



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022

The Columbia City Council conducted a meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Columbia, SC 29201. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Howard E. Duvall, Jr., The Honorable Mayor Pro-Tempore Edward H. McDowell, Jr., The Honorable William Brennan, The Honorable Aditi Bussells, The Honorable Tina N. Herbert, and The Honorable Joe E. Taylor, Jr. 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.*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

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

Mayor Rickenmann took a moment of personal privilege to acknowledge what is happening in Ukraine. The City is behind all the citizens of Ukraine. Hopefully this will get resolved soon, but our thoughts and prayers are with the Ukrainians.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda, subject to deferring Item 14.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments were received at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Council is asked to approve the February 1, 2022 and February 15, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes. – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Ms. Herbert, Council voted unanimously to approve the February 1, 2022 and February 15, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes.



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Mayor Rickenmann took a moment of personal privilege to recognize City Manager Teresa Wilson for 15 years of service with the City of Columbia. Ms. Wilson was gifted a service pin and a token of appreciation by staff. Also present for the recognition were Ms. Wilson's daughter and parents.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

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

Mr. Harry Tinsley, Emergency Management Director said we are continuing to trend in a positive direction. According to DHEC's data, all 7-key indicators (cases, tests, percent positive, deaths, hospitalizations, ICU hospitalizations, and patients on ventilators) continue to trend downward. In South Carolina, the confirmed case count stands at 1,143,922. The state's combined case count stands at 1,461,426 to date. There have been 15,578,803 tests administered to date. There were 299 new confirmed cases as of today. The positivity rate is 5.6% over a 4,491 test sample. There were 37 new confirmed deaths and 11 probable deaths reported. The state's total combined deaths due to COVID-19 stands at 16,912. In Richland County, the confirmed case count stands at 97,743. There were 35 new cases as of today. The death count stands at 760 confirmed and 135 probable deaths. As of February 23rd, Richland County's 14 – day recent disease activity incidence rate is medium. The downward trend in case rates and hospitalizations continues across the state. DHEC reports 6,654,497 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in South Carolina. As of February 26th, approximately 54.2% of the eligible population is fully vaccinated and 63.1% have received at least one vaccine dose.

3. Introduction to Procurement and Contracts

- Update - Ms. Shannon Lizewski, Deputy Director of the Procurement and Contracts Department

Ms. Shannon Lizewski, Deputy Director of the Procurement and Contracts Department stated that from the recommendations provided by Council at the last meeting, the department has identified the procurement birthdate to be the requisition creation date in our financial accounting system called IFAS. In our analysis, we looked at purchase orders from the period of July 2021 to January 2022 and noticed that 60% of those purchase orders were released within 30 days. Examples of project timelines for procurements involving goods and services, professional services, construction services, and amendments were provided. She discussed the steps each procurement follows and which departments are involved in each step.



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- Compliance Program Integration - Ms. Melissa Lindler, Director of the Office of Business Opportunities

Ms. Melissa Lindler, Director of the Office of Business Opportunities said the Office of Business Opportunities is involved in three areas: commercial lending; contractor and supplier diversity; and technical assistance, education, and advocacy. The city has different programs like the mentor protégé program, subcontractor outreach program, local business enterprise program, and our Columbia disadvantaged business enterprise (CDBE) program to help us better connect with our minority and women owned businesses. We also have a 15% citywide goal across the city to encourage departments to better utilize local minority and woman owned businesses in securing day-to-day goods and services needed to operate their offices. Most of OBO's interaction in the procurement process is done on the front end. OBO's involvement starts in step one by working with the end user to determine any available compliance program. If CDBE, the goal is determined and approved by the City Manager. OBO comes back in step four and attends pre-bid, pre-proposal meetings, and holds outreach events for CDBE projects for contractors interested in bidding. In step five, OBO reviews submittal documents for compliance review. In step six, OBO reviews information submitted in Minute Traq to ensure percentages are correct for compliance programs. In step eight, the final step, OBO reviews contract amendment/change order forms for compliance with program requirements. Goods and services does not lend itself to most compliance programs. Compliance review is not required for contract amendments with no compliance programs. The timeline of projects varies depending on the information received by the end user. Examples of projects with different timelines were provided.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 4 THROUGH 12

Upon a single motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda **Items 4** through **12**.

4. Council is asked to approve a Contract to Purchase two 2022 RAM 1500 Quad Cab 4x4 Trucks for Columbia Water, as requested by the Fleet Services Division on January 26, 2022. Award to Performance Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$72,643.00. The vendor is located in Clinton, NC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Utilities Water Distribution and Maintenance - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment - Capital (5516203-658500). The original budget amount is \$72,643.00.



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5. Council is asked to approve a Contract to Purchase 28 Rocket Mobile Routers for the Columbia Police Department Vehicles, as requested by the Fleet Services Division on October 27, 2021. Award to Utility Associates, Inc., using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$99,792.00. The vendor is located in Tucker, GA. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Capital Replacement - Computer Equipment/Hardware (6308972-627500). The original budget amount is \$99,792.00.

6. Council is asked to approve a Contract to Purchase a Unitized Air Purification System Fill Station for the Columbia Fire Department, as requested by the Fleet Services Division on October 22, 2021. Award to Safe Air Systems, as a Sole Source in the amount of \$81,300.24. The vendor is located in Randleman, NC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Capital Replacement - Auto, Trucks Heavy, Equipment - Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$81,300.24.

7. Council is asked to approve a Contract to Purchase a 2022 Cab & Chassis Versalift Bucket Truck with Chipper Body for the Forestry and Beautification Division, as requested by the Fleet Services Division on October 26, 2021. Award to Carolina International Trucks, using the Sourcewell Cooperative Contract in the amount of \$150,362.50. The vendor is located in Columbia, SC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Capital Replacement - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment - Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$150,362.50.

8. Council is asked to approve a Contract to Purchase a 2022 Ford F-550 Regular Cab 4x4 with Knapheide Body and Articulating Telescopic Aerial Device with ISO Boom for the Traffic Engineering Division, as requested by the Fleet Services Division on January 12, 2022. Award to Herlong Ford Inc., using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$161,997.80. The vendor is located in Edgefield, SC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Capital Replacement - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment - Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$161,997.80.



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9. Council is asked to approve a Contract to Purchase a 2022 Galbreath Hook Lift Truck and Containers for the Solid Waste Division, as requested by the Fleet Services Division on December 2, 2021. Award to Carolina Environmental Systems, using the Sourcewell Cooperative Contract in the amount of \$267,807.60. The vendor is located in Kernersville, NC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Solid Waste Trash Collection - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment - Capital (1014402-658500). The original budget amount is \$267,807.60.

10. Council is asked to approve a Professional Services Agreement for Project SD8498; Louisa Street Stormwater Retrofit, as requested by Columbia Water on December 17, 2021. Award to McCormick Taylor, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$482,546.00. The firm is located in Columbia, SC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Stormwater Improvements Capital Projects Control - Louisa Street Wetland/Walkway - Capital Projects Costs (5549999-SD849801-658650). The original budget amount is \$482,546.00.

This is a Mentor Protégé Program Project. McCormick Taylor, Inc. is the mentor and will provide technical consulting, project plans, and specification services for the retrofit of an existing stormwater detention facility at 77.03% (\$371,716.00) of the total contract amount. Chao and Associates, Inc., a Minority Business Enterprise of Columbia, SC, is the protégé and will provide survey, hydrologic design, erosion and sediment control design, structural design, and engineering services at 20.07% (\$96,830.00) of the total contract amount.

The following subconsultant will provide additional services:

Schanbel Engineering of Columbia, SC, will provide geotechnical services at 2.90% (\$14,000.00) of the total contract amount.

11. Council is asked to approve a Professional Services Agreement for Project SS7611; Liquid Train Master Plan Update, as requested by Columbia Water on January 31, 2022. Award to Hazen and Sawyer in an amount not to exceed \$539,693.00. The firm is located in Columbia, SC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Utilities Metro Wastewater - Special Contracts Water/Sewer, Stormwater (5516208-638305). The original budget amount is \$539,693.00.

This is a Mentor Protégé Program Project. Hazen and Sawyer is the mentor and will provide planning, process design, and consulting services at 79.67% (\$429,993.00) of the total contract amount. Howard Engineering, Inc., a Minority Business Enterprise (W) of Columbia, SC, is the protégé and will provide electrical, survey coordination, and sampling assistance services at 20.33% (\$109,700.00) of the total contract amount.



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12. Ordinance No.: 2022-009 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Ninth 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 second reading.*

First reading approval was given on February 15, 2022.

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

13. Ordinance No.: 2022-012 - A Fifteenth Supplemental Ordinance providing for the Issuance and Sale of City of Columbia, South Carolina, Waterworks and Sewer System Revenue Bonds, in one or more series, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of not exceeding \$335,000,000, in order to Refinance Certain Outstanding Indebtedness and to Finance Various Capital Projects and improvements to the system, any necessary debt service reserves, capitalized interest and issuance costs; authorizing the mayor, the City manager and the assistant City manager for finance and economic services, or any two of them acting together, to determine certain matters with respect to the bonds; prescribing the form and details of such bonds; and other matters relating thereto – *Approved on first reading.*

Mayor Rickenmann requested background information.

Mr. Jeff Palen, Assistant City Manager and Chief Financial Officer said the total not to exceed amount is \$335 million. Our last four bond issues over the last six years, have had large not to exceed amounts. As we went through the budget this past year and our rate study, we talked about a capital improvement program in the current year of \$120 million. Out of that \$120 million, we were going to fund it with a combination of cash from the system and bond proceeds. We have now moved into the budget year and we are issuing the bonds that will be added to the cash through the rate study. From this year's budget, we are using \$31 million from a combination of cash that comes in throughout the year and from cash balance from prior years. The other \$89 million for the capital improvement plan would come from these bond proceeds. As a system, we have outstanding debt of about \$675 million. Before we issue new bond proceeds, our bankers and staff take a look to see if there is an ability to refinance to bring in lower interest rates. We are not looking to get more money out. We are trying to refinance some of the existing debt so that our future interest costs will be lower.



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Councilor Taylor requested that the names of the law firms, the individual lawyers, and the fees that they are being paid be listed on the agenda for any future bond ordinances. Transparency with the public is important

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2022-012 A Fifteenth Supplemental Ordinance providing for the Issuance and Sale of City of Columbia, South Carolina, Waterworks and Sewer System Revenue Bonds, in one or more series, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of not exceeding \$335,000,000, in order to Refinance Certain Outstanding Indebtedness and to Finance Various Capital Projects and improvements to the system, any necessary debt service reserves, capitalized interest and issuance costs; authorizing the mayor, the City manager and the assistant City manager for finance and economic services, or any two of them acting together, to determine certain matters with respect to the bonds; prescribing the form and details of such bonds; and other matters relating thereto.

14. Ordinance No.: 2022-020 - Repealing Ordinance No.: 2019-046 that Amended the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 8, Environmental Health and Sanitation, Article II, Nuisances, Sec. 8-31 Nuisance – Definitions (a) and (b), Ordinance No.: 2019-056 that Amended the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 14, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, to add Article XII Extreme Risk Protection Orders and Ordinance No.: 2019-063 that Amended the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 14, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions to add Article XIII, Gun-free School Zones – *Deferred*.
15. Ordinance No.: 2022-022 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City of Columbia and Tarez Graham for the sale of property located at 934 Laurie Lane, Richland County TMS #11215-04-23 – *Approved on first reading*.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2022-022 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City of Columbia and Tarez Graham for the sale of property located at 934 Laurie Lane, Richland County TMS #11215-04-23.



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16. Ordinance No.: 2022-023 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City of Columbia and Ernest Berry for the sale of property located at 612 Hemphill Street, Richland County TMS #13708-22-06 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2022-023 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City of Columbia and Ernest Berry for the sale of property located at 612 Hemphill Street, Richland County TMS #13708-22-06.

RESOLUTIONS

17. Resolution No.: R-2022-016 - Recognizing the Application of the Force Majeure Provision in the Venue License Agreement between Hardball Capital, LLC and the City of Columbia, dated April 8, 2014 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2022-016 Recognizing the Application of the Force Majeure Provision in the Venue License Agreement between Hardball Capital, LLC and the City of Columbia, dated April 8, 2014.

Mayor Rickenmann clarified that this is only a one-year extension based on the request.

18. Resolution No.: R-2022-020 - Authorizing acceptance of donated property within the Bull Street Development known as the Freed Deck Parcel, which property is a portion of Richland County TMS R09113-16-01 and the Sabal Deck Parcel, which property is a portion of Richland County TMS R09113-16-04 from Bull Street Development, LLC, for parking and authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to effectuate this transfer – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2022-020 Authorizing acceptance of donated property within the Bull Street Development known as the Freed Deck Parcel, which property is a portion of Richland County TMS R09113-16-01 and the Sabal Deck Parcel, which property is a portion of Richland County TMS R09113-16-04 from Bull Street Development, LLC, for parking and authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to effectuate this transfer.



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Councilor Taylor requested an informational update showing the original projections for the cost of Bull Street, what was spent to-date, and the revised estimate to complete our obligations. This can be submitted as a written report and placed on record at the next Council meeting.

EVENT RESOLUTIONS

19. Resolution No.: R-2022-013 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the Final Table Expo at the Columbia Museum of Art, Hampton Street between Assembly Street and Main Street on Saturday, April 30, 2022 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2022-013 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the Final Table Expo at the Columbia Museum of Art, Hampton Street between Assembly Street and Main Street on Saturday, April 30, 2022.

20. Resolution No.: R-2022-017 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the Wedding of Tassie Collins at Columbia Riverfront Park and Canal on Saturday, April 2, 2022 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2022-017 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the Wedding of Tassie Collins at Columbia Riverfront Park and Canal on Saturday, April 2, 2022.

21. Resolution No.: R-2022-018 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only within Boyd Plaza adjacent to the Columbia Museum of Art for Arts and Draughts on Friday, April 22, 2022 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2022-018 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only within Boyd Plaza adjacent to the Columbia Museum of Art for Arts and Draughts on Friday, April 22, 2022.

OTHER MATTERS

22. Council is asked to authorize the City Manager to fully fund and enhance the Columbia Police Department's Pathways Unit, which provides an alternative approach to addressing individuals who are experiencing mental health crises and related issues. – *Approved as amended.*



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Councilor Taylor said this is a major positive step. We have homeless issues everywhere, not just in downtown. This will put mental health professionals or social workers in our Police Department to respond and let our policemen be policemen.

Mayor Rickenmann said we are all very excited about being able to enhance the program. We have the opportunity to get professionals involved. This changes our opportunity to address issues and help folks get the help they need with the right professionals. I appreciate Council supporting this and the city manager and chief for embracing it and moving it forward.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said as we prepare for your work session on Tuesday, you will see a line item for the Pathways Unit, additional resources towards preventing gun violence and other public safety initiatives as our recommendations for allocations from the American Rescue Plan. I want you to be on the lookout for that on Friday.

Councilor Bussells added that homelessness and mental health continues to be atop of mind for our diverse neighbors and community groups. As we begin our task force meetings, I am excited to be working with my colleagues to ensure that we expand programs that address the root cause of what we are seeing. A lot of research shows that most people experiencing homelessness do have substance abuse or addiction issues. I look forward to working with you all in addressing a key issue that is a cornerstone to making sure our city is a vibrant and safe place to live.

Councilor McDowell said it is critically important to remember that the homeless will be with us forever. It is critical to convene this committee and creatively talk about what is possible.

Councilor Taylor asked if this could be implemented by June 1st. Time is of the essence.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said we are going to stand up the unit, but we must have the partnership of the Department of Mental Health, other alcohol and drug abuse services, state agencies, and the county. Everyone has to pull in the same direction. The intent is to take individuals in crisis somewhere other than the streets of Columbia. We need that assistance and a physical location.

Mayor Rickenmann said we can set the goal for June 1, 2022 and we can always amend that based on what we find when we discuss this with our partners.



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Upon a motion made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mayor Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to amend the motion to fully fund and enhance the Columbia Police Department's Pathways Unit, which provides an alternative approach to addressing individuals who are experiencing mental health crises and related issues by setting June 1, 2022 as the target date for implementation.

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Council voted unanimously to authorize the City Manager to fully fund and enhance the Columbia Police Department's Pathways Unit, which provides an alternative approach to addressing individuals who are experiencing mental health crises and related issues, as amended to set June 1, 2022 as the target date for implementation.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REFERRALS / REPORTS

23. Technology Committee Report - The Honorable Tina N. Herbert

Councilor Herbert said we started working towards the goal of doing an assessment of all of the enterprise software and platforms. We wanted an assessment of the pros and cons of the current software and technologies. IT is going to work on a survey that they can send to the end users. We have given them 60 days to provide feedback on the surveys. In the next meeting, we will be touring the wastewater administration building and the Emergency Operations Center to look at their technology. A demonstration of Kronos will be scheduled later.

Councilor Taylor asked for the committee to look into how we can begin to file hospitality tax applications online and what needs to happen to allow us to do the initial business license online.

PUBLIC INPUT

No comments were received at this time.



We Are Columbia

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 5:41 p.m. for the discussion of **Item 24**.

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

AgFirst

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk