



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020

The Columbia City Council conducted a virtual meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 using video conferencing technology. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Howard E. Duvall, Jr., The Honorable Mayor Pro-Tempore Edward H. McDowell, Jr., The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, and The Honorable William Brennan. 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 Mayor Pro Tempore Edward H. McDowell, Jr. offered the invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1 THROUGH 6

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve **Consent Agenda Items 1** through **6**.

1. Council is asked to approve the purchase of the AVaiLWeb and Hardware Warranty for Vehicle Locator Services, as requested by the Columbia Police Department. Award to Utility Associates in the amount of \$73,738.08. The vendor is located in Decatur, GA. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Police Administrative Services - Maintenance & Service Contract (1012402-638200). The original budgeted amount is \$74,000.

2. Council is asked to approve a Professional Services sole source agreement for a consultant to provide a Municipal Complex Building Condition Report, as requested by the Support Services Division. Award to Pond & Company, as a Sole Source in the amount of \$90,235.00. Pond & Company's headquarters is located in Peachtree Corners, GA and the company maintains a local office in Columbia, SC. – *Approved*



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Funding Source: General Capital Projects/Capital Projects (4039999-658650); Washington Sq-Customer Care/Capital Projects (CP105904-658650). The original budgeted amount is \$90,235.00.

3. Council is asked to ratify the approval of a Professional Services Agreement for Emergency Use Authorization COVID-19 Testing, subject to City established protocol. Award to Precision Genetics in the amount of \$153,000.00. This firm is located in Greenville, SC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: General Fund COVID-19 Emergency Reserves

4. Council is asked to approve a Contract for Project WM4524; Water Maintenance Utility Cut Repairs (Water District 2), as requested by Columbia Water. Award to Carolina Tap & Bore, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$803,568.00 which includes contingency. This firm is located in West Columbia, SC. – *Approved*

This is a Mentor Protégé Program project. Carolina Tap & Bore, Inc., a Local Business Enterprise of West Columbia, SC, is the Mentor and will be performing utility cut repairs at 77% (\$515,240.00) of the total contract value. LG Utility Contractors, Inc., a Woman Business Enterprise and a Local Business Enterprise of Lugoff, SC, is the Protégé and will be performing utility cut repairs at 21% (\$141,000.00) of the total contract value.

The following suppliers will be providing additional materials/supplies:

Sloan Construction of Duncan, SC will be providing materials at 1% (\$6,700.00) of the total contract value.

Martin Marietta of Cayce, SC will be providing materials at 1% (\$6,700.00) of the total contract value.

Funding Source: Engineering Water & Sewer Improvements (5516220-WM452401-658500). The original budget amount is \$877,807.13.



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5. Council is asked to approve a Contract for Project WM4523; Water Maintenance Utility Cut Repairs (Water Districts 1 & 3), as requested by Columbia Water. Award to Carolina Tap & Bore, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1,011,300.00 which includes contingency. This firm is located in West Columbia, SC. – *Approved*

This is a Mentor Protégé Program project. Carolina Tap & Bore, Inc., a Local Business Enterprise of Columbia, SC, is the Mentor and will be performing utility cut repairs at 77% (\$648,350.00) of the total contract value. LG Utility Contractors, Inc., a Minority Business Enterprise (Woman) and a Local Business Enterprise of Lugoff, SC, is the Protégé and will be performing utility cut repairs at 21% (\$177,000.00) of the total contract value.

The following suppliers will be providing additional material/supplies:

Sloan Construction of Duncan, SC will be providing materials at 1% (\$8,700.00) of the total contract value.

Martin Marietta of Cayce, SC will be providing materials at 1% (\$8,700.00) of the total contract value.

Funding Source: Engineering Water & Sewer Improvements (5516220-WM452301-658500). The original budget amount is \$1,103,289.00.

6. Council is asked to approve a Contract for Project WM4525; Water Maintenance Utility Cut Repairs (Water District 4), as requested by Columbia Water. Award to Carolina Tap & Bore, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1,034,148.00 which includes contingency. This firm is located in West Columbia, SC. – *Approved*

This is a Mentor Protégé Program project. Carolina Tap & Bore, Inc., a Local Business Enterprise of West Columbia, SC, is the Mentor and will be performing utility cut repairs at 77% (\$663,415.00) of the total contract value. LG Utility Contractors, Inc., a Woman Business Enterprise and a Local Business Enterprise of Lugoff, SC, is the Protégé and will be performing utility cut repairs at 21% (\$180,975.00) of the total contract value.

The following suppliers will be providing additional materials/supplies:

Sloan Construction of Duncan, SC will be providing materials at 1% (\$8,700.00) of the total contract value.

Martin Marietta of Cayce, SC will be providing materials at 1% (\$8,700.00) of the total contract value.

Funding Source: Engineering Water & Sewer Improvements (5516220-WM452501-658500). The original budget amount is \$1,124,765.40.



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ORDINANCE - FIRST READING

7. Ordinance No.: 2020-035 Amending Ordinance 2019-078 to Amend the Budget for the City of Columbia, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020 - *Approved on first reading.*

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said this ratifies the actions of Council to allocate funds for our Resilient Columbia initiative, public safety initiatives, and information technology matters that are needed during this time.

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2020-035 Amending Ordinance 2019-078 to Amend the Budget for the City of Columbia, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020.

RESOLUTION

8. Resolution No.: R-2020-051 Ratifying and Approving the Adoption of "A Resilient Columbia: Economic Sustainability Plan" – *Approved*

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said staff has moved forward expeditiously to put in place these guidelines for the assistance being provided to small businesses and the non-profit community. We have distributed 108 awards, almost half a million dollars have been given out. Staff is compiling demographic data to show the diversity of all businesses being impacted.

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2020-051 Ratifying and Approving the Adoption of "A Resilient Columbia: Economic Sustainability Plan".

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received at this time.



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Councilor Rickenmann said we are at the stage where we need to reach out to the recipients of the hospitality tax and accommodations tax to let them know that based on the impacts they may need to scale back their anticipation of funding. I don't think we are going to have the funding levels that we have had. I do not want people to make plans and anticipate spending money that we may not have to relieve them. I think it is time, well in advance, to ask the City Manager to issue a letter to let everyone know they should not budget such robust plans for the rest of the calendar year and going into the next budget cycle. We need to be careful that people are not anticipating money that we may not have.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said the committee chair is asking for some direction. Staff has not received anything regarding current applicants who were already funded for the current year. We are getting questions about the process going forward, if there will be a different process, and communicating any changes sooner rather than later. The chair has said that it has not technically been a pressing issue because they have been engaged with the impacts on their own businesses. It was stated that if Council would like to move forward with the process they would like further direction. The committee would like to know how we want the process to continue and the funds available before they begin to look at applications. The instructions that were given to the organizations that were already funded was that they could request to carry forward. I have to ask how many of those requests we have.

Councilor Duvall said Mr. Rickenmann is right and we are in a different situation with hospitality and accommodation tax collections. Organizations need to be alerted that things might change going forward. We had directed staff to start doing some forecasting for the payout of this fiscal year and for the next fiscal year that starts in July. I think we need to wait until we receive the forecasts before we begin making decisions. I do think the letter should tell potential recipients that the process will stop at the committee level and that Council along with staff will handle the distributions depending on what funds are available. We as a Council need to make some tough decisions on the priority of what funds are available. We have obligations to our bond holders and others before we can distribute money.

Mayor Benjamin said once we have legitimate expectations we need to make sure we are prepared to give people a date by which we will be making some decisions. Preferably before the fiscal year is up so they can adjust accordingly. This is a process that needs to be as egalitarian as possible. We do need to communicate and draft a letter so people can understand and prepare for it.



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Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said we have made some projections but it might not be until late summer when businesses start turning the corner. The reality is there might not be enough collections to do what we would normally do. Richland County is taking some action today. We can try to stay in line with what they are attempting to do. We will do our best to forecast but it will be mostly assumptions until our community turns the corner.

Councilor Brennan asked the City Manager for an inventory of municipalities who are doing hazard pay for first responders and to track any federal funding specifically for that.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said the hazard pay scenarios we have seen are in the bigger cities and virus hotspots. We will do our diligence to see what is happening across the state. We have received a direct allocation from the Department of Justice. The funding is pretty open ended as to how law enforcement can utilize it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to enter into **Executive Session** at 2:50 p.m. for the discussion of **Item 9** as outlined.

9. Receipt of legal advice related to matters covered by attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)

Legal advice pertaining to COVID-19 and City Operations

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned the Executive Session and the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore, CMC
City Clerk