



## Columbia City Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, June 9, 2026

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### Call to Order

The Columbia City Council conducted a Regular Meeting & Budget Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 9, 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 4:10 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, Jr. offered the invocation.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Adoption of the Agenda

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda subject to the following amendments: remove **Item 10** from the Consent Agenda and amend it as follows: Council is asked to authorize the City Manager to enter into a new Contract for Project SS7647; Design and Installation of a Solar Photovoltaic Power Generation System for the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant, as requested by Columbia Water on June 23, 2025. Award to CMTA, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$8,948,625.00, which includes contingency. The initial term of the contract will take effect upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed with an end date eighteen (18) months from commencement and the option to renew for nineteen (19) additional one-year periods. The contract cannot be signed by the City Manager until 10 days after an award is made. This contractor is located in Columbia, SC; defer **Item 12** (Annexation, Future Land Use Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment for NX Shop Road Extension, TMS# 16200-01-24); and defer **Item 14** (Zoning Map Amendment for Parcel at 1700 Block Rosewood Drive and Fulton Street TMS# 11309-18-10). The **Consent Agenda** will consist of **Items 4** through **9, 11** and **13**.

It was clarified that the applicant requested deferral of **Item 12** and **Item 14** is being deferred to allow the applicant to meet with the neighbors tomorrow.

### 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 May 19, 2026 Budget Workshop and Regular Meeting Minutes.

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to approve the May 19, 2026 Budget Workshop and Regular Meeting Minutes.

## **Budget Public Hearing & Ordinances - First Reading**

Ms. Missy Caughman, CPM, MPA, Assistant City Manager / Strategic Initiatives & Innovation presented a City by the Numbers graphic to demonstrate how the budget helps to support a full-service city. The City's budget consists of multiple sources of funds organized into distinct funds with its own revenue and rules on how the money can be spent. The overall operating budget is approximately \$500 million with water and sewer making up the largest portion of that budget. A property tax increase is not reflected in this budget. There is a 5% adjustment for water & sewer rates. This budget sustains current service levels. We are also investing in Columbia's future with \$101.6 million in capital improvements and competitive pay and merit programs to attract and retain employees. The proposed general fund budget is \$203 million and it was developed with the intention of maintaining current service levels. She reviewed the budget balancing approach, budget drivers, and revenues/transfers for the general fund.

Councilor Herbert asked for clarification on the fiscal year 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 budget for capital leases.

Ms. Missy Caughman, CPM, MPA, Assistant City Manager / Strategic Initiatives & Innovation said we borrow funds to pay for rolling stock technology used by the general fund. For fiscal year 2025/2026, we budgeted \$4 million based on budget capacity. For fiscal year 2026/2027, we are going back to \$15 million. She continued to review the general fund revenues and expenditures. She reviewed the proposed budget for special revenues, which includes the tourism development fee (\$5.9 million), state accommodations tax (\$3.9 million), the liquor permit rebate (\$445,000), and the hospitality tax (\$17.4 million). She presented the proposed budget for each enterprise fund: water and sewer (\$127.7 million), stormwater (\$18.6 million); and parking (\$16.4 million).

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said we are at a pivot because of what we have done over the last year with parking and the revenue we are beginning to generate. It is all going back into the system for the benefit of the public. We have a new employee, Larry Hall [Parking Operating Administrator], who will be helping with this.

Ms. Missy Caughman, CPM, MPA, Assistant City Manager / Strategic Initiatives & Innovation reviewed the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the water and wastewater system improvements (\$93 million), stormwater improvements (\$6 million), and parking improvements (\$2.6 million). In closing, she said this is the budget public hearing and folks are invited to speak. The budget ordinance is scheduled for second reading and adoption next week. This material will be available on the website. She also highlighted citywide operational excellence, awards and honors.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said we have a new accolade with Mayor Rickenmann being named second vice president of the US Conference of Mayors. He will ascend to the presidency in the next few years. She thanked Ms. Caughman for doing a wonderful job with the city's budget for so many years. She also thanked the budget team for their work.

Mayor Rickenmann said we had a presentation on the hospitality tax fund. We plan to take up those allocations and proposals next week. He said we are already thinking about next year and planning for future investments in public safety needs, quality of life and other services. There are going to be a lot of great things coming next year.

### **Council opened the public hearing at 4:48 p.m.**

Ms. Therese Griffin, President of the Board of Trustees, Columbia Museum of Art thanked City Council for its longstanding support of the Museum. She announced that the CMA celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year; completed major renovations of its collection galleries; and organized the first retrospective exhibition of the work of native son, Rodney McMillan. The Museum also welcomed 125,000 visitors while generating more than \$23 million annually. During the current fiscal year, City Council provided funding for operating and capital expenditures in the amount of \$1.2 million. She requested \$1.1 million for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Raj Aluri, Columbia International Festival, said Columbia is as cosmopolitan as any other big city in the United States, and we have the greatest event happening in our city. The Columbia International Festival showcases who we are as a city and as a community, with 22 states being represented at the last event. He reported that 30% of the hospitality tax is generated by ethnic groups and restaurants. We are multicultural in everything we do. The economic impact could be as much as \$100 million. He asked the City of Columbia to fund at least half the amount provided by Richland County. He noted that the festival carries the city's name, and it is good for the city.

Mr. Jaehoon Choe thanked City Council for its continued support of the Columbia International Festival, which will celebrate its 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary next year. He said the Columbia International Festival continues to educate Columbia's children on Global Education Day. He said a big part of the festival's success is the support from generous sponsors such as the City of Columbia.

Dr. Patrick Nhigula, Darla Moore School of Business, requested continued and enhanced support for the Columbia International Festival through the 2026/2027 budget resources. For the past 31 years, we have brought many people together from different countries and states to come together as one people. It is our moral obligation to continue to bring people from different countries and nationalities to Columbia, South Carolina.

Ms. Viola Hendley, Mill District resident, thanked City Council for their funding and support for the Olympia firehouse. She said fire service is one of the basic promises local government makes to every resident. When residents call, help needs to come quickly, safely, and with the right people and equipment. The firefighters are telling us that the system needs help. She asked Council to use this budget process to make clear commitments before final reading; identify the fire needs being funded this year; commit to a public station modernization schedule; support mental health resources for firefighters; and work with Richland County through a public process that includes the firefighters.

Mr. Josh Moskaitis, Fire Engineer and President of Columbia Professional Firefighters Local

793, said we appreciate that this budget recognizes public safety and fire station modernization as priorities. We also appreciate city leaders being willing to discuss long-term solutions, including city/county coordination, cost recovery, and new revenue options. He asked Council to make clear, public and measurable commitments prior to adoption of the budget. He also asked City Council to protect and expand fire capital funding; commit to a public fire station modernization timeline; include the association's mental health initiative as part of the public safety strategy; and publicly establish a joint city/county implementation process with firefighter representation.

### **Council closed the public hearing at 5:04 p.m.**

Mayor Rickenmann said the request for hospitality tax funding will be discussed next week. A strategic plan has to be developed as we look at investments and capital needs. That will not be a part of this discussion. It is going to be a joint discussion and we have to do it the right way.

2. Ordinance No.: 2026-044 - To Raise Revenue and Adopt the Budget for the City of Columbia, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2027

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2026-044 - To Raise Revenue and Adopt the Budget for the City of Columbia, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2027.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said **item 20** deals with special revenue allocations and the Mayor has noted that we will be taking that up next week.

3. Ordinance No.: 2026-041 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 23, Utilities and Engineering, Article V, Water and Sewer Rates, Sec. 23-144, Special Water Service Fees, Sec. 23-145, Installation of water meters and cross connection control devices, Sec. 23-146, Fire hydrant, fire protection and sprinkler systems charges, Sec. 23-147, Installation of water meters serving fire protection sprinkler systems, Sec. 23-148, Sewer tapping fees

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2026-041 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 23, Utilities and Engineering, Article V, Water and Sewer Rates, Sec. 23-144, Special Water Service Fees, Sec. 23-145, Installation of water meters and cross connection control devices, Sec. 23-146, Fire hydrant, fire protection and sprinkler systems charges, Sec. 23-147, Installation of water meters serving fire protection sprinkler systems, Sec. 23-148, Sewer tapping fees.

### **Consent Agenda Items 4 through 14**

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to approve **Consent Agenda Items 4** through **9, 11** and **13**.

4. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Laptops, Havis Vehicle Docks, Laptop Equipment and Warranties for the Columbia Police Department, as requested by the Fleet Services Division on May 18, 2026. Award to PCN Strategies, Inc., using the Sourcwell Contract in the amount of \$56,879.42. This vendor is located in Washington, DC.

Funding Source: Capital Replacement - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$56,879.42.

5. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of One (1) 2026 Chevrolet Colorado Crew Cab Truck, and One (1) 2026 Chevrolet Silverado Crew Cab Truck for the Lake Murray Water Treatment Plant, as requested by the Fleet Services Division on May 5, 2026. Award to COS Chevrolet, LLC, dba Hendrick Chevrolet, using the South Carolina State Contract in the amount of \$87,823.56. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC.

Funding Source: Utilities Lake Murray Water Plant — Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment-Capital (5516207-658500). The original budget amount is \$87,823.56.

6. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Firearms, as requested by the Columbia Police Department on April 28, 2026. Award to AmChar Wholesale, Inc., using the South Carolina State Contract in the amount of \$139,943.42. This vendor is located in Rochester, NY.

Funding Source: Police Administrative Services - Weapons and Firearms (1012402-624500). The original budget amount is \$139,943.42.

7. Council is asked to approve a Satellite Sewer System Agreement (SSSA) for the Scout Motors Project, as requested by Columbia Water. The SSSA allows for Scout Motors to operate and maintain their sewer system and discharge to the City's system for treatment.

8. Council is asked to approve a new Construction Contract for Project WM4918; Spring Hill Road Water Main Relocation, as requested by Columbia Water on May 4, 2026. Award to Lake Murray Utility Company, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$144,736.20, which includes contingency. The initial term of the contract will take effect upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed with an end date sixty-six days (66) days from commencement. This contractor is located in Prosperity, SC.

Funding Source: Water and Sewer Capital Projects — Spring Hill Road Water Main Relocation - Capital Project Costs (5529999-WM491801-658650). The original budget amount is \$144,736.20.

This is a Mentor Protégé Program project. Lake Murray Utility Company, Inc. is the mentor and will provide project oversight and construction administration services at 50.98% (\$61,490.80) of the total contract amount.

JW Brown Construction, LLC, located in Lexington, SC, is the protégé and will provide water main replacement services at 20.00% (\$24,122.70) of the total contract amount.

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

Campbell Asphalt Specialties, located in Sumter, SC, will provide asphalt services at 29.02% (\$35,000.00) of the total contract amount.

9. Council is asked to approve a new Sole Source Contract for Two (2) Upper and Lower Bearings for the Influent Pump Station Screw Pumps for the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant, as requested by Columbia Water on May 14, 2026.

Award to Evoqua Water Technologies, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$316,440.00. The initial term of the contract will take effect upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed with an end date on June 30, 2026 and the option to renew for one additional one-year period. This vendor is located in Waukesha, WI.

Funding Source: Utilities Metro Wastewater Plant - Machinery and Equipment-Capital (5516208-658300). The original budget amount is \$316,440.00.

10. Council is asked to approve a new Professional Services Contract for Project SS7647; Design and Installation of a Solar Photovoltaic Power Generation System for the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant, as requested by Columbia Water on June 23, 2025. Award to CMTA, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$8,948,625.00, which includes contingency. The initial term of the contract will take effect upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed with an end date eighteen (18) months from commencement and the option to renew for nineteen (19) additional one-year periods. This contractor is located in Columbia, SC.

Funding Source: Water and Sewer Grants - EPA Grant - IRS Tax Reimbursement - Capital Project Costs (558999-658650) and Water and Sewer Capital Projects - Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant Solar Photovoltaic Power - Capital Project Costs (5529999-SS764701-658650). The original budget amount is \$8,948,625.00.

CMTA, Inc., is the prime and will provide design and construction services at 34.59% (\$2,948,274.00) of the total contract amount.

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

Terrasmart, located in Columbia, SC, will provide canopy furnishing and installation services at 31.43% (\$2,678,800.00) of the total contract amount.

Atlantic South Consulting Services, located in Lexington, SC, will provide site plan design services at 0.44% (\$37,840.00) of the total contract amount.

Hazen & Sawyer, located in Columbia, SC, will provide site expertise and consulting services at 0.35% (\$29,900.00) of the total contract amount.

M.E. Contracting, located in Columbia, SC, will provide site preparation and storm water pollution prevention plan services at 1.43% (\$121,428.00) of the total contract amount.

Envocore, located in Gambrills, MD, will provide direct current electrical and alternating current electrical services at 10.55% (\$899,238.00) of the total contract amount.

BayWa r.e. Solar Systems, LLC, located in Sante Fe, NM, will provide solar panels and inverters at 16.15% (\$1,375,990.00) of the total contract amount.

Terracon Consultants, Inc., located in Columbia, SC, will provide geotechnical consulting and testing services at 0.19% (\$15,800.00) of the total contract amount.

Edisto Engineers and Surveyors, Inc., located in Orangeburg, SC, will provide surveying services at 0.04% (\$3,750.00) of the total contract amount.

Rexel Louisville, located in Louisville, KY, will provide electrical gear at 1.49% (\$127,258.00) of the total contract amount.

Panel Built, located in Blairsville, GA, will provide an elevated power pad 1.85% (\$157,622.00) of the total contract amount.

Shepherd Electric, located in Baltimore, MD, will provide direct current reclosure and transformer at 1.49% (\$126,600.00) of the total contract amount.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to authorize the City Manager to enter into a new Professional Services Contract for Project SS7647; Design and Installation of a Solar Photovoltaic Power Generation System for the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant, as requested by Columbia Water on June 23, 2025. Award to CMTA, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$8,948,625.00, which includes contingency. The initial term of the contract will take effect upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed with an end date eighteen (18) months from commencement and the option to renew for nineteen (19) additional one-year periods. The contract cannot be signed by the City Manager until 10 days after an award is made. This contractor is located in Columbia, SC. Mr. Brown abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.

11. Ordinance No.: 2026-034 - Granting an encroachment to BT Columbia LLC C/O BET Investments, Inc. for the use of the right of way areas of the 300 block of Lincoln Street and the 800 block of Catawba Street for the installation and maintenance of sidewalks, a multi-use path, a drop-off loop with a fountain, a concrete trash collection pad, landscaping and irrigation adjacent to 315 Lincoln Street, Richland County TMS# 08913-05-03 and 08913-05-05

First reading approval was given on May 19, 2026.

12. ANNEXATION, FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT, AND ZONING MAP AMENDMENT for NX Shop Road Extension, TMS# 16200-01-24

Ordinance No.: 2026-036 - Annexing NX Shop Road Extension, Richland County TMS# 16200-01-24 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 properties and assign the land use classification of Industrial (IND) and assign the zoning of Light Industrial (LI) with portions in the Floodway Overlay District (OV-FW) and Floodplain Overlay District (OV-FP). The property is currently classified as Economic Development Center/Corridor and zoned Light Industrial (M-1) by Richland County.

Owner/Applicant: Josephine Forrester Laney / Mark James, Cypress Development Partners, LLC

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 04/09/2026; Approval (7-0)

First reading approval was given on May 19, 2026.

This item was deferred.

13. ANNEXATION, FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT, AND ZONING MAP AMENDMENT for 308 Turnwall Lane; TMS# 28911-03-03  
Ordinance No.: 2026-035 - Annexing 308 Turnwall Lane, Richland County TMS# 28911-03-03 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map

Council District: 4

Proposal: Request to annex the properties and assign the land use classification of Urban Edge Residential Small Lot (UER-1) and assign the zoning of Planned Development District (PD). The property is currently classified as Neighborhood (Medium Density) and zoned Planned Development District (PD) by Richland County.

Owner and Applicant: Kevin C. Lundy and Julie H. Lundy

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 04/09/2026; Approval (7-0)

First reading approval was given on May 19, 2026.

14. ZONING MAP AMENDMENT for Parcel at 1700 Block Rosewood Drive and Fulton Street TMS# 11309-18-10  
Ordinance No.: 2026-040 - Amending the Official Zoning Map to modify the zoning for parcel at the 1700 block of Rosewood Drive and Fulton Street, Richland County TMS # 11309-18-10

Council District: 3

Proposal: Request to rezone the properties from Neighborhood Activity Center/Corridor District (NAC) to Residential Mixed District (RM-2); the property is within the Airport Safety Overlay District (OV-A).

Applicant: Ashok Kumar, Kumar Construction

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 4/9/2026; Recommended Approval (6-1)

First reading approval was given on May 19, 2026.

This item was deferred.

### **Ordinances - Second Reading**

15. Ordinance No.: 2026-023 — Establishing the Vista Business Improvement District

The Public Hearing was held on April 14, 2026 and first reading approval was given on April 21, 2026.

The Public Hearing was held on April 14, 2026 and first reading approval was given on April 21, 2026.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager, said there may be some amendments that will be read into the record prior to City Council's consideration.

Mr. Scott Garvin, Chair of the Vista Business Improvement District (BID) Steering Committee, said with the growth of the Vista, we need to see the resources that Main Street is enjoying. Since first reading, we've had a lot of conversations with property owners, namely large developers who have concerns about the size of their assessments. Our Steering Committee has decided to make two changes: shift from market value to taxable value and tighten the geographic area of the BID. This will allow us to consolidate resources in the geographic core. Even though it reduces the amount of the budget and revenue, it is the prudent thing to do. He proposed the following amendments:

*Section 3 District Boundaries* — ...thereafter continue south two city blocks along the railroad tracks to the northwest corner of Greene Street. Thereafter, continue two city blocks west to the southwest corner of Huger Street. Continue south to the northwest corner of Blossom and Huger Streets, then follow Blossom Street west to the east bank of the Congaree River and proceed north following the shore of the Congaree River for nine city blocks to the corner of the south side of Klapman Boulevard/Hampton Street. At which point, continue two city blocks east to the southeast corner of Williams Street, thereafter proceed north to the southeast corner of Taylor Street...; *Section 4. Adoption of Improvement Plan* — the adoption date for the Vista Business Improvement District (BID) Improvement Plan will be June 9, 2026; *Section 5. Assessments Imposed* - fair market value will be changed to taxable value; and the ordinance would be effective as of June 25, 2026.

Mayor Rickenmann said we will be able to post the new map this afternoon and this will be entered into the record.

Councilor Bailey asked if the changes to the ordinance would be uploaded with the map today.

Ms. Erika Hammond, City Clerk said we will post the revised ordinance and improvement plan online.

Mayor Rickenmann said people will see the value of this down the road. Change is always hard but it is usually for the better.

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2026-023 — Establishing the Vista Business Improvement District as amended.

### **Ordinances - First Reading**

16. Ordinance No.: 2026-042 - Granting Third Renewal to MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC, f/k/a MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corp., its Successors and Assigns the Right, Power and Authority to Construct, Install,

Maintain and Operate In, Over, Upon and Under the Streets and Public Places of the City of Columbia, its Lines, Poles, Wires, Cables and other Telecommunications Facilities to Render Telecommunications Service to Its Customers in the Limits of the City of Columbia for Such Period as Provided Herein; and to Provide for the Payment of Compensation for the Use of the Streets and Public Places

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2026-042 - Granting Third Renewal to MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC, f/k/a MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corp., its Successors and Assigns the Right, Power and Authority to Construct, Install, Maintain and Operate In, Over, Upon and Under the Streets and Public Places of the City of Columbia, its Lines, Poles, Wires, Cables and other Telecommunications Facilities to Render Telecommunications Service to Its Customers in the Limits of the City of Columbia for Such Period as Provided Herein; and to Provide for the Payment of Compensation for the Use of the Streets and Public Places.

### **Resolutions**

17. Resolution No.: R-2026-025 - Resolving to establish a Vision Zero Policy to work towards zero traffic deaths and severe injuries within the City of Columbia

Endorsed by the Public Safety Committee on May 12, 2026.

Endorsed by the Public Safety Committee on May 12, 2026.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2026-025 - Resolving to establish a Vision Zero Policy to work towards zero traffic deaths and severe injuries within the City of Columbia.

18. Resolution No.: R-2026-042 - Authorizing acceptance and dedication of streets known as a portion of Ashcroft Circle, located in Ashcroft, Phase 3; Richland County TMS#25710-04-01 and a portion of Durwin Way, located in Ashcroft, Phase 4; Richland County TMS#25714-02-01; CF#352-49B

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2026-042 - Authorizing acceptance and dedication of streets known as a portion of Ashcroft Circle, located in Ashcroft, Phase 3; Richland County TMS#25710-04-01 and a portion of Durwin Way, located in Ashcroft, Phase 4; Richland County TMS#25714-02-01; CF#352-49B.

### **Event Resolutions**

19. Resolution No.: R-2026-040 - Authorizing consumption of beer, wine, and liquor at Pride in the Park at Maxcy Gregg Park, 1806 Blossom Street on Saturday, June 27, 2026

Upon a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2026-040 - Authorizing consumption of beer, wine, and liquor at Pride in the Park at Maxcy Gregg Park, 1806 Blossom Street on Saturday, June 27, 2026.

### **Other Matters**

20. Proposed Special Revenue Allocations — Ms. Missy Caughman, CPM, MPA, Assistant City Manager / Strategic Initiatives & Innovation

- *Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee Recommendations*
- *Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee Recommendations*
- *Line-Item Agencies*

This item was deferred.

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

21. Council is asked to refer an update from Eau Claire Cooperative Health to the Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee, as requested by the Honorable Sam P. Johnson.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to refer an update from Eau Claire Cooperative Health to the Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee, as requested by the Honorable Sam P. Johnson.

22. Council is asked to refer an update on the City of Columbia Energy Savings Projects to the Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee, as requested by City Administration.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to refer an update on the City of Columbia Energy Savings Projects to the Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee, as requested by City Administration.

23. Council is asked to refer an update on the work ABLE SC is doing to support individuals with disabilities across our community to the Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee, as requested by the Honorable Sam P. Johnson.

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Johnson, Council voted unanimously to refer an update on the work ABLE SC is doing to support individuals with disabilities across our community to the Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee, as requested by the Honorable Sam P. Johnson.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to refer the future establishment of a working fire subcommittee to include City Council, City administration and the fire department to the Public Safety Committee as we move forward with discussions on rehabilitating firehouses.

Councilor McDowell asked if this was in collaboration with the advisory committee.

Mayor Rickenmann said yes, but I would like for the Public Safety Committee to set the parameters of that.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager asked if the working fire committee of the City's Public Safety Committee would only involve city staff and fire representatives.

Mayor Rickenmann said it makes sense for the Public Safety Committee to outline who the members should be.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager asked if this is outside the current Fire Advisory Committee.

Mayor Rickenmann said the current Fire Advisory Committee has a certain role but having input from firefighters and other folks about the future makes a lot of sense. This is our internal committee.

Councilor Bailey said this weekend was the first inaugural Ju'Stice Week in honor of Julian Keel, a teen who tragically lost his life after being struck by a stray bullet. The Ju'Stice Games included a flag football game between the Sheriff's Department and the Columbia Police Department. We lost 58-6. We stood out, because we had a co-ed team, and we should continue to do that. We need to figure out how to be more competitive next year.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Bailey, Council voted unanimously to refer a review of the Public Works Department's work with Columbia Green to look at innovative ways to utilize stormwater lots across the city to the Health Social and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Brown, Council voted unanimously to refer the development of a special revenue source credit as an incentive specific to districts one and two to the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee.

Councilor Herbert reported that the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement held a Peace Walk last weekend. The group walked through the Colony and North Pointe. Participants came from across the state and it was a good event.

### **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. Carmen Pendergrass said she is a native of Florence, South Carolina and recently moved from Greenwood to Columbia. She shared that she is currently homeless and experienced issues with affordable transportation to work at Blue Cross Blue Shield. She explained where she has been staying recently. She asked the Council to expand affordable transportation and fund transitional housing. She noted that you can only stay in a transitional residence for 30 to 45 days, and it can take longer to find employment. She noted that it is almost like recidivism and if you don't close the gap, people may end up going backwards. She acknowledged an angel, a team from SC Works, Ms. Michelle Campbell and others who helped her along the way.

Mr. Demetris Palmer expressed concerns about being labeled as a sex offender. He said he has never touched a child inappropriately in his life. He asked if someone could investigate the Columbia Police Department and Richland County.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, MMC, CPM  
City Clerk