

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 9, 2026
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors John Anker, Simi Barnes, Travis L. Chambers, Joanne Cogle, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett and Bruce Huff (arrived at 9:11 a.m.) and Toya Tucker (arrived at 10:25 a.m.). 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 Charmaine Crabb was absent.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1)

MA#3: Muscogee County Board of Assessors Changes to Notice of Assessment due to General Assembly HB N. 566 (2) CA #15: Columbus Water Works (3) CM #10 (C): Youth & Teen Summer Programs Keeping Youth Active, Engaged, Learning and Connected

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) CA#15 – Various Documents Submitted by Citizens

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Chaplain Jared Fregin, Fort Benning

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Charley Jane Fussell from Clubview Elementary

MINUTES:

1. Approval of minutes for the June 2, 2026, Council Meeting and Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Huff and Tucker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING:

3. **TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS PUBLIC HEARING:** 9:00 a.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.

City Attorney Clifton Fay advised that the hearing was the final Taxpayer Bill of Rights hearing required under Georgia law due to a projected increase in the county's total taxable digest. He noted

that property owners with a frozen homestead assessment would not see an increase in taxes on their homestead property.

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum to further explain the projected increase. She emphasized that no millage rate increase was proposed, and that the millage rates for Urban Service Districts 1, 2, and 4 would remain unchanged. She explained that state law requires the City to advertise a tax increase when the tax digest grows due to increased property values, even when the millage rate remains the same. She further noted that property owners with a homestead exemption generally should not see an increase in taxes unless their property has undergone significant improvements resulting in reassessment.

Chief Appraiser Suzanne Widenhouse approached the rostrum and explained that, under House Bill 566, the Notice of Assessment has undergone significant changes. She reiterated that if a property's value does not change, the property owner's taxes will not change. She reviewed the new assessment notice format, noting that an explanation of each section will be printed on the back of every notice and highlighted the importance of the 45-day appeal deadline displayed on the form.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Paul Olson
- Theresa El-Amin

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

10. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Post Legislative Update - Representative Carolyn Hugley, Minority Leader

(NOTE: This update was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item #10 "A")

State Representative Carolyn Hugley, Minority Leader, accompanied by members of the legislative delegation, came forward to present a post-legislative session update to Council. She recognized Senator Ed Harbison on his retirement and introduced delegation members in attendance. Representative Hugley stated that the 2026 legislative session focused primarily on affordability and taxes.

State Senator Ed Harbison addressed Council and provided a brief legislative update, highlighting legislation expanding specialty license plate eligibility and recognition for military veterans.

State Representative Vance Smith addressed Council and provided a legislative update on transportation initiatives, highlighting continued state investment in road infrastructure and major transportation projects across Georgia.

State Representative Carmen Rice addressed Council and provided a legislative update on education initiatives, highlighting House Bill 52, which extends property tax benefits to unremarried surviving spouses of disabled veterans and will be presented to voters statewide in November.

State Representative Debbie Buckner provided a legislative update on property tax legislation, including Senate Bill 33, and noted that Columbus' existing property tax freeze remains unaffected by the new law.

State Senator Randy Robertson provided a legislative update on the state budget and growth-related challenges facing Georgia, while also recognizing Senator Ed Harbison's longstanding service and continued role in the General Assembly through the remainder of his term.

MAYOR'S AGENDA (continued)

RESOLUTION:

2. **Resolution (139-26)** - A Resolution authorizing the appointment of Tyson Begly as City Manager of Columbus, Georgia. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried by a seven-to-one vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Anker, Chambers, Cogle, Davis, Garrett and Huff voting in favor and Councilor Barnes voting in opposition, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

To the motion, **Councilor Travis Chambers** expressed support for Tyson Begly's qualifications and prior service, citing his experience in finance, budgeting, and municipal operations. However, he stated that his concern was not with Begly's capabilities but with the timing of the appointment.

Councilor Chambers continued by stated with the mayoral election only one week away, the incoming mayor should have had input in selecting the city manager, given the Charter's requirement that the city manager serve under the mayor. He concluded that waiting until after the election would have better supported a smooth transition, long-term stability, and public trust while still recognizing Bailey's professional merit.

Discussion continued with **Councilor Simi Barnes** stating her concern was not with the candidate personally, noting she had a productive conversation with him. She shared that her concerns are about the hiring process, specifically that the decision was made before newly elected council members take office and with participation from a council member not elected by popular vote.

Councilor Barnes also questioned the proposed compensation package, citing the significant increase compared to that of the previous city manager and the need for fiscal responsibility. She advocated delaying the decision to allow all elected representatives to participate and to ensure a more transparent and inclusive process.

In conclusion, Councilor Barnes stated she could not support the candidate under the current circumstances and encouraged consideration of a process that would strengthen public trust.

City Manager Tyson Begly addressed Council following his appointment, expressing appreciation for the confidence placed in him and affirming his commitment to transparent leadership, effective execution, and continued service to the Columbus community.

PRESENTATIONS:

4. Introduction - Mayor's Summer Youth Program. ***RESCHEDULED***

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (26-021) - 2nd Reading:** An ordinance adopting an operating and capital improvement budget for the Fiscal Year 2027 beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, for certain funds of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, and appropriating the amounts shown in each budget; and for other purposes. (as amended on 1st Reading) (Budget Review Committee) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Anker and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.
2. **Ordinance (26-022) - 2nd Reading:** An Ordinance adopting non-operating budgets for the fiscal year 2027 beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, for certain funds of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, and appropriating the amounts shown in each budget. (Budget Review Committee) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Anker and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.
3. **Ordinance (26-023) - 2nd Reading:** An Ordinance providing for contributions to the Columbus, Georgia General Government Employees' Pension Plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. (Budget Review Committee) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Anker and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.
4. **Ordinance (26-024) - 2nd 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, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. (Budget Review Committee) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Anker and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.
5. **Ordinance (26-025) - 2nd Reading:** An Ordinance providing for Government funding of a Major Disability Income Plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. (Budget Review Committee) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Anker and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.
6. **Ordinance (26-026) - 2nd Reading:** An Ordinance providing for Government funding of a Death Benefit Escrow for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. (Budget Review Committee) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Anker and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.
7. **Ordinance (26-027) - 2nd Reading:** An Ordinance amending Article VII of Chapter 13 of the Columbus Code Solid Waste Collection and Disposal to update the monthly residential garbage fee, to update the guidelines for an offset to the residential rate for low-income households; and for other purposes. (Budget Review Committee) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried by a six to one vote with Mayor Pro Tem

Allen and Councilors Barnes, Chambers, Cogle, Garrett, Huff voting in favor and Councilor Davis voting in opposition, with Councilors Anker and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting. (*NOTE: Following the vote, Councilor Davis requested that the record reflect his vote as opposed rather than in favor.*)

8. **1st Reading:** REZN-03-26-0652: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **2458 and 2464 Martha's Loop** (parcel # 085-054017A/026) from Residential Multifamily 2 (RMF2) Zoning District to Single Family Residential – 4 (SFR4) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Barnes)

(NOTE: The applicant was recognized as present, and the floor was declared open for public comment. No public comment and no questions from Council.)

9. **1st Reading:** REZN-04-26-0737: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **715 and 723 Apex Road** (parcel # 014-005-004/011) from General Commercial (GC) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily -1 (RMF1) Zoning District with a condition. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Garrett)

(NOTE: The applicant was recognized as present, and the floor was declared open for public comment. No public comment and no questions from Council.)

10. **1st Reading:** REZN-04-26-0738: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **5227 13th Avenue** (parcel # 033-011-008) from General Commercial (GC) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily -1 (RMF1) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Garrett)

(NOTE: The applicant was recognized as present, and the floor was declared open for public comment. No public comment and no questions from Council.)

11. **1st Reading:** REZN-04-26-0739: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **6909 Buena Vista Road** (parcel # 115-008-029) from Single Family Residential – 2 (SFR2) Zoning District to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Tucker) **DELAYED**

Frank Walden, Applicant explained that the rezoning request would add approximately 1.29 acres to an existing 1.74-acre GC-zoned parcel approved for a convenience store to accommodate stormwater detention, additional parking, and landscaping improvements.

Councilor Tucker made a motion to delay the ordinance for 30 days on 1st Reading, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen and Councilors Anker and Huff being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

12. **1st Reading:** REZN-04-26-0956: An Ordinance amending the text of Unified Development Ordinance of the Columbus Code (“the UDO”) to provide for a Mill Redevelopment Zoning

District in the Bibb City Area; and for other purposes. (Planning Department recommends conditional approval and PAC recommends approval.) (Councilor Garrett)

Planning Director Will Johnson explained that the proposed Bibb City zoning overlay was developed in collaboration with area stakeholders to support revitalization efforts by encouraging desired development patterns, limiting incompatible uses, and establishing tailored development standards. He advised that individual properties seeking inclusion would require separate approval and could be subject to additional conditions.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Jennifer Collins, President of the Bibb Village Neighborhood Association

13. 1st Reading: An Ordinance providing for the establishment of taxing districts, including a county-wide general services district and three (3) urban services districts and three (3) Business Improvement Districts (BID); providing for the levy, assessment, and collection of taxes for Columbus, Georgia within such districts for the year 2026 as provided under the Charter of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia; providing penalties for violations of the provisions of said ordinance; and for other purposes. (Budget Committee)

Finance Director Angelica Alexander advised that millage rates remain unchanged and that the first tax installment due date has been extended to October 15 due to delays in assessment notices.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made that maps of the Urban Service Districts be included with future agenda materials and made available to the public. (*Councilor Tucker*)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Sicily Terry
- Paul Olson
- Theresa El-Amin
- Alexa Johnson Anderson
- Shontell Roberts

Deputy City Manager Hodge explained that Uptown Columbus contains three Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). She stated that business owners within each district must develop a business improvement plan and obtain approval from either a majority of property owners or owners representing a majority of the property value before the plan can be submitted to Council. She noted that BID participants agree to an additional tax assessment to fund district improvements and operations.

15. 1st Reading: REZN-02-26-0289: An Ordinance amending the Unified Development Ordinance of the Columbus Code (“the UDO”) to provide for Technology Overlay Districts; establishing underlying zoning districts where such overlay districts are permitted; to redefine Developments of Regional Impact; and for other purposes. (Continued on 1st Reading as amended by substitute from 6-2-26) (Mayor Pro-Tem)

(NOTE: At the request of a Council member, Mayor Henderson called this presentation forward due to the presenter’s prior commitment requiring an early departure. The presentation corresponded with Item CM#15; however, the 1st Reading of this item was considered in its regular order as listed on the City Attorney’s Agenda.)

President/CEO Jeremy Cummings, Columbus Water Works (CWW), approached the rostrum to provide a presentation, reporting that CWW has evaluated Project Ruby and has the capacity to provide water and sewer service, contingent upon approximately \$30 million in developer-funded infrastructure improvements. He noted that, at full buildout, Project Ruby would utilize 35.9% of permitted daily capacity and rank as CWW's fifth-largest customer. Mr. Cummings also reviewed CWW's Industrial Pretreatment Program, adopted in 1983, which regulates and controls sewage discharges.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR CLERK OF COUNCIL:

- A request was made for this presentation to be uploaded with the agenda packet for the June 9, 2026, Council Meeting. (*Councilor Tucker*)

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA (continued)

6. One-Time Specialized Training Bonus for Muscogee County Sheriff Sworn Officers

(NOTE: This item was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item #6)

Resolution (140-26): - A resolution to issue up to \$25,000 in one-time specialized training bonuses using red speed (private school zone camera) funds to sworn officers in the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office in accordance with O.C.G.A 40-14-18 (m). Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Davis being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

Sheriff Greg Countryman came forward and explained that the specialized training supports specialized units within the Sheriff's Office and noted that using this funding source would avoid creating an ongoing budget obligation.

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge clarified that the request was for one-time specialty training bonuses funded through RedSpeed revenues.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA (continued)

ORDINANCE

14. 1st Reading: An Ordinance amending the Columbus Code to repeal and replace Sections 14-14 and 14-15 with new code sections that impose a curfew for unattended minors in the Uptown District, and for other purposes. (Continued on 1st Reading from 5-26-26) (Mayor Pro-Tem)

(Note: Due to background noise and disruptions within the Council Chambers during portions of the public comment period, the Clerk of Council and Deputy Clerk of Council may have been unable to clearly hear and accurately record the names of all speakers. As a result, some individuals who addressed the Council may not be listed, or their names may be misspelled in these minutes.)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Haley Sergeant
- Dr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr.

Police Chief Stoney Mathis spoke in support of the proposed curfew ordinance, citing significant reductions in crime since his tenure began. He stated that juvenile-related crime remains a concern in Uptown. He pointed out that curfews have been effective in other jurisdictions and emphasized that the proposal is intended as a temporary measure for the remainder of the summer to help reduce crime and improve public safety in Uptown.

Sergeant Sherman Hayes, CPD, described the curfew as a tool to help officers intervene, return juveniles to their parents, and reduce opportunities for youth to be exposed to unsafe conditions late at night. He emphasized the department's commitment to protecting children and improving public safety.

- Theresa El-Amin
- Shontell Roberts
- Mark Lawrence
- Sicily Terry

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to amend the ordinance to reflect a city-wide curfew that starts at 10:00 p.m., seconded by Councilor Chambers and opened for further discussion.

Councilor Bruce Huff asked citizen Sicily Terry to restate her suggested enforcement provisions for the proposed curfew ordinance so they could be included in the record. Ms. Terry recommended that a first violation resulted in a warning and parent notification, with fines imposed only after a second violation.

After several minutes of discussion regarding the issue, during which several Council members expressed concerns, Councilor Chambers withdrew his second to the motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Allen, causing the motion to die for lack of a second.

- Corie Wilson
- Jennifer Ledenny

Councilor Travis L. Chambers stated for the record that he supports a citywide curfew but expressed concern about the ordinance's provision allowing fines of up to \$1,000. He highlighted that such penalties could create financial hardship for low-income families and may punish parents more than the youth involved. He encouraged consideration of alternative measures.

- Dr. Natalie Nicole
- Carolyn Weinbomb
- Elijah Crawford
- Deborah Dorsenkowski
- Kabalio Warren Turner, Sr.
- Elijah Crawford

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA (continued)

10. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

C. Summer Youth Programming - Holli Browder, Director of Parks & Recreation

(NOTE: This update was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item #10 "C")

Director Holli Browder, Parks & Recreation, presented a summary of summer activities available to youth and families throughout the community and highlighted programs offered by local

organizations. She stated information on these opportunities would be available on the City's website and social media platforms.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA (continued)

ORDINANCE

15. 1st Reading: REZN-02-26-0289: An Ordinance amending the Unified Development Ordinance of the Columbus Code (“the UDO”) to provide for Technology Overlay Districts; establishing underlying zoning districts where such overlay districts are permitted; to redefine Developments of Regional Impact; and for other purposes. (Continued on 1st Reading as amended by substitute from 6-2-26) (Mayor Pro-Tem) – **AMENDED**

(NOTE: A presentation associated with this item from Columbus Water Works was called forward earlier in the meeting, following CA #13, due to the presenter's prior commitment and need for an early departure. No action was taken at that time; consideration of this item occurred during this portion of the meeting.)

(Note: Due to background noise and disruptions within the Council Chambers during portions of the public comment period, the Clerk of Council and Deputy Clerk of Council may have been unable to clearly hear and accurately record the names of all speakers. As a result, some individuals who addressed the Council may not be listed, or their names may be misspelled in these minutes.)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Paul Olson
- Cecily Terry
- Joshua Ferguson
- Gregory Foster
- Dalia Collins
- Theresa El-Amin
- Ashley Washington
- Darlene Laird
- Dr. Marvin Broadwater Sr.
- Dan Vege
- Rick Rivera
- Ashley Decency
- Bob Haven
- Carol Woolbright

Councilor Tucker made a motion to amend the ordinance by increasing the minimum buffer requirements to 500 feet and adding verbiage listed as Protection III – The Right to Clean Water as outlined in document provided, “No data center in Columbus shall use any cooling fluid containing, PFAS, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, or any compound on the EPA’s PFAS list of concern”, seconded by Councilor Anker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Barnes and Davis being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

- Natalie Nicole
- Carolyn Weinbomb
- Alexa Johnson Anderson
- Christine Difeliciantonio
- Hannah Sheffield
- Mark Woodall
- Alicia Heracord

