COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers	July 28, 2026
C. E. “Red” McDaniel City Services Center- Second Floor	9:00 AM
3111 Citizens Way, Columbus, GA 31906	Regular Meeting

M A Y O R ’ S A G E N D A

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.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) CM#6(A): CCG Compensation & Classification Study: Implementation Review

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) PA#5: Speech & Information Regarding AI Data Center Impacts: Medical, Environmental, & Financial; (2) PA#8: Revised City Council Presentation Script; (3) PA#15: Memorandum of Agreement 287(g) Task Forse Model (4) PA#17: Stop Hyperscale Data Centers in Muscogee County

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

1. Approval of minutes for the July 14, 2026, Council Meeting and Executive Session. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Cook and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Davis, Huff and Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS:

2. **Proclamation:** National Healthcare Week

Receiving: Asante’ Hilts, CEO of Valley Healthcare System, and Virginia Dickerson, Vice Board Chair

Councilor Simi Barnes read the proclamation into the record proclaiming August 2–8, 2026, as *National Healthcare Week*, recognizing the contributions of Valley Healthcare System, Inc. for providing comprehensive medical, dental, and behavioral health services to underserved communities and for its commitment to improving access to quality healthcare throughout the region.

3. **Proclamation:** Columbus Lions Day

Receiving: Columbus Lions Team

Councilor R. Walker Garrett read the proclamation into the record proclaiming Tuesday, July 28, 2026, as *Columbus Lions Day,* recognizing the Columbus Lions' 20 years of professional indoor football, championship achievements, community engagement, and positive impact on the City of Columbus through athletics, leadership, and service.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance (26-036) - 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) Councilor Crabb made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Huff and Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

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)

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

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)

(NOTE: The floor was declared open for public comment. No public comment and no questions from the members of Council.)

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)

(NOTE: The floor was declared open for public comment. No public comment and no questions from the members of Council.)

ADD-ON RESOLUTION

Resolution (191-26): - 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. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by

Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Huff and Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Columbus Airport Commission & Development Authority Funding Support

Resolution (192-26): - A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, to authorize the City Manager to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Columbus Airport Commission and the Development Authority for $260,000 out of the Economic Development Fund. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Huff and Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

(NOTE: This item was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item #1)

2. Columbus Airport Commission Funding Support

Resolution (193-26): - A resolution of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, to authorize the City Manager to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Columbus Airport Commission for $300,000 out of the general fund and $900,000 out of TSPLOST Discretionary Fund. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Davis and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilors Huff and Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

(NOTE: This item was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item #2)

Amber Clark, Executive Director of the Columbus Airport, expressed appreciation for Council's support and stated that the funding would support economic development initiatives, key personnel additions, and infrastructure improvements at the airport.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Ms. Kim Decker, Re: PAWS.
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.
5. Ms. Mary Reynolds, Re: Proposed Data Center.
6. Mr. John Fitzpatrick, Re: A Motion, Second, and a Vote.
7. Mr. Paul Olson, Re: (1) Bus Route #6 Columbus State/Milgen Road, (2) Midland Commons, (3) Dial-A-Bus, and (4) Taxaition .82 Mills in USD#2.
8. Mr. Val McGowan, Re: Beer, Wine, Lottery, and Slot Machines.

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.

11. Ms. Pat Weekley, Re: Appreciation.

12. Mr. Ric Rivera, Re: Sheriff's Department.

Muscogee County Sheriff Greg Countryman addressed concerns raised during the public agenda regarding the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office's participation in the 287(g) Program. He clarified that the Sheriff's Office entered the jail-based program to enhance intelligence sharing and collaboration with federal law enforcement agencies in addressing organized criminal activity.

In response to questions from Councilor Barnes, Sheriff Countryman explained that the 287(g) Program provides access to additional intelligence and federal resources to assist with criminal investigations involving organized crime, drug trafficking, and other serious offenses.

13. Mr. Gregory Foster, Re: Muscogee County Residents – Civic Lesson.

14. Ms. Carolyn Weinbaum, Re: Noise Pollution in Columbus.

15. Ms. Monica Whatley, Re: Federal Government Deportation – Not Muscogee County's Role.

16. Mr. Corie Wilson, Re: Economical Plans.

17. Mrs. Christine DiFeliciantonio, Re: Community Response to Data Centers.

18. Ms. Andrea Atkins, Re: Civility and Transparency in Local Governance.

19. Dr. Natalie Nicole, representing Role Model Academy of Arts, Re: City Budget & Community Impact.

City Manager Tyson Begly stated that an update on the City's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) initiatives would be presented to Council at the August 11, 2026, meeting.

20. Mrs. Kim Hicks, Re: Data Centers.

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 (continued)

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

Resolution (194-26): - A resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease agreement with First African Baptist Church to lease a parking lot at 921 5th Avenue, Columbus, Georgia 31901. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Chambers and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

4. FY27 Public Defender Contract

Resolution (195-26): - A resolution authorizing to enter into an agreement for indigent defense services between 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 payment to the Georgia Public Defender Council (GPDC) in the amount of $1,939,237 paid in monthly installments of $161,603.04 of which is included in the total amount. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

5. PURCHASES

A. Arts & Craft, Hobby and Recreational Supplies (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 26-0024

Resolution (196-26): - A resolution authorizing the purchase of Arts & Craft, Hobby and Recreational Supplies (Annual Contract) from Blick Art Materials (Galesburg, IL), BSN Sports (Niskayuna, NY), Kaplan Early Learning Co. (Lewisville, NC), Lakeshore Learning Materials (Carson, CA), Malone Office Environments (Columbus, GA), and S&S Worldwide (Colchester, CT), at a discount percentage ranging from 5% - 50%, on an "as needed" basis. Based on past spending, the Department of Parks and Recreation estimates annual spending to be $20,000.00. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

B. Customized Fleet Supply Chain and Parts Inventory Management AKA Integrated Business Solutions (Annual Contract) – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (197-26): - A resolution authorizing the annual contract for Customized Fleet Supply Chain & Parts Inventory Management aka Integrated Business Solutions from Genuine Parts Company, Inc., d/b/a NAPA Auto Parts (Atlanta, GA), to provide vehicle and equipment maintenance parts and supplies services, by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract No. SWC 99999-SPD-G20281203. Based on usage history, the estimated annual contract value for this contract is $2,408,470.61. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

C. Loss Control Services (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 26-0011

Resolution (198-26): - A resolution authorizing the execution of an annual contract with T Hudson Risk Advisors LLC (Peachtree Corners, GA) for grant writing services for the Columbus Consolidated Government on an "as needed" basis. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

D. Stone Supplies (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 26-0037

Resolution (199-26): - A resolution authorizing the purchase of stone supplies from Columbus Quarry, LLC (Columbus, GA), on an "as needed" basis, for the estimated annual contract value of $163,273.00. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

E. Agricultural Chemicals (Annual Contract) – BuyBoard Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (200-26): - A resolution authorizing the purchase of agricultural chemicals from SiteOne Landscape Supply (Cleveland, OH), by cooperative purchasing via BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative Contract No. 805-26 and No. 806-26. Parks and Recreation budgets approximately $55,000.00 and Public Works budgets approximately $33,000.00 annually for the purchase of agricultural chemicals. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

F. Integrated Transit System (Annual Contract) – Only Known Source

Resolution (201-26): - A resolution authorizing the annual contract with Syncromatics Corporation dba GMV Syncromatics (Los Angeles, CA) for an integrated transit system in the estimated annual amount of $128,893.00 for METRA Transit System. This cost may increase based on the need for hardware/software upgrades and replacements. The contract term will be for a period of three (3) years, beginning July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

G. Ten (10) Ford FPIU Explorers for Columbus Police Department– Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (202-26): - A resolution authorizing the purchase of ten (10) 2027 Ford FPIU Explorers for the Columbus Police Department from Allan Vigil Ford (Morrow, Georgia) at a unit price of $47,980.00 and a total cost of $479,800.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-001-SPD0000218-0002. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

H. One (1) Ford Explorer 4DR 4X4 (K8D) for Information Technology Department – Georgia Statewide Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (203-26): - A resolution authorizing the purchase of One (1) 2027 Ford Explorer 4dr 4x4 Active for the Information Technology department from Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) in the amount of $40,465.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia State Contract #99999-SPD-SPD0000281-0001. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

I. Contract Extension for HVAC Preventive Maintenance Services (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 19-0014

Resolution (204-26): - Authorizing the extension of the annual contract for HVAC Preventative Maintenance Services through October 31, 2026, with 1st Mechanical Services, INC., (Columbus, GA, to provide HVAC Maintenance. The City spends approximately $2,084,567.00 annually for HVAC Maintenance and repairs. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

J. Contract Amendment for Fire Station No. 4 Renovation via Construction Manager as General Contractor Services for SPLOST Fire Stations – RFQ No. 23-0002

Resolution (205-26): - A resolution authorizing the execution of a contract amendment in the amount not to exceed $4,100,000.00 with Thayer-Bray Construction, LLC for construction manager as general contractor services for the renovation of Fire Station #4. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

K. Contract Amendment for Fire Station No. 8 Renovation via Construction Manager as General Contractor Services for SPLOST Fire Stations – RFQ No. 23-0002

Resolution (206-26): - A resolution authorizing the execution of a contract amendment in the amount not to exceed $4,800,000.00 with Thayer-Bray Construction, LLC for construction manager as general contractor services for the renovation of Fire Station #8. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

6. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Compensation and Classification Study Update - Mark Holcomb, Project Manager, Evergreen Solutions

Human Resources Director Ola Terrell reported that Evergreen Solutions completed the City's Classification and Compensation Study in 2022, with the compensation plan implemented in 2023. She then introduced Mr. Mark Holcomb of Evergreen Solutions to provide an update on the plan's performance.

Mark Holcomb, Project Manager, Evergreen Solutions, reviewed the City's 2022 Classification and Compensation Study and reported that the compensation plan implemented in 2023 has improved employee progression and helped address salary compression. He noted that while the City has provided cost-of-living and step increases, market salaries have continued to outpace the City's adjustments, creating a potential market gap.

In response to concerns raised by Council, **Finance Director Angelica Alexander** stated that the Evergreen Compensation Plan resulted in the largest salary increases for employees in the lower pay grades and explained that the City is in a stronger compensation position than it was prior to the plan's implementation. She further advised that a three-year post-implementation market analysis is available under the City's agreement with Evergreen and recommended completing the analysis to assess the City's competitiveness and the cost of any future compensation adjustments.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made for staff proceed with the compensation market analysis as soon as practicable so Council could review the results and begin considering potential compensation options. *(Councilor Cook)*

- Include consideration of the local cost of living and livable wages in Columbus, in addition to comparisons with peer communities. *(Councilor Garrett)*

- Include options for a graduated salary adjustment structure that provides greater percentage increases for employees in the lower pay grades than those in higher pay grades. *(Councilor Crabb)*

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

Finance Director Angelica Alexander reported that, in accordance with Ordinance No. 13-39, Fire and EMS was requesting Council approval to reallocate approximately $404,000 in salary savings to cover operational expenses.

Fire Chief Sal Scarpa, Columbus Fire & EMS, reiterated that Fire & EMS was requesting a reallocation of salary savings to cover operational line-item overages. He explained that the increased costs were largely attributable to ongoing fleet maintenance challenges previously presented to Council.

Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the request to reallocate approximately $404,000 in salary savings within the Fire & EMS Department, seconded by Councilor Cook and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilor Huff being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made for an update on the formation of the stakeholder group to discuss parking needs and future planning for the Columbus Trade Center. *(Councilor Cogle)*

- When the uptown pickleball project comes back before Council, present a recommended funding source for the project's budget overage. *(Councilor Cogle)*

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVELDGE – SUMMER E-GAMING PROGRAM

Councilor Bruce Huff expressed concerns regarding the implementation of the City's summer e-gaming program, citing issues with the timely delivery of pizza, distribution of participant gift cards, and payroll discrepancies reported by temporary program staff. He emphasized that Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin had provided strong support throughout the planning process and stated that his concerns were not directed at her but others that were involved in the event planning meetings. Councilor Huff also recommended exploring opportunities to continue the e-gaming program during the school year and suggested keeping gaming equipment at recreation centers to improve future program operations.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Review reported payroll discrepancies involving temporary Parks and Recreation summer program employees. *(Councilor Huff)*

- Explore opportunities to continue the e-gaming program during the school year at City recreation centers. *(Councilor Huff)*

- Evaluate maintaining gaming equipment at recreation centers to support future e-gaming activities without requiring repeated setup and storage. *(Councilor Huff)*

Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin acknowledged that there had been coordination issues with the summer e-gaming program and stated that corrective measures have been implemented to prevent similar problems going forward. She explained that responsibilities have been reassigned to improve coordination, and assured Council that the Parks and Recreation Staff would continue working with Councilor Huff to support future weekend and school-year programming. She also apologized for the issues encountered during the program's implementation.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CITY MANAGER:

- Evaluate permanent network upgrades at City recreation centers to improve internet connectivity for technology-based programs. *(Councilor Tucker)*

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: July 28, 2026

TO: Mayor and Councilors

FROM: Finance Department

SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFQs

July 29, 2026

1. **Portable Toilet Rental & Service (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 26-0036**

   Scope of RFB

   The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia (the City) is seeking vendors to provide portable toilets, hand washing stations and grey water collection containers at various City location sites. The contract term will be for two (2) years, with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

2. **Consultant Services for Edgewood Road Corridor Study – P.I. #20289 – RFP No. 26-0034**

   Scope of RFP

   Requesting proposals for a Consultant Team to perform a study to develop actionable recommendations to improve traffic flow, enhance safety, and expand active transportation options along Edgewood Road. All Proposers must be prequalified by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). The work shall be performed in accordance with GDOT Plan Development Process (PDP), Plan Presentation Guide (PPG), Design Policies and Manuals, and current software version approved by the Project Manager.

3. **Consultant Services for Master Study for Trails/Sidewalks Throughout the City of Columbus - P.I. #0020290 – RFP No. 26-0005**

   Scope of RFP

   Requesting proposals for a Consultant Team to perform a study that will assess the current state of trails and sidewalks throughout the city to identify areas for improvement, ways to enhance connectivity and add additional trails/sidewalks and evaluate the safety of existing facilities. All Proposers must be prequalified by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). The work shall be performed in accordance with GDOT Plan Development Process (PDP), Plan Presentation Guide (PPG), Design Policies and Manuals, and current software version approved by the Project Manager. August 19, 2026

August 19, 2026

1. **HVAC Maintenance & Repair Services – (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 27-0003**

   Scope of RFB

   Provide HVAC Preventive Maintenance & Repair Services at various locations. The contract term shall be for three (3) years, with the option to renew for two (2) additional twelve-month periods. A Non-Mandatory Site Visit is scheduled for 10:00 AM (Eastern) on Thursday, July 30, 2026. Vendors shall convene at the Columbus Consolidated Government City Hall, ground floor located at 1111 FIRST AVENUE, COLUMBUS, GEORGIA 31901, before proceeding to the work area. August 21, 2026

August 21, 2026

1. **Environmental Consulting Services for Multipurpose Brownfield (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 270001**

   Scope of RFP

   The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia (the City) is seeking a qualified environmental consultant to provide assistance with its United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Multipurpose Brownfield Grant. The environmental consultant will assist with the implementation of environmental assessment, site cleanup, remedial planning, and other components of the grant for which funding is secured. The contract will be for three (3) years with the option to renew for two (2) additional twelve-month periods.

2. **Community Engagement Services for Multipurpose Brownfield Grant (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 27-0002.**

   Scope of RFP

   Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) is seeking a qualified vendor to provide community engagement services for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Multipurpose Brownfield Grant. The community engagement vendor will coordinate and execute a public engagement strategy for the Multipurpose Grant.

   The contract will be for three (3) years with the option to renew for two (2) additional twelve-month periods.

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

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.)* Councilor Barnes made a motion to forward the application to the Board of Honor for consideration, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore reported that staff have experienced difficulty contacting members of the Board of Honor to schedule a meeting to consider a previously submitted request. She stated that if staff are unable to schedule the meeting, she will return both requests to the Council for direct consideration and action.

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. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the travel authorization, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

3. **Resolution (207-26) -** A Resolution excusing Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen from the July 28, 2026, Council Meeting. Councilor Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the nine members present, with Mayor Pro Tem Allen being absent from the meeting.

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

Note: This item was subsequently pulled from the agenda as Councilor Tucker was present.

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

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

6. 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.

7. 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.

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

A. <u>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:</u>

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.

B. <u>PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:</u>

A nominee for the vacant seat of District 2 Representative for a term that expires on October 31, 2026, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission *(District 2 – Davis).* There were none.

A nominee for the vacant seat of District 3 Representative for a term that expires on October 31, 2028, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission *(District 3 – Huff).* There were none.

A nominee for the vacant seat of District 4 Representative for a term that expires on October 31, 2026, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission *(District 4 – Tucker).* There were none.

A nominee for the vacant seat of District 5 Representative for a term that expires on October 31, 2026, on the Public Safety Advisory Commission *(District 5 – Crabb).* There were none.

C. <u>YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL:</u>

A nominee for the District 9 Representative on the Youth Advisory Council *(District 9 – Cook).* There were none.

A nominee for the District 10 Representative on the Youth Advisory Council *(District 10 – Chambers).* There were none.

9. <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. COLUMBUS GOLF AUTHORITY:

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term that expires on June 24, 2030, on the Columbus Golf Authority. (*Council's Appointment)***.** Clerk of Council McLemore advised that Councilor Davis is nominating Stephen Hyles to fill the vacant seat on the Columbus Golf Authority.

E. KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION (KCBC):

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term that expires on June 30, 2029, on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission. (*Council's Appointment)***.** Councilor Tucker nominated Shanise Thomason to fill the vacant seat on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission.

A nominee for a vacant seat for a term that expires on June 30, 2029, on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission**.** Councilor Tucker nominated Stehpanie Quinones to fill the vacant seat on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission.

F. LIBERTY THEATRE & CULTURAL ARTS CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Fernando C. Verdree *(Eligible)* for a term that expires on August 14, 2026, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board *(Council's Appointment).* Councilor Huff renominated Fernando C. Verdree to serve another term on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board.

A nominee for the seat of George C. McDowell *(Eligible)* for a term that expires on August 14, 2026, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board *(Council's Appointment).* Councilor Huff renominated George C. McDowell to serve another term on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board.

A nominee for the seat of Zach Lee *(Eligible)* for a term that expires on August 14, 2026, on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board *(Council's Appointment).* Councilor Huff renominated Zach Lee to serve another term on the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board.

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

A nominee for the seat of 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 of 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.

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 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.

I. PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION (PAC):

A nominee for the seat of Rick Stallings *(Eligible)* for a term that expires on August 31, 2026, on the Planning Advisory Commission *(Council's Appointment).* Councilor Tucker renominated Rick Stallings to serve another term on the Planning Advisory Commission.

A nominee for the seat of Gloria Thomas *(Not Eligible)* for a term that expires on August 31, 2026, on the Planning Advisory Commission *(Council's Appointment).* Clerk of Council McLemore announced that Councilor Crabb is nominating Ralph King to succeed Gloria Thomas on the Planning Advisory Commission.

J. 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.

K. TREE BOARD:

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.

PUBLIC AGENDA (continued)

19. Dr. Natalie Nicole, representing Role Model Academy of Arts, Re: City Budget & Community Impact.

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.

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

(Page intentionally left blank)