

CITY OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI

AN ORDINANCE CREATING AND PROVIDING FOR THE COLUMBUS-LOWNDES CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU:

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus were authorized by House Bill No. 1359 to collect a tourism tax in order to promote tourism; and

WHEREAS, publication has been made in the manner and for the time required by law, and no protest requiring a vote was made; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council through this Ordinance shall establish a Convention and Visitors Bureau in concurrence with Lowndes County, Mississippi:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT there is hereby established a Convention and Visitors Bureau in the City of Columbus and Lowndes County, and the following terms and provisions shall govern:

1. The Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau shall consist of nine (9) members who shall be appointed, qualified, and take office within thirty (30) days after passage of the resolution adopting this Ordinance. The appointments to the Bureau shall be as follows:

(1) The Columbus City Council shall appoint four (4) members of the Bureau upon the following terms:

A. One (1) restaurant member for an initial term of one (1) year. This member and the successors shall be appointed by the City Council after being selected from the names submitted by any owner or employee of a restaurant subject to the two (2%) percent tax.

B. One (1) member from the Columbus Historic Foundation, Inc., for an initial term of two (2) years. This member and the successor shall be appointed by the City Council after being selected from names submitted by the Columbus Historic Foundation, Inc.

C. Two (2) at-large members appointed by the City Council for an initial term of three (3) years.

(2) The Board of Supervisors for Lowndes County shall make four (4) appointments upon the following terms:

A. One hotel/motel member appointed by the Board for an initial term of one (1) year. This member and the successor shall be appointed by the Board after being selected from names submitted by any owner or employee of a hotel or motel located in Lowndes County.

B. One (1) member of the Chamber of Commerce appointed by the Board for an initial term of two (2) years. This member and the successors shall be appointed by the Board after being selected from names submitted by the Columbus-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

C. Two (2) at-large members appointed by the Board for an initial term of three (3) years.

(3) The Executive Director of the Columbus-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce shall serve as the ninth member of the Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau.

(4) All succeeding appointments shall be made for a term of three (3) years from the date of expiration of the initial appointment. Any vacancy which may occur shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment and shall be made for the unexpired term. Each member of the Bureau shall serve until the successor is appointed.

(5) Any member may be disqualified and removed from office for any one of the following reasons: (a) conviction of a felony; or (b) failure to attend three consecutive meetings without just cause. In addition, the Columbus City Council and the Lowndes County Board of Supervisors may remove, with or without cause, their appointee at any time. If a member of the Bureau is

removed for one of the above reasons, the vacancy shall be filled in the manner prescribed in this Section.

(6) The Columbus City Council and the Lowndes County Board of Supervisors reserve the right to reject any nominee or nominees and request additional nominee or nominees.

2. A quorum shall consist of five (5) members of the Bureau and a majority of those members attending shall elect a president and secretary, both of whom shall be members of the Bureau, and adopt such rules and regulations as may govern the time and place for holding subsequent meetings, regular and special, and other rules and regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this act.

3. The Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau shall submit annually for approval, disapproval or modification, a proposed budget, and the budget shall require the joint approval of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbus and the Board of Supervisors.

It is further required that any selection or termination (hiring and firing) of all employees of the Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau shall be made by both the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Columbus and the Board of Supervisors. The salary or wage of any and all such employees shall expressly require the concurrence of both the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Columbus and the Board of Supervisors.

4. The Bureau shall have responsibility for matters relating to the establishment, promotion and development of tourism and conventions and related matters within the City of Columbus, Mississippi, and Lowndes County.

Subject to Item 3, the Bureau is authorized to contract for the furnishing, equipping and operation of any and all facilities necessary or useful in the promotion of tourism and conventions.

5. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force as provided by law.

6. This Ordinance shall be published as required by law.

The above Ordinance, having been first reduced to writing, was introduced by Councilman Hooper, who moved its adoption. It was seconded by Councilman Boone.

The foregoing Ordinance was read, considered, and voted upon by sections and as a whole; the vote on each and all of the sections, and upon the Ordinance as an entirety, was taken by "Yea" and "Nay" vote with the following results:

Councilman Joe Edwards	voted	<u>Yea</u>
Councilman Edna Jones Boone	voted	<u>Yea</u>
Councilman Jimmy Fannon	voted	<u>Yea</u>
Councilman Curtis H. Austin	voted	<u>Yea</u>
Councilman Virginia H. Hooper	voted	<u>Yea</u>
Councilman O. E. Wood	voted	<u>Yea</u>

The motion having received the affirmative vote of all councilmen present, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Ordinance adopted.

ADOPTED, APPROVED and passed, this the 9th day of December, 1986.

James M. Trotter
JAMES M. TROTTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

W. L. Lacey
SECRETARY-TREASURER