



## **COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021**

The Columbia City Council conducted a virtual meeting on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 using video conferencing technology. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 2:24 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. Duvall and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda, subject to adding **Item 37** - Discussion of compensation of an employee pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(1): Personnel Salaries and Columbia Fire Department.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Council is asked to approve the April 20, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the April 20, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager took a moment of personal privilege to recognize National Public Service Recognition Week. I want to acknowledge all of the wonderful men and women who work in the City of Columbia and provide wonderful service to our citizens. I want to acknowledge one employee in particular, Ms. Marli Drum, our Animal Services Superintendent who will be retiring after 25 years. Marli has dedicated her career to helping each adoptable animal reach a forever home. She has helped us partner with Pawmetto Lifeline, Animal Mission, and the South Carolina Animal Care and Control Association. She also worked on the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee and other groups in getting our live release rate to an all-time high of 78% last year. She will be staying on a part-time basis to work with our new superintendent and to help our animal services department continue to flourish.



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Mayor Benjamin said thank you Ms. Marli. You have done a lot of great work for the City for a very long time. The work around the no-kill initiative has been wonderful and articulates our values as a City by using data and humanizing it in a way that made us all better.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said it is also National Drinking Water Week. Columbia Water staff is helping educate our citizens. The City received the Tree City USA Award. We did not get to do our proclamation celebrating Arbor Day due the pandemic but the City has been designated a Tree City USA recipient for 42 years and running; the longest running streak in South Carolina. Our wonderful forestry staff plants a minimum of 500 trees per year. We continue to thank City Council for your initiatives in making sure we have tree ordinances in place and a budget of at least \$2.00 per capita for tree care, removal, and plantings.

### **CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION**

#### **2. COVID-19 Update - The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin**

- *COVID-19 Situational Report - Mr. Harry Tinsley, Emergency Management Director*

Mr. Harry Tinsley, Emergency Management Director said we stand at over 153 million cases and 3.2 million deaths due to COVID-19 worldwide. In the U.S. we have over 32.2 million confirmed cases and 574,000 deaths. In South Carolina, the confirmed case count stands at 483,611 with over 7.4 million tests administered to date. The state case count for today is 294 with a positivity rate of 5.1%. There were no new confirmed deaths in today's report, bringing the state total of confirmed deaths to 8,383. In Richland County, the case count stands at over 38,000 with 21 new cases as of today and a total death count of 484. From April 18<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>, Richland County has had 861 cases, averaging about 61 new cases per day. The zip code with over 100 new cases is 29229 with 126 cases. As of April 28<sup>th</sup>, Richland County recent disease activity incidence rate has been downgraded to low with a 3.5% positivity rate. The state recovery rate continues to be 97.4% and the fatality rate continues to be estimated at 1.73%. DHEC does not anticipate any large fluctuations in case counts over the next few weeks. Statewide hospitalizations continue to trend downward. The bed utilization rate is 73% and the ICU bed utilization rate is 66%. As of today, there are 386 patients hospitalized due to COVID-19. DHEC continues with vaccine distributions. Over 4.5 million doses have been received in the state and over 3.1 million people have been vaccinated. In Richland County, over 143,000 residents have received at least one vaccine. The federally supported community vaccine center in Columbia Place Mall has administered 4,758 vaccines. As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, approximately 32.2% of South Carolina's population of people 15 years or older have received the vaccination. According to the CDC, 31.8% of the U.S. population have been fully vaccinated and 44.4% have



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received at least one dose. Those over 65 that have been fully vaccinated stands at 69.7% with 82.8% having received at least one dose. As of April 27<sup>th</sup>, DHEC has reported 91 cases of the South African variant and 235 of the UK variant in the state. Currently, eight counties and 48 municipalities have mask ordinances in place.

Mayor Benjamin said I had a phone call with the county administrator and Chairman Livingston to get some sense on where the county is on a mask ordinance. They asked Councilwoman Barron, to find some degree of synchronicity as to how we would address it. We need to have more serious dialogue between now and the expiration of our ordinance. I do believe COVID-19 fatigue is real. The inability to identify who has or has not taken the vaccine will continue to elude us. As we go forward, we will shift from a mandatory mask ordinance to a deep dive into a very aggressive vaccination strategy. Universal access is not the same as equitable access. We need to make sure that people who need the vaccine get it by using different tools like offering rides to clinics or even take it door to door by partnering with our health care institutions. I am leaning towards the expiration of the mask ordinance. We are very much indebted to our City staff, fire marshals, and firefighters for the great job they have done. We are in a different phase and we need to continue to make sure the data trends in the right direction. We need to continue pushing people to be personally responsible for the way forward. We have come too far and lost too many lives to fall backward. I am convinced that the deceleration of the number of cases and the reduction of spread is directly attributed to work done at the local level and we should all be proud.

