



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

The Columbia City Council conducted a virtual meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 using video conferencing technology. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 1:06 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. Davis, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda, subject to withdrawing **Items 1** and **2** and amending **Item 17** to include Use of Public Spaces and Parks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Receipt of legal advice related to matters covered by attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2) - *Withdrawn*

— COVID-19

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

2. Ordinance No.: 2021-012 An Emergency Ordinance Extending and Amending Certain Emergency Ordinances - *Withdrawn*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager honored the life of Mrs. Mary Grace Thurman, who faithfully served the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department as the coordinator at Hyatt Park for over seven years. Mrs. Thurman passed away on February 10, 2021. Councilor Davis and Councilor Devine proclaimed Tuesday, February 15, 2021 as Mary Grace Thurman Day in the City of Columbia. We appreciate all she has done for our City of Columbia family.



**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

3. Council is asked to approve the February 2, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes. -
Approved

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the February 2, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

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

Mayor Benjamin said we have seen a deceleration of cases across the country but we are seeing troubling data as it relates to fatalities and the rise in variants. This suggests that some of the variants like B119 might become the dominant form of Coronavirus in the country. While the data we are watching is encouraging, we still have to treat this as if we are still in the eye of the storm. There are more difficult days ahead and it is important that we stay focused on the very deliberate and intentional approach we have.

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

Mr. Harry Tinsley, Emergency Management Director said we are approaching over 109 million cases and 2.4 million deaths globally due to COVID-19. The U.S. stands at over 27 million cases and 480,000 deaths as of February 14, 2021. South Carolina stands at 427,763 confirmed cases with over 5.5 million tests administered to date. We have seen a decline of new cases with only 1,109 cases reported yesterday with a positivity test rate of 6.5%. There were 31 new confirmed deaths, bringing the total to 7,180 in the state. In Richland County, the case count stands at 34,499 with an additional 99 new cases. From January 31, 2021 to February 13, 2021, Richland County had 2,390 new cases, averaging about 170 cases per day. The zip code with the highest test count continues to be 29229 with 258 cases, down from 413 from the last reporting period. Richland County stands at 431 confirmed deaths due to COVID-19. The recent disease activity rate has now been downgraded to medium, along with other counties in the state. As of February 13, 2021, the estimated state recovery rate is 89.4% and the fatality rate is estimated at 1.65%. Hospitalizations still remain high but there is sufficient bed space. The utilization rate is 76.19% and the ICU utilization rate is 73.63%. As of the last report, there are 1,222 patients currently hospitalized, 301 are in ICU, and 173 are on ventilators. DHEC continues to receive vaccine distributions. As of February 13th, 677,674 total doses were distributed and 512,814 people have been vaccinated in South Carolina.

Councilor Duvall said about a week ago, DHEC changed their method of calculating the percent positivity rate. Can we get an explanation of the change?



**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

Mr. Harry Tinsley, Emergency Management Director said the percent positivity rate was obtained by calculating tests-over-individual but it was changed to the tests-over-tests method. DHEC changed their calculations to be more aligned with the CDC guidelines across the country.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 11

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve **Consent Agenda Items 5 through 11**.

5. Council is asked to approve a Professional Services Agreement for State Lobbying Services from February 2021 to June 2021, as requested by the Office of Governmental Affairs. Award to Ed Givens - Fellowship Strategies, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. - *Approved*

Funding Source: Governmental Affairs (1011103-636600). The original budget amount is \$30,000.00.

6. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of two Ford Escape Hybrid Vehicles for the Engineering Department, as requested by the Fleet Services Division. Award to Santee Automotive, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$50,860.00. This vendor is located in Manning, SC. - *Approved*

Funding Source: Engineering - Water Systems Improvement - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (5516220-658500) \$25,430.00; Engineering - Water Systems Improvement - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (5516221-658500) \$25,430.00. The original budget amount is \$50,860.00.

7. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of five Chevrolet Silverado Trucks for the Engineering Department, as requested by the Fleet Services Division. Award to Love Chevrolet using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$158,580.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. - *Approved*

Funding Source: Engineering Water Systems Improvement - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment - Capital (5516220-658500) \$79,290.00; Engineering Water Systems Improvement - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (5516221-658500) \$79,290.00. The original budget amount is \$158,580.00.

8. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of two GVWR Single Axle Dump Trucks for the Street Division, as requested by the Fleet Services Division. Award to Carolina International Trucks, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$218,614.22. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. - *Approved*

Funding Source: Streets - Water and Sewer Repair - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment - Capital (5513202-658500). The original budget amount is \$230,000.00.



**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

9. Council is asked to approve Contract Amendment #2 for Project SS7428; Lower Saluda Relief Sewer and Major Pipe Rehabilitation, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to Brown and Caldwell in the amount of \$467,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. - *Approved*

Funding Source: Water and Sewer Capital Projects; Capital Project Costs (5529999-SS742801-658650). The original budget amount was \$1,185,000.00. The budget amount for this amendment is \$467,000.00. The total revised budget amount is \$1,652,000.00.

This is a Clean Water 2020 Program Project and a Mentor Protégé Program Project. Brown and Caldwell is the mentor and will provide overall project management, bidding, and project closeout services at 63.85% (\$1,054,840.00) of the revised total contract amount. 4D Engineering, a Minority Business Enterprise (W) of Lexington, SC, is the protégé and will provide assistance with construction administration, onsite inspection of bypass systems and erosion/sedimentation controls, and submittal review services at 21.02% (\$347,300.00) of the revised total contract amount.

The following subconsultants will provide additional services:

Chao and Associates, a Minority Business Enterprise of Columbia, SC, will perform surveying and easement exhibit services at 13.81% (\$228,060.00) of the revised total contract amount.

Environmental Permitting Consultants, Incorporated will perform wetlands delineation and permitting services at 1.32% (\$21,800.00) of the revised total contract amount.

10. Council is asked to approve an Agreement for Project SS7583; Saluda River 02 (SR02) Engineer-Led Find and Fix Rehabilitation for an initial term of one year and nine months with the option to renew for one additional one-year period, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. in the amount of \$948,765.00. The firm is located in Columbia, SC. - *Approved*

Funding Source: Water and Sewer Capital Projects - Capital Project Costs (5529999-SS758301-658650). The original budget amount is \$948,765.00.

This is a Mentor Protégé Program Project. Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. is the mentor and will provide overall project management services, pre-construction assessment services, permitting services, engineering services, and construction inspection services at 79.93% (\$758,365.00) of the total contract amount. 4D Engineering, a Minority Business Enterprise (W) of Lexington, SC, is the protégé and will provide onsite construction inspection services at 20.07% (\$190,400.00) of the total contract amount.

11. Ordinance No.: 2021-002 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Lease Agreement between the City of Columbia and P.C. Partnership, LLC for a portion of the Northern right of way area of Washington Street at Sumter Street for installation and maintenance of a grease trap - *First reading approval was given on February 2, 2021 – Approved on second reading.*



**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

ORDINANCE - FIRST READING

12. Ordinance No.: 2021-009 Granting an encroachment to Gadsden Place, LLC for use of the right of way areas of the 1200 block of Gadsden Street for the installation and maintenance of sidewalks, driveways, parking, curbing, landscaping and irrigation adjacent to its building at 1209 Gadsden Street and 1211 Gadsden Street, Richland County TMS#08912-07-06 and 08912-07-14 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2021-009 Granting an encroachment to Gadsden Place, LLC for use of the right of way areas of the 1200 block of Gadsden Street for the installation and maintenance of sidewalks, driveways, parking, curbing, landscaping and irrigation adjacent to its building at 1209 Gadsden Street and 1211 Gadsden Street, Richland County TMS#08912-07-06 and 08912-07-14.

RESOLUTIONS

13. Resolution No.: 2021-006 Authorizing Construction and Improvements by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) of Interstate 20 and associated Ramps for the Carolina Crossroads, Phase 2 – Broad River Road at I-20 Interchange Design-Build Project - *Approved*

Councilor Rickenmann asked that staff post a timeframe for the completion of the project on the City's website for constituents to be able to obtain it easily.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: 2021-006 Authorizing Construction and Improvements by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) of Interstate 20 and associated Ramps for the Carolina Crossroads, Phase 2 – Broad River Road at I-20 Interchange Design-Build Project.

14. Resolution No.: 2021-008 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Fifth Amendment to Lease Agreement between the City of Columbia and Hamilton Capitol Center, LLC for lease of approximately 2,524 square feet in the Capitol Center, known as Suite 250, 1201 Main Street (*Office of Economic Development*) - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: 2021-008 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Fifth Amendment to Lease Agreement between the City of Columbia and Hamilton Capitol Center, LLC for lease of approximately 2,524 square feet in the Capitol Center, known as Suite 250, 1201 Main Street (*Office of Economic Development*).



**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

15. Resolution No.: 2021-010 Authorizing the Acquisition of Lexington County TMS # 002751-01-048 containing 6.47 acres and TMS # 002751-01-049 containing 5.85 acres, identified as two buffer parcels located south of Bower Parkway; Project Name: Upper Kinley Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvements; CIP Project #SS7331; CF#250-505 - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: 2021-010 Authorizing the Acquisition of Lexington County TMS # 002751-01-048 containing 6.47 acres and TMS # 002751-01-049 containing 5.85 acres, identified as two buffer parcels located south of Bower Parkway; Project Name: Upper Kinley Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvements; CIP Project #SS7331; CF#250-505.

PUBLIC INPUT ON CLOSING AND TRANSFER OF STREET

16. Resolution No.: 2021-007 Public Input on Closing and Transfer of an unopened 0.39-acre portion of Lyon Street adjacent to Richland County TMS #11411-03-01, 11411-03-02, 11411-03-03, 11411-04-22, 11411-04-23, 11411-04-24, 11411-04-25, 11411-04-26, 11411-04-27 and 11411-04-28 – *Received as information, no action was taken.*

The public hearing was opened at 1:25 p.m.

No comments were received at this time.

The public hearing was closed at 1:25 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REFERRALS / REPORTS

No reports or referrals were made at this time.

PUBLIC INPUT

No comments were received at this time.



**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 1:27 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 17** through **19** as amended.

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
 - Ordinance No.: 2021-012 - *An Emergency Ordinance Extending and Amending Certain Emergency Ordinances*
 - Public Art
 - Closing and Transfer of an unopened 0.39-acre portion of Lyon Street
 - Climate Protection Action Committee
 - City Center Partnership
18. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
 - EdVenture
 - Columbia Housing Authority
19. Receipt of legal advice relating to a pending, threatened or potential claim pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
 - *Richland County V. City of Columbia*

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC

City Clerk