



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022

The Columbia City Council conducted a meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Howard E. Duvall, Jr., The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tempore, The Honorable William Brennan, The Honorable Aditi Bussells, The Honorable Tina N. Herbert, and The Honorable Joe E. Taylor, Jr. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tempore offered the invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda subject to deferring the March 8, 2022 Work Session and March 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments were received at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Council is asked to approve the March 8, 2022 Work Session, March 15, 2022 Council Meeting, and April 5, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes.

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve the April 5, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes. The March 8 and 15, 2022 meeting minutes were deferred.



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CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 2 THROUGH 8

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Ms. Herbert, Council voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda **Items 2** through **8**.

2. Council is asked to approve the Replacement of Storage Area Networks, as requested by the Columbia - Richland 911 Communications Center on March 22, 2022. Award to Dell Technologies in the amount of \$199,856.99. The vendor is located in Round Rock, TX. – *Approved*

Funding Source: City Account (1012701 - 658600) \$99,928.49 and County Account (2082702 - 627500) \$99,928.49. The original budget amount is \$199,856.99.

3. Council is asked to approve Contract Amendment #6 for Project SS7363; Smith Branch 03 Sewer System Evaluation Study and Sewer Rehabilitation Implementation, as requested by Columbia Water on March 4, 2022. Award to AECOM in the amount of \$173,734.00. The firm is located in Columbia, SC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Water and Sewer Capital Projects - Capital Project Costs (5529999-SS736301-658650). The original budget amount was \$903,625.00. The budget amount for amendments 1-5 was \$506,053.00. The budget amount for this amendment is \$173,734.00. The total revised budget amount is \$1,583,412.00.

This is a Mentor Protégé Program project. AECOM is the mentor and will provide general services during construction including construction administration, construction observation, and inspection services at 80.25% (\$139,414.74) of the amendment amount. DESA, Inc., a Minority Business Enterprise (W) of Columbia, SC, is the protégé and will provide easement exhibits, construction administration, observation, and inspection services at 19.75% (\$34,319.26) of the amendment amount.

4. Council is asked to approve Change Order #3 for Project SS7363; Smith Branch SB03 Sewer System Evaluation Study and Rehabilitation, as requested by Columbia Water on March 8, 2022. Award to North American Pipeline Management, Inc. in the amount of \$1,319,042.10. The firm is located in Columbia, SC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Water and Sewer Capital Projects, Capital Project Costs (5529999-SS736301-658650). The original budget amount was \$8,018,967.00. The budget amount for change order #3 is \$1,319,042.10. The total revised budget amount is \$9,338,009.10.

This is a Columbia Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (CDBE) project. The original CDBE goal on this project was 20%, with this change order the total revised CDBE participation achieved is 6.5%. North American Pipeline Management, Inc. will be performing sewer rehabilitation work at 94.20% (\$1,474,266.83) of the change order amount. L.A. Barrier & Son, a CDBE subcontractor and Minority Business Enterprise (W) of Lexington, SC, will be providing trucking and hauling services at 5.80% (\$90,772.27) of the change order amount.



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5. ANNEXATION, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP AMENDMENT, AND ZONING MAP AMENDMENT for 2708 Shop Road aka 2708 Shop Road Extension; TMS# 16200-04-01 - *First reading approval was given on April 5, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2022-003 Annexing 2708 Shop Road a/k/a 2708 Shop Road Extension, Richland County TMS# 16200-04-01 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map

Council District: 3

Proposal: Request to annex the property and assign a land use classification of Industrial (IND) and assign zoning of Light Industrial (LI) at the time of annexation. The property is currently classified as Economic Development Center/Corridor and zoned M-1 by Richland County.

Applicant: BDW Partners, LLC

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 12/06/2021; Approval (6-0)

6. ANNEXATION, INTERIM COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP AMENDMENT, AND INTERIM ZONING MAP AMENDMENT for 1.229 acre portion of 181 Newland Road; TMS# 25600-03-15(p) - *First reading approval was given on April 5, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2022-027 - Annexing 1.229-acre portion of 181 Newland Road Richland County TMS# 25600-03-15 (portion)

Council District: 4

Proposal: Request to assign an interim land use classification of Urban Edge Community Activity Center (UEAC-1) and assign interim zoning of Light Industrial District (LI) at the time of annexation. The property is currently classified as Neighborhood (Medium Density) and zoned M-1 by Richland County.

Applicant: American Container Services, Inc.

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 03/10/2022; Approval (7-0)

First reading approval was given on April 5, 2022.



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7. ANNEXATION, INTERIM COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP AMENDMENT, AND INTERIM ZONING MAP AMENDMENT for 28.24 acres E/S Riding Grove Road and 0.07 acres SE/S Riding Grove Road; TMS# 28908-03-01 and 28904-01-16 - *First reading approval was given on April 5, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2022-028 - Annexing 28.24 acres E/S Riding Grove Road, Richland County TMS# 28908-03-01 and 0.07 acre SE/S Riding Grove Road, TMS# 28904-01-16

Council District: 4

Proposal: Request to assign an interim land use classification of Urban Edge Residential Large Lot (UER-2) and assign interim zoning of Planned Development District (PD), a portion within the Floodplain Overlay District (OV-FP) at the time of annexation. The property is currently classified as Neighborhood (Medium Density) and zoned PDD by Richland County.

Applicant: Premium Development, LLC and Woodcreek Development, LLC

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 03/10/2022; Approval (7-0)

8. Ordinance No.: 2022-021 - Approval for Conveyance of Falling Springs Court, Identified as Richland County TMS#09107-02-02 to Deliverance and Revival Center Church; CF#250-551 - *First reading approval was given on April 5, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

9. Ordinance No.: 2022-029 - Granting an encroachment to Lafaye Homes for the use of the right of way area of the 1000 block of Bryan Street and the 2200 block of Clark Street for the installation and maintenance of sidewalks, landscaping, and irrigation adjacent to single-family residences under construction at 1011, 1013, 1015 and 1017 Bryan Street, Richland County TMS#09012-10-16, 09012-10-32, 09012-10-33 and 09012-10-34 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2022-029 - Granting an encroachment to Lafaye Homes for the use of the right of way area of the 1000 block of Bryan Street and the 2200 block of Clark Street for the installation and maintenance of sidewalks, landscaping, and irrigation adjacent to single-family residences under construction at 1011, 1013, 1015 and 1017 Bryan Street, Richland County TMS#09012-10-16, 09012-10-32, 09012-10-33 and 09012-10-34.



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10. Ordinance No.: 2022-030 - Granting an encroachment to GSM Properties, LLC, for the use of the right of way area of the 1200 block of Taylor Street for the installation and maintenance of brick pavers and concrete sidewalks, landscaping, irrigation and a suspended pavement system to support the new landscaping adjacent to 1216 and 1218 Taylor Street, Richland County TMS# 09014-09-03 and 09014-09-04 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2022-030 - Granting an encroachment to GSM Properties, LLC, for the use of the right of way area of the 1200 block of Taylor Street for the installation and maintenance of brick pavers and concrete sidewalks, landscaping, irrigation and a suspended pavement system to support the new landscaping adjacent to 1216 and 1218 Taylor Street, Richland County TMS# 09014-09-03 and 09014-09-04.

11. Ordinance No.: 2022-031 - Granting an encroachment to TownPark at BullStreet, LLC, for the use of the right of way area of the 30 block of Fig Street for the installation and maintenance of two landings adjacent to two new residences under construction at 32 and 34 Townpark Circle, Richland County TMS# 11404-09-10 and 11404-09-11 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2022-031 - Granting an encroachment to TownPark at BullStreet, LLC, for the use of the right of way area of the 30 block of Fig Street for the installation and maintenance of two landings adjacent to two new residences under construction at 32 and 34 Townpark Circle, Richland County TMS# 11404-09-10 and 11404-09-11.

RESOLUTIONS

12. Resolution No.: R-2022-031 - Authorizing acceptance and dedication of streets known as a portion of Eastfair Drive and Sandra Drive, located in Eastfair, Phase 2B; Richland County TMS#19201-14-01; CF#297-11 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2022-031 - Authorizing acceptance and dedication of streets known as a portion of Eastfair Drive and Sandra Drive, located in Eastfair, Phase 2B; Richland County TMS#19201-14-01; CF#297-11.



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13. Resolution No.: R-2022-032 - Authorizing acceptance and dedication of streets known as a portion of Eastfair Drive and Legacy Park Court, located in Eastfair, Phase 2C; Richland County TMS#19201-14-02; CF#297-11 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2022-032 - Authorizing acceptance and dedication of streets known as a portion of Eastfair Drive and Legacy Park Court, located in Eastfair, Phase 2C; Richland County TMS#19201-14-02; CF#297-11.

14. Resolution No.: R-2022-035 - Approval for Acceptance of Conveyance of the River Shoals Water Pressure Reducing Valve Station, Identified as a Portion of Richland County TMS#04300-04-10 from NKD, INC.; CF#302-22 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2022-035 - Approval for Acceptance of Conveyance of the River Shoals Water Pressure Reducing Valve Station, Identified as a Portion of Richland County TMS#04300-04-10 from NKD, INC.; CF#302-22.

15. Resolution No.: R-2022-036 - Amending Resolution No.: R-2022-005 Approving and Ratifying Mutual Aid Agreements between the City of Columbia and the City of Columbia Police Department and Various Law Enforcement Agencies and Authorizing the City Manager of the City of Columbia and the Chief of Police of the City of Columbia to execute all such agreements to add the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Columbia Healthcare System to the list of agencies – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2022-036 - Amending Resolution No.: R-2022-005 Approving and Ratifying Mutual Aid Agreements between the City of Columbia and the City of Columbia Police Department and Various Law Enforcement Agencies and Authorizing the City Manager of the City of Columbia and the Chief of Police of the City of Columbia to execute all such agreements to add the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Columbia Healthcare System to the list of agencies.



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EVENT RESOLUTIONS

16. Resolution No.: R-2022-030 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only within the Earlewood Park Amphitheater and covered picnic shelter, 1113 Recreation Drive at the Solfest Rollfest/Music and Bike Festival on Saturday, July 2, 2022 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2022-030 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only within the Earlewood Park Amphitheater and covered picnic shelter, 1113 Recreation Drive at the Solfest Rollfest/Music and Bike Festival on Saturday, July 2, 2022.

17. Resolution No.: R-2022-034 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the Earle Jam (Neighborhood Concert) in Earlewood Park on Sunday, October 23, 2022 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2022-034 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the Earle Jam (Neighborhood Concert) in Earlewood Park on Sunday, October 23, 2022.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said we are very thankful for your support in allocating ARP funding to get some demolitions done. The CPD Code Enforcement Division is moving forward with the demolition of vacant, abandoned, and hazardous properties in our effort to eliminate blight in our community. Currently we have 77 properties identified in rounds one and two of the program. Round one includes 52 properties that are ready or will soon be ready for solicitation of a demolition contractor. Solicitation is expected to be released on May 1st with City Council approval in June. The timeline is approximately 90 days from solicitation to the actual demolition of the properties. Round two includes 25 properties that are ready for legal to issue demolition orders and complete the title search. Round two is targeted to begin solicitation by September 2022. The demolition list is a working list and can change almost daily as we add additional properties to the list and remove some that have title issues or code issues are abated by owners. The City does not own the properties. The majority of the structures that we intend to demolish are in such disrepair, that the cost to rehab them would be cost prohibitive for affordable housing. Hopefully the removal of these structures will make the properties more attractive for future infill development, ideally for affordable housing development. We are hopeful that we will get this process going and we feel confident that we will be in compliance with federal regulations.



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In an effort to increase recruitment and retention for some of our hard to fill positions, the City is implementing a phased in approach to increasing salaries. This will also fall in line with the Columbia Water Customer Response Plan. We are still working through the backlog of work orders but we have made a significant amount of progress. Part of that is as a result of increased staffing. As we have gone through that process, we have realized that some of our lowest wage earners and folks in the field need to have a livable wage. Phase one – increase salaries of all employees to at least \$14.50 per hour (does not include Fire); Phase two - implement limited pay increases in departments like Columbia Water, Public Works and Utilities to raise salaries to a minimum of \$14.50 and address some compression; and Phase three – engage Evergreen Solutions, LLC to complete a market analysis of all employees whose salaries range between \$31,120 and \$50,000. This will hopefully boost the morale of our employees who work so hard every day for our citizens.

I would like to also recognize H. Demetrius Rumph, Director of Safety & Risk Management, for being named the 2022 Risk Professional of the Year by the SC Public Risk Management Association. Since Demetrius joined the City in 2016, workers' compensation claims have dropped 48%. We continue to experience a consistent downward trend in total incurred costs as well as reduced claims over the last five years. In 2021, the City had the lowest dollar amount spent on injured employees.

Councilor Herbert asked if the solicitations for the demolitions will be done per home or in batches.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said we are trying to do batches. The Mayor and I talked about indefinite delivery contracts. They seem to be working well with a lot of the work we are doing with our water repair and waterline water main breaks. We can potentially use that same mechanism to procure our demolition contractors. The team will start coordinating with procurement to set a first round of bidding for demo contractors and break the demolitions into smaller groups for bidding based on geographic locations. They felt it would be easier to bid and it will open up the possibility of multiple contracts being awarded.

Councilor Herbert said this is an opportunity for minority businesses to actually get some contracts. We need to coordinate with Office of Business Opportunities to make sure that we let some of those folks know to register so they can get the information.



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CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REFERRALS, REPORTS, AND NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Rickenmann said this past weekend we had an unfortunate event here in Columbia. I want to thank the Chief for the response of our CPD officers, along with Richland County, Lexington County, Newberry County, the U.S. Marshall Service, ATF, FBI, SLED, and our Fire Department. We are focused on supporting our law enforcement to ensure swift justice for the senseless act in our community. We owe it to the victims, the innocent bystanders, the businesses, and of course to our City to ensure that these perpetrators are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. It is our job to address both the immediate and long term issues to restore safety for our citizens. We need to continue to invest in our law enforcement officers so that they can respond quickly and effectively to restore safety while partnering with our communities to make impactful investments. We need to work with our judicial system to ensure that our communities are being protected. Long term, we need to address the root causes of violence in our community. We need to make sure the economic conditions are right for investment, attainable housing, and jobs with advanced opportunities so that a life of crime and violence is just not an option. I'm deeply grateful for the Chief that we have, the law enforcement agencies that came together, and the community. Today, my prayers are still with those victims and all those folks who were involved. This affected hundreds of people in a short amount of time. We cannot get to a point where we accept these things as "it's just another shooting". We have had close to 93 shootings over the last 12 months. That is 93 too many for me. This is a communitywide issue. That means neighborhoods, businesses, families, and churches have to collectively work together. I hope that as we continue to move forward, victims recover, justice is served swiftly, and we come together as a community to lower those numbers.

Councilor McDowell said I was a part of what took place on Saturday. It was nothing but the grace of God that 15 of the people injured were not critically injured or killed. Chief, you handled yourself with integrity, with a kind of posture in the midst of this crisis that made all of us proud; proud of the fact that you were there, along with the City Manager, our Mayor, and other members of this Council. You made us proud that in the midst of that chaos, you were able to lead along with your partners and to give each one of us a real sense of being prepared. Thank you for being the Chief of Columbia and particularly my Chief.



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Councilor Herbert said I want to say thank you to our Chief. We need to realize that we all have a role in this and we cannot police our way out of this situation. The Mayor has graciously assigned me a Mayor's Fellow, Ms. Alexis Mertz. I wanted to recognize her, she has been working with me to look at crime prevention. We just met with Kimberly Mitchell from our Parks and Recreation Department. They will be kicking off the National Youth Violence Prevention Week this Sunday. I'm hoping that everyone can support all of the activities they will have. Kudos to the Police Department, our Chief, and Parks and Recreation for helping us build community. Because through community building, we can help eliminate some of these numbers.

Councilor Taylor said I would like to say to the people of Columbia that you have a City Council that is committed to economic prosperity for all. We are looking at how we can grow small business opportunities, make it easier for people to be successful, and grow companies here. I learned a long time ago that public safety is the cornerstone of prosperity. I want to make sure the Chief and the whole force knows that this Council is behind you to make sure you have the assets that you need and the people that it takes to make sure we are as safe as any community in America. Please thank the force on our behalf.

Mayor Rickenmann said we have Earth Day coming up. We have several things planned over the next few months to engage citizens. I want to talk about the Keep the Midlands Beautiful event on Saturday April 23rd, 2022 in the Booker Washington Heights neighborhood. Kickoff starts at 9:00 a.m. at the Bellfield Center on Grant Street. As of today, over 97 people signed up to volunteer to help clean up in this area. We will have supplies, free lunch for volunteers, and prizes for those who pick up the most litter. Please go to the Keep the Midlands Beautiful website and sign up. This is the first of many neighborhoods that we want to work together to clean up and put pride back in as we continue to invest in each and every neighborhood. Let's clean our City one block at a time and show everybody how beautiful she really is.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. John Black, Columbia Council of Neighborhoods President said the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods would like to thank you for your steadfast support at our annual awards banquet. Over 180 citizens came together to celebrate the achievements and accomplishments within our great city. A special thank you to Councilman McDowell and Councilwoman Herbert for their financial support. Also thank you to Chief Holbrook, Chief Jenkins, and Councilwoman Bussells for the assistance and participation in reading the City's proclamations, and to the Public Relations Department. Thanks for your continued support and for working together to build a stronger relationship with city government and our member communities and neighborhoods.



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Email from Ms. Diane Wiley, Belvedere Community President: I would like to say thank you for helping to rebuild and restore our neighborhood. You and your staff were eager to begin work upon your arrival to City Council, and you have truly proven yourselves to many of the communities within the city of Columbia. Specifically, the work that you are doing within the Belvedere neighborhood has brought renewed hope and joy to many of the residents living within the neighborhood. The repairs that are being made, which are very much needed, are greatly appreciated by our community members. We have waited a very long time for assistance and help with our neighborhood. It is with great joy and delight that I write this e-mail to say thank you on behalf of the Belvedere Community and myself, as the Belvedere President. I would like to also extend a special thank you to our City Councilman Ed McDowell for all of his unwavering support and assistance throughout the past few years. We could not have done this without him. We are looking forward to working along with you and your team in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk