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**COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The Council Legislative Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at City Hall (Mayor’s Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Second Floor, Columbia, SC 29201. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and the following members were present:

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
Daniel J. Rickenmann	Chair	Present
Will Brennan	Member	Present
Aditi Bussells	Member	Present

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approval of August 13, 2024 September 17, 2024 Council Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Dr. Bussells, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the August 13, 2024 and September 17, 2024 Council Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes.

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

Ms. Pamela Benjamin, CPM, Assistant City Manager for Administrative Services acknowledged the team’s efforts during an unusual legislative year. Despite challenges, there were several key successes. She thanked everyone for their hard work in keeping the City’s priorities at the forefront throughout the session.

Ms. Payton Lang, Policy and Programs Advisory / Office of the Mayor shared that both federal and state sessions were atypical and affected funding progress. She noted that federal budget delays stalled the City’s community project requests, which have been resubmitted. At the state level, the budget excluded earmarks to support a tax reduction from 6.2% to 6%, though the City still received \$3.703 million from the local government fund. She emphasized the need for continued engagement and advocacy to advance City priorities.



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2. Federal Legislative Report - Mr. Ralph Garboushian, CapitalEdge – *Received as information.*
- i. *FY 24/25 Federal Legislative Year in Review*
  - ii. *Grant/Funding Updates*
  - iii. *Looking Ahead*

Mr. Ralph Garboushian, CapitalEdge provided a federal legislative update. He noted that none of the twelve FY2025 appropriations bills have passed, resulting in a continuing resolution and no earmarks. He highlighted the Budget Reconciliation Law, which repeals Inflation Reduction Act clean energy incentives, makes Opportunity Zones permanent, extends New Markets Tax Credits, and raises the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction cap to \$40,000. For FY2026, most House and Senate appropriations bills are advancing, though completion before the September 30 fiscal deadline appears unlikely. Both chambers plan to fund Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership programs at prior-year levels.

There was discussion about proposed Continuum of Care changes; federal uncertainty; monitoring new legislation and executive orders; collaborating with federal agencies on housing and homelessness; and shifts in competitive grant funding.

3. State Legislative Report - Mr. Kyle Michel, Kyle Michel Law Firm; Mr. Damon Jeter, Jet Corp Consulting Group, LLC; and Ms. Caroline Delleney, Due South Advocacy, LLC – *Received as information.*
- i. *FY 24/25 State Legislative Year in Review*
  - ii. *Funding Update*
  - iii. *Looking Ahead*

Mr. Kyle Michel, Kyle Michel Law Firm highlighted several legislative updates. He noted strong collaboration with City staff and the Columbia Legislative Delegation to advance budget and policy priorities. He explained that all FY2025 state earmarks were removed after action by the Senate Finance Committee and House leadership. He also highlighted the statewide Hands Free and Distracted Driving Act which became effective; liquor liability tort reform, which reduces insurance costs for hospitality venues; the Underground Facility Damage Prevention Act, which grants municipalities greater authority over utility digging enforcement; and H. 3292 Golf



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Cart Operation, which has been amended to give municipalities the ability to enact golf cart operation ordinances within certain limits.

There was discussion about digital ID going into effect; liquor liability; operations for golf carts in regards to business licensing; consolidation of state behavioral-health and developmental-disability departments; regulation of vaping products and THC consumables; state use of speed cameras; status of red light case study and connecting with school districts; stiffer litter fees and penalties; increasing municipal fines for criminal offenses; and upcoming dates for pre-filing in the House and the Senate.

**OTHER DISCUSSION**

No additional items were discussed at the time.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Dr. Bussells, the Committee voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 2:35 p.m. for the discussion of **Item 4.**

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

*· Legislative Affairs*

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, MMC, CPM  
City Clerk