



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017

The Columbia City Council conducted a Work Session on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the Work Session to order at 2:19 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Howard E. Duvall, Jr., The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr. and The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann. The Honorable Moe Baddourah arrived at 3:14 p.m. The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine was absent. Also present were Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore, City Clerk. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. *The minutes are numbered to coincide with the order of the meeting.*

INVOCATION

The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr. offered the Invocation.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. December 2016 Financial Report

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager stated that the financial report is available online and Ms. Jan Alonso, Finance Director is present to answer any questions.

Councilor Duvall said he sent questions to staff regarding our assessed values and properties we've been looking at. He noted that the numbers are looking good.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

2. Federal Legislative Update and Outlook - Mr. Ralph Garboushian, CapitalEdge

Mr. Ralph Garboushian, CapitalEdge said they've worked as a federal legislative consultant for the City of Columbia for over twenty years. He outlined the successes for 2015/2016 to include maintaining operating assistance for The COMET and securing \$20 million in direct disaster assistance for the City.

Councilor Rickenmann asked Ralph to push the agencies to work with property owners to move their applications forward, because we can't give them an answer and we can't help them.



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Mr. Ralph Garboushian, CapitalEdge continued to report that funding was also preserved for core local government grant programs such as CDBG and homeland security grants. He noted that there were setbacks with the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act. He explained that the FCC issued a final rule requiring municipalities to approve colocation on existing towers. He reported that we saw little movement on sales tax fairness. He reviewed the 2016 elections, noting that the Republicans maintained control in both the House and the Senate. He reported that 33 Senate seats will be up for election in 2018. He outlined key dates and key issues for the first session of the 115th Congress. He reviewed the priorities for the new administration and congressional leadership and how those priorities could impact cities.

Councilor McDowell inquired about any priorities that the City needed to focus on now.

Mr. Ralph Garboushian, CapitalEdge said tax reform and core local government grant programs.

Mayor Benjamin asked that joint letters be sent to our federal representatives expressing our need for their support on the issue of municipal bond tax exemptions.

Councilor Davis asked for assistance with scheduling trips to Washington at the appropriate times.

3. Business Licensing Legislation - Mr. Kyle Michel, Esq., Michel Law Firm

Mr. Kyle Michel, Esq., Michel Law Firm explained that the business licensing bill started as an attempt to bring standardization and centralization to the way businesses pay their business license taxes. He said the bill now includes a number of exemptions for certain businesses. He said in order for the City to remain revenue neutral, business license taxes would need to be raised on everyone by 53%. There would be an \$8.3 million shortfall. He reported that the House adjourned debate on H3650 today until March 1, 2017. He said we are asking for the bill to be restored to its original intent, which was to standardize the process among all cities; that business license renewals be done online for all cities; and that there be a consistent due date.

Councilor Rickenmann said there is a concern from business owners that are required to pay property taxes on equipment they do not own. He asked that this concern be addressed.

Mr. Kyle Michel, Esq., Michel Law Firm said this was done five years ago in cooperation with Richland County.

Councilor Duvall said all City Councils in South Carolina need to understand that this will take away their business licensing authority and give it to the Secretary of State.



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Mr. Kyle Michel, Esq., Michel Law Firm agreed to provide the Council with bullet points on H3650. As a follow-up to questions from a previous report, he clarified that the Municipal Tax Relief Act will apply to properties designated by the local government; the City will not be impacted by the appropriation to the Criminal Justice Academy, because the City doesn't pay for its law enforcement officers to be trained; and he has been working with Councilman Davis to secure State funding for the Harlem Heights storm drainage project in North Columbia.

4. EPA Brownfields Briefing - Mr. Fred Delk, Columbia Development Corporation and Mr. Brian Kvam, Brownfields Program Consultant for Cardno Co. – *This item was deferred.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 3:08 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 5 and 6** as outlined.

5. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements pursuant to § 30-4-70(a)(2)
 - Zapp
 - TD Bank Garage
 - Parking
6. Receipt of legal advice related to matters covered by attorney-client privilege pursuant to §30-4-70(a)(2)
 - Penny Tax Projects
 - Billboards



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The Columbia City Council met on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Moe Baddourah, The Honorable Howard E. Duvall, Jr., The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr. and The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann. The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine was absent. Also present were Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore, City Clerk. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The 2017 Class of Young Ambassadors for Justice led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr. offered the Invocation.

Councilor Duvall recognized the birth of Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine and Commissioner Jamie Devine's healthy baby boy, Jameson on Thursday, February 16, 2017.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda, subject to removing **Item 9** (*Citywide Multifunctional Copier Devices*) from the Consent Agenda.

PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one appeared at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

7. Council is asked to approve the February 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the February 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes.



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CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Upon a single motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 8 and 10 through 16.**

8. Council is asked approve the Purchase of Radios and Accessories, as requested by the Police Department. Award to Motorola Inc., using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$61,624.67. This vendor is located in Blythewood, SC. *Funding Source: FEMA/ Police Department: Radio Equipment 2532402-627800. The original budgeted amount is \$65,000.00. - Approved*
9. Council is asked to approve a Contract for Citywide Multifunctional Copier Device Services, as requested by the General Services Department. Award to Ricoh USA, Inc., in the amount of \$450,781.20. This company is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Central Stores/Copying – Xerox Copy and Supplies, 6208951– 627200. The original budgeted amount is \$1,050,000.00. – Approved as amended.*

Ms. Lawana Robinson, Deputy Director of the Procurement and Contracts Department explained that the attached agreement is the City's standard professional services agreement. A different form may be required in accordance with the State of South Carolina Participating Addendum for copier agreements for public sector entities utilizing the State contract. There are no major changes to any other pertinent information submitted to Council; it is simply a matter of form.

Upon a motion by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve a Contract for Citywide Multifunctional Copier Device Services in the amount of \$450,781.20, subject to the execution of the final contractual agreement between the City of Columbia and Ricoh, USA (a state contract vendor), in a form to be approved by the City Attorney's Office with final approval by the City Manager.

10. Council is asked to ratify the approval of Project SD8446; Emergency Storm Water Improvements on Calhoun Street, as requested by the Procurement and Contracts Department. Award to LAD Corporation in the amount of \$135,399.00. This firm is a certified Local Business Enterprise located in West Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Engineering Storm Water Improvement - Special Contracts W/S, SW 5511706 - 638305 - Approved*



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11. Council is asked to ratify the approval of Project SS737902; Olympia Emergency Sanitary Sewer Repairs at 528 Georgia Street, as requested by the Procurement and Contracts Department. Award to Shady Grove Construction, LLC in the amount of \$378,308. This firm is a certified Local Business Enterprise located in Irmo, SC. *Funding Source: Water Sewer Capital Project-Capital Project Cost/Olympia Sewer at 528 Georgia St. 5529999 - 658650 - SS737902 - Approved*
 12. Council is asked to approve Sanitary Sewer Improvements at Johnson Avenue and Garden Springs Road, as requested by the Engineering Department. Award to LAD Corporation of West Columbia, a Local Business Enterprise in the amount of \$497,673.00. This firm is located in West Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Utilities Metro Wastewater Plant - Special Contracts, 5529999-658650/SS740001-658650. The original budgeted amount is \$500,000.00. Ferguson Waterworks of Elgin, SC will receive 6% (\$25,000) of the contract value and Tindall Corporation of Spartanburg, SC will receive 2% (10,000) of the contract value. - Approved*
 13. Council is asked to approve Change Order #1 for Project SS7279; Smith Branch Basin, as requested by the Engineering Department. Award to Layne Inliner in the amount of \$899,925.50. This firm is located in Tucker, Georgia. *Funding Source: Funding for this change order will be provided from the original budget for Project SS7279 Smith Branch Basin. With this change order, the revised contract amount is \$3,712,487.50. This is a Clean Water 2020 Program Project and a Mentor Protégé Program Project. North American Pipeline Management of Marietta, GA, a Woman Owned Business Enterprise, is the Protégé and will receive 72% (\$648,228.40) of the change order value. The original budget for this project is \$6,000,000.00 and the original contract amount is \$2,812,562.00. - Approved*
 14. Resolution No.: R-2017-002 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Soda City Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 30, 2017 - *Approved*
 15. Resolution No.: R-2017-004 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Soda City Crit on Saturday, December 16, 2017 - *Approved*
 16. Resolution No.: R-2017-021 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only at the Main Street Latin Festival in the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Main Street, the western half block of the 1200 block of Lady Street, the eastern half block of the 1100 block of Lady Street and the eastern half block of the 1100 block of Washington Street on August 26, 2017 with a rain date contingency of September 2, 2017 - *Approved*
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PRESENTATIONS

17. Young Ambassadors for Justice Program - Deputy Chief Melron Kelly, Columbia Police Department and Miss McKenzie Amaker

Deputy Police Chief Melron Kelly, Columbia Police Department introduced the members of the 2017 Class of the Columbia Police Department's Young Ambassadors for Justice Program. He explained that he and Chief Holbrook convened this class to discuss issues that were important to them. Those issues ranged from violence, relationships and current events. He introduced Mr. Jamie Patterson as a Richland One Graduate of Columbia High School, the Director of School Counseling for Richland District Two and the program's mentor. The students represent A.C. Flora, C.A. Johnson, Dreher, and Westwood High Schools.

Miss McKenzie Amaker, Senior at Dreher High School thanked the officers and volunteers for sparing their time to educate the Young Ambassadors. She said the program includes a diversity of students that meet to share their experiences with relationship violence, safety issues, and preparing for the future. She said it has been a great program and she would love to see it expanded.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager reported that this initiative meets City Council's strategic Objective 4.1 to coordinate, partner and support Richland school districts.

18. Columbia World Affairs Council Update - Mr. Dickson Monk, Executive Director of the Columbia World Affairs Council

Mr. Dickson Monk, Executive Director of the Columbia World Affairs Council said the CWAC serves as the bridge between our local community and its global counterparts. He reported that two major projects involving the University of South Carolina College of Engineering and Computing and the Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering in our sister city of Kaiserslautern are under way. He provided an overview of many recent events that included collaborations with the Counsel General of India, Nagesh Singh, the former president of Haiti, President Martelly, Claflin University, the Counsel General of India, the S.C. State Museum, the USC Geography Department, a group of women leaders from the Ukraine and Columbia College. The CWAC is starting an initiative with our sister city of Cluj-Napoca, Romania to connect with IT students and professionals and ramp up our communications through a key contact here, Gabriel Terejanu, who is a senior department head in computer science at USC. The CWAC is also working with the Harry Huge Foundation and the Nexsen Pruet Law Firm on a potential trip to Estonia to connect with IT professionals and others. We are looking at other venues including Copenhagen, Denmark where Councilwoman Devine got a first-hand look at



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how Denmark is increasing livability by reducing its use of vehicles. Ms. Devine spoke to the annual meeting of the World Affairs Council in January. The Council's programming is having a positive impact on Columbia's hospitality economy and awareness of Columbia's position as a world-class city. In closing, he said they look forward to working with interns from the Mayor's Fellows Program.

The Honorable Judge Mildred McDuffie, Columbia World Affairs Council Board of Directors asked Council for their continued support. She said we enjoy what we do to make the world better. She also asked Council to attend this year's gala.

STAFF REPORT

19. Busby Street Community Center & Police Training Complex Phase I Project Update - Ms. Dana Higgins, PE, City Engineer and Mr. Bob Probst, AIA, Project Manager

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said she asked staff to prepare an update on Phase I of the Busby Street Community Center & Police Training Complex Project in anticipation of a contractual amendment that will come before Council on March 7, 2017. She thanked Council for their dedication of funding.

Ms. Dana Higgins, P.E., City Engineer explained that the purpose of this project is to design and construct a community center using design elements from the Earlewood Community Center and to create a police substation presence with a training facility on the 7-acre property located off of Busby Street. She noted that multiple city departments are working together on programming, spatial needs and to save costs. She explained that low impact development standards will be used for the creation of walking trails, a playground, plazas, landscaping, a stormwater pond, parking and streetscaping.

Mr. Bob Probst, AIA, Project Manager said this is concept; we reviewed the programming that was done by the architects, met with the partners and now we are developing information for the architects to continue with the schematic design phase of the project. He said we need your approval tonight in order to get the architects moving forward on the balance of the contract. He noted that there will be an amendment for Council's review and approval at the next meeting. He said we used Earlewood as a baseline for this project and we are looking to establish a design vernacular for all community buildings. He reported that the building will be approximately 7,500 square feet with 3,000 sq. ft. of meeting space that can be subdivided; an office for the Parks and Recreation Departments; two offices for the community; a 500 sq. ft. conference



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room; restrooms, circulation and other required spaces. The police substation is approximately 1,300 sq. ft. and will include a conference room and restrooms. The plan is to have a shared reception area for the police substation and the community center. The entire facility will have security systems, state of the art communications and audio visual equipment and Wi-Fi. He said anything we build should set the standard for other developments and go beyond what is expected. He noted that there is a \$2.5 million budget for hard construction, site development and soft costs. He reiterated that City forces will be used whenever possible. He said the architects and engineers will be used to design the entire 7-acre site so that the infrastructure will be in place for future development of the full site. The anticipated completion date is April 2018.

Councilor McDowell asked if there will be community input. He said we are on target conceptually.

Mr. Bob Probst, AIA, Project Manager said absolutely; once we complete the schematic design we will setup a meeting to share it with the community.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager asked Councilors Davis and McDowell and Mayor Benjamin to work with her on shaping the community input sessions.

Councilor Davis requested a presentation at the next neighborhood meeting.

Councilor Baddourah requested feedback on the need for police substations in other parts of the City of Columbia.

Mayor Benjamin said this concept is a reflection of previous community engagement and input. We do want you to share this with the neighbors in the surrounding area and we want you to move forward post-haste.

OTHER MATTERS

20. Fund Balance Allocations

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve the following allocations from the unassigned fund balance in the total amount of \$105,000.



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\$22,500	International Festival
\$22,500	Columbia Classical Ballet
\$5,000	Devine Street Merchants Association for marketing Devine Street Night Out
\$5,000	Rosewood Merchants Association for marketing Rosewood Arts Festival
\$5,000	Shandon Neighborhood Council for park improvements
\$5,000	Rosewood Community Council for park improvements
\$5,000	Rose Hill Neighborhood for park improvements
\$5,000	Melrose Heights for park improvements
\$5,000	Wheeler Hill Neighborhood for park improvements
\$5,000	Woodlands Park for improvements
\$5,000	Columbia Federation for the Blind
\$10,000	Owens Field Miracle Field for windmill public art
\$5,000	National Association for Minority Contractors

Councilor Baddourah said we have talked about including public art in our parks and we want to bring a windmill to Owens Field to represent Child Abuse Prevention Month. He noted that the windmill design will come before Council in the near future.

As a point of personal privilege, Mayor Benjamin recognized The Honorable Milton G. Kimpson as the newly elected Administrative Law Court Judge for South Carolina.

21. Little Lake Katherine Dredging Project Funding Request

Ms. Dana Higgins, P.E., City Engineer explained that Lake Katherine is currently having their pond dredged. She said they met with both Lake Katherine and Little Lake Katherine to discuss the process of Army Corp permitting and the requirements for having the sediment removed. She explained that Little Lake Katherine is requesting a commitment from the City for 52% of the sediment removal costs. A study from 2004, estimated 7,100 cubic yards and that would equate to \$92,950.

Councilor Rickenmann added that we've been having these discussions since 2004 and there has to be participation from the homeowners and Richland County. He said we made this commitment in 2004 so we are still using that pricing.

Mayor Benjamin clarified that we are asking all of our regional partners to contribute in making this a reality. He said if 52% is a different amount, then we need to live up to that commitment.



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Upon a motion by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to approve the Little Lake Katherine Dredging Project Funding Request in the amount of \$92,950 from the Stormwater Fund, subject to permitting.

22. Gills Creek Watershed Association Match Funding Request for a Section 319 Grant

Councilor Rickenmann said the Gills Creek Watershed Association is submitting this grant for the Crowson Road section of Gills Creek that was affected by the flood from Fort Jackson Boulevard to Rosewood Drive. He said a good example of this is Sugar Creek in Charlotte, North Carolina and the economic impact that it has. He said the project will go along with the Penny Tax Project and the commitment has to be a local match of 40%. He suggested that funding come from the Stormwater Fund.

Councilor Baddourah said the grant will also provide a better quality of life for the residents.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to approve the Gills Creek Watershed Association Match Funding Request for a Section 319 Grant in the amount of \$250,000 from the Stormwater Fund, contingent upon a successful grant award.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED DURING THE WORK SESSION

No matters were considered at this time.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS / REFERRALS

No committee reports or referrals were made at this time.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Jack Logan appeared on behalf of Put Down the Guns to express concerns about the unsolved Najeer Buggs case. He asked Council to assist Police Chief Holbrook with increasing the Crime Stoppers award and to utilize billboards in hopes of finding the suspect that murdered this 14 year old child.

Mayor Benjamin said the Police Department has the Council's support as they aggressively pursue a resolution to this case. He said Crime Stoppers will stand by a positive resolution in this case, as well.



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Ms. Raquel Thornton appeared on behalf of Homeless Helping Homeless to read a written statement and to inquire about the \$13.5 million that was provided for homeless people. She asked what is going to be done about the number of homeless people in Columbia.

Mayor Benjamin sought clarity on Ms. Thornton's needs and the \$13.5 million she is referring to. He referred her to City staff for further assistance with flood relief and her immediate needs.

Mr. James Williams appeared on behalf of the Greenview Community to request assistance from City Council with obtaining the old Sanders Middle School for community activities, a daycare center, afterschool programs, and space for the City's police and fire departments. He said the community had discussions with the School District.

Mayor Benjamin said the property has been vacant for some time and it has water damage. He said it is a beautiful piece of property. He agreed to follow-up with Mr. Williams about how to get clarity from the School District on how to move forward.

Upon a motion by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore, CMC
City Clerk