



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at City Hall (Council Chambers), 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m. and the following City Council members were present: The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., The Honorable Will Brennan, Mayor Pro-Tem, The Honorable Aditi Bussells, The Honorable Tina N. Herbert, The Honorable Peter M. Brown, and The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey. 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. expressed condolences to the family of the late Mr. John Furgess, an active member of the community. He then extended well wishes to Mr. Brent Wiley, who has recently been placed in hospice care. Following these remarks, he offered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda subject to adding the Convention Center to **Item 10** (Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)).

PUBLIC INPUT

Councilor Brennan introduced Mr. Maurice Pearl as the Executive Director of The COMET. He acknowledged Mr. Pearl's outstanding efforts in visiting local governments served by The COMET. Councilor Brennan also highlighted Mr. Pearl's leadership in advocating for the Penny Tax and expanding transit services throughout the county.

Mr. Maurice Pearl, Executive Director of The COMET said my primary focus was to ensure the passage of the Penny Tax for The COMET, as it is crucial for the greater good of the Midlands region. With 22 years of experience in public transit, I was eager to seize the opportunity when a position became available in the Midlands. I



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wanted to be part of this community, and I'm thankful for the opportunity to be here in Columbia.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Council is asked to approve the January 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Brown, Council voted unanimously to approve the January 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Celebrando Black Business Day Proclamation - The Honorable Mayor Daniel J. Rickenmann – *Received as information.*

Mayor Rickenmann and the members of City Council proclaimed February 12, 2025 as Celebrando Black Business Day in the City of Columbia.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3 THROUGH 5

Upon a single motion made by Mr. McDowell and Mr. Brown Council voted unanimously to approve **Consent Agenda Items 3** through **5**.

3. Council is asked to approve additional funding for the installation of twelve (12) T2 Cosmo Pay Stations on Main Street, as requested by the Parking Services Department on January 24, 2025. Award to Creative Parking Concepts in the amount of \$70,310.40. This vendor is located in Nashville, TN. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Parking Improvement Project Control - Main Street Pay Stations - Capital Project Costs (5329999-PG310025-658650). The current budget amount is 154,936.92. The budget amount for this increase is \$70,310.40. The total revised budget amount is \$225,247.32.

4. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Safety Apparatuses, as requested by the Public Works Department on January 24, 2025. Award to Meridian Rapid Defense Group Sales, LLC using the GSA Cooperative Contract in the amount of \$746,628.77. – *Approved*



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Funding Source: General Capital Projects - Machinery and Equipment-Capital (4039999-658300). The original budget amount is \$746,628.77.

5. Council is asked to approve a new Contract for Project SR914301; Ring Road Resurfacing Project, as requested by Public Works Streets Division on April 19, 2024. Award to In-Line Paving Industries, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$545,066.11, which includes contingency. The initial term of the contract will take effect upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed with an end date thirty (30) days from commencement. This contractor is located in Lexington, SC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Street Resurfacing Capital Project-Resurface Ring Road/Little/Gregg-Capital Project Costs (4079999-SR914301-658650). The original budget amount is \$545,066.11.

In-Line Paving Industries, LLC is the prime contractor and will provide paving services at 82.56% (\$414,114.55) of the total contract amount.

The following subcontractors/suppliers will provide additional services/supplies:

T&H Construction & Markings, located in Lexington, SC, will provide pavement markings at 9.47% (\$47,491.00) of the total contract amount.

Simply Traffic, LLC, located in Chapin, SC, will provide traffic control at 7.97% (\$40,000.00) of the total contract amount.

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

6. Ordinance No.: 2025-005 - An Ordinance Providing for an Installment Plan of Finance for Undertaking or Completing Certain Downtown City Projects; approving Columbia Facilities Corporation and its activities, including the issuance by the Corporation of not exceeding \$54,000,000 principal amount of its Installment Purchase Revenue Bonds, in one or more series, tax-exempt or taxable; approving the forms of or authorizing the execution and delivery of one or more amendments or supplements to the Base Lease and Conveyance Agreement and the Installment Purchase and Use Agreement each Dated May 19, 2021 and between the City of Columbia, South Carolina and the Corporation and the Trust Agreement dated May 19, 2021, between the Corporation and Regions Bank, as Trustee; authorizing the preparation of a Bond Purchase Agreement, Official Statement and other documents with respect to the marketing and sale of such bonds; delegating authority to the



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Mayor, the City Manager and the Assistant City Manager for Development and Finance, or any two of them acting together, to approve and determine certain matters; and other matters relating thereto – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2025-005 - An Ordinance Providing for an Installment Plan of Finance for Undertaking or Completing Certain Downtown City Projects; approving Columbia Facilities Corporation and its activities, including the issuance by the Corporation of not exceeding \$54,000,000 principal amount of its Installment Purchase Revenue Bonds, in one or more series, tax-exempt or taxable; approving the forms of or authorizing the execution and delivery of one or more amendments or supplements to the Base Lease and Conveyance Agreement and the Installment Purchase and Use Agreement each Dated May 19, 2021 and between the City of Columbia, South Carolina and the Corporation and the Trust Agreement dated May 19, 2021, between the Corporation and Regions Bank, as Trustee; authorizing the preparation of a Bond Purchase Agreement, Official Statement and other documents with respect to the marketing and sale of such bonds; delegating authority to the Mayor, the City Manager and the Assistant City Manager for Development and Finance, or any two of them acting together, to approve and determine certain matters; and other matters relating thereto.

7. Ordinance No.: 2025-006 - Granting an encroachment to the University of South Carolina for the use of the right of way area of the 1200 block of Greene Street for the installation and maintenance of a brick paver field, a brick seat wall, site furnishings, landscaping and irrigation adjacent to 1212 Greene Street, Richland County TMS# 11303-03-01 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2025-006 - Granting an encroachment to the University of South Carolina for the use of the right of way area of the 1200 block of Greene Street for the installation and maintenance of a brick paver field, a brick seat wall, site furnishings, landscaping and irrigation adjacent to 1212 Greene Street, Richland County TMS# 11303-03-01.



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EVENT RESOLUTIONS

8. Resolution No.: R-2025-004 - Authorizing consumption of beer, wine and liquor at the "St. Pat's in Five Points Festival" and authorizing the City Manager and the Parks and Recreation Director to sign Park Rules for the St. Pat's in Five Points Festival on Saturday, March 15, 2025 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2025-004 - Authorizing consumption of beer, wine and liquor at the "St. Pat's in Five Points Festival" and authorizing the City Manager and the Parks and Recreation Director to sign Park Rules for the St. Pat's in Five Points Festival on Saturday, March 15, 2025.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REFERRALS, REPORTS AND NEW BUSINESS

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to refer a review of general expectations for tax abatement purposes for special exception student housing as well as limited service hotels to the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee.

PUBLIC INPUT

Ms. Lisa Smarr, Vice President of Columbia Classical Ballet spoke in favor of City Council continuing to fund the ballet. She highlighted the ballet's efforts to provide complimentary tickets to various community groups.

Ms. Lee Lumpkin, Chair/CFO of Columbia Classical Ballet expressed concerns regarding the hospitality tax funding cuts the organization experienced.

Ms. Patsy Gardner, Second Chance Resource Center thanked City Council, City Manager Teresa Wilson, Assistant City Manager Henry Simons, Director Trevon Fordham, and Councilors Bussells and Herbert for their support. With funding from SCORF, the center will provide wraparound services such as housing, substance abuse support, and family services. She introduced key staff members and announced their first community outreach event on March 1, 2025.

Mr. Wade Fulmer expressed concerns about numerous nuisance complaints related to excessive dog barking.



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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 4:46 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 9** through **11** as amended to add the Convention Center to **Item 10**.

9. Discussion of the employment of an employee pursuant to §30-4-70(a)(1)
 - *Municipal Court Judges*
10. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
 - *Capital City Stadium*
11. 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 Catalyst*

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk