



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020

The Columbia City Council conducted a virtual Emergency Meeting on Sunday, May 31, 2020 using video conferencing technology. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 2:05 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. M. Hammond, City Clerk. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

INVOCATION

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Benjamin said tomorrow, multiple cities across the country are declaring a National Day of Mourning and Lament; a multi-faith effort to spend some time reflecting. We had some incredibly challenging times as we dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic and the many lives lost. A number of us have determined that we had not yet taken the time to mourn and be together. Tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock we are going to have a Zoom call and we will lower the City Flag to half-staff. I am going to lay a wreath in honor of those that we have lost. We will spread this broadly to citizens so they can participate. Reverend McDowell along with Pastor George Wright from Shandon Baptist Church and other faithful leaders will have the opportunity to share their thoughts on what we have been dealing with as a Country and City during the past several months, which has only intensified over the last several days. I want to make sure you are all aware of this and have the ability to participate.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to amend the agenda to add an Executive Session discussion of the Emergency Ordinance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 2:15 p.m. for the receipt of legal advice covered by attorney-client privilege.



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EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

1. Ordinance No.: 2020-052 - Declaring a State of Emergency and Enacting an Emergency Curfew

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance No.: 2020-052 - Declaring a State of Emergency and Enacting an Emergency Curfew.

Mayor Benjamin said I want to encourage people to move forward with a spirit of compassion that brings this community together. Let's be respectful to the right of free speech and peaceful protests and what that means. The violations of people's personal property and personal safety will never be tolerated in the City and we will act accordingly to preserve the peace. The reality is we can only do it if we do it together. Let's make sure the people of Columbia know we are always operating together and in their best interest.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. M. Hammond, CMC
City Clerk