### **3. Affordable Housing Task Force Report - The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine**

Councilor Devine said we convened the task force in March but were not able to start meeting until the summer. The task force has done a lot of great work so far. We are at a point where we want to make a presentation to City Council and County Council to get a collective agreement on our action items to be able to pursue some of the goals. I want to recognize the members of the task force. We appointed them at different times but I want you to be aware of all the talent we have serving. We have a diversity of fields represented and all committed to the goal of affordable housing. The task force adopted unanimously the definition of affordable housing to consider today. One of the things we do believe is that part of the issue is the different definitions of affordable housing. There is the technical definition for federal funding or state housing and the perception that people have of affordable housing just being public housing or lower wealth communities. We are asking City Council to consider the endorsement of the definition of affordable housing as a continuum of equitable, inclusive, and quality rental and homeownership opportunities for people at every income level which is critical to creating safe, complete, and thriving communities. We believe that is inclusive from homeownership to rental and again



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people of all income levels. People can understand affordable housing is for people who might have low income, living in poverty, seniors, students, and people making minimum wage. We want people to understand the depth of the problem and how big the solutions have to be. Dr. Bryan Grady has done an excellent job in giving us some statistics. There is a statewide shortage of over 87,000 affordable homes available to extremely low income households, those earning no more than 30% of the area median income. Nearly 70,000 low income renter households in Columbia are experiencing particularly unaffordable and substandard housing conditions, representing 30% of all renters citywide. These numbers are pre-COVID-19 and we do know they are higher now. We would like Council to look at establishing citywide affordable housing goals on an annual basis to adequately address the needs of the community. We have divided the task force into several subcommittees and priorities: the accessibility subcommittee will look at solutions for making accessible housing for people within special populations; the subcommittee on financing will look at presenting recommendations for financing affordable housing projects, the consideration of an affordable housing tax abatement program, social impact funds for private investors, affordable housing bonds, possibility of using unclaimed state funds set aside for affordable housing, and a trust fund; the legal and zoning subcommittee will look at legal and zoning issues that may help promote the development of more affordable housing; the partnerships subcommittee will be looking at other profit or non-profits and community based organizations that can help; and the public education and awareness subcommittee will look at how to promote affordable housing and make people understand the need of it and what it is. I am asking for Council to adopt the definition of affordable housing and endorse the work of the subcommittees so they can move forward.

Mayor Benjamin asked about the mentality behind the “all income levels” part of the definition. Traditionally, our focus has been 80% or below the median income.

Councilor Devine said we talked about whether to use the term affordable housing or attainable housing because you may have folks who may not be able to afford housing within the area they work. For example, even if they make \$45,000 in salary but there is nothing within the Columbia area that will allow for housing to not be too much of their income, then housing can be unattainable. All people need affordable housing.

Mayor Benjamin said I think we should look at the definition. A family of x amount living on \$45,000 a year will still fall into that 120% low-to-moderate income number. We might need to articulate that because if you are trying to attract national funding, saying it’s open to all incomes might not be suitable. Let’s also look at getting reliable data as opposed to the narrative driving the data. If we want to be able to track the dollars that we are talking about, we need to clarify if



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we are focusing on 30% AMI, 80% AMI, or 120% AMI. If we say all income levels, I do not think we are talking about affordable or attainable access.

Councilor Devine said doing 120% or below might be reasonable. Part of the issue is that we know folks in the middle class that are being crunched out and there are programs at different ends of the spectrum. We wanted to get something that covered the gap and include folks that might have a stable income that still does not allow them to afford to live in the City. We will look at the definition and bring it back to Council.

4. Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Grant Program Update - Ms. Gloria Saeed, Community Development Director

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said I want to reassure Council that I am extremely dedicated to our staff seeing the flood program assistance through. We had a pandemic along the way but it has not stopped us in helping our citizens that were impacted by the flood. Today, I want to show you the evolution of the program and some changes implemented recently that has put us on the fast track for getting homes rebuilt and rehabilitated. This is a public update so everyone can understand what has occurred and the money spent. We have been in contact with the applicants to make sure they understand the changes in the program and what they can expect.

Ms. Gloria Saeed, Community Development Director said the City of Columbia received a total allocation of \$26,155,000 in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a result of the 2015 flood. As of April 29, 2021, the total funds expended are \$14,002,919.47. Of that, \$6,789,180.15 has been expended for activity delivery and \$7,213,739.32 in program funds. The remaining funds total \$12,152,080.53. We have planned for \$4,271,107.75 to go towards activity delivery and \$7,880,972.78 towards program funds. The programs included in the original applications are the City of Columbia Homeowner Assistance Program, which provided up to \$150,000 for rehabilitation, repair, or reconstruction of owner-occupied households; Minor Repair Program, which provides up to \$25,000 to low-to-moderate income owner-occupied households; Elevation Repair Program (closed), provided up to \$20,000 for elevation reimbursement to owner-occupied households; FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Match/Buyout Program (closed), provided funds for 22 property owners who sold their damaged homes to the City for greenspace; Multifamily Affordable Housing Fund (closed), which the City partnered with subrecipients and developers to finance the new construction of affordable rental housing; Small Rental Repair Program (closed), provided funding for the repair of storm damaged rental properties of 1 to 4 units; and the Small Business Disaster Recovery Program (closed), provided financial assistance in the form of forgivable loans up to \$20,000 to impacted businesses. The 49 awards that were made under the prior program manager Landmark



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Consulting totaled \$2,010,115. Under the Small Business Disaster Recovery Program, 53 awards were made totaling \$2,090,115. We also funded two multifamily affordable housing projects: Lorick Place and Pointe at Elmwood totaling \$2,529,312. These projects have provided 145 units of affordable housing. In July 2020, we made the decision to look for a new program manager team which is ICF. There are two subject matter experts who specialize in a very complicated but important process when you are dealing with older homes. The role of ICF is to review the CDNG program policies and procedures, respond to HUD monitoring letters, update CDBG-DR website, review all active housing applicant files, and contact and communicate with applicants. We do not only have a program manager but we also recognize the importance of having a strong construction team on board. The City engaged SBP as a subrecipient who specializes in construction and rehabilitation. The role of SBP include construction case management, damage assessments, construction contractor procurement, asbestos and lead-based paint abatement, construction management, weekly inspections, and one-year warranty service on any work provided. The populations we decided as most in need to be prioritized are the elderly 62 years and older living in any household, any disabled individual, female head of households with children under 18, and any health and safety reasons as defined in the City ordinance. All applicants in the cohort will be notified and will be told what documentation is required to move forward. Once documentation is provided, the application is moved to damage assessment. Our methodology to prioritize applicants is aligned with the action plan and the program policies with the understanding that the program does not have sufficient funding to serve everyone who is in need. The program is using an average cost of \$190,000 per applicant. The cost is based on increased costs of building materials, environmental remediation, and need for voluntary relocation assistance.

Mr. Rick McDermott, Program Manager for SBP said we have been out to 20 homes assessing the damage and figuring out what it is going to take to bring these people back to a safe and sanitary condition. We got to the average cost based on the conditions we have observed during the visits. One of the goals is to rebuild the lost trust of the citizens and we do that through frequent transparent personal communications. We have taken a look at this accurate assessment and updated projections to make sure we do not put the City in a position of promising the citizen that they can help and then not be able to. Part of the costs come from the fact that there is a change in scope but there is also an increased cost of materials. From the homes we have seen so far, our abatement costs average about 25,000 per file. Our initial assessment indicated the need to replace about 30 of the homes. Once we have completed ten homes and our first five replacements under contract, we will be able to revise the figures and give you a tighter analysis. My goal is to get the first 35 to 40 homes under construction before the fall.





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Ms. Gloria Saeed, Community Development Director said currently there are 23 applications in damage assessment identified by the prior program manager. Out of the 23 applicants, 17 have elderly priority. The total funding required is \$4,370,000. Most of the applicants in this cohort were already in pre-construction with the prior program manager and those that were not were added based on health and safety issues. In round 2, there are 18 applications ready to move to damage assessment. Out of the 18 applicants, 16 have elderly priority. The total funding required is \$3,420,000. There are two applicants in this round that meet the 4 priority categories. The total funding required for round one and round two is \$7,790,000.

