

COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers
Second Floor of City Services Center
311 Citizens Way, Columbus, GA 31906

January 29, 2019
9:00 am
Consent Agenda / Work Session

CONSENT AGENDA/WORK SESSION

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III and Councilors R. Gary Allen (arrived at 9:03 am), Jerry “Pops” Barnes, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, John M. House, Bruce Huff, Judy W. Thomas and Evelyn “Mimi” Woodson (arrived at 9:27 am). City Manager Isaiah Hugley, Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis and Deputy Clerk of Council Lindsey Glisson.

ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Turner Pugh.

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) Government Center Update; (2) Letter from Hecht Burdeshaw on the Fee Proposal for New Justice Center and City Administration Facilities Schematic Budget Package; (3) Columbus Parks and Recreation Outdoor Aquatic Update; (4) Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Update; (5) Text and Images for the Interpretive Markers along the Martin Luther King Jr. Outdoor Learning Trail; (5) A. J. McClung Memorial Stadium; (6) Muscogee County Jail Shower Repairs and (7) Mott’s Green Update.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III, Presiding.
2. **INVOCATION:** Pastor Adrian J. Chester- Greater Beallwood Baptist Church.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by students from Georgetown Elementary School.
4. **MINUTES:** Approval of minutes for the January 22, 2019 Council Meeting and January 8, 2019 Executive Session. Councilor Barnes made a motion for approval, seconded by Councilor Allen and carried unanimously by those seven members present with Councilors Huff and Woodson being absent for the vote and Mayor Pro Tem Turner Pugh being absent from the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

City Manager Hugley advised of updates that would be listed at a later date and are provided as follows: Code Enforcement and Entertainment District.

He also called attention to Severe Weather Preparedness Week as February 4 – 8, 2019.

WORK SESSION AGENDA

- I. Government Center Update - Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge came forward to offer a power point presentation that consisted of four options:

~ Option I- Existing Site: Complete demolition of Wings and Garage and New Judicial Center.

~ Option II- Complete Demolition of Tower, Wings and Garage and New Judicial Center.

~ Option III- Existing Site: Complete demolition of Wings and Garage and New Judicial Center with broader footprint and fewer stories.

~ Option IV- Existing Site: All existing functions of the current Government Center will move to new buildings on a new site to be determined by the City (Assessment of potential sites not included in base fee) and New Judicial Center.

Discussion points from the members of Council included, but not limited to, requests for staff to hold public meetings to get some input from the citizens. Also, have conversations with Public Safety, District Attorney and Judicial Offices to gather a sense of what they would need.

REFERRALS:

Provide the dollar amount for each of the phases. *(Request of Councilor Allen)*

Look into having a financial advisor from GMA or ACCG that could advise what is needed to do a SPLOST or determine what it is going to take for a bond issuance, etc. *(Request of Councilor Thomas)*

Create a Task Force that would include local developers that would volunteer their services and allow them to look at all of this to evaluate the options that are available to the city. *(Request of Councilor Davis)*

City Manager Hugley concluded that three public meetings would be held on these four options, and on the fourth Tuesday we would come back to the Council for some direction.

II. Parks and Recreation Pools Update - Holli Browder, Parks and Recreation Director

Director of Parks and Recreation Holli Browder approached the rostrum to provide an update on the challenges facing Psalmound Road and Shirley Winston pools using a power point presentation. As a part of the presentation, suggestions presented by Director Browder were for Splash Pads and the continuation of free Summer Fun Passes. She briefly explained partnering with METRA for free transportation and the Civic Center for free ice skating. She would also like to partner with the Columbus Public Library System as an educational component.

REFERRALS:

Consider having picnic chairs and tables for the families and have a grassy area for people to go and have some seating. *(Request of Councilor Woodson)*

As part of the free Summer Fun Pass, consider the RiverCenter and the Springer Opera House. *(Request of City Manager Hugley)*; Also, look into the White Water area *(Request of Councilor Allen)*; Also, look into discounts for the parents or adults. *(Request of Councilor Woodson)*; Include National Infantry Museum, Historic Westville and Oxbow Meadows Golf Course. *(Request of Councilor Woodson)*

III. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Update - Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge offered a power point presentation that displayed images of the road improvement project for Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and identifiable markers along the Martin Luther King, Jr. Outdoor Learning Trail.

In conclusion of the presentation, **Mr. Ronzell Buckner**, approached the rostrum to thank the Council. He maintained the City of Columbus recognizes the sacrifices of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He mentioned the prospects of a mural and one project that is on the forefront with the Muscogee County School District for an organic garden. **Ms. Betsy Covington, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley**, offered some final remarks on the project.

IV. Memorial Stadium Update - Ryan Pruett, Project Engineer

Mr. Ryan Pruett- Project Engineer approached the rostrum to give an overview of a power point presentation that provides some history on the A. J. McClung Memorial Stadium, and the findings of discovery with there being voids underneath the concrete bleachers and two stairwells. He concluded by offering some recommendations to remedy the matter with an estimated cost of \$500,000; this funding is recommended to come from OLOST Infrastructure Reserves.

V. Muscogee County Jail Update - Ryan Pruett, Project Engineer

Mr. Ryan Pruett- Project Engineer also provided a power point presentation on the Muscogee County Jail shower repairs. He briefly described the current condition and outlined the proposed repairs. He estimated the cost of shower repairs and the stockade improvement to be \$600,000; the recommended funding source is to come from OLOST Public Safety Reserves. **Sheriff Donna Tompkins**, provided some history on the old original stockade and the current status.

VI. Mott's Green Update - Rick Jones, Planning Director

Mr. Rick Jones- Planning Director provided a power point presentation on the Mott's Green Update. He spoke of the history and provided some aerial images of the existing area of the Riverwalk and a proposed re-design of that area. The cost of \$163,271 is for additional design / engineering environmental services; the project is still within the range of the \$1 million budget.

VII. Public Agenda Update - B.H. "Skip" Henderson, Mayor

Mayor Henderson presented amendments to the current Public Agenda process that would begin the first regular meeting in February, which is February 12, 2019, and are provided below:

~ Public Agenda comments five (5) minutes time limit with a four (4) minutes warning to conclude comments.

~ Allow an additional three (3) minutes at the end of the meeting to complete any final remarks.

~ Work with the Clerk's Office on the intake of requests to appear on the Public Agenda to allow for the opportunity to reconcile their issue before having to appear before the Council. Also, to determine if it is a matter that the Council has purview over.

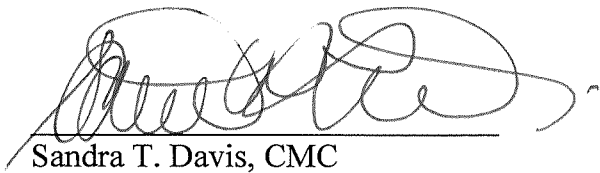
~ For individuals that are inviting Council to events or want to promote an event, they would be scheduled at the very end of the meeting for three (3) minutes. *(Mr. Mike King- CCG-TV could edit the event portion out and run it several times during the week to gain some publicity for that event.)*

~ Anyone that wants to bring forth an issue before Council, they have the right to do so, but they could only speak on that same topic once every sixty (60) days.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Councilor Barnes announced that on February 9, 2019, there would be a banquet to recognize some of the local NFL Players that are taking a group of high school students to the Super Bowl: Mr. Otis Sistrunk, Mr. Frank Brown and Coach Oliver Davis, as well as, other players at 7:00 p.m. at Mother Mary Mission School.

Motion by Councilor Allen to adjourn the January 29, 2019 Consent Agenda / Work Session, seconded by Councilor Woodson and carried unanimously by those nine members present with Mayor Pro Tem Turner Pugh being absent from the meeting with the time being 12:14 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra T. Davis', written over a horizontal line.

Sandra T. Davis, CMC
Clerk of Council
Council of Columbus, Georgia