



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The Economic Development & Infrastructure Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Second Floor, Columbia SC, 29201. The Honorable Peter M. Brown, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Peter M. Brown	Chair	Present
Will Brennan	Member	Present
Aditi Bussells	Member	Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of March 16, 2024 Economic Development & Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Dr. Bussells, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the March 16, 2024 Economic Development & Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Penny Program Update - Mr. Michael Maloney, Richland County Public Works Director – *Received as information*

Mr. Michael Maloney, Richland County Public Works Director provided updates on completed projects such as Bull & Elmwood. He highlighted the successful collaboration with the City on various projects. He said the Transportation Penny Program has built a stronger, safer, more vibrant Richland County and the neighborhoods within it. Residents now have: better access to work, local businesses, and other amenities; increased walkability to greenspaces, entertainment and local businesses; new intersections; and miles of new sidewalks. One of the completed projects was a needs assessment, which was completed in March. Our council is moving forward with what we are going to fund. The Penny Program has produced 4,000 new businesses, 2,000 new jobs, and a 60% decrease in unemployment.

There was discussion about an ordinance, community engagement, and finalizing the funding proposal for council's review.



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COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

3. Proposed Business License Ordinance Revisions - Ms. Kelly Smith, Business License Administrator – *Received as information*

Ms. Kelly Smith, Business License Administrator proposed several ordinance changes. One proposed change concerned the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, suggesting that applicants could resubmit applications after a 6-month period from the previous denial or revocation. However, if substantial and material changes were made, the application could be resubmitted after a 60-day period. She also proposed a new category for group event promoters with varied fee structures based on event size. She specified that long-term rentals with less than five units are not required to obtain a business license.

There was discussion regarding the distinction between long-term and short-term rentals and the necessity for a business license; defining group event promoters and clarifying the proposed changes' alignment with existing practices.

There was consensus of the committee to amend the business license ordinance excluding the 60-day period.

4. Commercial Retention and Redevelopment Program - Ms. Missy Gentry, Assistant City Manager for Development – *Received as information*

Ms. Missy Gentry, Assistant City Manager for Development said a few months ago there was a conversation about bars and restaurants and the old Façade program. Traditionally, we've never allowed businesses that have greater than 51% sales of alcohol to be eligible. We were directed to modify that requirement in the guidelines and to let those businesses apply. We're here to get further instructions for the three options: we can keep it the same; we can allow them to apply outright; or can increase the percentage of alcohol sales from 51% to 75%.

There was discussion about maintaining the percentage restriction, implications of allowing businesses with higher alcohol sales to apply, the existing parameters for eligibility, and the current application process.

There was a consensus of the committee to recommend the removal of the 51% stipulation.



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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Dr. Bussells, the Committee voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 2:08 p.m. for the discussion of **Item 5**.

5. 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)

Astral Development

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk