



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia City Council conducted a Work Session on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room) 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and the following members were present: The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., The Honorable Will Brennan, Mayor Pro-Tempore, The Honorable Aditi Bussells, The Honorable Peter M. Brown, and The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey. The Honorable Tina N. Herbert was absent. 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.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mayor Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to amend the agenda by adding Project Congaree to **Item 2** (Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(5)) and Short-Term Rentals being added to **Item 3** (Receipt of legal advice relating to matters covered by attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)).

PRESENTATIONS

1. Clean Water Program Update - Mr. Clint E. Shealy, P.E., Assistant City Manager for Columbia Water – *Received as information*

Mr. Clint E. Shealy, P.E., Assistant City Manager for Columbia Water provided an update on the Clean Water 2020 Program including progress on EPA-mandated consent decree requirements and the shift toward major project execution. He reported positive engagement with new EPA leadership and noted that extensions for four major projects have been granted, pending necessary signatures. CDM Smith continues its role in the second phase of the six-year contract. This rate study renewal with Black & Veatch and the bond authorization needed for this year's capital projects are included on the agenda for this evening's Council Meeting.



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There was discussion about past delays due to the 2015 flood and COVID impacts; an investment strategy to increase system capacity; and wastewater capital spending.

Mr. Bryan Cully, Senior Vice President, Programs Group Director / CDM Smith summarized the city's progress in meeting consent decree requirements and moving toward best-in-class utility performance. He emphasized that large municipal consent decrees span decades and billions of dollars, with wastewater comprising most of the work. He explained that the early "plan phase" focused on asset management and organizational improvements. The city is now in the "do phase," implementing infrastructure upgrades under newly approved EPA project deadlines.

There was discussion about project approval and timeline; status of required infrastructure rehab projects; and sub consultants and minority participation.

Mr. Jamie Kelso, Project Manager / CDM Smith, reported that all 20 Clean Water Program deliverables have been submitted to the EPA and South Carolina Department of Environmental Sciences, with 19 approved. The Capacity Assurance Program is still under review. He explained that the Infrastructure Rehab (IR) and Supplemental IR reports guide rehabilitation of major and minor system components. He reported that 10 of 13 IR projects have been completed and most projects are already under design or construction. Approval of the Capacity Assurance Program will trigger deadlines for addressing undersized pipes and pump stations, several of which required additional time through a consent decree modification. He also highlighted major capital investments across the system. He noted that approximately two-thirds of consent decree work is complete, with overall project costs now estimated at \$1.06 billion due to inflation and extended timelines.

There was discussion about the available capacity at the treatment plant and public distribution of information about the Clean Water Program.



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 1:52 p.m. to discuss **Items 2** through **5** as amended.

2. Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(5)
 - *Project Dream*
 - *Project Catalyst*
3. Receipt of legal advice relating to matters covered by attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
 - *Special Revenue Sources*
4. Receipt of legal advice relating to a pending, threatened or potential claim pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
 - *Jerry DeMarco v. COC (2024-CP-40-05023)*
5. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements pursuant to S. C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
 - *Woodcreek Farms Bridge Repair Project*

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, MMC, CPM
City Clerk