COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018

WORK SESSION - 2:00 P.M.

The Columbia City Council met for a Work Session on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 2:12 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 Edward H. McDowell, Jr., and the Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann. The Honorable Moe Baddourah was absent. Also present were Mr. Jeff Palen, Acting City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore, 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 Edward H. McDowell, Jr. offered the invocation.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Ms. Jan Alonso, Finance Director will be present to answer questions regarding the January 2018 Financial Report.

Mr. Jeff Palen, Acting City Manager/Chief Financial Officer reported that we are back on track with the reporting of financials. All of the funds look strong and show surplus balances except for the general fund, because a large chunk of revenues come in May and June.

Councilor Devine asked about healthcare claims.

Mr. Jeff Palen, Acting City Manager/Chief Financial Officer said we increased the current year's budget and we are within budget on healthcare costs.

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CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

2. COMET Service Proposal - Mrs. Ann August, Interim Executive Director / The COMET

Mrs. Ann August, Interim Executive Director of The COMET explained that in November of last year, the board's finance committee charged staff with looking at all routes that had zero or few riders at certain hours during the day and night. The Service Standards Committee tasked the Finance Committee and staff with looking at how much money is coming in and how much could be put aside. They voted to reduce the hours of service from 192,000 to 187,650, which is a 2% decrease. We are looking at the routes, the number of hours we are operating, and the number of people riding per hour during the morning, midday, and evening. In response to Ms. Devine, she acknowledged that public hearings have been conducted and the changes have not been approved by the board.

Councilor Davis expressed concerns about how these changes might affect riders working second shift.

Mrs. Ann August, Interim Executive Director of The COMET said the routes that are being decreased did not have ridership or the routes had less than seven riders per hour. The board looked at the amount of monies that we are receiving, the need for a reserve, the amount of hours we are operating, and where we do not have service. We are trying to expand services to the northeast and Harbison areas while cutting back on the routes without ridership.

Councilor Rickenmann asked what affect the Supreme Court and the Penny Sales Tax might have on the system.

Mrs. Ann August, Interim Executive Director of The COMET said the attorneys and the County are taking care of that. As far as I know, it will not affect the public transit system; it only affects the County.

Councilor McDowell asked if the Soda Cap is included in the reduction of hours.

Mrs. Ann August, Interim Executive Director of The COMET said the Soda Cap is included in the total hours of the whole system.

Mr. Samuel L. Scheib, Director of Planning and Development for The COMET explained that shifts are moving to twelve hours and we've been asked to provide earlier service. We are providing an earlier trip towards the Blythewood Industrial Park. It is called a reverse commute and we hope to bring people from Blythewood to Columbia. We are starting many routes earlier. All mainline routes with 30-minute service will go to hourly service in the evenings. We have a workforce ridership that peaks in the morning and afternoon and drops off after 7:00 p.m. People vote for when they need service by riding the bus. We don't have a lot of joy riders. He explained the methodology of the changes.

Councilor Devine inquired about the proposed changes for routes to and from the hospital.

Mr. Samuel L. Scheib, Director of Planning and Development for The COMET said we have added service to the Parkridge Hospital starting on May 7, 2018 as an express route. Palmetto Health Richland pays a substantial amount for the pass program, but they didn't ask for this. The Harbison area has the densest retail employment in the Midlands. This trip will take 25 minutes one-way and it is a tremendous benefit to our passengers and the hospital as well. We are going to serve every hospital. We had great hopes for Route 22 on Harden Street that has been running for three years. It crosses eleven other routes. Route 22 is being eliminated because the service is redundant, it has low ridership, and it costs $275,000 a year to operate. The Soda Cap is still in the pilot period.

Councilor Davis asked if they determined why the ridership isn't where we thought it might be.

Mrs. Ann August, Interim Executive Director of The COMET reiterated that Route 22 has been operating for three years and the ridership should have been up. No system would have kept this route for three years. If we don't put routes in other areas, we will not be able to initiate the penny [sales tax] again. We cannot hold on to routes that aren't being productive.

Councilor Devine said although there are proposed eliminations, people will be serviced in those areas by different routes. She asked how the Transit Authority is communicating with the communities and riders about this. You are going to hear concerns once this goes into effect.

Mrs. Ann August, Interim Executive Director of The COMET said we vet these ideas with the Midlands Transit Ridership Association before taking the ideas to the board. We've already made changes based on information received from the ridership association. Then the board votes for us to have public hearings and public meetings. We are in that phase now.

Ms. Tiffany James, Community Outreach Coordinator for The COMET said meetings are being held at the public libraries on North Main, in Eastover, at Sandhills, and on Assembly Street. One meeting is being held during the weekend. We report our modifications online and post them on Facebook and Twitter.

Mrs. Ann August, Interim Executive Director of The COMET said we distribute information on the buses and the MTRA is doing the same thing.

Councilor Devine asked if riders have expressed concerns about the changes impacting how they get to work or to doctor's appointments.

Mrs. Ann August, Interim Executive Director of the COMET said the biggest concern we heard is people having to change to different buses and familiarizing themselves with the bus number. A lot of people are pleased with it and a few are concerned about having to catch two buses instead of one. We've been meeting with South Carolina Works and they brought in the companies from Blythewood who are concerned about their employees getting to work.

Councilor McDowell asked about the Soda Cap's ridership.

Mrs. Ann August, Interim Executive Director of the COMET said the Soda Cap is free and people may have shifted from the bus on Harden Street to the Soda Cap.

Ms. Tiffany James, Community Outreach Coordinator for The COMET said a survey on the Soda Cap connector found that people want it to run later. We are changing the hours.

Mr. Samuel L. Scheib, Director of Planning and Development for the COMET added that the Soda Cap connector will run from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mrs. Ann August, Interim Executive Director of The COMET said this was a result of our meetings with the districts (Five Points, Vista, and North Main) it serves.

Councilor Devine asked Mrs. August to reach out to the school district to make sure they understand the changes. This Council was the biggest advocate for passing the penny [sales tax] and we did the franchise fee to keep the buses going. We need to be aware of changes before they get into the public domain. You always have an open invitation to come and talk with us. That will help us share the right message.

Councilor Davis said we are steadily approaching the goals for getting people to work, but it looks like joy riders aren't there yet.

Mrs. Ann August, Interim Executive Director of the COMET said we are working on that along with getting people to the games. Bull Street wants to be included in the Soda Cap and we are looking at everything we can to bring more people into the fold. We have to get past our mainstay, which is expanding our general ridership into other areas. We have to build confidence in the transit system.

Mr. Samuel L. Scheib, Director of Planning and Development for The COMET noted that the COMET had 1.3 million boardings in 2013 and we are on track to hit 2.6 million boardings in another month. The ridership has doubled in a few short years.

Mrs. Ann August, Interim Executive Director of The COMET said we were approved for a grant from the Federal Transit Administration and we are in the process of issuing a Request for Proposals for automatic passenger counters. We will be able to report the number of passengers that board at each stop every month.

Councilor Davis asked about the proposed locations for shelters. I have a proposed location where the City has an easement.

Mr. Samuel L. Scheib, Director of Planning and Development for The COMET said we have a goal of 165 shelters. We've installed 13 over four years, because it's hard to get a place to put them. SCDOT supports a location if there is enough right-of-way and if there isn't a sight distance problem. There aren't many locations that exist.

Councilor Duvall asked if SCDOT still insists on one shelter per location.

Mr. Samuel L. Scheib, Director of Planning and Development for The COMET said they waived that. We are installing a 30' shelter at the Walmart on Forest Drive.

Mayor Benjamin said you all are doing a fantastic job in helping to bring some order, communication, and transparency. Thank you for your leadership.

3. Meal Share Program Update - Mr. Randy Davis, Director of Parks and Recreation and Ms. Jennifer Moore, Senior Director, Financial Stability Council for the United Way of the Midlands

Mr. Randy Davis, Director of Parks and Recreation provided an update on the coordination of food and the distribution of supplies with the United Way in collaboration with the Midlands Meal Share Collaborative.

Ms. Jennifer Moore, Senior Director/Financial Stability Council for the United Way of the Midlands recalled that the United Way partnered with the City in 2015 to provide regional coordination of homeless services. The Midlands Meal Share Collaborative has 51 partners including neighborhood leaders, meal share providers, the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, and the Columbia Police Department. We have a diverse steering committee that serves as the leadership group. The collaborative meets quarterly and we visit the meal share providers. She presented an outline of indoor and outdoor meal share events each day. The meal share covenant includes voluntary standards for meal share providers and it has been signed by 19 partners. We provide orientation for providers seeking a permit and they are required to sign the meal share covenant. We have combined meals and synchronized the times. At the end of April, we will designate specific blocks of times for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. One provider will have the lead permit for each meal block and up to three organizations can partner with them. We've been successful in linking the distribution of supplies with meal share providers. We conduct a pop-up report to track and engage non-permitted meal providers. We identified eleven non-permitted meal providers: three joined with other organizations; one applied for a permit; and the others were not responsive. This could lead to an enforcement issue. The next meeting will be held in April. We will implement the revised Meal Share permit process and spread the word about the meals that are out there. We must determine if there is a need to diversify the geographic locations, identify additional private locations for meals with restroom access, and determine if there are needs outside the core of the City. The Parks and Recreation staff has been wonderful and Karina Henry, Homeless Services Coordinator for United Way does an amazing job. The meal share providers are an amazing group of people who want to share meals with people and it has been an honor to work with them.

4. Fiscal Year 2018 /2019 Revenue Projections - Ms. Melisa Caughman, Budget and Program Management Director

Ms. Melisa Caughman, Budget and Program Management Director said we are focusing on the general fund, hospitality tax, and accommodations tax revenues. Our budget consists of Envision Columbia, City Council priorities, Priority Based Budgeting, department and capital requests, and our required costs. Today we will discuss the available resources. The general fund revenues and transfers-in are forecasted at $144 million. This is a net increase of $1.4 million. These are preliminary numbers. We are reflecting $8 million in use of proceeds from the capital lease. In the current year's budget we only used $4 million. We are not reflecting the use of fund balance at this point. She reported that business license fees are due on April 17, 2018 and we will continue to evaluate our property tax collections. The State has decreased the local government fund by $1.4 million. They are proposing to make the credit on the retirement side, but it doesn't cover the increase in retirement system rates. If there is available fund balance we will need to determine how much to use. We will continue to discuss the possibility of new revenue streams at future meetings. In fiscal year 2016 there was an increase in accessed values, but not in the next year. The hospitality tax revenues are projected at $12 million for 2017/2018, which is a $677,000 increase over the current year's budget and 5% over prior year actuals. We've seen a 20% increase in restaurants obtaining business licenses over this past year. Staff hasn't made any recommendations in regards to allocations. The budget assumes that everyone will stay flat, but that can change based on Council's input on the committee's allocation, line item agencies, and Council's allocations.

Councilor Duvall asked to discuss the hospitality tax procedures on April 24, 2017.

Ms. Melisa Caughman, Budget and Program Management Director said we are projecting accommodations tax revenues at $2.6 million, which is an increase of $459,000 or 17% over the current year's budget and 4% over prior year actuals. The first $25,000 comes to the general fund; 95% goes towards tourism promotions and marketing; and 5% is used for general purposes. We historically use the 5% for half of One Columbia's funding and Together We Can Read.

Councilor Devine suggested that Council consider what our participation will be in the expansion of the Convention Center before we start siphoning money.

Mr. Jeff Palen, Acting City Manager/Chief Financial Officer said this is the State accommodations tax; however, we send the local accommodations tax to the Convention Center each month. That would help us obtain that goal.

Councilor Duvall said the local accommodations tax is going to increase by 17% also.

Mr. Jeff Palen, Acting City Manager/Chief Financial Officer explained that even though that grows within the IGA, the Convention Center has certain pots of money that are filled in addition to debt service. Those posts of money have certain growth factors. They need that growth to meet their budget. That doesn't mean that we can't talk with them to determine what can fit in the budget and look at the growth to issue bonds for expansion.

Mayor Benjamin said they are meeting with various government bodies to explain what the goal of expansion is. The overall financials are healthy. Jeff and the public financing team are going to meet to look at all of the financing options for the expansion. We need a report from you all as to what the landscape looks like.

Ms. Melisa Caughman, Budget and Program Management Director added that the local options sales tax is a higher collection than this source and the majority of the $2.6 million already goes to Experience Columbia.

Councilor Devine said I don't want to take what they are getting to grow. If there is a projected growth that isn't already designated to them we should start thinking about setting that aside.

Ms. Melisa Caughman, Budget and Program Management Director explained that the local accommodations tax has the Tourism-Expenditure Review Committee (TERC) requirements. This does not accumulate a fund balance; the fund balance goes back to the two agencies that receive these funds already. She reviewed the upcoming budget schedule. The budget public hearing, first reading, and the budget open house will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2018.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 3:42 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 5** through **7**, as amended to add the discussion of Dreher High School and City policies to Item 7. Ms. Devine abstained from the discussion of Dreher due to a potential conflict of interest.

5. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
   - *Lower Richland Sewer Agreement*
   - *Carolina Water Service - Friarsgate*
   - *Office Lease - Main Street*
   - *Flood Recovery Property Acquisition*

6. Receipt of legal advice relating to a pending, threatened or potential claim – S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
   - *Frank J. Cumberland, Jr., Individually and as Class Representatives v. City of Columbia*
   - *Ownership and Maintenance of Stormwater Infrastructure*
   - *Abdinasir Yahye v. City of Columbia, et al.*

7. Receipt of legal advice which relates to matters covered by attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
   - *Freedom of Information Act Request*
   - *Potential Declaratory Judgment Action*

Council adjourned the Executive Session at 5:35 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING - 6:00 P.M.

The Columbia City Council met for a Work Session on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at City Hal, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:09 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 Edward H. McDowell, Jr., and the Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann. The Honorable Moe Baddourah was absent. Also present were Mr. Jeff Palen, Acting City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore, 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 Edward H. McDowell, Jr. offered the invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

Mayor Benjamin said this is a week in which a number of students across the country are coming together to talk about youth violence and gun violence. He presented a video of the Student Pledge Against Gun Violence featuring Eau Claire High School students. We will be encouraging a number of students to sign this pledge on Saturday when a number of them will be on Main Street. We are encouraging every school in the City to do the same. I wanted to highlight the good work being done at Eau Claire High School.

PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one appeared at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

8. Council is asked to approve the January 16, 2018 Meeting Minutes. - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve the January 16, 2018 Meeting Minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Clint Shealy, Assistant City Manager for Columbia Water said on the heels of the storm water fee increase, we are excited to be hiring a program manager to help us implement the capital improvements. Item 16 is the award of the first year of that contract. They will be providing a lot of services that our citizens will recognize.

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 9** through **23**.

9. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Exterior Video Surveillance Services for City Hall, as requested by the Support Services Division. Award to Schneider Electric, using the National Intergovernmental Purchasing Alliance Contract in the amount of $64,349.64. This vendor is located in Carrollton, TX. *Funding Source: General Capital Projects-City Facility Security Systems- Capital Project Costs; 4039999- CP106502-658650. The original budgeted amount is $64,349.64. - Approved*

10. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Gas Masks and Accessories, as requested by the Police Department. Award to All Safe Industries, using the General Services Administration Contract in the amount of $80,326.82. This firm is located in Louisville, KY. *Funding Source: Police Administrative Services-Special Departmental Supplies; 1012402-627100. The original budgeted amount is $80,326.82. - Approved*

11. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Lighting and Fencing for three (3) fields at Earlewood Park, as requested by the Parks and Recreation Department. Award to MUSCO Sports Lighting, using the National Joint Powers Alliance Contract in the amount of $319,387.00. This vendor is located in Oskaloosa, IA. *Funding Source: Parks Buildings & Grounds- Capital Project Costs; 1015104-658650. The original budgeted amount is $319,387.00. - Approved*

12. Council is asked to rescind the Purchase of two (2) Side Loader Refuse Trucks from Carolina Environmental Systems, Inc. using the National Joint Powers Alliance Contract in the amount of $528,800.00, as approved on March 6, 2018. *Funding Source: Capital Replacement-Auto, Trucks, Heavy-Equipment Capital; 6308972-658500. The original budgeted amount is $537,743.00. - Approved*

13. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of two (2) Side Loader Refuse Trucks, as requested by the Fleet Services Division. Award to Peterbilt of Charlotte using the National Joint Powers Alliance Contract in the amount of $500,032.00. This vendor is located in Charlotte, NC. *Funding Source: Capital Replacement-Auto, Trucks, Heavy-Equipment Capital; 6308972-658500*. The original budgeted amount is $537,743.00. - *This is a replacement for Item 13(Action Item #4129). This purchase was approved on March 6, 2018 and a purchase order was issued on March 9, 2018. It was determined that the incorrect vendor was awarded. The vendor was informed of the error and the attached cancellation notice was sent. We are asking Council to approve the same trucks as specified in Item 13. The vendor has changed and the requested amount has decreased. - Approved*

14. Council is asked to approve Change Order #2 for Project SS6786; Rehabilitation Services for Sanitary Sewer Manholes, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to Prism Contractors and Engineers, Inc. in the amount of $151,002.50. This firm is located in Williamsburg, VA. *Funding Source: 5529999-SS678617-658650 Annual Contract for Rehabilitation of Sanitary Sewer Manholes - Capital Project Costs. The original budgeted amount for this change order is $151,002.50. - Approved*

15. Council is asked to approve a Contract for Environmental Services for the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Housing Rehabilitation and Infrastructure Programs, as requested by the Community Development Department. Award to ESP Associates, P.A. of Columbia, SC in an amount not to exceed $668,776.00. *Funding Source: Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery - Approved*

16. Council is asked to approve a Program Management Services Agreement for the Stormwater Improvement Program, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to Woolpert, Inc., in an amount not to exceed $1,015,115.00 for year one. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 5549999-SD845001-658650. The original budgeted amount is a total of $3,000,000.00 for the three-year agreement. - Approved*

The following sub-consultants will provide additional services:

Chao & Associates, a Minority Business Enterprise (M) of Columbia, SC will provide engineering, inventory and mapping, easement, construction management services at $166,242.00 (16%) of the contract value.

PJ Noble & Associates, a Minority Business Enterprise (W) of Columbia, SC will provide public meetings and outreach services at $76,406.00 (8%) of the contract value.

4D Engineering, a Minority Business Enterprise (W) of Lexington, SC will provide site design and construction management services at $182,085.00 (18%) of the contract value.

HDR, Incorporated of Columbia, SC will provide public outreach, easement, LID/GIS design and evaluation, public-private partnerships services at $93,660.00 (9%) of the contract value.

WE3 Consultants, LLC, a Small Business Enterprise of Saluda, SC will provide public-private partnership public meetings and outreach services at $3,900.00 (1%) of the contract value.

17. Ordinance No.: 2017-086 - A Third Supplemental Ordinance Providing for the Issuance and Sale of City of Columbia, South Carolina Parking Facilities Refunding Revenue Bonds, in one or more series, in the Principal Amount of not Exceeding $45,000,000; Delegating the Authority to the Mayor, City Manager and 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 - *First reading approval was given on October 17, 2017. - Approved on second reading.*

18. Ordinance No.: 2018-004 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Eleventh Amendment to Purchase Agreement between the City of Columbia and Bright-Meyers 2001 LLC for the sale of 5.97 +/-acres (Capital City Stadium), Richland County TMS #11204-02-02 - *First reading approval was given on March 6, 2018. - Approved on second reading.*

19. Resolution No.: R-2018-005 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the Jam Room Music Festival in the 1400 block of Main Street, the eastern half block of the 1100 block of Hampton Street adjacent to Boyd Plaza and Boyd Plaza on September 29, 2018 - *Approved*

20. Resolution No.: R-2018-010 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only within Boyd Plaza adjacent to the Columbia Museum of Art for a Gala Fundraiser on Saturday, April 21, 2018 - *Approved*

21. Resolution No.: R-2018-013 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the Hopkins Breast Cancer Survivor Block Party in the 1900 block of McAlister Street on Saturday, June 16, 2018 with a rain contingency date of Saturday, June 23, 2018 - *Approved*

22. Resolution No.: R-2018-020 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the Rocky Shoals Spider Lily Happy Hours in the Amphitheater Area of the Riverfront Park on Tuesdays May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2018 - *Approved*

23. Resolution No.: R-2018-021 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Soda City Yard Sale Market on Saturday, April 28, 2018 with a rain contingency of May 5, 2018 - *Approved*

COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018

PRESENTATIONS

24. February 2018 Employee of the Month - Mr. Robert Anderson, Director of Public Works

Mr. Dave Brewer, Traffic Engineer introduced Mr. Byron Jasper, Senior Electrician for the Traffic Engineering Division as the February 2018 Employee of the Month. Mr. Jasper has been employed with the City since November 2000. He always arrives at work early. He pursues excellence in his job duties and he has earned a master electrician license. He is also a veteran of the South Carolina National Guard and he served in Afghanistan where he earned a Commendation Medal. He can always be depended on.

Mayor Benjamin presented Mr. Byron Jasper with a plaque and Mr. Jeff Palen, Acting City Manager/Chief Financial Officer presented him with a token of appreciation for being selected as the February 2018 City of Columbia Employee of the Month.

25. Columbia Firefighter Appreciation Month Proclamation - The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin

The Columbia City Council proclaimed March 2018 as Firefighter Appreciation Month in the City of Columbia.

Mr. Aubrey Jenkins, Columbia Fire Chief announced that the Columbia Fire Department is on the cusp of collecting $3 million. We collected $130,000 last year. It is a good cause and the firefighters look forward to it each year.

Mr. Robert Watts, Executive Director of the Muscular Dystrophy Association of the Midlands said we are very fortunate to live in a community where we are kept safe by such fine firefighters who go above and beyond to make the community a better place to live. Over one million people live with Muscular Dystrophy in the United States and 40% of them are under age 18. He introduced Stacey, Brad, and Gresham Beverly. The Columbia Fill the Boot Drive is in the top 15 in America and fourth in the Southeast.

Mrs. Stacey Beverly said their 7-year old son Gresham was diagnosed with a rare form of Muscular Dystrophy at 20-months old. Gresham attends public school and he participates in karate, piano, and activities at church. He is a cub scout and he played T-ball in the Miracle League. He even attended camp last year.

Master Gresham Beverly said we all have something different inside us and we all have a talent. Camp was like a whole world of our own kind getting to do fun things that other kids get to do like archery, canoeing, sleeping in cabins, and rock climbing. Thank you for my support.

The members of City Council and the audience filled the boot in support of Muscular Dystrophy.

26. Earth Hour Proclamation - The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin

The Columbia City Council proclaimed Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 8:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. as Earth Hour in the City of Columbia.

27. Age-Friendly City Designation - Ms. Liz Norris, AARP South Carolina Past President and Ms. Lisa Marie Field, Chair of the AARP Age Friendly City Advisory Council

Ms. Liz Norris, AARP South Carolina Past President appeared with Ms. Lisa Marie Field, Chair of the AARP Age Friendly City Advisory Council and Ms. Ann August, Interim Executive Director of The COMET / Age Friendly City and Livable Community Advisory Council. She announced that we are the first city in South Carolina to seek the Age-Friendly Community designation. She presented the Mayor and members of City Council with a proclamation certifying that the City of Columbia, South Carolina is committed to becoming more age-friendly under the criteria established by AARP and the World Health Organization. We have been accepted as a member of this network and we will spend the next two years working to be seen as a City that is age-friendly.

