (BHAR):

Vacancies: 2

Senatorial District 29: 3

Clerk of Council's Agenda #5(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 – 3rd Thursday

Women: 3 Senatorial District 15: 4

Vacancies: 0 Senatorial District 29: 3

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

Clerk of Council's Agenda #6(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 #6(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 – 4th Wednesday
Women: 4 Senatorial District 15: 0
Vacancies: 1 Senatorial District 29: 5

Clerk of Council's Agenda #6(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 #6(D): Nomination(s): Mayor Pro Tem Allen renominated Laura Q. Gower and Doug Jenkins to serve another term on the Development Authority of Columbus

D. DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS

Laura Q. Gower

Eligible

Term Expires: April 30, 2026

**Interested in serving another term.*

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

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 #6(G): No Action Taken

G. 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)
 Term expired: December 31, 2025

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

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

COUNCIL HEARINGS:

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #7: Vote Result: APPROVED refund of penalties and interest in the amount of \$7,935.60

- Request for Waiver of Penalty and Interest on property tax as submitted by Mr. Andrew Ruh, Executive Director of Columbus Botanical Garden, for property located in Columbus, Georgia.

PUBLIC AGENDA (continued)

5. Mrs. Leslie Landi, Re: Questions on Layfield Road Potential Project. *No Action Taken*
6. Dr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: Silencing Certain Constituents. *No Action Taken*
13. Mr. Eric Kuhlenberg, Re: Data Center. *No Action Taken*

ADD-ON RESOLUTIONS:

City Attorney (Add-on Resolution): Vote Result: APPROVED

A resolution authorizing a payment of \$98,000 to settle claims filed by Adam Bindel.

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 March 24, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Hickey being absent for the vote, and the time being 10:23 p.m.