- Pat Stephens
- Ernie Washington
- Sandra Turner

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to amend the ordinance by reducing the non-compliance period to 15 days, prohibiting diesel generators, aligning with industry standards and best practices by requiring Tier 4 (or Tier 2 with SCR) generators with SCR for natural gas turbines, and specifically outlining decibel testing as a requirement, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Anker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Councilor-Elect Sherrie Aaron, Re: Neighborhood Pride & Code Enforcement. *Canceled*
2. Mr. John Fitzpatrick, Re: What he said! *Not Present*
3. Dr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr. Re: Selective Curfew vs City-Wide Curfew.
4. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Moratorium on Data Centers & Employee Pensions. (*Referral from Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities*)
5. Mr. Robert Haven, Re: Proposed Overlay District Deficiencies. Remedy Proposal – "*The People's Overlay*".
6. Mr. Jerome Williams, representing Columbus Liberty District, Inc. & Prince Hall Masons, Re: The Liberty District, Inc. Officer Introductions, MOU with the City of Columbus, and the Prince Hall Building. *Canceled*
7. Mrs. Stacie Mailey, Re: Technology Overlay & Community Impact. *Not Present*
8. Mrs. Audrey Holston Palmore, Re: Provisions of Heir Property (*2928 10th Street*).

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA (continued)

1. Memorandum of Agreement: CFEMS & MercyMed of Columbus

Resolution (141-26): - A resolution authorizing the Mayor or his designee to execute the memorandum of agreement related to mobile Integrated Healthcare mental health services jointly provided by the Columbus Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the Columbus Police Department, and Valley Healthcare System, Inc. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Anker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

2. Memorandum of Agreement: CFEMS, CPD & Valley Healthcare System, Inc.

Resolution (142-26): - A resolution authorizing the Mayor or his designee to execute the memorandum of agreement related to Mobile Integrated Healthcare mental health services jointly provided by the Columbus Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the Columbus Police Department, and Valley Healthcare System, Inc. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Anker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

3. CFEMS Community Risk Assessment/Standards of Cover (2025)

Resolution (143-26): - A resolution authorizing the Mayor or his designee to approve the 2025 Community Risk Reduction/Standard of Cover document provided by the Columbus Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Anker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

4. Lease of Equipment for Golf Courses – Yamaha Golf Carts

Resolution (144-26): - A resolution authorizing a lease agreement with Yamaha Motor Finance Corporation over a 48-month lease period in a total amount of \$502,646.48 to obtain equipment to be utilized at Bull Creek Golf Course. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Anker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

5. Lease of Equipment for Golf Courses – Cushman Hauler Elite Utility Vehicles

Resolution (145-26): - A resolution authorizing a lease agreement with Wells Fargo Equipment Finance over a 60 - month lease period in a total amount of \$130,087.80 to obtain equipment to be utilized at Bull Creek Golf Course. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Anker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

6. One-Time Specialized Training Bonus for Muscogee County Sheriff Sworn Officers

(NOTE: This item was called forward and approved during the Mayor's Agenda.)

7. FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grant - Fire & EMS

Resolution (146-26): - A resolution authorizing the Mayor or his designee to apply for and accept, if awarded, a grant from FEMA's Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grant program in the amount of \$269,523.80, or as otherwise awarded, to support Columbus Fire and EMS community risk reduction initiatives, including equipment, training, risk reduction program and public education materials, with a required 5% matching contribution of \$13,476.20. The multi-governmental fund will be amended by the amount of the award. Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Anker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

8. Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)

Resolution (147-26): - A resolution authorizing the Mayor or his designee to apply for and accept, if awarded, a grant for the purchase of a package of rescue equipment and support resources to support the Fire-Ems Department's GSAR Team for \$199,424.35, or as otherwise awarded, from FEMA'S Assistance to Firefighters grant program with 10% matching funds required. The multi-governmental fund will be amended by the amount of the award. Councilor Davis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Anker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

9. PURCHASES

- A. Used & Confiscated Firearms for Credit or Swap - RFB NO. 26-0035

Resolution (148-26): - IT is requested that Council rescind Resolution no. 117-26 which authorized the award for used & confiscated firearms for credit or swap to Pro Law Enforcement (Prescott, Az); and authorize award to Proforce Marketing, Inc. D/b/a/ Proforce Law Enforcement (Prescott, Az) for used & confiscated firearms for credit or swap of three hundred twenty-six (326) used and confiscated firearms from the Columbus Police Department for fifteen (15) Heckler & Koch MRA4 MR556 A4 SBR and accessories. There will be no cost to the city for the swap of the firearms. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Anker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

B. Contract Extension for Pavement Marking Services (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0048

Resolution (149-26): - A resolution authorizing extension of the annual contract with Peek Pavement Marking, LLC (Columbus, GA) through November 8, 2026, to provide pavement marking services on an “as needed” basis. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Anker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

C. Contract Extension for Maintenance Services for Security Locking Systems/Door Hinges (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0058

Resolution (150-26): - A resolution authorizing extension of the annual contract with Unique Security, Inc. (Montgomery, AL) through December 31, 2026, to provide maintenance services related to security locking systems and door hinges at the Muscogee County Jail on an “as needed” basis. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Anker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

D. Two (2) Ford F-150 K9 Units for the Sheriff’s Office – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (151-26): - A resolution authorizing the purchase of two (2) Ford F-150 K9 Units, for the Sheriff’s Office, from Smyrna-F LLC, d/b/a/ Wade Ford (Smyrna, Georgia) at a unit price of \$70,075.00, and a total cost of \$140,150.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-001-SPD-SPD0000183-0006. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Anker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

E. Two (2) Chevrolet Tahoes for the Sheriff’s Office – Florida Sheriff’s Association Cooperative Purchasing Program

Resolution (152-26): - A resolution authorizing the purchase of two (2) Chevrolet Tahoes, for the Sheriff’s Office, from Stingray Chevrolet (Plant City, FL) at a unit price of \$75,000.00 and a total cost of \$150,000.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Florida Sheriffs Association Cooperative Purchasing Program Contract #FSA-HCS-AVP1.0. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Anker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

9. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Post Legislative Update - Representative Carolyn Hugley, Minority Leader

(NOTE: This item was called forward and approved during the Mayor's Agenda.)

B. Advanced Air Mobility – Andy Hilmes, EVP Choose Columbus

Brig Gen (Ret) Andy Hilmes, Executive Vice President of Strategy – Choose Columbus, approached the rostrum to provide an overview of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), an emerging transportation system utilizing electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircrafts to transport people and cargo. He highlighted potential benefits including improved emergency response, expanded transportation access, economic development opportunities, stronger rural-urban connectivity, and enhanced airport infrastructure utilization.

The presentation noted growing federal and state support for AAM, with commercial operations expected to begin in the United States this year and significant industry investment occurring in Georgia.

Executive VP Helms also discussed steps Columbus is taking to prepare for AAM, including the establishment of a local working group to address planning, zoning, infrastructure, safety, and land-use considerations.

A request was made for Council's support of Columbus's participation in the emerging AAM network and for consideration of allocating \$2.2 million in the FY27 Transportation Infrastructure Budget. Approval of this funding would allow for the construction of an electric aircraft charging station and a vertiport at the Columbus Airport. Upon completion, the airport would operate and maintain both facilities.

C. Summer Youth Programming - Holli Browder, Director of Parks & Recreation

(NOTE: This item was called forward and approved during the City Attorney's Agenda.)

D. Facilities Maintenance FY26 Budget Update – Allen Minton, Interim Facilities Maintenance Director

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum and explained that, pursuant to Ordinance No. 13-039, the Facilities Maintenance Department is requesting an additional appropriation of \$450,000 for their FY-2026 Budget to cover utility and contractor service costs. She also noted an additional request to utilize salary savings to cover projected budget overages.

Interim Facilities Maintenance Director Allen Minton shared insight regarding the unexpected increase in utility and contractor service costs, explaining that the higher expenses are associated with the addition of property buildings and the resulting increase in maintenance and operational demands.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Anker and Garrett being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

E. Records Court FY26 Budget Update - Clautretta Williams, Chief Clerk of Records Court

Finance Director Angelica Alexander approached the rostrum to explain pursuant to Ordinance No. 13-039, Records Court is requesting authorization to utilize salary savings in the amount of \$33,000 for their FY-2026 Budget to cover operating costs associated with interpreter services.

Chief Records Court Clerk Clautretta Williams shared information regarding the unanticipated increase in the need for interpreter services for individuals charged with driving without a state-issued driver's license. She explained that there has been an influx of such cases and that providing interpreter

services is required. She further noted that, beginning in April, Judge Raneri implemented an order allowing individuals charged solely with driving without a state-issued driver's license to pay the applicable fine prior to their court date without appearing in Recorder's Court, as the violation does not impact their driver's license. She stated that this measure is expected to help mitigate future interpreter service costs.

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. **Resolution (153-26):** A Resolution excusing Councilor Charmaine Crabb from the June 9, 2026, Regular 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 Councilor Anker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

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

Airport Commission 04-28-26

Board of Tax Assessors #20-26

Convention & Visitors Board of Commissioners (CVB) 04-26-26

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Anker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

ADD-ON ITEM: Request from the Clerk of Council to declare the seat of Tyson Begly on the Audit Committee as vacant due to his recent appointment as City Manager. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to declare the seat as vacant, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Anker being absent for the vote, and Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

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

A. **COLUMBUS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT AUTHORITY:**

A nominee for a vacant seat for a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) on the Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority that expires on June 30, 2026. (*Mayor's Appointment*) There were none.

B. **PENSION FUND, EMPLOYEES' BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

A nominee for a vacant seat with a term that expires on June 30, 2026, 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.

4. **NOMINATIONS – CONFIRMED BY COUNCIL:**

A. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (BHAR):

A nominee for a vacant seat (*Uptown Business Association*) for a term expiring on January 31, 2029, on the Historic & Architectural Review Board (*Confirmed by Council*). There were none.

5. 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 that expired on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council (*District 1 – Hickey*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Tracy Belt (*Not Eligible*) the District 4 Representative for a term that expired on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council (*District 4 – Tucker*). There were none.

A nominee for the vacant seat of the District 5 Representative for a term that expired on March 27, 2026, on the Community Development Advisory Council (*District 5 – Crabb*). There were none.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Paul T. Berry, III (*Not interested in serving another term*) for a term that expired on October 31, 2025, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission (*District 5 – Crabb*). There were none.

C. YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL:

A nominee for the District 2 Representative on the Youth Advisory Council (*District 2 – Davis*). 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 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.

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

A. ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for the vacant seat of the Georgia Veterinary Technician with a term expiring on October 15, 2026, on the Animal Control Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the vacant seat of the Animal Rescue Shelter Representative with a term expiring on October 15, 2026, on the Animal Control Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore shared the Animal Control Advisory plans to submit recommendations on the board composition to the Assistant City Attorney soon.

C. BOARD OF HEALTH:

A nominee for the seat of Yasmine Cathright (*Not Eligible*) with the term that expired on December 31, 2025, on the Board of Health (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

D. BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term that expired on March 24, 2026, on the Building Authority of Columbus (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

E. KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION:

A nominee for the seat of Courtney Johnson (*Not Eligible*) for a term that expires on June 30, 2026, representing Senatorial District 29, on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (*Council's Appointment*). Mayor Pro Tem Allen nominated Pat Frey.

F. LIBERTY THEATRE & CULTURAL ARTS CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term that expires on August 14, 2026, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). Clerk of Council McLemore shared the recommendations of (1) Jerry Speakman, (2) Robbie Branscomb, and (3) Odanive Martin, submitted by the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board to fill the vacant seat. Councilor Barnes nominated Zach Lee.

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

A nominee for the seat of Judge David Ranieri (*Does not desire reappointment*) for a term that expired 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.

A nominee for the seat for Nancy Schroeder (*Eligible*) for a term that expires on June 30, 2026, on the New Horizons Behavioral Health – Mental Health, Addictive Diseases and Developmental Disabilities – Community Service Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

H. PERSONNEL REVIEW BOARD:

A nominee for a vacant seat (*Alternate Member 1*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2027, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat (*Alternate Member 2*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2027, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

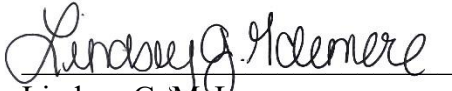
A nominee for a vacant seat (*Alternate Member 3*) for a term that expires on December 31, 2027, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Delano Leftwich (*Not Eligible – Alternate Member 4*) for a term that expired on December 31, 2025, on the Personnel Review Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

I. REGION SIX REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES:

A nominee for the seat of Dr. Janet C. Bussey (*Does not desire reappointment*) for a term that expires on June 30, 2026, on the Region Six Regional Advisory Council for Department of Behavioral Health & Development Disabilities (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Skip Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Garrett to adjourn the June 9, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent from the meeting and the time being 6:06 p.m.



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

