



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at City Hall (Council Chambers), 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. and the following members were present: The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., The Honorable Will Brennan, Mayor Pro-Tem, The Honorable Aditi Bussells, The Honorable Peter M. Brown, and The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey. The Honorable Tina N. Herbert participated remotely. Also present were Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore Hammond, City Clerk. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr. offered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda subject by adding Homeless Services to **Item 20** (discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)) and discussion of the employment of an employee pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(1) – City Manager and City Attorney evaluations. Ms. Herbert was not present for this vote.

PUBLIC INPUT

No one appeared at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Council is asked to approve the December 3, 2024 Work Session Minutes and Regular Meeting Minutes. – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to approve the December 3, 2024 Work Session Minutes and Regular Meeting Minutes.



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CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 2 THROUGH 6

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to approve **Consent Agenda Items 2** through **6**.

2. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Omnimax LED Bulbs, as requested by the Public Works Department on October 21, 2024. Award to WESCO Distribution, Inc., in the amount of \$151,048.80. This vendor is located in Pittsburgh, PA. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG) - General Capital Projects - Public Works LED Retrofit Street Lights - Electrical and Lighting Supply (4039999-CP007902-623600). The original budget amount is \$151,048.80.

3. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Vehicles and Heavy Equipment for several City Departments, as requested by the Fleet Services Division. Award to multiple vendors using SC State Contracts and Cooperative Contracts in the amount of \$3,074,012.07. – *Approved*

Item	Vendor	Vehicles/Heavy Equipment	Procurement Method	Amount
a.	Smith Turf and Irrigation, Co. Lexington, SC	One (1) Toro Dingo Track Loader TX1000 for the Parks and Recreation Department, as requested on October 25, 2024.	SC State Contract #4400031293	\$53,344.90
<i>Funding Source: Capital Replacement - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (6308972 - 658500). The original budget amount is \$53,344.90.</i>				
b.	Dobbs Equipment Southeast, LLC Albany, GA	Two (2) John Deere 344P Wheel Loaders with JRB 416 coupler for the Solid Waste Division, as requested on October 30, 2024.	SC State Contract #4400034322	\$381,019.02
<i>Funding Source: Capital Replacement – Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (6308972- 658500). The original budget amount is \$381,019.02.</i>				
c.	Vermeer Mid-Atlantic,	One (1) Vermeer Stump Grinder	Sourcewell	\$126,585.33



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	Inc. Charlotte, NC	for the Forestry & Beautification Division, as requested on October 16, 2024.	Contract #031721-VRM	
<i>Funding Source: Capital Replacement – Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$126,585.33.</i>				
d.	Alan Jay Automotive Management dba Alan Jay Fleet Sales Sebring, FL	Two (2) 2024 Ford F-150 Trucks for the Support Services Division, as requested on October 9, 2024.	SC State Contract #4400029875	\$75,281.80

Funding Source: Capital Replacement – Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$75,281.80.

e.	Alan Jay Automotive Management dba Alan Jay Fleet Sales Sebring, FL	Four (4) 2025 Nissan Frontier Trucks for the Columbia Fire Department, as requested on October 15, 2024.	SC State Contract #4400035155	\$166,410.48
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Funding Source: Capital Replacement – Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$166,410.48.

f.	Alan Jay Automotive Management dba Alan Jay Fleet Sales Sebring, FL	One (1) 2024 Chevrolet 2500HD Truck for the Forestry & Beautification Division, as requested on October 25, 2024.	SC State Contract #4400035155	\$54,420.22
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Funding Source: Capital Replacement – Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$54,420.22.

g.	Parks Chevrolet SPG, LLC Spartanburg, SC	One (1) 2025 Chevrolet 2500HD Truck for the Columbia Fire Department, as requested on October 15, 2024.	SC State Contract #4400035156	\$51,439.65
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Funding Source: Capital Replacement – Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$51,439.65.



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h.	Parks Chevrolet SPG, LLC Spartanburg, SC	One (1) 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 3500HD Truck for the Traffic Engineering Division, as requested on October 11, 2024.	SC State Contract #4400035156	\$52,886.00
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Funding Source: Capital Replacement – Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$52,886.00.

i.	Parks Chevrolet SPG, LLC Spartanburg, SC	One (1) 2025 Chevrolet 1500 Trailboss Truck for the Columbia Fire Department, as requested on November 5, 2024.	SC State Contract #4400035156	\$51,638.04
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Funding Source: Capital Replacement – Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$51,638.04.

j.	Carolina International Trucks, Inc. Columbia, SC	Six (6) 2025 International Trash Trucks for the Solid Waste Division, as requested on October 15, 2024.	SC State Contract #4400035138	\$912,564.63
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Funding Source: Capital Replacement – Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$912,564.63.

k.	Blanchard Machinery Company West Columbia, SC	One (1) 914 14A Wheel Loader for the Solid Waste Division, as requested on October 28, 2024.	SC State Contract #4400031291	\$198,724.00
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Funding Source: Capital Replacement – Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$198,724.00.

l.	Blanchard Machinery Company West Columbia, SC	One (1) Caterpillar 926 14A Wheel Loader for the Solid Waste Division, as requested on November 11, 2024.	SC State Contact #4400035189	\$232,765.00
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Funding Source: Capital Replacement – Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$232,765.00.



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m.	Carolina Environmental System, Inc. Kernersville, NC	One (1) 2026 Freightliner Rear Loader for the Solid Waste Division, as requested on October 17, 2024.	NC Sheriffs' Association Contract #24-08-0421R	\$181,800.00
<i>Funding Source: Capital Replacement – Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$181,800.00.</i>				
n.	Amick Equipment Company, Inc. Lexington, SC	Two (2) 2025 Freightliner Trucks for the Solid Waste Division, as requested on October 28, 2024.	NC Sheriffs' Association Contract #24-08-0421R	\$535,133.00
<i>Funding Source: Capital Replacement – Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$535,133.00.</i>				
Total				\$3,074,012.07

4. Council is asked to approve Contract Amendment #4 for Project SS7560; Lower Crane Creek Equalization Storage, as requested by Columbia Water on November 21, 2024. Award to Hazen and Sawyer, in an amount not to exceed \$656,511.00. The current term of the contract ends on January 31, 2025 and this amendment extends the contract to December 31, 2026. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Water and Sewer Capital Projects - Unforeseen and Miscellaneous Projects - Capital Project Costs (5529999-658650). The current budget amount is \$2,905,698.00. The budget amount for this amendment is \$656,511.00. The total revised budget amount is \$3,562,209.00.

This is a Clean Water 2020 Program Project and Mentor Protégé Program Project. Hazen and Sawyer of Columbia, SC is the mentor and will provide project guidance services at 56.33% (\$369,800.00) of the amendment amount.

Palmetto Consulting Engineering Group, Inc., a Minority Business Enterprise (W) of Chapin, SC, is the protégé and will provide project coordination and review during construction services at 19.17% (\$125,885.00) of the amendment amount.



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The following subcontractors will provide additional services:

Howard Engineering, Inc. a Minority Business Enterprise (W) of Columbia, SC, will provide electrical services at 1.23% (\$8,056.00) of the amendment amount.

Terracon, of Columbia, SC, will provide geotechnical investigation services at 0.52% (\$3,400.00) of the amendment amount.

Michael Baker International, of Columbia, SC, will provide resident construction representative services at 22.75% (\$149,370.00) of the amendment amount.

Mr. Clint Shealy, P.E., Assistant City Manager/Columbia Water explained that the project involves the construction of a large equalization tank at the Eau Claire Wastewater Treatment Plant. It is designed to support increased flow from the northeast, particularly due to the ongoing development with Scout Motors. Additionally, flooding issues caused delays, affecting both the project timeline and the construction schedule.

5. Ordinance No.: 2024 - 097 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 5, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article III, Building Permits, to add Sec. 5-205. – Repurposed Modular Building Units – *Approved on second reading.*

First reading approval was given on December 3, 2024.

6. ANNEXATION, FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT, AND ZONING MAP AMENDMENT for 5325 Fairfield Road (n/k/a 5339 Fairfield Road), TMS# 11703-01-19 – *Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2024-089 - Annexing 5325 Fairfield Road (n/k/a 5339 Fairfield Road), Richland County TMS# 11703-01-19 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map – Approved on second reading.

Proposal: Request to annex the property, assign the land use classification of Urban Edge Mixed Residential (UEMR) and assign zoning of Residential Mixed District (RM-2). The property is currently classified as Mixed Residential (High Density) and zoned Residential 6 (R6) by Richland County.



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Council District: 1

Applicant: True Word Church of ECCM

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 10/10/2024; Approval (6-0)

First reading approval was given on November 19, 2024.

PUBLIC HEARING & FIRST READING FOR ZONING / PLANNING MATTERS

Council opened the public hearing at 4:12 p.m.

7. ANNEXATION, FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT, AND ZONING MAP AMENDMENT FOR 549 Old Woodlands Road, TMS# 13713-02-18 – *Approved on first reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2024-095 - Annexing 549 Old Woodlands Road, Richland County TMS # 13713-02-18 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map – Approved on first reading.

Council District: 3

Proposal: Request to annex the property, assign the land use classification of Urban Edge Residential Large Lot (UER-2) and assign zoning of Residential Single Family Large Lot District (RSF-1) for a pending annexation. The property is currently classified as Mixed Residential (High Density) and zoned Residential 2 (R2) by Richland County.

Applicant: Robert E. Wright, Jr. and Monica K. Wright / Matthew N. Simmons

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 11/14/2024; Approval (8-0)

No one appeared at this time.



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Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the Annexation, Future Land Use Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment for 549 Old Woodlands Road, TMS# 13713-02-18 **and** Ordinance No.: 2024-095 - Annexing 549 Old Woodlands Road, Richland County TMS # 13713-02-18 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map.

8. ANNEXATION, FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT, AND ZONING MAP AMENDMENT CASE SUMMARY 3.56 and 0.516 acres S/S Broad River Road, TMS# 05000-04-40 and 05000-04-45 – *Approved on first reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2024-096 - Annexing 3.56 and 0.516 acres S/S Broad River Road, Richland County TMS# 05000-04-40 and 05000-04-45 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map – Approved on first reading.

Council District: 1

Proposal: Request to annex the property, assign the land use classification of Community Activity Corridor (AC-2) and the assign zoning of Light Industrial District (LI) for a pending annexation. The property is currently classified as Neighborhood (Medium Density) and zoned Light Industrial (M-1) and General Commercial (GC) by Richland County.

Applicant: T. Moffatt Burriss, Jr. and Dennis Jay Murphy

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 11/14/2024; Approval (8-0)

No one appeared at this time.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Herbert and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the Annexation, Future Land Use Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment Case Summary 3.56 and 0.516 acres S/S Broad River Road, TMS# 05000-04-40 and 05000-04-45 **and** Ordinance No.: 2024-096 - Annexing 3.56 and 0.516 acres S/S Broad River Road, Richland County TMS# 05000-04-40 and 05000-04-45 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map.



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Council closed the public hearing at 4:15 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS

9. Resolution No.: R-2024-091 - Approving and Ratifying Mutual Aid Agreements between the City of Columbia and the City of Columbia Police Department and Various Law Enforcement Agencies and Authorizing the City Manager of the City of Columbia and the Chief of Police of the City of Columbia to execute all such Agreements – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2024-091 - Approving and Ratifying Mutual Aid Agreements between the City of Columbia and the City of Columbia Police Department and Various Law Enforcement Agencies and Authorizing the City Manager of the City of Columbia and the Chief of Police of the City of Columbia to execute all such Agreements.

10. Resolution No.: R-2024-092 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute a License Agreement between the City of Columbia and SC State Federal Credit Union for a portion of the property identified as Richland County TMS #R08911-01-11 and TMS# 08911-01-12 in support of the Williams Street Extension Project – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2024-092 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute a License Agreement between the City of Columbia and SC State Federal Credit Union for a portion of the property identified as Richland County TMS #R08911-01-11 and TMS# 08911-01-12 in support of the Williams Street Extension Project.

11. Resolution No.: R-2024-093 - A Resolution to Express the City of Columbia's Support for the University of South Carolina Gamecock Football Team's Inclusion in the College Football Playoff – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mayor Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2024-093 - A Resolution to Express the City of Columbia's Support for the University of South Carolina Gamecock Football Team's Inclusion in the College Football Playoff.



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Mayor Rickenmann expressed his support of the USC Football Team, highlighting that their achievements go beyond just playing the game—they are exceptional ambassadors for the community. He voiced his disapproval of the team not being included in the playoffs. He specifically praised Coach Beamer for his commitment to the community, noting his constant presence and involvement in supporting local activities.

12. Resolution No.: R-2024-094 - Approving the Installation of a Public Art Project in the Lincoln Street Tunnel - *Approved*

Endorsed by the Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee on November 19, 2024.

13. Resolution No.: R-2024-095 - Approving the Installation of a Public Art Project on the Park Street Trash Enclosure - *Approved*

Endorsed by the Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee on November 19, 2024.

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2024-094 - Approving the Installation of a Public Art Project in the Lincoln Street Tunnel **and** Resolution No.: R-2024-095 - Approving the Installation of a Public Art Project on the Park Street Trash Enclosure.

Ms. Abby Anderson, Executive Director of the Congaree Vista Guild said that the organization has been collaborating with the City on the new public art placement process. We are planning to install two large public art pieces in the city's right-of-way. The first piece is a lighted installation that will be placed inside the Lincoln Street tunnel, with the goal of unveiling it next fall to coincide with the opening of Finlay Park. This installation is intended to attract visitors to the park from the Vista and vice versa. The second project involves a wall sculpture to be featured on the new Park Street enclosure.

Ms. Pamela Zeljek, Public Art Administrator for One Columbia provided details about the partnership with the Vista Guild, specifically in assisting with artist selection for the public art projects. She explained that the lighting project for the Lincoln Street tunnel is currently accepting artist proposals. This installation will feature color-changing lighting and is expected to create an engaging space where people can take photos and share them on social media. The sculpture on the trash



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enclosure will likely be made of metal and consist of decorative art that will stand off the wall.

Councilor Bailey stated that these two public art projects are the first to be presented to the Council as a resolution resulting from this committee's efforts. He expressed gratitude to the stakeholders, including the Vista Guild and One Columbia for their trust in the process and their collaboration with the City. He shared his excitement for future public art projects to come through the committee and be displayed throughout Columbia.

EVENT RESOLUTIONS

14. Resolution No.: R-2024-085 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only at the 2025 Mardi Gras Festival at City Roots Farm in the 1000 block of Airport Boulevard between Jim Hamilton Boulevard and the north side of the entrance into Hunter Gatherer on Saturday, March 1, 2025 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2024-085 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only at the 2025 Mardi Gras Festival at City Roots Farm in the 1000 block of Airport Boulevard between Jim Hamilton Boulevard and the north side of the entrance into Hunter Gatherer on Saturday, March 1, 2025.

15. Resolution No.: R-2024-088 - Authorizing consumption of beer, wine, and liquor for a New Year's Eve Event by LTC Hospitality at the 1600 block of Main Street between Taylor Street and Blanding Street on Tuesday, December 31, 2024 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2024-088 - Authorizing consumption of beer, wine, and liquor for a New Year's Eve Event by LTC Hospitality at the 1600 block of Main Street between Taylor Street and Blanding Street on Tuesday, December 31, 2024.

OTHER MATTERS

16. American Rescue Plan State & Local Fiscal Recovery Plan Update - Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget, Program Management and Grants Director – *Approved*



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Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said we are coming up on the December 31, 2024 date where government bodies and others who have received ARPA funding are obligated to use those funds. We are almost done, we only have a few remaining items to address.

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to approve the American Rescue Plan State & Local Fiscal Recovery Plan amendments.

Food Insecurities

Original Allocation:	\$300,000
Requested Increase:	\$26,000

Elimination of Blight

Original Allocation:	\$1,171,000
Requested Increase:	\$300,000

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS, CONTRACTS AND CHANGE ORDERS

17. Council is asked to approve Contract Amendment #2 for the Food Insecurity Solutions Initiative, as requested by the Office of Business Opportunities on November 25, 2024. Award to Toms Creek Family Farms, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$143,400.00. The current term of the contract ends on January 24, 2025 and this amendment extends the contract to January 24, 2026. This contractor is located in Hopkins, SC. - *Approved*

Funding Source: ARPA Funds - ARPA Food Insecurities Solutions - Special Projects (2619999-ARPA202312-638500). The current budget amount is \$192,245.00. The budget amount for this amendment is \$143,400.00. The total revised budget amount is \$335,645.00.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said this is one of the items where ARPA funds have been utilized.

Ms. Ayesha Driggers, Director/Office of Business Opportunities said that the program initially had three days identified for operation. Through a partnership with The COMET and with coordination from both Councilors Brennan and Herbert, a fourth day was successfully added. The plan is to continue offering four days of service for the next 12 months. While the program is still considered a pilot, the team is open to making adjustments, including potential location changes. Overall,



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the program has garnered strong participation from the community, with many repeat customers and significant interest from around the state.

Mr. Larry Schneeberger, co-owner of Toms Creek Family Farms, LLC provided an update on the trailer operation. There has been a noticeable increase in activity each week. One key improvement has been changing the trailer's location to optimize road frontage. Looking ahead to next year, the goal is to further increase the trailer's visibility. The City created a designated parking spot at Hyatt Park allowing people to easily pull up and view the trailer from North Main. Overall, the adjustments are continuing to work out well.

There were inquiries about the potential use of private properties and the number of people being served.

Mr. Larry Schneeberger, co-owner of Toms Creek Family Farms, LLC said we serve 25 to 120 people a day. Location and visibility are key factors for the trailer's success. Participation tends to increase when senior vouchers are distributed, typically between July and October.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to approve Contract Amendment #2 for the Food Insecurity Solutions Initiative, as requested by the Office of Business Opportunities on November 25, 2024. Award to Toms Creek Family Farms, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$143,400.00. The current term of the contract ends on January 24, 2025 and this amendment extends the contract to January 24, 2026. This contractor is located in Hopkins, SC.

18. Council is asked to approve a new Contract for Asbestos Abatement and Demolition Services as requested by the Columbia Police Department on November 24, 2024. Award to Corley Construction Company, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$856,862.00, which includes contingency. The initial term of the contract will take effect upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed with an end date one hundred twenty (120) days from commencement. This contractor is located in Columbia, SC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: America Rescue Plan Act Funds - ARPA Demolition Project - Special Contracts-Demolitions (2619999-ARPA202203-638301). The original budget amount is \$856,862.00.

Corley Construction Company, LLC, a Minority Business Enterprise, will be performing asbestos abatement and demolition services at 58.99% (\$488,570.91) of



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the total contract amount.

The following subcontractors will provide additional services:

Compliance Centre, Inc., a Minority Business Enterprise (W), located in Columbia, SC, will provide asbestos abatement, and project design services at 35.46% (\$293,671.35) of the total contract amount.

3C's Southeast Abatement, a Minority Business Enterprise, located in Lugoff, SC, will provide air monitoring services at 5.55% (\$46,000.00) of the total contract amount.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said this is another good example of our ARPA dollars at work.

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to approve a new Contract for Asbestos Abatement and Demolition Services as requested by the Columbia Police Department on November 24, 2024. Award to Corley Construction Company, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$856,862.00, which includes contingency. The initial term of the contract will take effect upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed with an end date one hundred twenty (120) days from commencement. This contractor is located in Columbia, SC.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REFERRALS, REPORTS AND NEW BUSINESS

19. Council is asked to approve the formation of a City Council Homeless Services Adhoc Committee, as requested by The Honorable Will Brennan. – *Approved*

Councilor Brennan provided context for bringing forward the discussion on homelessness, particularly in light of recent ARPA funding and the work being done to strengthen the City's homeless services. Homelessness in downtown Columbia is increasing. City Council has made significant financial investments including the establishment of the Rapid Shelter and temporary homes to help transition individuals to permanent housing. There is a need for a comprehensive understanding of the situation, particularly through the upcoming homeless census count in January, which is conducted by the Continuum of Care group in partnership with HUD.



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Mayor Rickenmann stated that this would enable us to advance projects focused on community involvement. He hopes that many will participate in the count, as homelessness is a citywide issue. It's crucial to ensure that unsheltered individuals are aware of the services available to them.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager emphasized that under the Council's leadership, the count will be thorough with Ms. Hepphard guiding us to the areas that require attention.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to refer the following topics to the Community Development Committee, as requested by The Honorable Tina N. Herbert:

- I. The feasibility of a housing equity study, pros, cons, industry standards and uses.
- II. Design guidelines that help revitalize communities or prevent communities from deterioration.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to approve the formation of a City Council Homeless Services Adhoc Committee. The members include Mr. Brennan (Chair), Dr. Bussells, and Mr. Bailey. Mr. Brown was not present for the vote.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Wade Fulmer expressed concerns about numerous nuisance complaints related to excessive dog barking.

Councilor McDowell suggested that Mr. Fulmer have additional dialogue with his neighbor about their dog.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 4:50 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 20** and **21** as amended to add Homeless Services to **Item 20** and the discussion of the employment of an employee pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(1) – City Manager and City Attorney evaluations.



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20. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)

One Columbia

21. Receipt of legal advice relating to a pending, threatened or potential claim pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)

City of Columbia v. Airbnb, et al.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk