



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at City Hall (Council Chambers), 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Will Brennan, Mayor Pro-Tempore called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and the following members were present: The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., The Honorable Aditi Bussells, The Honorable Tina N. Herbert, The Honorable Peter M. Brown, and The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor was absent. 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

Bishop James Mack, Bible Way of Piedmont Ministries offered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as amended, with the deferral of **Item 3**.

PUBLIC INPUT

No one appeared at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of March 4, 2025 Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to approve the March 4, 2025 Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes.



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PRESENTATIONS

2. Social Work Month Proclamation - The Honorable Aditi Bussells

Dr. Bussells congratulated the Rapid Shelter team on reaching year three. She emphasized the importance of providing housing for the hardest-to-reach homeless populations in the community and highlighted the value of having trauma-informed and compassionate staff.

The Honorable Aditi Bussells and the members of City Council proclaimed March 2025 as Social Work Month in the City of Columbia.

Ms. Kameisha Heppard, LSW, Director of Homeless Services thanked the City Manager, Mayor and City Council for recognizing the vital work of social workers. She also expressed gratitude to partners and stakeholders for their support in expanding outreach. She highlighted the increasing need for assistance and acknowledged her dedicated team. Each year, Rapid Shelter recognizes an honorary social worker. This year, Ms. Nyasia Franklin has been selected for her remarkable growth and dedication to the profession.

3. Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement Quarterly Update - Mr. Trevon Fordham, Ed.D., Director - *Deferred*

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 4 THROUGH 9

Upon a single motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Brown, Council voted unanimously to approve **Consent Agenda Items 4 through 9**.

4. Council is asked to approve a Sole Source Contract Amendment #2 for the Purchase of Godwin Pumps, Products, Parts, Repair Services and Maintenance for the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant, as requested by Columbia Water on February 20, 2025. Award to Xylem Dewatering Solutions, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00. The current term of the contract ends on June 30, 2025. This firm is located in Summerville, SC. - *Approved*

Funding Source: Utilities Metro Wastewater Plant - Equipment/Service Supply (5516208-631800). The current budget amount is \$30,000.00. The budget amount for this amendment is \$80,000.00. The total revised budget amount is \$110,000.00.



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5. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Licenses for Citywide GPS Monitoring Services, as requested by the Fleet Services Division on February 17, 2025. Award to Samsara, Inc., using the Sourcewell Cooperative Contract in the amount of \$169,319.38. This vendor is located in San Francisco, CA. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Equipment Service Fuel Parts and Repair - Cloud Based Software Solutions (6308970-632170). The original budget amount is \$169,319.38.

6. Council is asked to approve Project PK121201; Purchase of Six (6) Triangular Canopies for Hyatt Park, as requested by the Parks and Recreation Department on March 5, 2025. Award to Shade Systems, Inc., using the HGACBuy Cooperative Contract in the amount of \$128,223.38. This vendor is located in Ocala, FL. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Community Development Block Grant; General Capital Projects - Hyatt Park and Randall Avenue Pocket Park - Recreation Physical Fitness Equipment-Capital (4039999-PK121201-658900). The original budget amount is \$128,223.38.

7. Council is asked to approve Project PK121201; Purchase of Playground Equipment for Randall Avenue Park, as requested by the Parks and Recreation Department on March 3, 2025. Award to Carolina Parks and Play, LLC, using the Sourcewell Cooperative Contract in the amount of \$206,681.40. This vendor is located in Cary, NC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Community Development Block Grant; General Capital Projects - Hyatt Park and Randall Avenue Park - Recreation Physical Fitness Equipment-Capital (4039999-PK121201-658900). The original budget amount is \$206,681.40.

8. Council is asked to approve a new Contract for Projects PK12501/PK121725; Renovations and Restroom Upgrades to include Hands-Free Technology at Various Parks and Recreation Facilities, as requested by the Parks and Recreation Department on November 15, 2024. Award to MADCO Contracting and Consulting Services in an amount not to exceed \$965,000.00, which includes contingency. The initial term of the contract will take effect upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed with an end date one hundred ninety (190) days from commencement. This contractor is located in Lexington, SC. – *Approved*



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Funding Source: Community Development Block Grant: General Capital Projects - Charles R. Drew Wellness Center Bathroom Renovation - Capital Project Costs (4039999-PK121501-658650) \$250,000.00 and Community Development Block Grant - CV: General Capital Projects - Parks and Recreation Restroom Upgrades Touchless - Capital Project Costs (4039999-PK121725-658650) \$715,000.00. The original budget is \$965,000.00.

9. Ordinance No.: 2025-012 - Approval for Acquisition of 2903 North Main Street for the Vista Greenway, Phase 3 Project; Richland County TMS#09110-24-01 (3,545.06 SF; 0.08 Acre); CF#250-590 for extension of the pedestrian trail from Elmwood Avenue to Harden Street Extension – *Approved on second reading.*

First reading approval was given on March 4, 2025.

PUBLIC HEARING & FIRST READING FOR ZONING / PLANNING MATTERS

Council opened the public hearing at 4:12 p.m.

10. ANNEXATION, FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT, AND ZONING MAP AMENDMENT for 1015 Hamrick Street and R/R Bluff Road, TMS#s 11204-02-17 and 11204-02-23 – *Approved on first reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2025-014 - Annexing 1015 Hamrick Street and R/R Bluff Road, Richland County TMS # 11204-02-17 and 11204-02-23 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map – Approved on first reading.

Proposal: Request to annex the property, assign the land use classification of Urban Core Mixed Residential Type 3 (UCMR-3) and assign zoning of Residential Two-Family – Mill Village District (RD-MV) for a pending annexation. The property is currently classified as Mixed Residential (High Density) and zoned Residential 6 (R6) by Richland County.

Council District: 3

Applicant: Pranv Patel and Tushar Patel

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 02/13/2025; Approval (6-0)



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No one appeared at this time.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. Brown, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the Annexation, Future Land Use Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment for 1015 Hamrick Street and R/R Bluff Road, TMS#s 11204-02-17 and 11204-02-23 **and** Ordinance No.: 2025-014 - Annexing 1015 Hamrick Street and R/R Bluff Road, Richland County TMS # 11204-02-17 and 11204-02-23 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map.

11. ANNEXATION, FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT, AND ZONING MAP AMENDMENT for 2309 Leesburg Road, TMS# 19208-02-17 – *Approved on first reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2025-015 - Annexing 2309 Leesburg Road, Richland County TMS # 19208-02-17 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map – Approved on first reading.

Proposal: Request to annex the property, assign the land use classification of Urban Edge Residential Large Lot (UER-2) and assign zoning of Residential Single Family Large Lot District (RSF-1) for a pending annexation. The property is currently classified as Neighborhood (Medium Density) and zoned Residential 3 (R3) by Richland County.

Council District: 4

Applicant: Victoria Sosa Adams

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 02/13/2025; Approval (6-0)

No one appeared at this time.



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Upon a motion made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the Annexation, Future Land Use Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment for 2309 Leesburg Road, TMS# 19208-02-17 **and** Ordinance No.: 2025-015 - Annexing 2309 Leesburg Road, Richland County TMS # 19208-02-17 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map.

12. ANNEXATION, FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT, AND ZONING MAP AMENDMENT for 2313 Leesburg Road, TMS#19208-02-16 – *Approved on first reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2025-016 - Annexing 2313 Leesburg Road, Richland County TMS # 19208-02-16 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map – Approved on first reading.

Proposal: Request to annex the property, assign the land use classification of Urban Edge Residential Large Lot (UER-2) and assign zoning of Residential Single Family Large Lot District (RSF-1) for a pending annexation. The property is currently classified as Neighborhood (Medium Density) and zoned Residential 3 (R3) by Richland County.

Council District: 4

Applicant: Preston Bunche

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 02/13/2025; Approval (6-0)

No one appeared at this time.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the Annexation, Future Land Use Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment for 2313 Leesburg Road, TMS#19208-02-16 **and** Ordinance No.: 2025-016 - Annexing 2313 Leesburg Road, Richland County TMS # 19208-02-16 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map.



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13. AMENDMENT TO THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE to Amend area subject to height reduction in the Innovista Design Overlay (OV-ID) – *Approved on first reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2025-013 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 17 (Unified Development Ordinance), Article 3: Zoning Districts Sec. 17-3.7. Overlay Districts – Approved on first reading.

Proposal: Amend the Unified Development Ordinance, Chapter 17, Article 3: Zoning Districts, Sec. 17-3.7 Overlay Districts; (g) OV-ID: Innovista Design Overlay District, to remove the limitation of height except within 300' of the western boundary of the West Gervais Protection Area.

Applicant: Mayor Daniel J. Rickenmann

Staff Recommendation: Council Member Sponsored

PC Recommendation: Approval (6-0)

No one appeared at this time.

Ms. Krista Hampton, Director of Planning and Development Services explained that the Innovista is currently subject to the height restriction and that will remain. The other areas that are subject to this height restriction no longer will be. They will be subject to either the historic district standards or the base zoning district. This was sponsored by the Mayor in relation to proposal at the Convention Center's proposal.

There was discussion about recent concerns and the amendment pertaining only to the Innovista.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to give to first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2025-013 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 17 (Unified Development Ordinance), Article 3: Zoning Districts Sec. 17-3.7. Overlay Districts.

Council closed the public hearing at 4:18 p.m.



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ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

14. Ordinance No.: 2025-017 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Tenth Amendment to Lease between the City of Columbia and Old Boy Properties, LLC for property consisting of 100± acres in Richland County, South Carolina being a portion of the property formerly owned by Columbia Venture, LLC and Sunday School, LLC – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2025-017 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Tenth Amendment to Lease between the City of Columbia and Old Boy Properties, LLC for property consisting of 100± acres in Richland County, South Carolina being a portion of the property formerly owned by Columbia Venture, LLC and Sunday School, LLC.

15. Ordinance No.: 2025-019 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Contract of Sale between the City of Columbia and Alexander J. Christian for the transfer of 5216 Randall Avenue, Richland County TMS #R11705-15-01 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Herbert and seconded by Mr. Brown, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2025-019 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Contract of Sale between the City of Columbia and Alexander J. Christian for the transfer of 5216 Randall Avenue, Richland County TMS #R11705-15-01.

EVENT RESOLUTIONS

16. Resolution No.: R-2025-001 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Main Street Jazz Fest in the 1700 block of Main Street on Saturday, May 10, 2025 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. Brown, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2025-001 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Main Street Jazz Fest in the 1700 block of Main Street on Saturday, May 10, 2025.

17. Resolution No.: R-2025-005 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Artista Vista's Live on Lincoln in the 1200 block of Lincoln Street on Sunday, April 13, 2025 – *Approved*



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Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Brown, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2025-005 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Artista Vista's Live on Lincoln in the 1200 block of Lincoln Street on Sunday, April 13, 2025.

18. Resolution No.: R-2025-007 - Authorizing consumption of beer, wine, and liquor at the Columbia Food and Wine Festival in the 1600 block of Blanding Street on Sunday, April 27, 2025 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. Brown, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2025-007 - Authorizing consumption of beer, wine, and liquor at the Columbia Food and Wine Festival in the 1600 block of Blanding Street on Sunday, April 27, 2025.

19. Resolution No.: R-2025-008 - Authorizing consumption of beer, wine, and liquor at the Contemps Ball at 1515 Main Street on Saturday, March 22, 2025 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. Brown, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2025-008 - Authorizing consumption of beer, wine, and liquor at the Contemps Ball at 1515 Main Street on Saturday, March 22, 2025.

APPOINTMENTS

20. Board of Zoning Appeals

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to approve the reappointment of Mr. Sherard Duvall and the appointment of Ms. Sydney Lanham to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a three-year term.

21. Climate Protection Action Committee

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Angi Fuller Wildt, Ms. Caroline Nagel, and Mr. Richard "Cameron" Cohran to the Climate Protection Action Committee for a three-year term.



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22. Design Development Review Commission

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve the reappointment of Ms. Mary Beth Branham as an architect with historic preservation experience and Mr. Andrew Saleeby as a community representative to the Design Development Review Commission for a three-year term.

23. Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Nailah "N.C." Darby and Ms. Carena Jones as restaurateurs, Mr. Jay Anneaux as an at-large representative, and Ms. Harriet Green as the Arts and Cultural Liaison to the Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee for a two-year term.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REFERRALS, REPORTS, AND NEW BUSINESS

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to refer a report provided by staff on the impact the expansion of delivery robots could have on the local workforce, safety, and general welfare of Columbia residents to the Health Social and Environmental Affairs Committee.

The report should cover the following topics:

- A broad overview of the implementation of autonomous food delivery technology across the country and its impact on workers.
- An overview of the autonomous food delivery program at USC. The city's relationship to the program in regard to permitting, the issuing of business licenses, data sharing or other agreements in place, number of autonomous delivery robots currently being used throughout Columbia, etc.
- Any regulations on autonomous food delivery robots that have been implemented in other cities and the impacts of the regulation on their respective workforces.



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- Proposed business licensing rates for autonomous robots' deliveries companies used throughout the city taking into consideration our citizens' need for employment opportunities and ensuring that autonomous food delivery robot companies contribute their equitable share to the general welfare of the city.

PUBLIC INPUT

Ms. Cae Moore expressed concerns about substandard housing and high rents. She proposed the demolition of the Riverwalk Vista apartment complex to build an affordable housing community. The goal is to improve housing quality and affordability.

There was discussion about the current affordability of housing in the City of Columbia.

Mr. Oliver Francis sought clarification on whether he is allowed to coach baseball in Columbia and requested an official written response.

Mr. Wade Fulmer expressed concerns with nuisance dog barking.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Ms. Herbert, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 4:43 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 24** and **25**.

24. Receipt of legal advice relating to a pending, threatened or potential claim pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)

Audra Hatcher v. City of Columbia

Ernest Johnson v. City of Columbia

O. Stanley Smith, Acre Plus, LLC and Constan Gervais Street Car Wash, Inc. v. City of Columbia

25. 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)



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2221 Devine Street

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk