



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia City Council conducted a Work Session on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Second Floor, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. and the following City Council 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 William Brennan, Mayor Pro-Tem, arrived at 2:07 p.m. Also present were Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore Hammond, City Clerk. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr. offered the invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mayor Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda subject to adding Core Campus/Estoppel Agreement to **Item 4** (Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a)(2)).

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

1. Parks and Recreation Master Plan - Mr. Daniel P. Biggs, RLA, ISA, CERP, Associate / Regional Planner for Weston & Sampson – *Received as information*

Mr. Henry Simons, Assistant City Manager of Operations explained that the Master Plan will serve as a guide for the next ten years. The plan is community-driven and highly inclusive, with a strong focus on community engagement. The goal is to bring a resolution to approve the Master Plan by April 15, 2025.

Mr. Daniel Biggs, RLA, ISA, CERP, Associate/Regional Planner at Weston & Sampson presented the city-wide Parks & Recreation Master Plan that focuses on the city's parks, greenways, and recreational facilities. The plan identifies current and future programming and facility opportunities for each park. Recommendations are organized into administrative, program, park, and facility categories. The plan's seven goals with strategies for staff include: supporting community health,



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engaging the community, enhancing programming and events, improving parks and facilities, expanding recreation spaces, promoting connectivity, and improving operations.

There was discussion about the addition of pickle ball courts; irrigation systems; and interest in converting empty lots into pocket parks.

2. Quarterly Update from the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement - Mr. Trevon Fordham, Ed.D., Director – *Received as information*

Mr. Trevon Fordham, Ed.D., Director of the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement provided an overview of the organization's key initiatives: community engagement and outreach, research and strategic Planning, and training and development. He shared the office's mission to advance peace through resident support, partnerships, and public health-based solutions. He noted Columbia's participation in the National Violent Crime Prevention Network with 30 other cities. Accomplishments in 2024 included an office name change, hiring additional staff, securing funding, and launching new initiatives for public safety and community well-being.

There was discussion about adding graphics and statistics to video content; donations; and church participation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 2:22 p.m. to discuss **Items 3** and **4** as amended to include Core Campus/Estoppel Agreement to **Item 4**.

3. 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)

*Beltline Redevelopment Project
Capital City Stadium*

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

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk