



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia City Council conducted a Work Session on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), Second Floor, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m. and the following members were present: The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., The Honorable Will Brennan, Mayor Pro-Tempore, The Honorable Tina N. Herbert, The Honorable Peter M. Brown, and The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey. The Honorable Aditi Bussells 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.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager took a moment of personal privilege to highlight the newly revamped internship program.

Ms. Ashley Jenkins, Special Projects Coordinator introduced Ms. Nia Long as the newest intern for the Office of the City Manager.

1. Solid Waste Division Route Balance Plan - Mr. Robert Anderson, Public Works Director and Ms. Samantha Yager, Solid Waste Superintendent

Ms. Samantha Yager, Solid Waste Superintendent reported on garbage route balancing, noting the last adjustment occurred in 1991 and that customer growth has increased by nearly 13,000 since 1995. The new plan will improve efficiency and accommodate future growth. There will be new garbage routes and changes to garbage and recycling days. A communications plan including two letters and a fridge magnet has been approved, with the first mailing scheduled for September 22, 2025, and the new routes beginning November 10, 2025.

There was discussion about solid waste operations on Wednesdays; adjustments for new developments; downtown pickup; communication strategies such as door hangers, the MyColaSC app, news outlets, yard signage; and potential collaboration with Columbia Water for resident contact for notifications.



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2. Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Special Revenue Allocations - Ms. Missy Caughman, CPM, MPA, Assistant City Manager / Strategic Initiatives & Innovation

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager noted that staff reviewed community requests and identified what could be supported within current resources. A balanced list for Council's consideration is being presented. This work session provides an opportunity to review hospitality tax funded external requests, as well as potential internal projects, particularly those related to parks.

There was discussion about current carry forwards; general fund surplus; snapshot of surplus; future hospitality tax opportunities; previous allocations; purchase of a food truck; pickeball in Finlay Park; upgrades for T.S. Martin and Pinehurst Parks; and status updates for Three Rivers Festival and Silicon South.

Mr. Roy Brasley, Brasley Foundation provided an update on the Three Rivers Festival. The event is now scheduled for April 4, 2026 at Finlay Park. Advertising and promotional videos have begun. A contract is in place with The O'Jays as headliners and efforts are underway to secure Simply Red. Additional local bands and R&B groups from the 1990s are also being considered. He highlighted the need to review stage and lighting requirements and emphasized that planning has continued with only a brief pause during the venue change.

There was discussion about acquiring contracts; clarifying the allocation amount; setting a goal for private donations; ticket cost and sales projections; total budget and sponsor contributions; security and fencing needs; venue layout and stage placement; makeup of the organizing team; potential advisement or oversight entity; and pickle ball courts.

Ms. Missy Caughman, CPM, MPA, Assistant City Manager / Strategic Initiatives & Innovation noted that funding requests exceeded available resources. She explained that the recommended allocations are based on eligibility and available funds, with some lower-priority items deferred for future consideration.



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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 3:30 p.m. to discuss **Items 3** through **5**. Mr. Brennan was not present for the vote.

3. Receipt of legal advice relating to matters covered by attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
 - *Short-Term Rentals*
4. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements pursuant to S. C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
 - *Project Dream*
5. Discussion of the employment of an employee pursuant to §30-4-70(a)(1)
 - *Municipal Court Judges*

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, MMC, CPM
City Clerk