28. Birthright Update - Mr. Hank Chardos, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Birthright

Mr. Hank Chardos, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Birthright Columbia said he and his wife formed the Columbia chapter of Birthright 38-years ago. He announced that Birthright will have a baby shower hosted by USC's nursing students on April 15, 2018. He read a 2017 letter from the Mayor's Office into the record. He noted that the Square Roots BIRTH 40™ program never came to Columbia. He sought Council's support in implementing programs that will improve maternal and infant health in our city.

RESOLUTIONS

29. Resolution No.: R-2018-022 - Supporting the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination and Violence Against Women and Girls, Prompting the Health and Safety of Women and Girls, and supporting their Being Afforded Equal Academic, Economic, Social, Cultural and Business Opportunities in the City of Columbia; Expressing Support for Individual Cities Passing Resolutions and Ordinances to Implement the Principles of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women at the Local Level - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2018-022 - Supporting the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination and Violence Against Women and Girls, Prompting the Health and Safety of Women and Girls, and supporting their Being Afforded Equal Academic, Economic, Social, Cultural and Business Opportunities in the City of Columbia; Expressing Support for Individual Cities Passing Resolutions and Ordinances to Implement the Principles of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women at the Local Level.

30. Resolution No.: R-2018-026 - Approving the honorary naming of the 600, 700, 800, 900, and 1000 blocks of King Street between Millwood Avenue and Blossom Street "Judge Mildred McDuffie Way" – *Approved as amended.*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2018-026 - Approving the honorary naming of the 600, 700, 800, 900, and 1000 blocks of King Street between Millwood Avenue and Blossom Street "Judge Mildred McDuffie Way", as amended to rename the 900, 1000, and 1100 blocks of King Street between Millwood Avenue and Preston Street “Judge Mildred W. McDuffie Way”.

Councilor Devine said Judge McDuffie is a staunch supporter of the City of Columbia and the State of South Carolina. She has served as a magistrate and chair of CEZ, Inc. She has fought for equity throughout our City and she is an amazing woman.

31. Resolution No.: R-2018-024 A Resolution Authorizing the issuance and sale of a not exceeding $3,125,000 General Obligation Bond Anticipation Note, Series 2018A, or such other appropriate series designation, of City of Columbia, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the 2018A Note; Authorizing the Mayor, the City Manager, and the Assistant City Manager for Finance and Economic Development Services, or any two of them acting together to prescribe certain matters relating to the 2018A Note; providing for the payment of the 2018A Note and Disposition of the Proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2018-024 A Resolution Authorizing the issuance and sale of a not exceeding $3,125,000 General Obligation Bond Anticipation Note, Series 2018A, or such other appropriate series designation, of City of Columbia, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the 2018A Note; Authorizing the Mayor, the City Manager, and the Assistant City Manager for Finance and Economic Development Services, or any two of them acting together to prescribe certain matters relating to the 2018A Note; providing for the payment of the 2018A Note and Disposition of the Proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto.

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

32. Ordinance No.: 2018-008 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Seventh 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. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2018-008 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Seventh 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.

33. Ordinance No.: 2018-009 - Granting encroachment to Central Midlands Transit Authority – The COMET for the use of the right of way areas of the 5500 block of Ring Road for the installation and maintenance of a Bus Shelter, sidewalk, cart coral and landscaping adjacent to 5590 Ring Road, Richland County TMS#16710-02-04 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2018-009 - Granting encroachment to Central Midlands Transit Authority – The COMET for the use of the right of way areas of the 5500 block of Ring Road for the installation and maintenance of a Bus Shelter, sidewalk, cart coral and landscaping adjacent to 5590 Ring Road, Richland County TMS#16710-02-04.

34. Ordinance No.: 2018-011 - Granting an encroachment to Historic Columbia Foundation for the use of the right of way area of the 1700 block of Henderson Street for the installation and maintenance of a wooden utility pole and conduit adjacent to 1615 Blanding Street Richland County TMS# 11403-07-01 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2018-011 - Granting an encroachment to Historic Columbia Foundation for the use of the right of way area of the 1700 block of Henderson Street for the installation and maintenance of a wooden utility pole and conduit adjacent to 1615 Blanding Street Richland County TMS# 11403-07-01.

OTHER MATTERS

35. Council is asked to approve the Installation of four (4) Speed Humps on Waccamaw Avenue, as requested by the Public Works Department. - *The Columbia Police Department and Columbia Fire Department approved the proposed locations.*

Ms. Sarah Greytak appeared with Ms. Breanne Grace and Rachel Edwards who are residents of Waccamaw Avenue to request the installation of speed bumps. A study showed cars were going as fast as 60 mph down our street and 30 to 40 mph while kids were walking to and from school. The speed limit is 25. The majority of the residents on Waccamaw Avenue signed a petition in support of this. The neighborhood wants to keep discussing this at meetings, but we'd like it to be considered. We didn't have this problem until speed bumps were placed on the street behind us.

Mr. David Brewer, Traffic Engineer said we conducted a study and it showed speeding on the road. We thought the neighborhood supported it. This is a City-owned road.

Councilor Duvall said he would like to defer this until next month.

Councilor Devine said she has heard from the residents of Waccamaw Avenue and the association doesn't meet on a regular basis.

Ms. Sarah Greytak said the neighborhood association meets once a year.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted five (5) to one (1) to approve the installation of four (4) Speed Humps on Waccamaw Avenue, as requested by the Public Works Department. Voting aye were Mr. Rickenmann, Mr. McDowell, Ms. Devine, Mr. Davis, and Mayor Benjamin. Mr. Duvall voted nay.

Council recessed at 6:56 p.m.

Council reconvened at 7:03 p.m.

ZONING/PLANNING PUBLIC HEARING - 7:00 P.M.

Council opened the Zoning Public Hearing at 7:04 p.m.

36. ZONING MAP AMENDMENT - 1908 Blossom Street, TMS# 11308-11-07 and 11308-11-03 – *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

Council District: 3

Proposal: Request to rezone the parcels from M-1, -5P to MX-1, -5P

Applicant: Josh Boltinhouse, Lambert Architecture & Construction Services

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 11/06/2017, deferred by applicant to 12/04/2017; 12/04/2017, deferred by applicant to 1/8/2018; 01/08/2018, deferred by applicant to 2/5/2018; 02/05/2018, Denial (5-3, and 1 abstention)

37. ZONING MAP AMENDMENT - 3319 Millwood Avenue, TMS# 13804-03-09 – *Approved on first reading.*

Council District: 3 & 4

Proposal: Request to rezone the parcel from PUD-C to RS-2

Applicant: Raymond A. Perkins, Jr., Richland School District One

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 01/08/2018, deferred by applicant to 2/5/2018; 02/05/2018, Denial (9-0)

Ms. Krista Hampton, Planning and Development Services Director explained that this is a request to rezone the Dreher High School parcel from PUD-C to RS-2.

Mayor Benjamin said we have six pages of people who want to speak on this. Everyone will be afforded the opportunity to speak at this public hearing. It was the consensus of this Council that we would urge all interested parties to come to a resolution, but it has been very difficult. We will act today and then we will have an opportunity to act on April 17, 2018. We've been witness to a number of discussions. There are significant and competing interests. We want our children to have the opportunity to have a full and rewarding education, while recognizing that education isn't just academic, but it is also extracurricular in a number of different ways, but also recognizing that the opportunity to participate in extracurricular athletics plays a role in helping build the full student and the full student experience. The majority of this Council is not convinced that we've done everything that we can to resolve this issue. Mr. Rickenmann and I are willing to provide our time and the resources for a mediator to help work through these issues. There couldn't be a starker difference between what I expect we will do here tonight and what could potentially happen on April 17, 2018. We need to be convinced that there has truly been good-faith effort by all interested parties to bring this community together. It is City Council's goal to facilitate the construction of practice fields that will allow Dreher students to thrive athletically and academically, while protecting the quality of life of the adjacent neighborhoods. There appears to be general agreement between the School District and neighborhood association leaders on the plan to help achieve this. The only thing lacking is a tool to ensure the neighborhoods that the plan will be followed as the project proceeds. As a matter of law, City Council cannot make a rezoning conditional upon actions by either party. We

are going to invite the leadership of the School District, the leadership of Dreher, the leadership of the Melrose, Heathwood, and Shandon neighborhood associations, the boosters to represent the parents to the table to develop a plan to memorialize exactly what this will look like and a way to deal with the evolving discussions that may happen over the next several years. We believe that it is in the interest of the neighborhoods aforementioned, Dreher, and our students that Dreher remain strong and thriving and continue to do the great things it has done for this city, state, nation, and the world. This is the first reading. We have serious ground to cover between now and April 17, 2018. There is still opportunity for anyone to be heard.

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to this matter.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted four (4) to one (1) to give first reading approval to the *Zoning Map Amendment* for 3319 Millwood Avenue, TMS# 13804-03-09, subject to the leadership of the School District, Dreher, Melrose, Heathwood, and Shandon neighborhood associations, and the boosters working together between now and April 17, 2018 to develop a solution to memorialize the agreement between the parties in a binding form that's acceptable to all parties. As has been the case in the past, such a document can be submitted as evidence to the Board of Zoning Appeals in their deliberation for the required special exception. Voting aye were Mr. McDowell, Mr. Duvall, Mr. Davis, and Mayor Benjamin. Mr. Rickenmann voted nay. Ms. Devine abstained from voting due to a potential conflict of interest.

Councilor Duvall clarified that the matter requires approval of an ordinance on two readings. This is not a delaying tactic.
Councilor McDowell said this is a time for us to gather around the table with an air of sensitivity. It is clear that some of us want to talk and some of us want to listen. The acceptance of this motion gives us an opportunity to gather around the table with the same common menu. Let's make this real for communities and our students. It is about making sure the vision for our City holds up and stands clear as a beacon on top of a hill.

Councilor Rickenmann said I hope we can learn from this. I voted tonight, because I've been asking for an agreement to bring harmony to this. We need a clearly designed path moving forward so that nobody is in this situation in the future. We have a great opportunity to resolve this.

38. ANNEXATION, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP AMENDMENT, AND ZONING MAP AMENDMENT - 2050 Woodcreek Farms Road; TMS# 25716-03-04 – *Approved on first reading.*

    Ordinance No.: 2018-006 - Annexing and Incorporating 2050 Woodcreek Farms Road, Richland County TMS# 25716-03-04, into the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan Putting the Pieces Together adopted by Ordinance No.: 2015-014 on February 17, 2015 – *Approved on first reading.*

    Council District: 4

    Proposal: Request to annex, assign land use classification of Urban Edge Multi-Family (UEMF) and assign zoning of Planned Unit Development-Residential District (PUD-R). The property is currently classified as Neighborhood-Medium Density and PDD by Richland County.

    Applicant: The Hampton Links, LLC

    Staff Recommendation: Approval

    PC Recommendation: 01/08/2018; Approval (7-0)

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to this matter.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the *Annexation, Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment* for 2050 Woodcreek Farms Road; TMS# 25716-03-04. Mayor Benjamin abstained from voting due to a potential conflict of interest.

Council closed the Zoning Public Hearing at 7:23 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS DISCUSSED DURING THE WORK SESSION

No matters were considered at this time.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS / REFERRALS

Councilor Rickenmann reported that the Public Safety Committee met today and Council members were given a draft ordinance today. I would like for Council to move forward with advertising a public hearing and holding workshops to bring the stakeholders in. You will find that this ordinance is a real change from what we had before. It will help us move forward. There are other pieces that we need to address. We need to use all of our powers to influence the State House and the judicial system about releasing repeat offenders and giving teeth to [laws dealing with] people carrying unlawful weapons. This is a part of violence that we can't tolerate. As we move forward with comprehensive zoning we need to look at different ways to address this so that we don't end up with a concentrated area like we are seeing now. There are pieces we have to take in succession to this. This gives the Police Department the ability to do what they need to do. It gives deserving business owners the opportunity to stay in business.

There was a consensus of Council to conduct two public hearings on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

Ms. Juliet Greelee, Vice President of the Stark Terrace Community appeared before Council to receive clarification on the Mason Road annexation.

Ms. Krista Hampton, Planning and Development Services Director said we send notices to the adjacent property owners to make them aware of the rezoning requests.

Ms. Alexena Furgess, Jones McDonald Neighborhood Association appeared before the Council to express concerns about her neighbors who need public transportation. When the City and County needed the penny tax they sought support from poor neighborhoods. These people supported it and now some of the buses are being eliminated. They are being discriminated against.

Mayor Benjamin explained that City Council received a comprehensive report from The COMET earlier today. He asked if Mrs. Furgess had seen the full presentation.

Councilor Devine added that the proposed changes aren't set yet. The COMET is working to get the word out and we will push it out. The Rider's Association has provided their input also. She asked Mrs. Furgess to encourage people to attend the public hearings.

Mr. Walter Durst, Vice President of the Midlands Transit Riders Association said he worked with The COMET to develop routes and to get the penny tax passed. It is inaccurate and offensive to suggest that The COMET is working to eliminate routes within a certain segment of the population.

Councilor McDowell reiterated that there are going to be public hearings and no decisions have been made.

Dr. D. A. Dennis, Sr., Mastery Beyond Boundaries, LLC / President of the Local Organizing Committee recognized Councilman Davis for resolving an issue with the utilities at their headquarters. The organizing committee deals with youth through education, treatment, and behavior modification and redirection. We teach individuals to mirror their souls. It is important for us to partner with the City of Columbia to serve our African American community and those who are less fortunate.

Councilor Devine announced that the Together We Can Read initiative is celebrating ten years. On tomorrow at 9:00 a.m., *The Freedom Ship of Robert Smalls* by Louise Meriwether will be read to third graders in Richland School District One. She also announced that the Midlands Heart Walk will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at the Colonial Life Arena. She encouraged individuals to join the City of Columbia team.

Councilor McDowell announced that the Jones McDonald Neighborhood Association is hosting its annual Easter Brunch on Saturday, March 31, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center.

COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore, CMC
City Clerk