



~~POST SUMMARY MINUTES~~

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

July 28, 2026
5:30 PM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III and Councilors Simi Barnes (arrived at 5:31 p.m.), Travis L. Chambers, Joanne Cogle, Cathy Cook, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis (arrived at 5:48 p.m.), R. Walker Garrett, Bruce Huff (arrived at 6:12 p.m.) and Toyia Tucker (arrived at 7:47 p.m.). City Manager Tyson Begly, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore, and Deputy Clerk of Council Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall were absent.

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Chaplain Wallace Jackson – Fort Benning

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Zion Daise from Columbus High School

MINUTES:

Mayor's Agenda #1: Vote Result: APPROVED

1. Approval of minutes for the July 14, 2026, Council Meeting and Executive Session.

PROCLAMATIONS:

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

2. **Proclamation:** National Health Week

Receiving: Asante' Hiltz, CEO of Valley Healthcare System, and Virginia Dickerson,
Vice Board Chair

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

3. **Proclamation:** Columbus Lions Day

Receiving: Columbus Lions Team

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

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

1. **2nd 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)

City Attorney's Agenda #2: PUBLIC HEARING HELD

2. **1st Reading:** REZN 05-26-0955: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at 3849 N Linden Drive (parcel # 087-028-012) from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District to Single Family Residential – 2 (SFR2) Zoning District.)Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.) (Councilor Barnes)

City Attorney's Agenda #3: PUBLIC HEARING HELD

3. **1st Reading:** An ordinance amending Article XIV of Chapter 13 of the Columbus Code to revise and modernize the Article; to adopt current state rules and regulations; to provide for a penalty for violations; and for other purposes. (Request of Muscogee County Board of Health)(Mayor ProTem)

City Attorney's Agenda #4: PUBLIC HEARING HELD

4. **1st Reading:** An Ordinance amending Chapter 5 of the Columbus Code to rename and update the provisions pertaining to the Animal Services Advisory Board; and for other purposes. (Councilors Tucker, Crabb, and Garrett)

ADD-ON RESOLUTION

City Attorney's Agenda Add-On): Vote Result: APPROVED

Resolution Authorizing 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.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Ms. Kim Decker, Re: PAWS. ***No Action Taken***
2. Mrs. Lauren Chambers, representing The Mill District, Inc., Re: 2nd Annual Community Dinner Event. ***Not Present***
3. Mrs. Jennifer Smith, Re: Youth Development, Affordable Housing, and Resources. ***Not Present***
4. Ms. Amy Spencer, Re: 287g Task Force Model in Muscogee County. ***No Action Taken***
5. Ms. Mary Reynolds, Re: Proposed Data Center. ***No Action Taken***
6. Mr. John Fitzpatrick, Re: A Motion, Second, and a Vote. ***No Action Taken***
7. Mr. Paul Olson, Re: (1) Bus Route #6 Columbus State/Milgen Road, (2) Midland Commons, (3) Dial-A-Bus, and (4) Taxation .82 Mills in USD#2. ***No Action Taken***
8. Mr. Val McGowan, Re: Beer, Wine, Lottery, and Slot Machines. ***No Action Taken***
9. Mrs. Kimberly Williams, Re: Trash and Leaves Pickup. ***Not Present***
10. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Councilor Support of Legislative Agenda in 2027 and Conditions at Muscogee County Jail. ***No Action Taken***
11. Ms. Pat Weekley, Re: Appreciation. ***No Action Taken***
12. Mr. Ric Rivera, Re: Sheriff's Department. ***No Action Taken***
13. Mr. Gregory Foster, Re: Muscogee County Residents – Civic Lesson. ***No Action Taken***

14. Ms. Carolyn Weinbaum, Re: Noise Pollution in Columbus. ***No Action Taken***
15. Ms. Monica Whatley, Re: Federal Government Deportation – Not Muscogee County’s Role. ***No Action Taken***
16. Mr. Corie Wilson, Re: Economical Plans. ***No Action Taken***
17. Mrs. Christine DiFelicianantonio, Re: Community Response to Data Centers. ***No Action Taken***
18. Ms. Andrea Atkins, Re: Civility and Transparency in Local Governance. ***No Action Taken***
19. Dr. Natalie Nicole, representing Role Model Academy of Arts, Re: City Budget & Community Impact. ***No Action Taken***
20. Mrs. Kim Hicks, Re: Data Centers. ***No Action Taken***
21. Ms. Z Lawrence, representing Music and Entertainment Council, Re: Request for Council Consideration to Establish a Music Office or Public-Private Partnership. ***Not Present***

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

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

1. Columbus Airport Commission & Development Authority Funding Support

Approval is requested to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Columbus Airport Commission and the Development Authority to support the economic development activities at the airport.

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

2. Columbus Airport Commission Funding Support

Approval is requested to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Columbus Airport Commission to support the airport operations.

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

3. Lease Agreement – 921 5th Avenue – First African Baptist Church Parking Lot

Approval is requested to enter into a lease agreement with First African Baptist Church to lease the parking lot at 921 5th Avenue, Columbus, Georgia 31901

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

4. FY27 Public Defender Contract

Approval is requested to enter into an agreement for Indigent Defense Services between the Circuit Public Defender Office of the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit and Muscogee County in the amount of \$2,826,718 from July 2026 to June 2027 and authorize monthly payment to Georgia Public Defender Council (GPDC) for said services in the amount of \$161,603.04 per month. The monthly amount includes \$1,846,892 for personnel services and \$92,345, a 5% administrative fee (The GPDC payment is included in the total amount of \$2,826,718).

5. PURCHASES

City Manager's Agenda #5(A-K): Vote Result: APPROVED

- A. Arts & Craft, Hobby and Recreational Supplies (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 26-0024
- B. Customized Fleet Supply Chain and Parts Inventory Management AKA Integrated Business Solutions (Annual Contract) – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase
- C. Loss Control Services (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 26-0011
- D. Stone Supplies (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 26-0037
- E. Agricultural Chemicals (Annual Contract) – BuyBoard Cooperative Contract Purchase
- F. Integrated Transit System (Annual Contract) – Only Known Source
- G. Ten (10) Ford FPIU Explorers for Columbus Police Department– Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase
- H. One (1) Ford Explorer 4DR 4X4 (K8D) for Information Technology Department – Georgia Statewide Cooperative Contract Purchase
- I. Contract Extension for HVAC Preventive Maintenance Services (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 19-0014
- J. Contract Amendment for Fire Station No. 4 Renovation via Construction Manager as General Contractor Services for SPLOST Fire Stations – RFQ No. 23-0002
- K. Contract Amendment for Fire Station No. 8 Renovation via Construction Manager as General Contractor Services for SPLOST Fire Stations – RFQ No. 23-0002

6. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Compensation and Classification Study Update - Mark Holcomb, Project Manager, Evergreen Solutions *No Action Taken*

City Manager's Agenda #6(B): *Vote Result: APPROVED request to reallocate approximately \$404,000 from salary savings to the Fire/EMS 's FY26 operating budget.*

- B. Fire/EMS FY26 Budget Update – Chief Sal Scarpa, Fire & EMS (ADD-ON)

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES – ACTION REQUESTED

Clerk of Council's Agenda #1: *Vote Result: APPROVED – Forward to the Board of Honor for review.*

1. **Honorary Designation Application:** Submitted by Mr. W. Greg Herring to rename the Boxwood Recreation Center to the “Jerry ‘Pops’ Barnes Center”. *(Request to forward to the Board of Honor for consideration.)*

Clerk of Council's Agenda #2: *Vote Result: APPROVED*

2. **Travel Authorization:** A travel authorization request for Councilor Simi Barnes to attend the 2026 National Foundation for Women Legislators Annual Conference in Nashville, TN.

Clerk of Council's Agenda #3: *Vote Result: APPROVED*

3. **Resolution:** A Resolution excusing Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen from the July 28, 2026, Council Meeting.

Clerk of Council's Agenda #4: *This item was subsequently pulled from the agenda as Councilor Tucker was present at the meeting.*

4. **Resolution:** A Resolution excusing Councilor Toyia Tucker from the July 28, 2026, Council Meeting.

Clerk of Council's Agenda #5: *Vote Result: RECEIVED*

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

Board of Tax Assessors #25-26

Board of Tax Assessors #26-26

Columbus Sports & Entertainment Authority 06-08-26

Development Authority of Columbus 06-11-26

Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission 12-11-25

Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission 02-12-26 & 04-09-26

Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center 01-08-26, 03-12-26 & 05-14-26

Pension Fund, Employees Board of Trustees 03-11-26

Public Safety Advisory Commission, 2024 Minutes

Public Safety Advisory Commission, 2025 Minutes

Public Safety Advisory Commission, 06-19-25

Public Safety Advisory Commission, 01-16-26 & 02-19-26

BOARD APPOINTMENTS – ACTION REQUESTED

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

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #6(A): No Action Taken

A. AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Vacant
Finance/Accounting or Governmental Rep.
 Term Expires: June 30, 2027

Open for Nominations
(Mayor’s Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	2 Year	Term Limit: 3
Meetings:	Meets as needed.	
Women:	1	Senatorial District 15:
Vacancies:	1	Senatorial District 29:

Clerk of Council’s Agenda #6(B): No Action Taken

B. COLUMBUS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT AUTHORITY:

 Open for Nominations

Vacant

Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

Term Expires: June 30, 2026

(Mayor's Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year	Term Limit: 2
Meetings:	Monthly	
Women:	2	Senatorial District 15: 4
Vacancies:	1	Senatorial District 29: 5

Clerk of Council's Agenda #6(C): No Action Taken

C. 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 – 1 st Wednesday	
Women:	4	Senatorial District 15: 9
Vacancies:	1	Senatorial District 29: 2

7. NOMINATIONS – CONFIRMED BY COUNCIL:

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

A. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (BHAR):

Vacant

Uptown Business Association

Term Expires: January 31, 2029

Open for Nominations
(Confirmed by Council)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year	Term Limit: 2
Meetings:	Monthly – 2 nd Monday	
Women:	4	Senatorial District 15: 6
Vacancies:	2	Senatorial District 29: 2

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

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

A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Vacant

Term Expired: March 27, 2026

Open for Nominations
(District 1 – Barnes)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms: 3 Year (Mayor Appts); 2 Year (Council Appts)

Term Limit: 2

Meetings: Quarterly – 2nd Thursday (March, June, September & December)

Women: 3 Senatorial District 15: 7

Vacancies: 2 Senatorial District 29: 4

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

B. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

Vacant

Term Expired: October 31, 2026

Open for Nominations
(District 2 – Davis)

Vacant

Term Expired: October 31, 2028

Open for Nominations
(District 3 – Huff)

Vacant

Term Expired: October 31, 2026

Open for Nominations
(District 4 – Tucker)

Vacant

Term Expired: October 31, 2028

Open for Nominations
(District 5 – Crabb)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year	Term Limit: 2
Meetings:	Monthly – 3 rd Thursday	
Women:	1	Senatorial District 15: 5
Vacancies:	4	Senatorial District 29: 2

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

C. YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL:

District 9 Nominee: _____

District 10 Nominee: _____

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

Clerk of Council's Agenda #9(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 #9(B): No Action Taken

B. BOARD OF HEALTH:

Yasmine Cathright

Not Eligible

Term Expires: December 31, 2025

Open for Nominations
(*Council's Appointment*)

Membership and Meeting Information

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

Clerk of Council's Agenda #9(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 #9(D): Nomination(s): Clerk of Council McLemore advised that Councilor Davis is nominating Stephen Hyles to fill the vacant seat on the Columbus Golf Authority.

D. COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY:

Vacant

Term Expires: June 30, 2030

**Councilor Davis is nominating Stephen Hyles.*

Open for Nominations
(*Council's Appointment*)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	4 Year	Term Limit: 2
Meetings:	Monthly – 3 rd Tuesday	
Women:	1	Senatorial District 15: 3
Vacancies:	1	Senatorial District 29: 5

Clerk of Council's Agenda #9(E): Nomination(s): Councilor Tucker nominated Shanise Thomason and Stephanie Quinones to fill the vacant seats on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission.

E. KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION (KCBC):

Vacant

Senatorial District 29 (SD-29)

Term Expires: June 30, 2029

***KCB is recommending Shanise Thomason.**

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Vacant

Senatorial District 29 (SD-29)

Term Expires: June 30, 2029

***KCB is recommending Stephanie Quinones.**

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms: 3 Year Term Limit: 2

Meetings: Bimonthly – 2nd Tuesday (Even Months)

Women: 5 Senatorial District 15: 6

Vacancies: 2 Senatorial District 29: 1

Clerk of Council's Agenda #9(F): Nomination(s): Councilor Huff renominated Fernando C. Verdree, George C. McDowell, and Zach Lee to serve another term on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board.

F. LIBERTY THEATRE & CULTURAL ARTS CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:

Fernando C. Verdree

Eligible

(Certified Public Accountant)

Term expired: August 14, 2026

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

George C. McDowell

Eligible

Term expired: August 14, 2026

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Zach Lee

Eligible

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Term expired: August 14, 2026

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	4 Year	Term Limit:	3
Meetings:	Bimonthly – 2nd Thursday (January, March, May, July, September & November)		
Women:	6	Senatorial District 15:	5
Vacancies:	0	Senatorial District 29:	5

Clerk of Council's Agenda #9(G): No Action Taken

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

Sandra Gill

Does not desire reappointment
Term Expired: June 30, 2026

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Nancy Schroeder

Does not desire reappointment
Term Expires: June 30, 2026

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Judge David Ranieri

Does not desire reappointment
Term Expired: June 30, 2025

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

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

Clerk of Council's Agenda #9(H): No Action Taken

H. 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

Clerk of Council's Agenda #9(I): *Nomination(s): Councilor Tucker renominated Rick Stallings to serve another term and Clerk of Council McLemore announced that Councilor Crabb is nominating Ralph King to succeed Gloria Thomas on the Planning Advisory Commission.*

I. PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION (PAC):

Rick Stallings
Eligible
Term Expires: August 31, 2026

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Gloria Thomas
Not Eligible
Term Expires: August 31, 2026
***Councilor Crabb is nominating Ralph King.**

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year	Term Limit: 2
Meetings:	Twice a month – 1 st & 3 rd Wednesday	
Women:	3	Senatorial District 15: 6
Vacancies:	0	Senatorial District 29: 3

Clerk of Council's Agenda #9(J): *No Action Taken*

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

Dr. Janet C. Bussey

Does not desire reappointment

Term Expires: June 30, 2026

Open for Nominations
(*Council's Appointment*)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year	Term Limit:	2
Meetings:	Bimonthly – 2nd Wednesday (Odd months)		
Women:	4	Senatorial District 15:	3
Vacancies:	0	Senatorial District 29:	1

Clerk of Council's Agenda #9(K): No Action Taken

K. TREE BOARD:

Vacant

(At-Large)

Term expires: December 31, 2026

Open for Nominations
(*Council's Appointment*)

Vacant

(At-Large)

Term expires: December 31, 2028

Open for Nominations
(*Council's Appointment*)

Vacant

(At-Large)

Term expires: December 31, 2028

Open for Nominations
(*Council's Appointment*)

Vacant

(Residential Development)

Term expires: December 31, 2026

Open for Nominations
(*Council's Appointment*)

Vacant

(Commercial or Industrial Development)

Term expires: December 31, 2026

Open for Nominations
(*Council's Appointment*)

Vacant
(Public Utility Representative)
Term expires: July 1, 2028

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year	Term Limit: 2
Meetings:	Meets as needed.	
Women:	4	Senatorial District 15: 4
Vacancies:	6	Senatorial District 29: 1

PUBLIC AGENDA (continued)

19. Dr. Natalie Nicole, representing Role Model Academy of Arts, Re: City Budget & Community Impact. ***No Action Taken***

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Skip Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Crabb to adjourn the July 28, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Councilor Barnes and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting and the time being 9:26 p.m.