



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia City Council conducted a virtual meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 2:10 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. The minutes are numbered to coincide with the order of the meeting.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Edward H. McDowell, Jr. offered the invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda with the following amendments:

Add Ordinance No.: 2020-029 - Emergency Order to Temporarily Close all Public Parks and Facilities to Protect the Health, Safety and Welfare of our Residents and Visitors.

Add Ordinance No.: 2020-030 - Enacting Temporary Waiver of Business License Fees through May 15, 2020.

Add Ordinance No.: 2020-031 - An Emergency Order Declaring a State of Emergency for the City of Columbia, South Carolina.

Add Ordinance No.: 2020-032 - An Emergency Ordinance to temporarily suspend the normal operating procedures of City of Columbia Boards and Commissions Meetings.

Defer Item 15 - Resolution No.: Ordinance No.: 2020-024 Consenting to the Inclusion of Property in a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (Washington & Assembly, LLC, Richland County TMS # R09013-03-06, R09013-03-07, R09013-03-08, R09013-03-09, R09013-03-10, R09013-03-11, R09013-03-12, and R09013-03-13).



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

Defer the Letter of Credit discussion under Executive Session **Item 21**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Council is asked to approve the March 10, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes. - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve the March 10, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

2. Partnership with SCDOT – Millwood Repaving Projects (Phase 1 & 2) Gervais to Devine - Mr. John Fellows, Assoc. AIA, AICP, Planning Administrator; Ms. Krista Hampton, Director of Planning and Development Services; and Mr. Robert Anderson, Director of Public Works – *Received as information. No action was taken.*

SCDOT Funded Project

Mr. John Fellows, Assoc. AIA, AICP, Planning Administrator said we had a number of public meetings in regards to the repaving project with SCDOT on Millwood Avenue. We sent out over 900 letters to property owners, held three different public meetings, and attended one business meeting. The input and written responses are summarized in the attachment on the agenda. For phase 1, SCDOT will be looking into the crosswalks on the side streets. We are looking for City Council to either direct staff to tell SCDOT to move forward with the plans to restripe the corridor with more narrow travel lanes including bike lanes and other enhancements or to continue discussing the project.

Councilor Brennan said Mr. Fellows I want to thank you and your staff for doing a wonderful job with outreach. Can you describe the on-street parking after the repaving and lane reduction? Will there be on-street parking?

Mr. John Fellows, Assoc. AIA, AICP, Planning Administrator said currently there is on-street parking. Phase 1 is Gervais Street to Gladden Street and there is only one block that has on-street parking. There are two existing parking spaces that are currently at a bus stop. No one seems to park on those and most parking occurs on the eastern part of that block. Two parking spaces will be removed but the remaining of the parking spaces near the businesses will remain. In phase 2 from Gladden Street to Devine Street, there is parking in two blocks and all of those parking spaces will remain.



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

Councilor Brennan asked if there was any talk about budget increase to possibly paint the bike lanes and add barriers or dividers for safety.

Mr. John Fellows, Assoc. AIA, AICP, Planning Administrator said there is not additional width within the curb right-of-way to put those barriers up.

Councilor Devine asked about timeline for the project to start, what is the mechanism for communication of any issues that any businesses might have during construction, and when is it going to be completed?

Mr. John Fellows, Assoc. AIA, AICP, Planning Administrator said we are anticipating the contractor to start work as early as April and going into spring and summer for regular paving. The first phase will include any repairs and deep structural needs. Then the resurfacing projects will begin. Planning staff will be in contact with District One and we will give information to City PR which will be put on the website.

FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021 BUDGET WORKSHOP

3. General Fund Revenues - Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget and Program Management Director – *Received as information. No action was taken.*

Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget and Program Management Director said we want to preface our conversation by saying that the projections are fluid and we will be making adjustments as we understand more about the impact to the general fund revenue. The projections for fiscal year 19/20 property taxes are on target to make budget. The forecasting for fiscal year 20/21 property taxes are based on previous projections. Our next major category of revenue is business licenses. We have projected about \$42 million in business licenses and permits. Business licenses is the general fund revenue stream that most likely will be impacted by COVID-19 shutdowns. Business licenses were due April 15. I know there is some discussion about delaying that. Business license enforcement efforts are still underway with Datamax. The business license model ordinance is also underway with the Municipal Association. Negotiations in regards to fees for certain entities may be adjusted as we continue to go through the process with businesses and non-profits. As far as charges for services, we are projecting \$16.2 million to include the fire hydrant fee that was adopted in fiscal year 19/20. Fund balance is not reflected in the budget at this point. A lot of that will be contingent upon how we end this fiscal year. In terms of where we are in our final assessment values in fiscal year 19/20, we decided to keep the millage based on the projected rollback and without any rate increase in property taxes. Graphically, we see steady



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

growth in the final assessment values. In the past three years, we have seen moderate growth in property taxes. The total budget is \$153.2 million. If we were to keep the current budget as it is this year and again next year with no increases at all, there will be a deficit of \$3 million. Some of the drivers we have been talking about for basic service priority areas include roads, streets, sidewalks, our internal infrastructure, city facilities, and water infrastructure. We are keeping in the forefront the efforts that have been underway and what is new in regards to Police Department recruitment and efforts to improve technology. Our current situation is making that relevant along with the need for technology not just for our police but across the city. There have been discussions and assessments of fire facilities. In the current fiscal year, we increased the capital replacement program allocation from \$8 million to \$9.2 million for additional police patrol vehicles and customer service initiatives.

Councilor Davis asked what are some measures being taken to lessen the pressure on the Police Department.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said the plan that Chief Holbrook has presented to you all is the plan that we are shooting for. The discussion in the very beginning was to lay the baseline. We are as flat as we can be across city departments' budget proposals. Our staff continues to do anything they can without increases. These are tough discussions we need to have and I don't have an answer for that right now.

Councilor Rickenmann said we have to have a discussion internally about priorities and putting some of our internal needs before external needs. I think that will help us get closer to where we need to be. We need to get into the weeds of the budget.

4. Proposed Hospitality Tax and Accommodations Tax Budgets - Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget and Program Management Director – *Received as information. No action was taken.*

Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget and Program Management Director said our projections were made before our current situation. The proposed hospitality tax budget is \$12.7 million. That is conservative compared to prior years. As we go through the budget process we will monitor those collections. We are concerned more on making budget on the current year as the majority of our collections that come in are not the same. This is a heavy period for hospitality so we do want to take a conservative approach with what we are forecasting. The budget is reflective of the four areas of funding that are made throughout the hospitality budget. The hospitality tax committee is currently forecasted at \$2.1 million. That is reflective of prior year allocations to the committee and the 1% reduction. Final allocations are still subject to City Council approval.



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

The next area is the line item agencies reflected at \$2.8 million. It is a slight increase from the current year and again reflecting the 1% reductions and the Columbia Museum of Art's capital project. That allocation increases by \$300,000 at fiscal year 20/21 and the next fiscal year is the final fiscal year of the five-year allocation. All of the other agencies are flat with the current year and do not reflect their requests for the next year. Hospitality tax applications were due last Friday.

Mayor Benjamin asked if we have the same process for evaluating these requests now or what are staff recommendations on the process. I don't know how it is going to look in a few months, but I expect that year 2021 resources will be down.

Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget and Program Management Director said last week, Dee Dee Fanning sent out information to all the entities that have events between now and through the end of the fiscal year giving them instructions on what to do with their allocations and the requirements. The hospitality allocations are still based on reimbursable expenses. As agencies spend money for events and if they have receipts, they have been allowed to submit for reimbursement. We have allowed for them to carry forward. I think this is still up for discussion with Council in terms of what to do with allocations and in what direction we want to go, in regards to reserving any allocations and holding on to funds in anticipation of not making budget.

Mayor Benjamin said we are going to be faced with incredibly challenging times as we go forward. Having the availability to carry forward some programs that might be delayed is one option. We might need to be looking at various types of relief for the entities who help generate the hospitality tax.

Councilor Duvall asked when is the latest the committee can make decisions on the hospitality tax requests? I would like to be able to hold the notifications to the organizations as much as possible to try and get a better read on how impacted the collections from the hospitality tax and accommodations tax will be.

Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget and Program Management Director said the committee will be meeting in the early part of May to interview the applicants. Some organizations have events that will occur as early as July. It might be a matter of prioritizing groups by timing of the events. We can come up with options for Council to consider. Council has approved allocations as late as July in the past. It would not be out of nature to adopt the budget and then amend it once we know where we end this current fiscal year. The next group of allocations is City Council allocations which is projected at \$538,000. That is a reduction from the current year and that is



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

based on things like events that have been yearly commitments. We have the transfer of the general fund which is projected at \$3.7 million. It has been the same for the past three years. There is a change in debt service for anticipated new bonds for Finlay Park rehabilitation. The budget does show a surplus. That will not be the case as we readjust our projections. I wanted to demonstrate what is currently reflected in the budget as City Council takes into consideration allocations for the coming year.

Councilor Devine asked if the amount we are contemplating for Finlay Park is only going to increase our debt service by about \$300,000.

Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget and Program Management Director said it is \$400,000, but the debt service scheduled for the existing debt was lowered. If we did it all at one time, it will be a \$1.5 million increase. Next, it's the accommodations tax and the budget is proposed at \$2.7 million. This area is going to be impacted by COVID-19 in regards to hotel occupancy, which has decreased by 10%. The accommodation tax is collected by the state and given to the city. State law specifies how the tax is allocated. The first allocation is \$25,000 for the general fund, \$30,000 for advertising operations, and \$65,000 for tourism related expenditures. The last 5% is what we refer to as general purposes and we use those funds as we would use general fund dollars. Committee allocations are based upon prior Council direction of 85% to Experience Columbia and 15% to Lake Murray, subject to Council approval. The total committee allocations are \$2.5 million. The 5% general purpose allocation reflects \$25,000 to Together We Can Read and \$83,800 to ONEColumbia. We are forecasting to stay on schedule with budget discussions. In April we will bring forward more discussions regarding basic services, general fund, storm water fund, and the water and sewer rate study. In May, the city manager will present the all fund summary proposed budget and any remaining budget discussions. May 5, 2020 is the last City Council meeting before we advertise the budget. The public hearing and first reading will be on June 2, 2020 and second reading and final adoption will be on June 16, 2020.

5. Priority Areas Within Basic City Services - Part I – *Received as information no action was taken.*

Streets and Sidewalks - Mr. Robert Anderson, Public Works Director

Mr. Robert Anderson, Public Works Director said 69% of roads are owned by SCDOT, 30% are owned by the city, and 1% is private. We have about 400 lane miles of city streets. This includes sidewalks, storm drainage, and all signalization. We also have additional signalization that SCDOT owns, but we have a maintenance agreement with them. In 2011, we used a program called Micro Paver to evaluate all roads. The rating in 2011 was at an 80. We used the acceleration model in the program and now the rating is at a 67. We were in preventive



We Are Columbia

**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020**

maintenance and now we are in the structural improvements category. We had a substantial lost in our roads. SCDOT with the gas tax now has a pot of money that they use to and pave and maintain state roads. That is strictly for SCDOT roads and projects alone. Sidewalk requests have been tracked in the Public Works division for 20 years. We currently have 32.12 miles of requests for sidewalk. I know we are trying to become a more walkable city and these sidewalk requests are coming to the forefront. Requests are on both City owned and SCDOT owned roads. Our estimated contract cost is over \$19 million to build the 32 miles of sidewalks. We always try to use outside funding sources to do different things. We currently have two or three projects with CTC. We have utilized CDBG money in different areas. We have done some public and private partnerships to get larger projects done. Currently there is no funding in our budget for any paving projects. We requested \$300,000 this year for a new pavement management study.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager asked if it is necessary to do another study for \$300,000 versus putting the money into work that needs to be done.

Mr. Robert Anderson, Public Works Director said the \$300,000 would give us a clear picture of what our roads would look like today.

Councilor McDowell asked if speed humps are figured into this equation.

Mr. Robert Anderson, Public Works Director said speed humps are done out of the Street Division's operating budget. We do have asphalt money for potholes, utility cuts, and speed humps but not for paving.

Councilor Davis asked what can we do to get SCDOT to share some of the dollars from the penny tax.

Mr. Robert Anderson, Public Works Director said we can look into it, but I think they were pretty particular when they put that project together to make sure that it was locked up for SCDOT projects around the state. It is more on a legislative level than administrative.

Councilor Duvall asked if we receive any support from the Richland County Transportation Committee.



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

Mr. Robert Anderson, Public Works Director said yes we do. We put about \$500,000 of the city's money into the 3-million-dollar project we are doing in Chesnutt Hills. We got \$2.5 million and we completed the Columbiana Drive project with it. Prior to that we got \$3.5 million that we used over five years to pave different roads in the city. We also got some tentative approvals from CTC that they will fund the paving part of the Calhoun Street project.

Councilor Brennan asked for an example of a private and public funded project done before.

Mr. Robert Anderson, Public Works Director said we have done a few, I will get a list to you.

Councilor McDowell asked if the Germany Street project is scheduled for the summer.

Mr. Robert Anderson, Public Works Director said yes, we are going to try to get it paved between the time school is out and the time school starts so there is no big interruption.

Councilor Devine said that \$19 million for sidewalks is going to keep growing. Where are we on looking for outside funding either from DOT grants, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and other organizations promoting physical activity and healthy life styles. Maybe we can start chipping at that right now before we are able to put some money in by looking into grant money or other money we can match.

Mr. Robert Anderson, Public Works Director said we used TAP grants in the past. We have another one that engineering is getting ready to design. The penny sales tax has done several sidewalks in the city. We will always continue to look into outside funding. We are planning to set aside \$500,000 per year.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 6 THROUGH 13

Upon a single motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve **Consent Agenda Items 6** through **13**.

6. Council is asked to approve an increase to the Indefinite Delivery Contract for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 for Project SS7304; Wastewater Collection System Manhole Survey, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to Vaughn & Melton Engineers, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$226,734.00. This firm has headquarters in Middlesboro, KY and a local office in Spartanburg, SC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: 5516221-638305. The original budget amount for this increase is \$226,734.00. The total revised contract amount is \$796,334.00.



**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020**

7. Council is asked to approve a contract for Project SS7436; Darlington Street and Confederate Avenue Sewer Rehab, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to North American Pipeline Management, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$322,184.50, which includes contingency. This firm is located in Marietta, GA. – *Approved*

This is a Mentor Protégé Program project. North American Pipeline Management, Inc. of Marietta, GA is the mentor and will be performing general project management and other services at 80.0% (\$234,316.00) of the total contract value. Southern Roots Landscaping Management, LLC of Columbia, SC is the protégé and will be performing pipe work, trucking, and restoration at 20.0% (\$58,579.00) of the total contract value.

Funding Source: 5529999-SS743601-658650. The original budget amount is \$549,560.00.

8. Council is asked to approve an agreement for Project SS7335-C; Force Main Easement Identification, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers, Inc. in the amount of \$418,530.50. The firm is located in North Charleston, SC. – *Approved*

Vaughn & Melton of North Charleston, SC will complete Force Main Easement boundary identification, marking, and record locations for the City's entire Transmission System at 83% (\$347,380.32) of the total contract amount. This project has a Columbia Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (CDBE) participation goal of 17%. The CDBE goal has been met at 17%.

The following subcontractors will provide additional services/supplies:

Chao & Associates, a Minority Business Enterprise and CDBE of Columbia, SC will provide surveying at 17% (\$71,150.18) of the total contract amount.

Funding Source: 5516205-SS7335-C-638305. The original budget amount is \$200,000.00. The remaining balance of \$218,530.50 will be allocated through the 2020-2021 O&M budget.

9. Council is asked to approve a contract for Project CP003403-SR8053; Main Street Intersections Improvements, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to AOS Specialty Contractors, Inc., a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (Woman) and a Local Business Enterprise, in an amount not to exceed \$988,911.50, which includes contingency. This firm is located in Lexington, SC. – *Approved*

The following supplier will be providing additional materials:

W.M. Roebuck, Inc. of Lexington, SC will be providing specialization items at 47% (\$422,176.50) of the total contract value.

Funding Source: CP003403-SR8053. The original budget amount is \$988,911.50.



**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020**

10. Ordinance No.: 2020-023 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Contract of Sale, Deed and any other documents necessary to consummate the transfer of 6317 Azalea Drive, Richland County TMS #13810-01-16 from the City of Columbia (Community Development Department) – *First reading approval was given on March 10, 2020. - Approved*
11. Resolution No.: R-2020-014 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the Wiese Biergarten Summer Solstice-Make Music Day in the Amphitheater Area of the Riverfront Park on Sunday, June 21, 2020 with a rain contingency date of Sunday, June 28, 2020 – *Approved*
12. Resolution No.: R-2020-046 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the Artista Vista Lincoln Street Tunnel Dinner on Saturday, April 18, 2020 – *Approved*
13. Resolution No.: R-2020-048 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages at the Lifting as We Climb Concert in the parking lot located between the Richland County Courthouse and City Hall on Saturday, September 26, 2020 – *Approved*

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

14. Ordinance No.: 2020-029 Emergency Order to Temporarily Close all Public Parks and Facilities to Protect the Health, Safety and Welfare of our Residents and Visitors - *Approved on first reading.*

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said this is set to have an abundance of caution for our citizens and residents. We have already closed our community centers and buildings. This is dealing with public spaces like greenways and parks. We want to be specific with the public spaces because they are well utilized.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance No.: 2020-029 Emergency Order to Temporarily Close all Public Parks and Facilities to Protect the Health, Safety and Welfare of our Residents and Visitors.



**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020**

15. Ordinance No.: 2020-030 Enacting Temporary Waiver of Business License Fees through May 15, 2020 - *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance No.: 2020-030 Enacting Temporary Waiver of Business License Fees through May 15, 2020.

16. Ordinance No.: 2020-031 An Emergency Order Declaring a State of Emergency for the City of Columbia, South Carolina - *Approved on first reading.*

Mayor Benjamin said we discussed provisions that will allow for pharmacies and groceries including micro farmer markets to stay open, but they will have to adhere to the same social distancing requirements and sanitation expectations. If that does not work we will have to reconsider. We have serious consideration of a possible curfew and we have been discussing one that will begin at 11 p.m.

Councilor Duvall said the sooner we can get crowds off the streets, the better. There should be no crowds. I will support 11 p.m. but 10 p.m. will be better.

Councilor Rickenmann said I am not in favor of putting a curfew in. We are talking about 50% of businesses and restaurants that will be affected and we have not done one thing to address the businesses that are still operating. I spend some time with local businesses and there are many people already scared that will not recover from this. I think we need to give them the option to obey a capacity and see how it goes.

Councilor McDowell said are we asking for the curfew to take place in addition to the ordinance or we are asking at the appropriate time to institute a curfew.

Mayor Benjamin said as currently drafted the curfew is not part of the emergency ordinance. Our greatest challenge right now is social distancing. The challenge is that time is not our friend and it will have a significant impact in the spread of the virus.

Councilor Devine said i am not opposed to the curfew. I wonder if we should wait since we just did the state of emergency and see if asking the restaurants to do additional things might correct itself. My biggest concern is adding micro farmers' markets. I saw the soda city market is promoting the big soda city market but in different places. Right now we are doing what we need to do for people to take it serious. It is easy for more than 10 people to congregate at these markets.



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

Councilor Brennan said we have put in place guidelines like 50% occupancy and six-foot distancing. We will need to do observation to see if this is actually happening and if in fact we need to take seriously the need for a curfew.

Councilor McDowell said I support the possibility of a curfew if this virus continues to expand. How we observe and manage restaurants and how we move into the curfew are questions that need to be answered.

Mayor Benjamin said I do support that if its legal for me to declare a curfew that can be preemptively done. We need some frank input from Chief Holbrook and Chief Jenkins in regards to enforcement.

Mr. William Holbrook, Chief of Police said we are concerned with the enforcement of any passed ordinances. We need to put officers in positions to make good common sense decisions. There are three options: one is a warning with compliance, two will be noncompliance, and three will be a custodial arrest.

Mr. Aubrey Jenkins, Chief of Fire said if we don't set a limit and if we don't start a curfew we will just be out there watching. Our goal is not to issue tickets but to keep the people safe.

Ms. Teresa Knox, City Attorney said the mayor has the power to enact a curfew at any point and Council has to affirm the decision in a meeting within 24 hours. Typically, other jurisdictions have had a curfew and a list of exceptions for essential needs like grocery stores, pharmacies, and people getting to and from work; not including bars and restaurants.

Councilor Duvall said I would like to suggest that we go ahead and implement an 11 p.m. curfew based on what both chiefs have said. It is more easily enforced than trying to separate by six feet or looking at the capacity of a building. We can have a curfew with exemptions of essential businesses like pharmacies and gas station or whatever else the attorney recommends.

Councilor Devine said I would like to see how the state of emergency is implemented and allow our restaurants to self-regulate based on the folks who come in. The curfew addresses the bars, but not people congregating at restaurants. We need to push people to use carry-out and delivery. We can support our businesses by doing it through take-out and focus on stopping people from congregating no matter what time it is.

Councilor Rickenmann said we need to push social distancing and monitor to try and encourage as much take-out as possible. I am concerned about every aspect. We focus on restaurants, but



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

this affects dry cleaners, parlors, etc. We got to be safe but cautious with what we do. I feel strongly that we need to give opportunities and stretch hours as much as we can before taking drastic measures.

Mayor Benjamin said I know this is incredibly difficult but everything that we are seeing is telling us we need to act now. I do think we need to do as much as we can sooner rather than later. I would like to hear what the governor has to say today so we have a uniform approach statewide. What we have been told is that he will shut down restaurants and bars to close dine-in service starting tomorrow morning and only do take-out. I have the language that we used in 2015 for a curfew which will have to be amended for medical needs. As we get a full legal assessment of the new executive order we will proceed accordingly.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance No.: 2020-031 An Emergency Order Declaring a State of Emergency for the City of Columbia, South Carolina, as amended to add a curfew for all citizens from 11:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020 with the exemption of people seeking health care and traveling to and from work.

17. Ordinance No.: 2020-032 An Emergency Ordinance to Temporarily Suspend the Normal Operating Procedures of City of Columbia Boards and Commissions Meetings - *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance No.: 2020-032 An Emergency Ordinance to Temporarily Suspend the Normal Operating Procedures of City of Columbia Boards and Commissions Meetings.

18. Ordinance No.: 2020-019 Granting an encroachment to 908-Scannell (Columbia), LLC for the use of right of way area of the 1300 block of Huger Street and 1300 block of Pulaski Street adjacent to 1101 Huger Street, 1300 Huger Street, 1310 Huger Street and 1320 Huger Street, Richland County TMS #09009-11-04 for sidewalks, driveways, landscaping and irrigation - *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2020-019 Granting an encroachment to 908-Scannell (Columbia), LLC for the use of right of way area of the 1300 block of Huger Street and 1300 block of Pulaski Street adjacent to 1101 Huger Street, 1300 Huger Street, 1310 Huger Street and 1320 Huger Street, Richland County TMS #09009-11-04 for sidewalks, driveways, landscaping and irrigation.



We Are Columbia

**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020**

-
19. Ordinance No.: 2020-024 Consenting to the Inclusion of Property in a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (Washington & Assembly, LLC, Richland County TMS # R09013-03-06, R09013-03-07, R09013-03-08, R09013-03-09, R09013-03-10, R09013-03-11, R09013-03-12, and R09013-03-13) – *Deferred*
20. Ordinance No.: 2020-025 Consenting to the Inclusion of Property in a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (604 Huger, LLC, Richland County TMS #08914-01-06, TMS #08914-01-07, TMS #08914-01-08, TMS #08914-01-09, and TMS #08914-01-10) - *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted [5 to 2] to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2020-025 Consenting to the Inclusion of Property in a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (604 Huger, LLC, Richland County TMS #08914-01-06, TMS #08914-01-07, TMS #08914-01-08, TMS #08914-01-09, and TMS #08914-01-10). Mr. Rickenmann, Mr. Duvall, Ms. Devine, Mr. Davis and Mayor Benjamin voted aye. Mr. Brennan and Mr. McDowell voted nay.

RESOLUTIONS

21. Resolution No.: R-2020-044 Public Input on Closing and Transfer of an unopened portion of Hamrick Avenue adjacent to Richland County TMS #11204-02-06 and an unopened portion of Seabrook Street f/k/a Magnolia Avenue adjacent to Richland County TMS #11204-02-06 (Capital City Stadium) – *Approved*

No public comments were received on this matter.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2020-044 Public Input on Closing and Transfer of an unopened portion of Hamrick Avenue adjacent to Richland County TMS #11204-02-06 and an unopened portion of Seabrook Street f/k/a Magnolia Avenue adjacent to Richland County TMS #11204-02-06 (Capital City Stadium).

22. Resolution No.: R-2020-049 Requesting the Richland County and Lexington County Magistrate Courts to Stay all Evictions Within the corporate limits of the City of Columbia due to the Emergency Situation Caused by SARS-CoV-2 (the Coronavirus) - *Withdrawn*



**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 6:14 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 23** through **25**, with the exception of the Letter of Credit listed under Item 25.

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

Coronavirus Update

24. Discussion of the employment of an employee pursuant to §30-4-70(a)(1)

*Chief Administrative Judge
City Manager and City Attorney Evaluations*

25. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements pursuant to S. C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)

*Convention Center
Letter of Credit
Whitewater / Finlay Park*

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore, CMC
City Clerk