



## **Columbia City Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 14, 2026**

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### **Call to Order**

The Columbia City Council conducted a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 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 4:07 p.m. 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, Jr. offered the invocation.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

Ms. Teresa B. Wilson, City Manager announced that the beautiful Mrs. Jennie Ruth Dingle Mixon will not be in attendance today. She noted that another event is being planned for Mrs. Dingle this weekend.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

### **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.*

Councilor Johnson thanked City leadership and staff, community partners, and volunteers for their assistance in hosting a successful Easter Egg Roll on Friday, April 3, 2026 at Finlay Park. The event welcomed thousands of children who were able to participate in the festivities.

### **Approval of Minutes**

1. Council is asked to approve the March 17, 2026 Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted

unanimously to approve the March 17, 2026 Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes.

## **Presentations**

2. Mrs. Jennie Ruth Dingle Mixon 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Proclamation — The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor

Mayor Rickenmann and the members of Columbia City Council proclaimed April 13, 2026 as Mrs. Jennie Ruth Dingle Mixon 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

3. National Telecommunicator Week Proclamation - The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor

Mayor Rickenmann and the members of Columbia City Council proclaimed April 12–18, 2026 as National Telecommunicator Week.

Ms. Wendy Royal, Columbia-Richland 911 Communications Director thanked Mayor Rickenmann and executive leadership for recognizing this week as National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week. She acknowledged the entire 911 Team for their daily contributions.

Ms. Teresa B. Wilson, City Manager acknowledged Director Royal as an example of how you can grow in a profession. She started as a dispatcher and now serves as the director.

4. Second Chance Month Proclamation - The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor

The Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement presented a video featuring Mr. Rafael Brown, Program Assistant and a community member who highlighted the benefits of being afforded a second chance.

Mayor Rickenmann and the members of Columbia City Council proclaimed April 2026 as Second Chance Month in the City of Columbia.

Ms. Krystle Holmes-Gay, LMSW, Program Manager / Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement thanked City Council and executive leadership for the recognition. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to scan applicants before conducting background checks.

Mr. Rafael Brown, Program Assistant / Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement expressed appreciation for being hired by the City of Columbia's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement and the opportunity to work with young people through the creation of programs. He recognized other men who supported this effort.

Councilor Herbert said this message is very powerful and people need to hear it. She suggested that the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement connect with the Public Relations Department to record a brief message in hopes of reaching others.

Councilor McDowell said all of us deserve a second chance. He offered thanks and encouragement to continue the work that is being done.

## **Consent Agenda Items 5 through 15**

Upon a single motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted

unanimously to approve **Consent Agenda Items 5** through **15**.

5. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Eleven (11) Motorola Mobile Radios and Software for the Columbia Police Department, as requested by the Fleet Services Division on February 12, 2026. Award to Motorola Solutions, Inc., using the South Carolina State Contract in the amount of \$97,955.11. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC.

Funding Source: Capital Replacement - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$97,955.11.

6. Council is asked to approve funding for the Annual Finance Enterprise Software Subscription and Maintenance Renewal, as requested by the Program Management Office on March 11, 2026. Award to CentralSquare Technologies, LLC, in the amount of \$281,302.89. The term of the contract is from May 31, 2026 to May 30, 2027. This vendor is located in Lake Mary, FL.

Funding Source: Program Management Office - Cloud Based Software Solutions (6218950-632170). The original budget amount is \$281,302.89.

7. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of a 2027 Freightliner Loadmaster Truck for the Solid Waste Division, as requested by the Fleet Services Division on February 27, 2026. Award to Amick Equipment Company, Inc., using the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association Contract in the amount of \$286,519.19. This vendor is located in Lexington, SC.

Funding Source: Capital Replacement - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$286,519.19.

8. Council is asked to approve Contract Amendment #7 for Project SS7382; Wastewater Compliance and Lift Station Maintenance, as requested by Columbia Water on March 4, 2026. Award to Goodwyn, Mills, Cawood, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$74,500.00. The current term of the contract ends on December 31, 2027. This firm is located in Columbia, SC.

Funding Source: Water and Sewer Capital Projects — Compliance and Lift Station Maintenance — Capital Project Costs (5529999-SS738202-658650). The current budget amount is \$453,915.00. The budget amount for this amendment is \$74,500.00. The revised budget amount is \$528,415.00.

The Columbia Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (CDBE) project goal of 10% was exceeded at 17.75% of the revised contract amount with the approval of this contract amendment.

Goodwyn Mills & Cawood, LLC is the prime and will provide architectural services at 70.27% (\$52,351.15) of the amendment amount.

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

Chao & Associates, Inc., a Minority Business Enterprise and a Columbia Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (CDBE) of Columbia, SC, will provide floodplain mitigation engineering and structural engineering services at 16.89% (\$12,583.05) of the amendment amount.

Rebecca M. Looney & Associates, a Minority Business Enterprise (W) and a Columbia

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (CDBE) of Ballentine, SC, will provide landscape architecture services at 6.71% (\$5,000.00) of the amendment amount.

Swygert & Associates, of Cayce, SC, will provide mechanical engineering services at 2.08% (\$1,550.30) of the amendment amount.

Belka Engineering Associates, of Columbia, SC, will provide electrical engineering services at 4.05% (\$3,015.50) of the amendment amount.

9. Council is asked to approve Contract Amendment #2 for Project SS7645; Train 2 Aeration Dewatering System, as requested by Columbia Water on March 2, 2026. Award to Alfa Laval, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$290,374.00. The current term of the contract ends on June 30, 2026. This firm is located in Richmond, VA.

Funding Source: Water and Sewer Capital Projects -Train 2 Aeration and Dewatering - Capital Project Costs (5529999-SS764501-658650). The current budget amount is \$809,880.12. The budget amount for this amendment is \$290,374.00. The revised budget amount is \$1,100,254.12.

10. Ordinance No.: 2026-017 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Eleventh 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

First reading approval was given on March 17, 2026.

11. Ordinance No.: 2026-022 - Consenting to the Inclusion of Property in a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (Project Cardinal TMS #R08913-05-03 and R08913-05-05)

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

First reading approval was given on March 17, 2026.

12. Comprehensive Plan – Future Land Use Map Amendment Confirmation for 1227 and 1235 Bakersfield Road, 106, 112, 118, 119, 130, 131 and 140 Diamond Lane, and 1049, 1057, and 1065 Statler Road, TMS# 07402-04-16, 07402-04-10, 07401-06-01, and 07401-06-02; annexed by Ordinance No 2025-106 enacted January 6, 2026

Ordinance No.: 2026-018 - Amending the Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 Map to confirm the future land use classification for 1227 and 1235 Bakersfield Road, 106, 112, 118, 119, 130, 131 and 140 Diamond Lane, and 1049, 1057, and 1065 Statler Road, TMS# 07402-04-16, 07402-04-10, 07401-06-01, and 07401-06-02; annexed by Ordinance No 2025-106 enacted January 6, 2026

Council District: 2

Proposal: Request to confirm the future land use classifications of Urban Core Community Activity Center (UCAC-2) and Urban Edge Residential Large Lot (UER-2). The properties are currently assigned interim future land use classifications of Urban Core Community Activity Center (UCAC-2) and Urban Edge Residential Large Lot (UER-2).

Applicant: Justin Steinmann, Planning & Development Services Director

Staff Recommendation: Approval

Annexation with Interim Future Land Use

PC Recommendation: 11/13/2025; Approval (8-0)

First Reading: 12/16/2025; Approved

Second Reading: 01/06/2026; Approved

Future Land Use Confirmation

PC Recommendation: 02/12/2026; Approval (5-0)

First reading approval was given on March 17, 2026.

13. Zoning Map Amendment Confirmation for 1227 and 1235 Bakersfield Road, 106, 112, 118, 119, 130, 131 and 140 Diamond Lane, and 1049, 1057, and 1065 Statler Road, Richland County TMS# 07402-04-16, 07402-04-10, 07401-06-01, and 07401-06-02; annexed by Ordinance No 2025-106 enacted January 6, 2026

Ordinance No.: 2026-021 - Amending the Official Zoning Map to confirm the zoning for 1227 and 1235 Bakersfield Road, 106, 112, 118, 119, 130, 131 and 140 Diamond Lane, and 1049, 1057, and 1065 Statler Road, Richland County TMS# 07402-04-16, 07402-04-10, 07401-06-01, and 07401-06-02; annexed by Ordinance No 2025-106 enacted January 6, 2026.

Council District: 2

Proposal: Request to confirm zoning of Community Activity Center/Corridor District (CAC) and Residential Single Family Large Lot District (RSF-1). The properties are currently assigned interim zoning of Community Activity Center/Corridor District (CAC) and Residential Single Family Large Lot District (RSF-1).

Applicant: Andrew Livengood, Zoning Administrator

Staff Recommendation: Approval

Annexation with Interim Zoning

PC Recommendation: 11/13/2025; Approval (8-0)

First Reading: 12/16/2025; Approved

Second Reading: 01/06/2026; Approved

Zoning Map Amendment Confirmation

PC Recommendation: 02/12/2026; Approval (5-0)

First reading approval was given on March 17, 2026.

14. Zoning Map Amendment for 150 Dutchman Boulevard, 5.71 acres N/S Lake Murray Boulevard, 3.56 acres and 0.52 acres S/S Broad River Road TMS# 05000-04-40, 05000-04-45, 05000-04-47, and 05003-01-18

Ordinance No.: 2026-020 - Amending the Official Zoning Map to modify the zoning for 150 Dutchman Boulevard, 5.71 acres N/S Lake Murray Boulevard, 3.56 acres and 0.52 acres S/S Broad River Road, Richland County TMS# 05000-04-40, 05000-04-45, 05000-04-47, and 05003-01-18

Council District: 1

Proposal: Request to rezone the properties from Light Industrial (LI) and Planned Development (PD) to Mixed Use District (MU-2).

Applicant: Talfourd Wharton, Stoa Group

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 02/12/2026; Approval (5-0)

First reading approval was given on March 17, 2026.

15. Annexation, Future Land Use Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment for 450 and 460 Lake Murray Boulevard; TMS# 05000-04-19 and 05000-04-20

Ordinance No.: 2026-019 - Annexing 450 and 460 Lake Murray Boulevard, Richland County TMS# 05000-04-19 and 05000-04-20 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map

Council District: 1

Proposal: Request to assign the land use classification of Urban Edge Regional Activity Center (UEAC-2) and assign zoning of Mixed-Use District (MU-2) for a pending annexation. The property is currently classified as Neighborhood (Medium Density) and zoned Homestead (HM) and Residential Transition (RT) by Richland County.

Applicant: Carroll Wayne and Francis W. Haltiwanger / Francis W. Haltiwanger and Anita W. Cable/ Talfourd Wharton, Stoa Group

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 02/12/2026; Approval (5-0)

First reading approval was given on March 17, 2026.

## **Resolutions**

16. Resolution No.: R-2026-030 - Approving the reissuance solely for federal tax purposes by the Housing Authority of the City of Columbia South Carolina of its not to exceed \$22,000,000 multifamily housing revenue note (Haven at Palmer Pointe Project), pursuant to Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; providing certain other matters in connection therewith; and providing an effective date

Mayor Rickenmann noted that City Council's approval of this resolution is required by law.

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2026-030 — Approving the reissuance solely for federal tax purposes by the Housing Authority of the City of Columbia South Carolina of its not to exceed \$22,000,000 multifamily housing revenue note (Haven at Palmer Pointe Project), pursuant to Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; providing certain other matters in connection therewith; and providing an effective date.

17. Resolution No.: R-2026-028 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute and ratifying the execution of a Purchase and Sale Agreement as well as any necessary closing documents between Orville Stanley Smith, III and the City of Columbia for the purchase of 1950 Gervais Street, Richland County TMS #11405-11-38 and any documents necessary and approved by the City Attorney to consummate the purchase

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2026-028 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute and ratifying the execution of a Purchase and Sale Agreement as well as any necessary closing documents between Orville Stanley Smith, III and the City of Columbia for the purchase of 1950 Gervais Street, Richland County TMS #11405-11-38 and any documents necessary and approved by the City Attorney to consummate the purchase.

18. Resolution No.: R-2026-027 - Certifying A Building Site as Abandoned Buildings Pursuant to the South Carolina Abandoned Buildings Revitalization Act, Title 12, Chapter 67, Section 12-67-100 et seq., of the South Carolina Code of Laws (1976), as amended, regarding the property located at 1701 Fig Street, City of Columbia, Richland County TMS# R11404-10-08

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2026-027 - Certifying A Building Site as Abandoned Buildings Pursuant to the South Carolina Abandoned Buildings Revitalization Act, Title 12, Chapter 67, Section 12-67-100 et seq., of the South Carolina Code of Laws (1976), as amended, regarding the property located at 1701 Fig Street, City of Columbia, Richland County TMS# R11404-10-08.

19. Resolution No.: R-2026-026 - Certifying A Building Site as Abandoned Buildings Pursuant to the South Carolina Abandoned Buildings Revitalization Act, Title 12, Chapter 67, Section 12-67-100 et seq., of the South Carolina Code of Laws (1976), as amended, regarding the property located at 875 Catawba Street, City of Columbia, Richland County TMS #R08913-05-03 and R08913-05-05, together consisting of approximately 2.2 acres

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2026-026 - Certifying A Building Site as Abandoned Buildings Pursuant to the South Carolina Abandoned Buildings Revitalization Act, Title 12, Chapter 67, Section 12-67-100 et seq., of the South Carolina Code of Laws (1976), as amended, regarding the property located at 875 Catawba Street, City of Columbia, Richland County TMS #R08913-05-03 and R08913-05-05, together consisting of approximately 2.2 acres.

## **Public Hearing**

20. Proposed Vista Business Improvement District Plan - Ms. Carey Dunfey, Associate Director / JLP+D and Mr. Scott Garvin, Vista Property Owners Organization

Mr. Scott Garvin, representative for the Vista Property Owners Organization said a lot has changed over 30 years, and the Vista is on the cusp of a lot more activity. He acknowledged that he is a developer and owns properties in the Vista and on Main Street. As a member of the Main Street District Board, he had an inside view of their effective management. Over a year ago, the Vista Property Owners Organization decided to push for a business improvement district (BID) and over 20 property owners agreed. The Vista Property Owners Organization assembled a steering committee and with the city's approval, hired JLP+D to help establish the BID. The three goals are to provide resources to strengthen and promote the unique identity of the Vista; eliminate silos between Main Street and the Vista; and utilize the model and structure that is already in place.

Ms. Carey Dunfey, Associate Director / JLP+D said the Vista is a unique and connected center of activity that bridges downtown and the waterfront. The Vista can build on the momentum that has been established by the Vista Guild and property owners. The proposed model establishes a business improvement district (BID) in the Vista, where assessments fund supplemental services overseen by a private non-profit accountable to both the City and contributing property owners. Core priorities include maintaining a clean and safe environment, creating a sustainable funding stream, enhancing the public realm, supporting economic growth, and ensuring unified leadership. The BID will deliver services such as daily maintenance, public space improvements, marketing and events, beautification, and business advocacy and recruitment. District boundaries encompass the commercial core and the emerging waterfront area along Taylor Street to Blossom Street and the waterfront to Assembly Street, excluding the University of South Carolina, nonprofit, owner-occupied, and publicly owned properties. All included properties will pay a standard assessment at the rate of \$0.001844 per \$1 of value. An additional frontage-based assessment of \$4 will be applied to higher-service areas within the commercial core. Combined with a potential \$400,000 hospitality tax contribution, total annual funding could reach \$2 million. The improvement plan has been submitted for review.

### **Council opened the Public Hearing at 4:44 p.m.**

Mr. Dale Marshall, has served as an architect in the Vista for the past 39 years. He reflected on the area's significant growth and expressed support for the establishment of the BID. He stated that the BID would provide a framework to better analyze and manage anticipated growth over the next decade. He believes it is a necessary next step to ensure the Vista remains a vibrant place where people can live, work, play, and enjoy the arts.

Ms. Beth Frost, President/ Congaree Vista Guild Board of Directors expressed support for the BID and highlighted the Guild's 40-year history as an active community organization. She noted its role in promoting the district through events such as Artista Vista and Vista Lights. With the establishment of a BID, the area is well-positioned for continued growth and expansion.

Ms. Carolyn Lee Decker, President / Vista Neighborhood Association expressed support for the BID and believes it will foster growth and enhance neighborhood value. She emphasized the importance of ensuring the BID continues to prioritize the district's foundation of history, culture, and the arts. She also requested that a representative from the neighborhood association be included on the board.

Mr. Matt Kennell, President and CEO / Main Street District expressed support for the BID, noting that the Main Street District has benefited from a similar model for the past 25 years. He shared that their leadership, board members, and property owners remain supportive and confident in the success of the Vista. He added that the two districts already collaborate regularly, and the BID would further strengthen that connection and reduce silos across the city. He encouraged City Council to approve the BID.

**Council adjourned the Public Hearing at 4:55 p.m.**

Councilor Brown noted that this was the seventh thank you that City Council has received this year.

**Ordinances - First Reading**

- 21. Ordinance No.: 2026-024 - Approval for Acceptance of a Quit-Claim Deed to 44 sq. ft. for Assemblage with the City's Bluff Road Pressure Reducing Valve Site; Richland County TMS#13605-01-02; CF#89-148

Upon a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2026-024 - Approval for Acceptance of a Quit-Claim Deed to 44 sq. ft. for Assemblage with the City's Bluff Road Pressure Reducing Valve Site; Richland County TMS#13605-01-02; CF#89-148.

- 22. Ordinance No.: 2026-027 - Granting an encroachment to Fifth Third Bank for the use of the right of way area of the 100 block of Earth Road for the installation and maintenance of sidewalks adjacent to 181 Earth Road, Richland County TMS# 25700-04-12

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2026-027 - Granting an encroachment to Fifth Third Bank for the use of the right of way area of the 100 block of Earth Road for the installation and maintenance of sidewalks adjacent to 181 Earth Road, Richland County TMS# 25700-04-12.

**Event Resolutions**

- 23. Resolution No.: R-2026-032 - Ratifying and Authorizing the consumption of beer and wine only at Friday After Class (FAC) Festival for Steven Tanneyhill at Greene Street between Harden Street and Pavillion Avenue on Friday, April 3, 2026

Upon a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2026-032 - Ratifying and Authorizing the consumption of beer and wine only at Friday After Class (FAC) Festival for Steven Tanneyhill at Greene Street between Harden Street and Pavillion Avenue on Friday, April 3, 2026.

- 24. Resolution No.: R-2026-034 - Authorizing consumption of beer, wine and liquor for the area known as Coble Plaza, located at 211 Gervais Street, adjacent to EdVenture Children's Museum for the Jim Clyburn's World Famous Fish Fry on Friday, May 29, 2026

Upon a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2026-034 - Authorizing consumption of beer, wine and liquor for the area known as Coble Plaza, located at 211 Gervais Street, adjacent

to EdVenture Children’s Museum for the Jim Clyburn’s World Famous Fish Fry on Friday, May 29, 2026.

### **Appointment of City Council Members to External Boards**

Upon a single motion made by Mayor Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Brown, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of The Honorable Sam P. Johnson to the Columbia Museum of Art Commission and the appointment of The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey to the Historic Columbia Foundation Board.

- 25. Council is asked to approve the appointment of one City Council Member to the Columbia Museum of Art Commission.
- 26. Council is asked to approve the appointment of one City Council Member to the Historic Columbia Foundation Board.

### **City Council Committee Reports, Referrals and New Business**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to refer a presentation on the localized care options that are offered by Prisma Health to the Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee. The purpose of the referral is for the committee to review Prisma’s available community-based care resources and explore how these services can be leveraged to address challenges, particularly within the 29203 zip code.

Councilor Bailey requested an update on a referral regarding how economic development can play a role in incentivizing localized care options in North Columbia.

Mayor Rickenmann said it would be helpful to engage with communities in North Columbia to ensure that these initiatives are fruitful.

### **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.

Ms. Christy Fossum, 2917 Blossom Street, expressed concerns about the lack of a bus terminal in Columbia and the difficulty in obtaining clear information. She noted the hardship this creates for residents and asked about any plans to reestablish a terminal. She also sought clarification on whether bus carriers lack a designated site and expressed interest in serving on a citizen advisory group to help address the issue.

Mayor Rickenmann stated that early discussions are underway with Amtrak, including potential federal funding opportunities. He noted that Southeastern Stages previously explored multiple locations but selected a site that created challenges for surrounding communities. He added that the City and transit partners are continuing to evaluate long-term intermodal solutions.

Ms. Catherine Fleming Bruce, 2214 Hampton Street, expressed concerns about limited resources to meet historic preservation guidelines and proposed a grant program to assist property owners in historic districts, including Historic Waverly. She suggested funding through hospitality tax or similar sources to support restoration, assessments, and urgent repairs. The program would be administered through a partnership between the City’s

Planning and Community Development departments. She encouraged City Council to consider the proposal during upcoming budget discussions.

Mayor Rickenmann said that additional research is needed regarding the state statute. He noted that the Bailey Bill was established to provide tax relief for property owners, which may already address some of the concerns raised. He added that the City will also explore options such as weatherization programs and other available resources. Staff will review the proposal further and report back with findings.

Councilor Brennan asked what percentage of individuals in the Historic Waverly community would fall into the senior category.

Ms. Catherine Fleming Bruce, 2214 Hampton Street, said she believes it is around 70%.

Councilor Brown asked about the definition of a historical-cultural tourism property.

Ms. Catherine Fleming Bruce, 2214 Hampton Street, clarified that the term comes directly from hospitality tax documentation and is defined in a tourism context. She explained that it refers to properties that contribute to tourism, noting that these neighborhoods are featured in bus tours, online tours, and other programming promoted by Historic Columbia.

Councilor Brown also asked why it would matter if someone has a mortgage or if they own their home outright.

Ms. Catherine Fleming Bruce, 2214 Hampton Street, explained that she gathered that language from another type of grant.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, MMC, CPM  
City Clerk