



**Columbia City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 3, 2026**

Call to Order

The Columbia City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at City Hall (Council Chambers), 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and the following members were present: The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., The Honorable Will Brennan, The Honorable Tina N. Herbert, Mayor Pro-Tempore, The Honorable Peter M. Brown, The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey, and The Honorable Sam P. Johnson. 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 offered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor McDowell took a point of personal privilege to recognize March 1–31 as Women's History Month. He recognized several women serving the city for their leadership and dedication, including The Honorable Tina N. Herbert, Mayor Pro-Tempore and Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager. Appreciation was extended to all women contributing their time and service at the local, state, and national levels. A video was also presented honoring Ms. Teresa Wilson and highlighting her tenure in recognition of Women's History Month.

Adoption of the Agenda

Upon a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Herbert, Council voted unanimously to approve the adoption of the agenda as presented.

Mr. Clint Shealy, P.E., Assistant City Manager of Columbia Water recognized Mr. Frank Eskridge, Director of Utility Operations for his service and upcoming retirement. Over the past seven years, Frank has made significant contributions, including reorganizing leadership, improving customer service, overseeing a major advanced metering infrastructure project, and serving as chief dam safety engineer during canal recovery efforts. He was also active in professional leadership roles across South Carolina's water industry. He thanked Mr. Eskridge for his mentorship, leadership, and lasting impact on the organization and community, and wished him well in retirement as he begins a new chapter with his family.

Public Input

Individuals are allotted up to three minutes to address City Council about items on the

agenda. Items requiring a public hearing cannot be addressed at this time.

No one appeared at this time.

Approval of Minutes

1. Council is asked to approve the February 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes. Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to approve the February 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

Consent Agenda Items 2 through 11

Upon a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda **Items 2** through **11**. Mr. Brennan was not present for the vote.

2. Council is asked to approve Contract Amendment #4 for Finlay Park Security Services, as requested by the Columbia Police Department on February 11, 2026. Award to Allied Universal Security Services in an amount not to exceed \$66,890.88. The current term of the contract ends on June 30, 2026. This firm is located in Columbia, SC.

Funding Source: Finlay Park Management - Professional Services (1015112-636600). The current budget amount is \$3,392,106.74. The budget amount for this amendment is \$66,890.88. The revised budget amount is \$3,458,997.62.
3. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Enterprise Records Management System (RMS) Upgrades, as requested by the Columbia Police Department on January 27, 2026. Award to CentralSquare Technologies, LLC, in the amount of \$81,986.85. This vendor is located in Lake Mary, FL.

Funding Source: Police Administrative Services - Computer Equipment/Hardware (1012402-627500). The original budget amount is \$81,986.85.
4. Council is asked to approve an Annual Contract Renewal for UKG Pro Workforce Management Software, as requested by the Budget and Program Management Office on February 12, 2026. Award to UKG Kronos Systems, LLC, in the amount of \$131,595.26. This vendor is located in Lowell, MA.

Funding Source: Program Management Office — Cloud Based Software Solutions (6218950-632170) \$95,251.10 and Program Management Office – Maintenance and Service Contract (6218950-638200) \$36,344.16. The original budget amount is \$131,595.26.
5. Council is asked to approve a new Construction Contract for the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center Pool Renovation Project, as requested by the Parks and Recreation Department on October 15, 2025. Award to Genco of Simpsonville, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$232,530.00, which includes contingency. The initial term of the contract will take effect upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed with an end date sixty (60) days from commencement. This contractor is located in Simpsonville, SC.

Funding Source: General Capital Projects - Drew Pool Resurface Floor and Deck - Capital Project Costs (4039999-PK004326-658650) \$170,000.00 and Drew Wellness Equipment - Capital Project Costs (2165110-658650) \$62,530.00. The original budget amount is \$232,530.00.

Genco of Simpsonville, Inc., is the prime and will provide construction services at 65.00% (\$131,430.00) of the total contract amount.

The following subcontractor(s) will provide additional services and/or materials:

Southern Ceramics and Stone, Inc., located in Lexington, SC will provide ceramic and tile installation services at 12.00% (\$24,264.00) of the total contract amount.

Ochoa's Pool, LLC, located in Mt. Holly, NC will provide plaster installation services at 23.00% (\$46,506.00) of the total contract amount.

6. Council is asked to approve a new Professional Services Contract for Project WM4570; US 176 Bridge Over Seaboard Coast Line (SCL) Railroad Waterline Relocation, as requested by Columbia Water on February 10, 2026. Award to Michael Baker International, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$132,000.00. The initial term of the contract will take effect upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed with an end date two (2) years from commencement and the option to renew for two (2) additional one-year periods. This firm is located in Columbia, SC.

Funding Source: Water & Sewer Capital Project - US 176 Bridge over Railroad Waterline - Capital Project Costs (5529999-WM457001-652650). The original budget amount is \$132,000.00.

This is a Mentor Protégé Program project. Michael Baker International, Inc., is the mentor and will provide project management, permitting, bidding assistance, and construction management services at 80.00% (\$105,600.00) of the total contract amount.

Chao and Associates, Inc., a Minority Business Enterprise, located in Columbia, SC, is the protégé and will provide survey and construction support services at 20.00% (\$26,400.00) of the total contract amount.

7. Council is asked to approve a new Construction Contract for Project WM4810; Water Main Construction along Woodsboro Drive, as requested by Columbia Water on January 20, 2026. Award to Lake Murray Utility Company, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$270,062.10, which includes contingency. The initial term of the contract will take effect upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed with an end date ninety (90) days from commencement. This contractor is located in Prosperity, SC.

Funding Source: Water and Sewer Capital Projects - Woodsboro Drive Water Main Improvements - Capital Project Costs (5529999-WM481001-658650). The original budget amount is \$315,072.45.

This is a Mentor Protégé Program project. Lake Murray Utility Company, Inc., is the mentor and will provide water main installation services at 50.01% (\$112,541.40) of the total contract amount.

JW Brown Construction, LLC, located in Alcolu, SC, is the protégé and will provide water main installation services at 20.00% (\$45,010.35) of the total contract amount.

The following subcontractor(s) will provide additional services and/or materials:

STAlone Waterworks, located in Columbia, SC will provide materials and piping services at 13.33% (\$30,000.00) of the total contract amount.

Knight's Redi-Mix, located in Irmo, SC will provide flowable fill services at 13.33% (\$30,000.00) of the total contract amount.

Reeves Construction Company, located in Duncan, SC will provide asphalt services at 3.33% (\$7,500.00) of the total contract amount.

8. ANNEXATION, FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT, AND ZONING MAP AMENDMENT for 700 Jacobs Mill Pond Road

Ordinance No.: 2026-011 - Annexing 700 Jacobs Mill Pond Road, Richland County TMS# 28800-01-04 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina, and incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map

Proposal: Request assignment of the land use classification of Urban Edge Mixed Residential (UEMR) and assign zoning of Planned Development (PD) for a pending annexation. The property is currently classified as Neighborhood (Medium Density) and zoned Planned Development (PD) by Richland County.

Council District: 4

Applicant: Madison Pickrel, Woodcreek Development LLC

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 01/15/2026; Approval (6-0)

First reading approval was given on February 17, 2026.

9. ANNEXATION, FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT, AND ZONING MAP AMENDMENT for RR142, 150, 156, NX156, 160, and N/S Jacobs Mill Pond Road

Ordinance No.: 2026-012 - Annexing RR142, 150, 156, NX156, 160, and N/S Jacobs Mill Pond Road, Richland County TMS# 25800-03-22, 25800-03-25, 25800-03-39, 25800-03-36, 25800-03-21 and 25800-03-37 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina, and incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map

Proposal: Request assignment of the land use classification of Urban Edge Residential Small Lot (UER-1) and assign zoning of Planned Development (PD) for a pending annexation. The property is currently classified as Neighborhood (Medium Density) and zoned Residential Transition (RT) by Richland County.

Council District: 4

Applicant: Harriet B. Kneece / Troy A. & Cook S. Turnipseed / Desiree Ross / Joann R. & Art K. Richardson / Madison Pickrel, HVP3 Development LLC

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 01/15/2026; Approval (6-0)

First reading approval was given on February 17, 2026.

10. AMENDMENT TO THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE for Owner-Occupied Short Term Rentals

Ordinance No.: 2026-013 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 17 (Unified Development Ordinance), Article 4: Use Regulations Sec. 17-4.2 Principal Uses and Article 9: Definitions and Rules of Measurement Sec. 17-9.4 Definitions

Proposal: Request to amend the Unified Development Ordinance, Chapter 17 - Article 4: Use Regulations Sec. 17-4.2. Principal Uses (b) Principal Use Table and (c) Standards for Specific Principal Uses; and Article 9: Definitions and Rules of Measurement Sec. Sec. 17-9.4 Definitions, to modify standards for short-term rentals (STR) in Residential Base Zoning Districts to exempt owner-occupied dwelling units

Applicant: Andrew Livengood, Zoning Administrator

Staff Recommendation: Staff Sponsored

PC Recommendation: Approved (7-0)

First reading approval was given on February 17, 2026.

11. Ordinance No.: 2026-009 - Repealing Ordinance No.: 2025-054 that Established a Moratorium on the Issuance of New Permits in Residential Areas Pursuant to Columbia's Short-Term Rental Ordinance at Columbia Code Section 5-400 et seq., as amended

First reading approval was given on February 17, 2026.

Ordinances - First Reading

12. Ordinance No.: 2026-015 - Consenting to the Inclusion of Property in a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (Olympus Development Company, formerly referred to as Project Olympus, Richland County TMS#s 04908-01-01, 05009-01-01, & 05009-01-02)

Endorsed by the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee on February 10, 2026.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2026-015 - Consenting to the Inclusion of Property in a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (Olympus Development Company, formerly referred to as Project Olympus, Richland County TMS#s 04908-01-01, 05009-01-01, & 05009-01-02). Mr. Brennan was not present for the vote.

Public Hearing & Ordinance - First Reading

13. Ordinance No.: 2026-016 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 15, Parks and Recreation, Sec. 15-5 User Fees

Mr. Kenya Bryant, Director / Parks and Recreation Department presented two proposed amendments to Ordinance Section 15-5 regarding user fees. The first would restore a Finlay Park rental fee that was inadvertently omitted from the October 2025 ordinance update. The second would establish event vendor fees for Finlay Park by defining vendor types and event categories, while providing flexible pricing options for local

small businesses seeking to vend during park events.

Council opened the public hearing at 4:32 p.m.

No one appeared at this time.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2026-016 — Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 15, Parks and Recreation, Sec. 15-5 User Fees.

Council closed the public hearing at 4:32 p.m.

Resolutions

14. Resolution No.: R-2026-023 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Columbia and NeedNoMore, Inc., to support the City of Columbia's efforts to address food insecurity through improved coordination, visibility, and data sharing related to food pantry services within the city

Endorsed by the Community Development Committee on February 17, 2026.

Councilor Brennan spoke about the innovative program connecting food pantries with individuals in need. He highlighted the initiative as a way to strengthen community connectivity and expressed excitement that the City was selected as a pilot site. He emphasized the role of the Food Policy Committee in supporting such efforts and looked forward to seeing the program's impact.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Herbert and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2026-023 — Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Columbia and NeedNoMore, Inc., to support the City of Columbia's efforts to address food insecurity through improved coordination, visibility, and data sharing related to food pantry services within the city.

Event Resolutions

15. Resolution No.: R-2026-019 - Authorizing consumption of beer, wine, and liquor at the Columbia Food and Wine Festival in the 1600 block of Blanding Street on Sunday, April 26, 2026

Upon a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2026-019 - Authorizing consumption of beer, wine, and liquor at the Columbia Food and Wine Festival in the 1600 block of Blanding Street on Sunday, April 26, 2026.

16. Resolution No.: R-2026-020 - Authorizing consumption of beer, wine, and liquor at the Columbia Food and Wine Festival on the small lawn in Finlay Park on Saturday, April 25, 2026

Upon a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2026-020 — Authorizing consumption of beer, wine, and liquor at the Columbia Food and Wine Festival on the small lawn in Finlay Park on Saturday, April 25, 2026.

17. Resolution No.: R-2026-021 - Authorizing consumption of beer, wine, and liquor at the Contemporaries Ball at 1515 Main Street on Saturday, March 7, 2026

Upon a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2026-021 — Authorizing consumption of beer, wine, and liquor at the Contemporaries Ball at 1515 Main Street on Saturday, March 7, 2026.

Appointments

18. Council is asked to approve the appointment of one individual to the **Board of Zoning Appeals** for a term of three years.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Brown, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Douglas Adams to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a three-year term.

19. Council is asked to approve the appointment of two individuals to the **Historic Preservation / Design Review Commission** for a term of three years.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Brown, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointments of Mr. Cleave Walker and Ms. Tia Savage to the Historic Preservation / Design Review Commission for a three-year term.

20. Council is asked to approve the appointment of two individuals to the **Urban / Design Review Commission** for a term of three years.

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Ms. Herbert, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointments of Ms. LaToya Grate-Adams and Ms. LaTrell Harts to the Urban / Design Review Commission for a three-year term.

Other Matters

21. Council is asked to approve the installation of Speed Humps on Heatherwood Road between Linwood Road and Trenholm Road, as requested by the Public Works Department.

The Columbia Fire Department and Police Department have reviewed and approved the proposed installation.

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Brown, Council voted unanimously to approve the installation of Speed Humps on Heatherwood Road between Linwood Road and Trenholm Road, as requested by the Public Works Department.

City Council Committee Reports, Referrals and New Business

22. Council is asked to refer the Safe Streets and Roads for All federally-funded action

planning process to the Public Safety Committee, as requested by the Planning and Development Services Department.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to refer the Safe Streets and Roads for All federally-funded action planning process to the Public Safety Committee, as requested by the Planning and Development Services Department.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to refer the creation of a City of Columbia ambassador program to the Economic Development & Infrastructure Committee. The goal of the program is to bring local industry leaders together to learn about the city's growth strategy comprehensively and harness their reach to amplify our story and resources across sectors and beyond the city limits.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Herbert and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to refer the process of naming fire stations to the Administrative Policy Committee.

Public Input

Individuals are allotted up to three minutes to address City Council about matters not on the agenda. Items requiring a public hearing cannot be addressed at this time.

Mr. Wade Fulmer emphasized the importance of accountability and responsiveness in public health and neighborhood safety. He referenced residents facing chronic illness, disability, and other challenges. He noted opportunities to improve transparency and community support. He stated that constituents value leadership that is attentive, responsible, and focused on the well-being of the community.

Mayor Rickenmann thanked Mr. Fulmer for his service and for sharing his perspective. He acknowledged the importance of hearing different opinions, noting that while he may not agree with everything, he values the ability for everyone to express their views in a community forum.

Ms. Mary Brooks thanked the Mayor and City Council for supporting renovations to her home in the Belvedere community, which she described as a "new beginning." She shared the hardships of living in a deteriorating home after her husband's passing. She expressed gratitude to city officials and community leaders, including Representative Leon Howard and Mr. Tony Lawton, for helping provide a safe and comfortable place to live.

Mayor Rickenmann recognized Ms. Diane Wiley, Representative Leon Howard, and Mr. Tony Lawton for their roles in the Belvedere neighborhood revitalization. He highlighted that across the city 65 homes were renovated and several rebuilt, noting that this model is now being used to improve neighborhoods across the city and shared nationally as an example of efficient, impactful community development. He also emphasized plans to apply the model to 2,100 empty lots and thanked everyone involved for making a meaningful difference in residents' lives.

Councilor Brown noted this to be the fourth thank you of the year.

Councilor Johnson recognized Councilor McDowell for his leadership and ongoing advocacy for the Belvadere community. He emphasized that while significant progress has been made, the work is not yet complete, and attention is still needed for surrounding neighborhoods and communities facing challenges.

Ms. Lee Lumpkin thanked City Council for its support of Columbia Classical Ballet and shared that the company recently completed its most successful "Nutcracker" season, including sold-out outreach performances for about 2,000 attendees and 1,900 students. She highlighted efforts to keep ballet accessible through \$5 and \$10 tickets. The company's artistic caliber is growing and rebuilding efforts continue with the artistic director relocating and international dancers joining the company.

Councilor Brown noted the fifth thank you of the year.

Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, MMC, CPM
City Clerk