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

July 14, 2026
9:00 AM
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 Simi Barnes, Travis L. Chambers, Cathy Cook (took seat at 9:09 a.m.), Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, Bruce Huff (arrived at 9:04 a.m.) and Toyia Tucker (arrived at 9:14 a.m.). City Manager Tyson Begly, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall, Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore, and Deputy Clerk of Council Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: Councilor Joanne Cogle and was absent.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) MA#3: Columbus-Muscogee County, GA Columbus Consolidated Government Emergency Management and Homeland Security PP; (2) MA#5: Internal Audit of Columbus Golf Authority PP (3) CM#2: 11th Street Viaduct Proposed Art

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) MA#5: Internal Audit of Columbus Golf Authority PP; (2) MA#5: Audit Authorization Columbus Golf Authority; (3) CA#2: 6 Columbus State/Milgen Road (4) PA#3: Request for Zoning Change/Flood Zone Reevaluation; (5) PA#7: Alcohol License; (6) PA#10: Hyperscale Data Center; (7) CM#5: City of Columbus 2026-2030 Consolidated Plan & 2026 Annual Action Plan; (8) CM: Add-On Resolution

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Chaplain Matthew Miller, Fort Benning

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Abigail Logsdon from Double Churches Middle School

MINUTES:

2. Approval of minutes for the June 16, 2026, 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 seven members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

OATH OF OFFICE:

1. **SWEARING-IN CEREMONY:** The Oath of Office for Dr. Cathy Cook as the District Nine Councilor for the City of Columbus, Georgia. (Oath of Office administered by Superior Court Judge Benjamin S. Richardson and Probate Court Judge Marc D'Antonio)

NOTE: Councilor Cook took her seat at 9:09 a.m.

Councilor Cathy Cook expressed gratitude and humility upon taking office, stating that she was honored by the opportunity to serve the community. She acknowledged the legacy of past community leaders, thanked her family and supporters for their encouragement, and pledged to serve with integrity, humility, and wisdom while working collaboratively with her fellow Council members for the benefit of the community.

PRESENTATIONS

3. Department Overview – Chance Corbett, Director of Emergency Management & Homeland Security

Chance Corbett, Director of Emergency Management & Homeland Security provided Council with an overview of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department, highlighting its all-hazards approach to emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. He reviewed the department's partnerships, emergency planning efforts, training initiatives, grant-funded projects, public preparedness programs, and ongoing efforts to strengthen the City's emergency management capabilities and disaster readiness.

4. Award Presentation to Director Chance Corbett and Warden Herbert Walker

Councilor Tucker recognized Director of Homeland Security Chance Corbett and Warden Herbert Walker for receiving National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards. She commended Director Corbett for the department's emergency preparedness initiatives and recognized the Warden for innovative inmate education and workforce development programs aimed at reducing recidivism.

Warden Herbert Walker highlighted certifications offered in skilled trades, the prison's recognition for leading the state in inmate GED completions for the third consecutive year and emphasized the programs' role in preparing offenders for successful reentry into the community. He also introduced Pedro Cardenas as the new Deputy Warden of Security.

Deputy Warden Pedro Cardenas expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve in Columbus and to join the Muscogee County Prison team.

5. General Operational Audit Report for the Columbus Golf Authority – Donna McGinnis, Internal Auditor/Compliance Officer

Donna McGinnis, Internal Auditor/Compliance Officer provided an overview of the recently completed audit of the Columbus Golf Authority. She reviewed the audit process, scope, and methodology, indicating that the audit evaluated the Authority's governance, operations, financial position, assets, personnel, and administrative practices.

Internal Auditor Benjamin Meadow presented observations from site visits to Bull Creek, Oxbow Creek, and Godwin Creek Golf Courses. He highlighted facility maintenance and infrastructure needs, operational and administrative processes, and opportunities for improvements.

Internal Auditor Grant Conaway reviewed the audit findings, noting improvements in administrative operations despite recent staff turnover, increased demand at Oxbow Creek Golf Course, and opportunities to expand amenities and revenue-generating services. He also identified facility and infrastructure needs across the golf courses.

Internal Auditor Jonathan Smith presented four recommendations resulting from the audit of the Columbus Golf Authority. He noted that Golf Authority management agreed with the audit findings and recommendations.

Columbus Golf Authority Director Jim Arendt provided an update on the ongoing cleanup efforts at Bull Creek Golf Course following the April 2025 tornado. He explained that Public Works had assisted with removing large logs, but additional heavy equipment is still needed to remove remaining tree stumps and debris. He noted that staff prioritized making the course safe by removing hazardous limbs and leaning trees and have continued cleanup efforts as resources allow.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY:

- A request was made to review and update the City's records retention schedule. *(Councilor Tucker)*

At the request of Councilor Tucker, **Stephanie Lair, a member of the Columbus Golf Authority**, approached the rostrum and stated that the audit addressed several questions raised by the Authority and would serve as a valuable resource moving forward.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made to coordinate repairs to the damaged fencing adjacent to Godwin Creek Golf Course and to have the Columbus Police Department's Homeless Outreach Unit engage with individuals residing in the nearby encampment to assist with relocation to appropriate services. *(Councilor Garrett)*

- A request was made to work with the Golf Authority to develop a phased funding plan for improvements to the golf courses. *(Councilor Garrett)*

RESOLUTIONS:

6. **Resolution (169-26): -** A Resolution authorizing a transitional audit of the Muscogee County Juvenile Court Office. *(Requested by Juvenile Court Judge Amy C. Walters)*. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (26-035) - 2nd Reading:** An Ordinance providing for the levy, assessment, and collection of taxes for the public school system of Columbus, Georgia; and for other purposes. (Proposed Amendment) (Budget Review Committee)

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge explained that delays in issuing tax assessment notices, resulting from changes in state law and software updates, prevented the City from meeting the timeline necessary for two installment payments. She recommended a single payment due December 1, 2026, for the current tax year.

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to amend the ordinance to revise the tax payment schedule from two installments to a single payment due on December 1, 2026, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote and Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

Councilor Tucker made a motion to adopt the ordinance as amended, seconded Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote and Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

2. **1st Reading:** An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 26-032 which provided 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 Review Committee)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Paul Olson

Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin displayed the METRA transit service map and clarified that the Dial-A-Ride service is available to certified eligible individuals with disabilities within three-quarters of a mile of fixed bus routes. She advised that service areas expand whenever fixed routes are extended.

- Debra Jarsomkowski

3. 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.)(Delayed 30 days on 1st Reading from 6-9-26.)(Councilor Tucker) ***DELAYED***

Councilor Tucker made a motion to delay the ordinance for 30 days on 1st Reading, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mr. Tim Mason, Re: PAWS Humane. ***Not Present***

2. Mr. John Fitzpatrick, Re: God Directed.

3. Mr. Moody Mitchell, Re: Delay on the flood zone changes for Miller Court.

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge outlined the ongoing FEMA map revision process. She stated that the Letter of Map Revision was submitted to FEMA in January 2026, that the City is currently addressing FEMA's comments through its consultant, and that the process remains subject to FEMA's review and approval timeline. She further explained that the City cannot issue permits within the designated floodway or grant variances until FEMA officially revises the flood maps.

4. Mr. Gregory Foster, Re: Georgetown Subdivision. ***Not Present***

5. Mr. Bob Hutchison, Re: Tax Commissioner's Office Wait Time.

6. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Search for new CPD Chief and Participatory-Budgeting.

7. Mr. Carey Hall, Re: Zoning Matter.

8. Mrs. Kim Hicks, Re: Preserving Rural Life.

9. Mr. Robert Greyer, Re: Gallops Senior Center Repair Timeline.

10. Ms. Carolyn Weinbaum, Re: Water Pollution.

11. Mrs. Laketha Ashe, representing Still Standing Initiatives, Re: Columbus Fashion Weekend.

12. Mr. Mike Nash, Re: Proposed Hyperscale Date Center.

13. Dr. Natalie Nicole, representing Role Model Academy of Arts, Re: City Executive Leadership & Organizational Performance.

14. Ms. Jennifer Le Denney, Re: What Happens in the Absence of an ADA Compliance Officer?

15. Mr. Corie Wilson, Re: Community Trust in Elected Leadership. Preserving Rural Life.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Columbus Consolidated Government and Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Inc (CRK)

Resolution (170-26): - A resolution authorizing the execution of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the Columbus Consolidated Government ("CCG") and Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Inc. ("CRK") to install, maintain, and operate trash traps at various locations for a period of one year with an automatic renewal**.** Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

2. Public Art – 11th Street Viaduct

Resolution (171-26): - A resolution requesting approval to execute a memorandum of understanding between the Columbus Consolidated Government (the "city") and Dragonfly Trails, Inc. ("DFI") for a public arts project and approve the final design of the mural.

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge presented photographs depicting the proposed public art for the 11th Street Viaduct. She explained that the installation would coincide with the planned milling and resurfacing of the viaduct while it is closed for construction.

Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

3. Advanced Air Mobility / eVTOL Funding

Resolution (172-26): - A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, to approve the utilization of up to $2.2 million in TSPLOST Discretionary funds for the construction of an airside electric charging station and dedicated vertiport for the arrival/departure of eVTOL aircraft at the Columbus Airport. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

4. Disposition of Public Alleyway on the West Side of 12th Avenue, East of Southern Street

Resolution (173-26): - A resolution to sell city-owned property to adjacent landowner, Freedom Investments LLC, in accordance with section 7-501 paragraph 5 of the Columbus Charter, and to authorize the mayor or designee to execute all contracts, agreements and understandings related to the conveyance of city property. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

6. Minor Amendment to FY26 HUD Annual Action Plan Resolution

Resolution (174-26): - A resolution amending the title of resolution no. 111-25 to reference the fy26 annual action plan. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

7. Hazard Mitigation Grant – Four Emergency Shelters

Resolution (175-26): - A resolution to submit and accept, if awarded, a hazard mitigation grant funding from the georgia emergency management agency and homeland security, in the amount of $618,000.00, or as otherwiswe awarded, for the purchase and installation of four full-service generators at four ccg parks and recreation facilities for use as an emergency shelter, with a local match required in the amount of $154,500.00 and amend the multi-governmental fund budget by the amount awarded. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

8. Firehouse Subs Grant

Resolution (176-26): - A resolution to apply for and accept, if awarded, a grant from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation in the amount of $10,014.00, or as otherwise awarded, to support the acquisition of smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and educational materials, with no matching funds required. The multi-governmental fund will be amended by the amount of the award. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

9. FY2026 COPS Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Program Grant

Resolution (177-26): - A resolution to apply for, accept, and expend any awarded funds as per the grant guidelines and city regulations, if awarded, a grant of $250,000, or as otherwise awarded, FY 2026 Cops Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Program, and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount awarded. Funds will be utilized for enhancing peer support, training, suicide prevention, stress reduction, clinical support, and other promising practices for wellness initiatives. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

10. DOJ FY 2026 National Integrated Ballistic Information (NIBIN) Modernization Program

Resolution (178-26): - A resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for, accept, and expend any awarded funds as per the grant guidelines and city regulations, if awarded, a grant of $300,000, or as otherwise awarded. DOJ FY 2026 National Integrated Ballistic Information (NIBIN) Modernization Program will be utilized to support law enforcement operations (including immigration law enforcement operations; combatting violent crime; supporting services to American citizens; protecting American children; and supporting American victims of trafficking and sexual assault). Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

11. Columbus Police Department: Family Fun Day Donation Acceptance

Resolution (179-26): - A resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept donated funds in the amount of $2,500 from Steven Gouine, on behalf of the Columbus Police Department**.** Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

12. Donation of Vehicles to the Columbus Police Department

Resolution (180-26): - A resolution to accept generous donations from Kia Motors of a vehicle for use on the Columbus Police Department Firing Range and a donation from Griffin & Griffin Towing of a vehicle for use as a bait car. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

13. Columbus Police Department: K9 Unit Donation

Resolution (181-26): - A resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept donated funds in the amount of $2708.68 from Three Dog Bakery, on behalf of the Columbus Police Department. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

5. 2026-2030 Consolidated Plan, 2026 Annual Action Plan, Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) Study, and Citizen Participation Plan Submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Resolution (182-26): - A resolution authorizing the filing of the 2026-2030 Consolidated Plan, 2026 Annual Action Plan, Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) Study, and citizen participation plan with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Deputy Director Kimberly Mitchell, Community Reinvestment, explained that the City partners with United Way, Hope Harbor, and Enrichment Services to administer homeless assistance funding. She advised that $80,000 is allocated annually to United Way for the HMIS program, with the remaining funds divided between Hope Harbor and Enrichment Services.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made to meet with United Way and community partners to discuss potential options for supporting the SafeHouse facilities and addressing their funding needs. *(Councilor Tucker)*

Jeremy Grey, Mosaic Community Planning, presented an overview of the City's Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan, highlighting priorities for the use of HUD grant funding for affordable housing, community development, and homelessness services. He noted that the plans would be submitted to HUD following Council approval.

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 Davis being absent for the vote and Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION:

Liberty Theatre Cultural Arts Center Historic Structure Studies or Planning Grant

Resolution (183-26) - A resolution authorizing the application for and acceptance of a grant from the Fox Theatre, in the amount of up to $100,000, or as otherwise awarded, with a 50% local match required, and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount of the award. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote and Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting

14. PURCHASES

A. Fuel Purchases for Fiscal Year 2027

Resolution (184-26): - A resolution authorizing payment for fiscal year 2027 fuel purchases awarded to the vendor submitting the lowest, responsive, responsible quote via the daily fuel quote process. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote and Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

B. Federal and State Mandated Fees for Fiscal Year 2027

Resolution (185-26): - A resolution authorizing payment for various federal and state mandated fees during fiscal year 2027. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote and Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

C. Drug and Alcohol Screening: After-Hours, Weekends and Holidays (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0007

Resolution (186-26): - A resolution authorizing the execution of an annual contract with 4D GA Investments LLC D/B/A Fastest Labs of Columbus (Columbus, GA) to provide Drug and Alcohol Screening: After-Hours, Weekends and Holidays on an "as needed" basis. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote and Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

D. Contract Extension for Tree Removal & Stump Grinding/Removal Services (Re-Bid) (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0051

Resolution (187-26): - A resolution authorizing the extension of the annual contract for Tree Removal & Stump Grinding/Removal Services with Elite Tree Service, Inc. (Columbus, GA), through December 31, 2026. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote and Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

E. Contract Extension for Heating & Refrigeration Supplies (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 20-0047

Resolution (188-26): - A resolution authorizing the extension of the annual contract for Heating & Refrigeration Supplies with Refrigeration Supplies, Inc. dba Johnstone Supply #265 (Columbus, GA) through December 31, 2026. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote and Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

F. Comprehensive Generator Services (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 26-0023

Resolution (189-26): - A resolution authorizing the extension of the annual contract with Sudden Service, Inc d/b/a Taylor Sudden Service Inc (Bessemer, AL) for comprehensive generator services in the estimated annual contract value of $231,775.00. The services will be procured on an "as needed" basis. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Davis being absent for the vote and Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

14. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Juvenile Court FY26 Budget Update - Judge Thomas Tebeau

Assistant Finance Director Nicholas Clingscales explained that pursuant to Ordinance 13-39, Juvenile Court Judge Aaron Cohn requested approval to reallocate approximately $112,000 from salary savings to the Court's operating budget to cover additional FY26 operating expenses.

Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the request to reallocate approximately $112,000 from salary savings to the Court's operating budget to cover additional FY26 operating expenses, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Davis and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting

B. Dragonfly Trail Update - Becca Zajac, Executive Director of Dragonfly Trail Network

Becca Zajac, Executive Director of Dragonfly Trail Network provided an update on the Dragonfly Trails branding initiative. She presented the organization's refreshed logo and updated trail signage design.

C. Infrastructure Update - Will Johnson, Director of Planning, Vance Beck, Director of the Engineering, Ryan Pruett, Director of Inspections & Code

Vance Beck, Director of Engineering, provided an update on ongoing transportation and infrastructure projects. He reported on the progress of each project and responded to a Council inquiry regarding the planned roundabout and traffic control features associated with the Veterans Parkway interchange, stating that he would verify whether a traffic signal was planned at the off-ramp.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR ENGINEERING:

- A request was made to notify affected residents of the upcoming project. *(Councilor Tucker)*

Planning Director Will Johnson provided an update on Transportation Investment Act (TIA) projects, reporting on the status of right-of-way acquisition, design, bidding, and construction activities for Band 1, Band 2, and Band 3 projects. He also announced upcoming public open houses noting that public notices would be issued prior to the meetings.

Inspections and Code Director Ryan Pruett provided a progress update on the John D. Allen Judicial Center. He reported that exterior construction is nearing completion, with landscaping scheduled to begin next month and substantial completion anticipated in September 2026. He also provided updates on several capital improvement projects.

D. Pension Plan Design Options - Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager of Finance, Planning & Development

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge presented an overview of the proposed pension plan design changes included in the FY27 Mayor's Recommended Budget. She summarized the consultant's review and benchmarking analysis, employee feedback, and recommended enhancements to the General Government and Public Safety pension plans. She advised that the proposed changes, if approved by Council, would become effective January 1, 2027, following the adoption of the necessary ordinances and administrative updates.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

-Review whether the proposed reduction in employee pension contributions from 8% to 6% for employees hired after July 1, 2012, may be implemented before January 1, 2027. *(Councilor Davis)*

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ADD-ON ITEM

Clerk of Council McLemore requested Council's approval to amend the April 8, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes to reflect revisions to the approval of Item No. 6 on the City Manager's Agenda for inclusion in the official permanent record. Councilor Tucker made a motion to ament the April 8, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

ENCLOSURES - INFORMATION ONLY

1. **Upcoming Board Appointments:** Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board ***No Action Taken***

2. **Upcoming Board Appointments:** Planning Advisory Commission (PAC) ***No Action Taken***

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

3. **Request for Declaration of Vacancy:** Memo from the Clerk of Council requesting that the seat of Taylor Martin, representing Senatorial District 29 (SD-29) on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (KCBC), be declared vacant. Councilor Crabb made a motion to declare the seat as vacant, seconded by Councilor Cook and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

4. **Request for Declaration of Vacancy:** Memo from the Clerk of Council requesting the seats for representatives of Council Districts 2, 3, and 4 are declared vacant. Councilor Crabb made a motion to declare the seat as vacant, seconded by Councilor Cook and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

5. **Resignation:** Memo from the Clerk of Council regarding the resignation of Tommy Nobles from his seat on the Columbus Golf Authority. Councilor Crabb made a motion to receive the resignation, seconded by Councilor Cook and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

6. **Resignation:** Correspondence from Kristasia Heath, resigning from her seat as one of the representatives of Senatorial District 29 on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (KCBC). Councilor Crabb made a motion to receive the resignation, seconded by Councilor Cook and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

7. **Resolution:** A Resolution excusing Councilor Joanne Cogle from the July 14, 2026, Council Meeting. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cook and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

