



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021

The Columbia City Council conducted a virtual meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 using video conferencing technology. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 2:14 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Howard E. Duvall, Jr., The Honorable Mayor Pro-Tempore Edward H. McDowell, Jr., The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, and The Honorable William Brennan. 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 Mayor Pro Tempore Edward H. McDowell, Jr. offered the invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda, subject to adding Zoning Matters to **Item 17** and deferring **Item 18** under Executive Session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Council is asked to approve the December 1 and 15, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes. - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve the December 1 and 15, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

2. COVID-19 Update - The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin

Mayor Benjamin said we are in a difficult and dangerous time in the pandemic but we have hope as the vaccine is becoming distributed across the country. The City Manager and I have engaged in conversations with the state epidemiologist and also some of our hospital officials. As they work their way through the phases of the vaccine delivery, we want to do everything we can from a city's perspective in making sure that we see an efficient and effective delivery of the vaccine to our citizens and anyone in the metropolitan area. We need to continue to spread the importance of the vaccine and seek a fair and equitable distribution of the vaccine.



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Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said we are observing that there needs to be a role in encouraging our citizenry to be ready when it's their turn to take the vaccine. The issue is the capacity to administer the vaccine to our frontline staff. We are thankful that our fire fighters are in the queue but there is anxiety around law enforcement being able to get the vaccine immediately. The surgeon general said that the directives with the phased approach are guidelines. As you enter a phase, the state can determine to move simultaneously into another phase depending on the needs of the population. We are ready for our frontline staff to be vaccinated but we have to be authorized to allow them to get the vaccine.

■ *COVID-19 Situational Report - Mr. Harry Tinsley, Emergency Management Director*

Mr. Harry Tinsley, Emergency Management Director said as of January 4, 2021, the U.S. had over 20 million confirmed cases and 350,000 deaths due to COVID-19. In South Carolina, the confirmed case count as of today stands at over 302,003 with over 3.8 million tests administered. The case count for today is 2,885 with a 30.7% positivity rate. Unfortunately, there were 12 additional confirmed deaths which brings the state's total to 5,068. In Richland County, the case count stands at 25,208. Over the last 14-day reporting period from December 20, 2020 to January 2, 2021, Richland County averaged about 2,700 new cases and one additional death bringing the total count to 322. The zip code with the highest case count over the last 14-days is 29229 with 369 cases. As of December 30, 2020, all 46 counties in the state have a high recent disease activity rate. As of January 2, 2021, the state recovery rate is estimated at 89.1% and the state case fatality rate is estimated at 1.79%. We are averaging about 2,500 cases per day with a statewide positivity test rate of 22.3%. Hospitalizations remain high with a bed utilization rate of 80.49% and ICU bed utilization rate of 79.88%. The state's current patient hospitalizations due to COVID-19 is 2,344 with 447 in ICU and 241 on ventilators. As far as vaccinations, we have uploaded medical personnel and fire fighters in phase 1A and our police officers have been uploaded and standing in queue for phase 1B. We are monitoring the phases and getting our folks ready for the upcoming phases. Once you get an individual uploaded into the vaccine administration management system it generates an email to that individual to schedule an appointment. These phases will most likely run concurrent as they roll out. We are hoping to initiate that in the near future.



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3. Midlands Business Leadership Group Governmental Cooperation Initiative - Mr. James Bennett, MBLG and Mr. Will Schenk, EngenuitySC

Mr. James Bennett, MBLG representative said our goal with this cooperative initiative is to help build stronger relationships between local elected officials. Our approach developed with the input of elected officials from the City of Columbia, Lexington County, Richland County, City of Cayce, City of West Columbia, and Town of Springdale. Our focus is on beautifying prominent gateways to our region using a uniform design that will be low maintenance, durable, and attractive all year long. There are eight gateways and we are starting with Highway 302, which is the entrance to the airport. The second gateway is on I-77 at the Forest Drive exit. The other significant gateway to the City of Columbia is the intersection of I-20 and 277. All eight gateways are distributed equally through City of Columbia, Richland County, and Lexington County. We have been able to work with a landscape architect to develop a replica of the landscaping that reflects the vibrancy of our region. We brought this project to each Council for a preliminary endorsement and we have begun working with the Central Midlands Council of Governments to draft an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for this ongoing project. We will work together to ensure that the IGA clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities for all of the participating entities. The Central Midlands Council of Governments will oversee the procurement process and make sure we are following protocols and guidelines guided by the representatives of each government. The Midlands Business Leadership Group (MBLG) will take the lead on fundraising and initial construction dollars on a project by project basis. Although MBLG took on the responsibility of raising the funds for construction, Lexington County made an upfront commitment of \$500,000 towards the Highway 302 project. We have identified members of the fundraising community as part of the business community that will kick-off a fundraising effort in the month of January. The Central Midlands Council of Governments will also oversee construction and maintenance contracts. Maintenance costs will be shared between all participating governments.

Mrs. Teresa Wilson, City Manager asked about the process of the Central Midlands Council of Governments in drafting the IGA.

Mr. Will Schenk, EngenuitySC representative said the process is coming along nicely. We are planning to pull together a group within the next couple of weeks to do an in-depth review of the latest draft of that IGA. That will give us a chance to hash out some of the things we are still working through, including exactly what that cost sharing plan is going to look like and hear your feedback on the maintenance contracts.



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Mayor Benjamin said this is indicative of a great public-private partnership. We need to recognize Lexington County's significant investment in the first project being the gateway from the airport. This is important to the health and economic vitality of the entire region. We wanted to make sure we had some general consensus as to what our long-term responsibilities would be.

Mrs. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said we are in the initial phase in working with the Central Midlands Council of Governments to lay down those responsibilities. We want to make sure that depending on which project, the City's procurement regulations are followed. I have discussed minority participation and other requirements we would like to see when it comes to projects in the City and how they are led.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 4 THROUGH 12

Councilor Brennan requested an update on the Cityworks Software (*Item 4*) during the spring time to see how efficient it is in making the City's infrastructure better.

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve **Consent Agenda Items 4** through **12**.

4. Council is asked to approve the renewal of Cityworks Software and License Support for the term of 1/15/2021 through 1/14/2022, as requested by the Information Technology Services Department. Award to Azteca Systems, LLC, in the amount of \$100,000.00. This vendor is located in Sandy, UT. - *Approved*

Funding Source: Public Works Administration - Computer Equipment, Hardware, & Peripherals (1011124-627500) \$1,990.00; Public Works Administration - Maintenance & Service Contract (1011124-638200) \$5,000.00; Forestry Horticulture - Maintenance and Service Contract (1011217-638200) \$7,500.00; Streets & Sidewalks - Maintenance and Service Contract (1013201-638200) \$2,000.00; Traffic Operations - Maintenance and Service Contract (1013204-638200) \$3,000.00; Street Storm Drain - Maintenance and Service Contract (5534203-638200) \$1,500.00; Street - Water & Sewer Repair - Maintenance and Service Contracts (5513202-638200) \$2,000.00; Customer Service - Special Contracts (5511407-638300) \$3,000.00; Meter Reading - Maintenance and Service Contract (5516202-638200) \$15,000.00; Utilities Wastewater Maintenance -Software License (5516205-627510) \$49,010.00; Solid Waste Street Sweeping - Maintenance and Service Contract (5534408-638200) \$10,000.00. The original budget amount is \$100,000.00.

5. Council is asked to approve an Economic Development Grant Agreement for an Office Expansion Project within the City of Columbia, as requested by the Economic Development Department. Award to First Reliance Bank in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00. This firm is located in Florence, SC. - *Approved*



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Funding Source: ED Special Allocation (5511301-638508). The original budget amount is \$200,000.00.

6. Council is asked to approve the Management and Administration of Employee Medical Services at the Employee Health Center, as requested by the Human Resources Department. Award to Doctors Care, P.A. in the amount of \$1,133,814.12. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. - *Approved*

Funding Source: Employee Health Center - Medical Services (6048920-636900) \$953,814.12; Employee Health Center - Drug and Medical Supplies (6048920-624900) \$75,000.00; Employee Health Center - Special Departmental Supplies (6048920-627100) \$60,000.00; Employee Health Center - Coronavirus Services (6048920-638412) \$45,000.00. The original budget amount is \$1,133,814.12.

7. Council is asked to approve Change Order #1 for the purchase of Blended Phosphate for Corrosion Control at the Columbia Canal Water Treatment Plant, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to Carus, LLC in the amount of \$50,000.00. This vendor is located in Peru, IL. - *Approved*

Funding Source: Utilities Columbia Canal WTP - Chemicals (5516206-624800). The original budget amount is \$106,210.00.

8. Council is asked to approve Contract Amendment #2 for Water and Sewer Rate Study Services, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to Black and Veatch Management Consulting, LLC as a sole source in the amount of \$111,420.00. This firm is located in Kansas City, MO with services provided from Orlando, FL. - *Approved*

Funding Source: Utilities and Engineering Administration/Professional Services (5511109-636600). The original budget amount was \$118,125.00. The budget amount for this amendment is \$111,420.00. The total revised budget amount is \$229,545.00.

9. Council is asked to approve a Contract for Project WM4514; New Water Main along Beacon Hill Road and Beacon Hill Court, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to DS Utilities, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$268,696.80, which includes contingency. This firm is located in Little Mountain, SC. - *Approved*

Funding Source: Engineering - Water & Sewer Improvements (5529999-WM451401-658650). The original budget amount is \$399,656.00.

This is a Mentor Protégé Program project. DS Utilities, Inc., a Local Business Enterprise of Little Mountain, SC is the Mentor and will be providing equipment and personnel services at 11.44% (\$25,615.76) of the total contract amount. Patriot Construction, Inc., of Columbia, SC is the Protégé and will be providing pipe installation services at 88.56% (\$198,298.24) of the total contract amount.



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10. Council is asked to approve an Agreement for Project SS7582; Wastewater Collection System Manhole Survey, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to Hydrostructures in the amount of \$424,750.00. The firm is located in Cayce, SC. - *Approved*

Funding Source: Engineering Wastewater System Improvement Special Contracts Water/Sewer, Stormwater (5516221-SS758201-638305). The original budget amount is \$424,750.00.

This is a Columbia Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (CDBE) Project. The CDBE goal placed on this project was 12.00% and was met at 12.05% (\$51,200.00) of the total contract amount. Hydrostructures of Cayce, SC will provide technical engineering support for surveying and mapping services at 87.95% (\$373,550.00) of the total contract amount.

The following sub-consultants will provide additional services:

DESA, Inc., a Minority Business Enterprise (W) of Columbia, SC, will provide manhole inspection services at 4.99% (\$21,200.00) of the total contract amount.

Construction Support Services, a Minority Business Enterprise of Hopkins, SC, will provide surveying services at 7.06% (\$30,000.00) of the total contract amount.

11. Council is asked to approve Contract Amendment #7 for Project WM4326; Water Tank Repainting and Maintenance Services, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to Utility Service Company, Inc. in the amount of \$645,742.00. This firm is located in Perry, GA. - *Approved*

Funding Source: Utilities Columbia Canal WTP (5516206-WM432601-638305) \$250,000.00 and Utilities Lake Murray Plant (5516207-WM432601-638305) \$395,742.00. The original budget amount was \$2,104,970.00. The budget amount for this amendment is \$645,742.00. The total revised budget amount is \$2,750,712.00.

Utility Service Company, Inc. is the prime and will provide renovation, painting, and preventative maintenance services for the City's water storage facilities at 73.82% (\$2,030,712.00) of the revised total contract amount.

The following subcontractors will provide additional services:

Bullins Painting of Stoneville, GA will provide blast/paint labor services at 8.73% (\$240,000.00) of the revised total contract amount.

Semper Fi Steel of La Grange, KY will provide blast/paint labor services at 13.09% (\$360,000.00) of the revised total contract amount.

Nordic Tank & Tower, Inc. of Menahga, MN will provide blast/paint labor services at 4.36% (\$120,000.00) of the revised total contract amount.



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12. Ordinance No.: 2020-108 Consenting to the Inclusion of Property in a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (Project Cross, Richland County TMS # 25600-04-17 and 25600-04-19) - *First reading approval was given on December 15, 2020 – Approved on second reading.*

APPOINTMENTS

13. Climate Protection Action Committee - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to appoint Tamera Warren to the Climate Protection Action Committee for a three-year term.

14. Planning Commission - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to appoint Raquel Thomas to the Planning Commission for a three-year term.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REFERRALS / REPORTS

15. Council is asked to refer an update from the Climate Protection Action Committee (CPAC) and Review of Bylaw Revisions to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee, as requested by Administration. - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to refer an update from the Climate Protection Action Committee (CPAC) and Review of Bylaw Revisions to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee, as requested by Administration.

16. Council is asked to refer a Dominion LED Lighting Presentation to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee, as requested by Administration. - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to refer a Dominion LED Lighting Presentation to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee, as requested by Administration.



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- [Administrative Policy Committee Report](#) by Councilor McDowell: The committee met on December 17, 2020 referencing the renaming of the park at Bull Street. There is a follow-up meeting on January 14, 2021 at 2 p.m. We have invited Dr. Bobby Donaldson, the Hughes Corporation, and Robin Waites. Assistant City Manager Simons presented information on the progress of the park. We did look into an African American figure as a name for the park because of their resiliency and employment on Bull Street.
- [Affordable Task Force Report](#) by Councilor Devine: The task force is working on a presentation on what is the current deficit of affordable housing in the Midlands to be presented to Council. Session two of the *Color of Law* discussion is this Thursday night at 6 p.m. We will be discussing the effects that we see today from redlining. Registration is still available.
- [Economic Development Committee Report](#) by Councilor Davis: The committee met on December 17, 2020. The Deloitte Group gave a brief update on where they stand. According to the presentation, the City has been doing good in manufacturing and in the kinds of businesses we have been attracting. We need to look into workforce development, incentives, education, and marketing to further promote the area and continue to prepare Columbia for the knowledge economy.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Ken Walker, Columbia Business Owner said I want to introduce my app called MetroU. MetroU is a new form of AR technology. Each City has its own history, artistic treasures, and traditions that make it unique and these rarities can be understood by living in the City but not as much as a tourist. MetroU brings the city to life and my goal is to make the City of Columbia the very first smart city. If you wave the app over a certain name it will bring up a video that will show a brief history of said person, give you recommendations of sites to visit, and give you the city's website for more information. The app takes everything that you normally do and brings it to life. I have three projects that have been augmented downtown like the COLA sign on Assembly Street. It now comes to life when you wave the app to it. The app engages people with ordinary things but makes it more extraordinary.

Voice Message from Ms. Diane Wiley, Belvedere Neighborhood President said I'm calling in reference to the zoning meeting on the 19th of January. There are a lot of elderly people who cannot get on Zoom. I need to talk to somebody in person. We need to cancel this meeting because we are not having meetings in our neighborhoods right now. We have many issues we would like to discuss. I am getting in contact with everybody in other neighborhoods because they don't know what to do to speak to Council.



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Voice Message from Ms. Mary Williams Parker, Lyon Community resident said how can you have a meeting and we are not able to talk to anyone. I am not able to say anything. I can only listen to what is being said. I don't know how the meeting works. I'm very disappointed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 3:41 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 17** and **19**, as amended to add Zoning Matters to **Item 17**.

17. Receipt of legal advice related to matters covered by attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)

*COVID-19
Columbia Water Collections*

18. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a)(2) - *Deferred*

Venue License Agreement

19. Discussion of matters relating to proposed location or expansion of services to encourage location or expansion of industries or other businesses pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)

*Absolute Total Care
Williams Street Project*

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk