

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF COLUMBIANA, ALABAMA
December 15, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Columbiana, Alabama met in a Regular Session in the Council Chambers of Columbiana City Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15, 2020. Mayor David Mitchell called the meeting to order and asked City Clerk, Charlene Tucker, to call roll after the invocation and pledge.

Present:

Council Member Karen Lilly
Council Member Vickie Mizzell
Council Member Ricky Ruston

Council Member Kim King
Council Member Ashley Phillips
Mayor David Mitchell

Absent:

None

The Mayor declared that a quorum was present.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes 11-30-20 Council Work Session
- B. Approval of Minutes 12-1-20 Regular Council Meeting

Council Member Phillips made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, which was seconded by Council Member King and followed by a unanimous show of hands vote of all members present. The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Department Head Reports

Police – Jeff Bowers reported the following:

- We currently have one officer injured from an on duty incident. (Should be no time loss from this injury).
- We are currently on course with our 2021 budget.
- We are currently one to one ½ officers down. (Action plan is to hire at least one new officer ASAP to fill in the open gaps).
- Our fleet is stable but in need of upgrading. (Action plan is that we have ordered two new vehicles that should arrive in February at the latest. We also plan on taking older vehicles off the road and selling them. All other vehicles will be left in service).
- All equipment is in good shape. There are no issues at this time.
- All 2020 training complete and sent to APOST.
- All Candy Cane Buddies have been picked up. We are starting to see gifts being returned. This outreach has been a huge success. I am extremely proud of our Department, community and sponsors for making this such a success.

- Typically this time of year, our theft rate increases due to the Holidays and increases package deliveries. We will be talking to the citizens and posting reminders on Facebook to schedule deliveries for a time that they are going to be home, being sure to lock all doors to vehicles and break down all big ticket item boxes and place in the trash.

Admin – Charlene Tucker reported the following:

- No reports of safety issues. Continue to clean/sanitize due to COVID-19.
- November 2020 budget – 6.85% over budget in revenues and 25.85% under budget in expenses.
- November’s Monthly Budget report is posted on the web-site.
- Fully staffed with 3 full time positions and 1 part time position.
- All training is up to date.
- City Hall needs to be updated. No repairs are needed at this time.

Public Works – Allen Reynolds reported the following:

- No injuries during this fiscal year.
- At this time our current budget is on track.
- We are currently down two employees in sanitation and three employees in street. One problem with getting and keeping employees is our pay. We need to look at our pay scale to stay competitive with other cities.
- We are in need of two ¾ ton pick-up trucks long wheelbase for the sanitation department.
- Some of our equipment is in need of replacement and some are in need of repairs.
- We have monthly training meetings.
- We are in desperate need of a shop and office building to work on equipment.
- Shelby County Health Department is performing our yearly inspections on all the sanitation vehicles.
- Shelby County has already inspected the park and playground areas and their recommendation is to replace all the bark in the playground area.

Court – Mike Atchison reported the following:

- There has been no lost time due to injuries or other safety issues. Court staff needs Police Officers at every court to insure that everything runs smooth and everyone is safe.
- Court just finished up for the month. Court ran smoothly with the new Prosecutor and defense council. Court collection for the month of November was \$21,866.81. Out of that money, Court has had to cut checks to the State and County departments. Court is starting the fiscal year off to a good start.
- For staffing, we need to determine who works for who and how many hours is worked for City business.
- Budget has improved.
- We have received the new laptop and credit card kiosk for the lobby. We have all of our Covid-19 safety materials and supplies in. We will be cleaning the court room before and after each court.
- Court will be able to have virtual hearings with inmates at the jail after the first of the year.
- Courts goal is to have the kiosk up and running before the next court in January.

Appointment of City Auditor

The City Auditor is appointed by the Mayor. Mayor Mitchell appointed DeLoach, Barber & Caspers, P.C. as the City Auditor.

Mayor Mitchell Introduced:

**RESOLUTION 12-20-01
RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE CITY AUDITOR**

WHEREAS, the mayor of the City of Columbiana has appointed the firm of DeLoach, Barber, & Caspers, P.C. as the city auditor; and

WHEREAS, the provision of funds for payment of the auditor is approved by the city council;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Columbiana accepts the recommendation of the Mayor and confirms the firm of DeLoach, Barber & Caspers, P.C., as the city auditor and hereby authorizes funds to be provided for their services.

THEREUPON Council Member Ruston moved and Council Member King seconded the motion that said resolution be given vote, and said resolution passed by vote of all members of the Council present, and the Mayor declared the same passed.

	Yea	Nay		Yea	Nay
Council Member Lilly	<u> X </u>	___	Council Member King	<u> X </u>	___
Council Member Mizzell	<u> X </u>	___	Council Member Phillips	<u> X </u>	___
Council Member Ruston	<u> X </u>	___	Mayor Mitchell	<u> X </u>	___

Appointment of Police Chief

The Police Chief is appointed by the Mayor. Mayor Mitchell appointed Jeff Bowers as the Police Chief.

Beautification Board Appointment

Jim Strickland resigned from the Beautification Board. Kim King recommended that Lisa Strickland Davis fill this vacancy for the remainder of the term to expire October 1, 2021.

Board Reports

Kim King reported that the Beautification Board will not meet again until March. They have several projects in the works including replacing the plants at the Main Street corner, replacing Christmas lights and purchasing more flags for poles.

Planning and Zoning did not meet in December.

Shelia Gallups did not have anything to report from the Library Board.

Discussion – Insane McCain Fireworks

Mike McCain with Insane McCain Fireworks came before council to ask permission for his firework stand to be on Highway 70 until January 10, 2021. The fireworks stand is located at this property twice a year, in June/July and December/January. Council Member Ruston made the motion to approve this request, which was seconded by Council Member King and followed by a unanimous show of hands vote of all members present.

Discussion – Other City Business

Council Member Lilly asked Allen Reynolds about employee wages. Allen responded that we need to look at our pay scale and update it. We train employees here and then lose them to other cities or businesses who pay more.

Mayor's Report

- Working with 58 Inc., and Shelby County Mayors' Association to conduct Economic Development Forums in January, February and March
 - Tentatively hosting first event at Old Mill Square in January

Announcements

- Dec 18
 - *Columbiana Merchants Ladies Night*
 - 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM Shopping and Games – Starts at the Shops of Columbiana
- The Police Department is sponsoring their first annual Candy Cane Buddies program to help parents that need assistance with Christmas.
- City Offices closed Dec 24, 25 & Jan 1
 - No garbage pick-up those days
- Columbiana Public Library will be closed on December 26
- January 7 – 9 Alabama Bass Trail
- January 9 – Forging Families Fun Run at Old Mill Square Park
- February 26th and 27th Cattleman's Rodeo
- February 27th Cowboy Day
- The Senior Center is delivering 50 meals each week day to the homebound in Columbiana. They have stopped Coffee on the Patio and Picnics on Friday for now because Shelby County is red on the COVID map. There will be a drive through Cocoa and Cookies on Monday, December 21 from 10:00 – 11:30 am.
- The fire department is currently taking applications for volunteer firefighter positions. Two firefighters have been recruited so far.

Public Comments

Dee Harich, who lives at Shoals Mill Village, voiced concerns over ending the trolley service. She stated that there are federal transportation grants for services like this. The Mayor responded that we are currently using the Senior Center van to run the route. The old trolleys are not feasible for repairs.

Sandre Tyler also voiced concerns over ending the trolley service. She suggested increasing the fare and/or cutting down on the days that it runs to save money. She also suggested that it run nights and weekends for citizens that need that service. Council Member King asked council if it had been brought up to end the service. This has not been discussed by council. The Mayor suggested that we work on the schedule after the first of the year with the citizens who ride and use the service.

Robert Erwin suggested that we get with churches and use their vans during the day. He also agreed that the pay for city employees needs to be increased.

There being no further business, Council Member King moved that the meeting be adjourned which was seconded by Council Member Phillips. The motion passed by vote of all members of the Council present. Mayor Handley declared the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.



Charlene Tucker, City Clerk



David Mitchell, Mayor