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

   Board of Election and Registration 04-02-26 & 05-07-26

   Board of Tax Assessors #22-26, 23-26 & 24-26

   Board of Zoning Appeals 05-06-26

   Columbus Convention and Visitor Board 03-18-26

   Columbus Golf Authority 04-21-26 & 05-19-26

   Columbus Ironworks Convention & Trade Center Authority 01-22-26 & 02-27-26

   Crime Prevention Board 01-20-26 & 05-20-26

   Development Authority of Columbus 05-14-26

   Employee Benefits Committee 04-22-26

   Hospital Authority of Columbus 05-26-26

Land Bank Authority 03-11-26

Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board 01-08-26

New Horizons Behavioral Health Board 05-11-26

Personnel Review Board 02-17-26, 03-18-26, 04-15-26, 05-20-26 & 06-17-26

Planning Advisory Commission 04-15-26 & 05-06-26

Retirees' Health Benefits Committee 09-18-25 & 11-17-25

Retirees' Health Benefits Committee 05-20-26

The Medical Center Hospital Authority 01-28-26

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

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

A. AUDIT COMMITTEE:

A nominee for a vacant seat for a Finance/Accounting or Governmental Rep. on the Audit Committee that expires on June 30, 2027. *(Mayor's Appointment)* There were none.

B. 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.

C. PENSION FUND, EMPLOYEES' BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

A nominee for a vacant seat with a term that expired 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.

D. YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL:

A nominee for the Youth Advisory Council *(Mayor's Nominee).* Clerk of Council McLemore announced that Mayor Henderson is nominating Lucy Wylie of St. Luke School to serve on the Youth Advisory Council. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

10. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – LISTED FOR CONFIRMATION:

A. BOARD OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES: Darlene Small was renominated to serve another term. *(Councilor Crabb's nominee)* Term expires: June 30, 2031. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

11. 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.

B. LIBERTY THEATRE & CULTURAL ARTS CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:

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).* Clerk of Council McLemore advised that Civic Center Interim Director Kanise Wiggins has recommended Robbie Branscomb to fill the vacant seat on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

12. 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 – Barnes).* 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).* Clerk of Council McLemore advised that Councilor Crabb is nominating Connie Smith to fill the District 5 vacant seat on the Community Development Advisory Council. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

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 4 Representative on the Youth Advisory Council *(District 4 – Tucker).* Councilor Tucker nominated Jaydence Pippen of Kendrick High School to represent District 4 on the Youth Advisory Council. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

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.

13. <u>COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – ANY NOMINATIONS WOULD BE LISTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING:</u>

A. <u>ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:</u>

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.

B. <u>BOARD OF HEALTH:</u>

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.

C. <u>BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:</u>

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.

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

A nominee for the seat for Sandra Gill *(Does not desire reappointment)* for a term that expired 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.

A nominee for the seat for Nancy Schroeder *(Does not desire reappointment)* for a term that expired 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.

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.

E. <u>PERSONNEL REVIEW BOARD:</u>

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 Leftfwich *(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.

F. <u>REGION SIX REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES:</u>

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.

G. <u>TREE BOARD:</u>

A nominee for a vacant seat *(At-Large)* for a term that expires on December 31, 2026, on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment)***.** There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat *(At-Large)* for a term that expires on December 31, 2028, on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment)***.** There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat *(At-Large)* for a term that expires on December 31, 2028, on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment)***.** There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat *(Residential Development)* for a term that expires on December 31, 2026, on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment)***.** There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat *(Commercial or Industrial Development)* for a term that expires on December 31, 2026, on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment)***.** There were none.

A nominee for a vacant seat *(Public Utility Representative)* for a term that expires on July 1, 2028, on the Tree Board (*Council's Appointment)***.** There were none.

<u>PUBLIC AGENDA (continued)</u>

14. Dr. Natalie Nicole, representing Role Model Academy of Arts, Re: City Executive Leadership & Organizational Performance.

<u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u>

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition, potential litigation and litigation as requested by City Attorney Fay. Councilor Tucker made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Garrett carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilors Cogle being absent from the meeting, and the time being 1:28 p.m.

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 2:17 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition, potential litigation and litigation; however, there were no votes taken.

<u>CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA – ADD-ON ITEM</u>

City Attorney Fay requested Council's authorization for the law firm of Troutman Pepper to engage Troutman Strategies to investigate federal funding opportunities for a one-year period at a cost not to exceed $99,000. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the authorization, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting.

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 July 14, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent from the meeting and the time being 2:18 p.m.

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

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