Councilor Devine asked if we know how many applications we would not be able to fund.

Ms. Dolores Curso, Program Manager for ICF said there is a group of about 54 applicants who only have one priority and another 17 who have no priorities. These probably won't be able to get assistance. However, the numbers are based on the \$190,000 average cost. We will continue to move folks up in the process as funding becomes available.

Ms. Gloria Saeed, Community Development Director said we have a grouping of 35 applicants to consider as funding becomes available. There are 32 applicants that have 2 priorities including elderly priority and 4 applicants not in the elderly priority group but have more than 1 other priority. The total funding for the 35 applications is \$6,650,000. We are proposing recommendations for additional funding: Community Development Block Grant-Revolving Loan Fund in the amount of \$570,771; \$1,000,000 from HOME Investment Partnership; and \$1,000,000 from the American Rescue Plan. This would serve 14 additional applicants.

5. CARES Act Substantial Amendment 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020 Annual Action Plan - Ms. Dollie Bristow, Community Development Administrator

*The Community Development Department conducted a 5-day public comment period, no Public Hearing is required. This request is for City Council to approve the submittal to HUD.*

Ms. Dollie Bristow, Community Development Administrator said on September 11, 2020, HUD made available some of the remaining CDBG-CV allocations in round three in the amount of \$976,268 to fight the spread of COVID-19 by providing assistance to renters and homeowners. The City has received a total of \$1,588,189 in block grant funding. In round one, the City received an additional \$220,838 in Housing Opportunities for Person with HIV/AIDS. The provisions related to CDBG-CV suspend the 15% cap on public services, has a five-day comment period, suspends in-person public hearings, excludes CDBG-CV funds from inclusion in determining compliance with the requirements of 24 CFR 570.902, and allows HUD to waive



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further program requirements. Our proposed allocations for round three of the funding are \$195,254 for administration and \$781,014 for public services to include rental and mortgage assistance as well as utility assistance for up to two months. We did a survey that was available from April 13 -April 19, 2021 that targeted non-profit agencies and community based organizations. We found that the greatest need for their clients is housing assistance at 41.18%. The substantial amendment timeline includes a public comment period for the CV3 amendment that was done in April, a City Council presentation done today, and the submittal of the substantial amendment to HUD for approval by May 27, 2021. HUD may take up to 45 days to review. The CARES Act Substantial Amendment Summary to the 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan is available online at <https://columbiasc.gov>. All additional comments must be received no later than 11:59pm on May 13, 2021 to the Community Development Department by mail or email.

Councilor McDowell said I am concerned about our firefighters and their equipment. Is there any way we could possibly look into funding the equipment needed for firefighters? The cancer rate in firefighters is increasing.

Ms. Dollie Bristow, Community Development Administrator said we can look into the possibility of funding that. It will need to be classified under public services to be able to use this pot of money.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

6. Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Action Plan for Community Development - Ms. Dollie Bristow, Community Development Administrator

Ms. Dollie Bristow, Community Development Administrator said the 2021 Annual Action Plan is submitted to HUD every year during the five-year ConPlan cycle. This is the second year. The plan addresses the City's program priorities as identified in the City's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and describes the specific planned uses for HUD programs and other program requirements. It also helps grantees determine activities and organizations to fund in the coming years. This information is managed through HUD's Integrated Disbursement and Information System.

The 2021 HUD funding allocations are \$1.8 million for CDBG; \$940,008 for HOME; and \$1.6 million for HOPWA. The total revenue estimated for the 2021 fiscal year is \$4,417,813. Other federal funding sources include the CDBG-Disaster Recovery Program, CDBG-Mitigation Program, and CARES Act. The priority needs and goals are: expand and improve public infrastructure and facilities; preserve and develop affordable housing, public services and quality





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of life improvements; and housing and supportive services for persons with HIV/AIDS. City Council identified four targeted redevelopment areas and limited funding to City projects to accomplish focused development goals. This includes the Booker Washington Heights Redevelopment Area, King/Lyon Street Redevelopment Area, Farrow Road Business Corridor (Eau Claire Redevelopment Area), and Edisto Court Redevelopment Area. Over 95% of designated CDBG funds are projected to assist low-moderate income persons. The planned activities have gone through the notification of funds available process which gets vetted by our Citizens Advisory Committee. The project areas are administration, public services, public facilities/infrastructure/demolition, and housing rehabilitation and administration. For public services there is a total of \$177,150 to include allocations to the COMET, MIRCI, United Way of the Midlands, Homeless No More, Fast Forward, and Bank on Columbia – financial literacy program. The total allocation for HOME is \$940,008. The majority of the funding is for residential affordable loans acquisition, rehabilitation, or new construction. The HOPWA proposed awards are to Columbia Housing Authority, Midlands Housing Alliance – Transitions, Palmetto AIDS Life Support, The Cooperative Ministry, Upper Savannah Care Services and University of SC Department of Medicine. The total HOPWA awards is \$1,609,2015. The public comment period began April 10<sup>th</sup> and ends May 11<sup>th</sup>. Today is our second public hearing and we are requesting approval to submit our annual action plan draft to HUD by May 13<sup>th</sup>. The program year will begin on July 1, 2021.

### **Council opened the public hearing at 5:09 p.m.**

*No public comments were received at this time.*

### **Council closed the public hearing at 5:09 p.m.**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve the submittal of the Fiscal Year 2021 Community Development Annual Action Plan to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development not withstanding further comment.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 7 THROUGH 13**

Upon a single motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda **Items 7 through 13**.



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7. Council is asked to approve Contract Amendment #2 for Instrumentation and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Maintenance, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to CITI, LLC in the amount of \$50,466.58. This firm is located in Charlotte, NC. – *Approved*

*Funding Source: Utilities Metro Wastewater Plant - Maintenance and Service Contract (5516208-638200). This is a multi-year contract and the current year PO Amount is \$312,725.00. The amount for this amendment is \$50,466.58. The total budget is \$370,000.00.*

8. Council is asked to approve the Annual Renewal of Trend Micro Software, as requested by the Information Technology Department. Award to SHI International Corporation, using the Omnia Partners, Public Sector Cooperative Contract in the amount of \$57,858.47. This vendor is located in Somerset, NJ. – *Approved*

*Funding Source: Information Technology - Maintenance & Service Contract (1011120-638200). The original budget amount is \$57,900.00.*

9. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Two 2020 Wheel Loaders for the Solid Waste Division, as requested by Fleet Services Division. Award to Company Wrench LTD, using the Sourcewell Cooperative Contract in the amount of \$269,030.34. This vendor is located in Carroll, OH. – *Approved*

*Funding Source: Capital Replacement - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment - Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$290,552.75.*

10. Ordinance No.: 2021-010 Granting an encroachment to the Municipal Association of South Carolina for the use of the right of way area of the 1400 block of Gervais Street for the installation and maintenance of planters and irrigation adjacent to 1411 Gervais Street, Richland County TMS#11401-04-05 - *First reading approval was given on April 20, 2021 – Approved on second reading.*

11. Ordinance No.: 2021-011 Amending Ordinances 2014-032 and 2012-059 granting encroachments to the University of South Carolina for use of the right of way area of the 1500 block of Greene Street and 800 block of Pickens Street adjacent to USC Petigru College, Richland County TMS #11304-05-01, for installation and maintenance of asphalt pavement, concrete curb, guttering, walkway, brick wall, wrought iron fencing, parking spaces, bike lane, wheel stops, handicap ramp, landscaping and irrigation system and for installation and maintenance of stamped asphalt pavement crosswalks, concrete curb, guttering, columns, gate, islands, bike lanes and removal of thirty-five (35) parking spaces in the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Greene Street and 600 and 700 blocks of Bull



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Street to allow for the installation and maintenance of retractable bollards within the aforesaid right of way areas - *First reading approval was given on April 20, 2021 – Approved on second reading.*

*This amendment is to install retractable bollards and associated work in the three areas in front of the gates to prevent cars from crashing into the gates. All other elements remain as approved and installed.*

12. Ordinance No.: 2021-020 Granting an Easement to Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. along a portion of City-Owned Property identified as Richland County TMS#11501-01-14 (Park Site northeast of Gregg Street) for the Installation of Electrical Conduit and Appurtenances for the Gregg Street Switchgear in Columbia Commons at Bull Street Development; CF#250-524 - *First reading approval was given on April 20, 2021 – Approved on second reading.*
13. Ordinance No.: 2021-029 Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 23, Utilities and Engineering, Article I, In General Sec. 23-1 Civil penalties for violations related to wastewater collection and treatment or water treatment and distribution; Article IV, Wastewater Service Sec. 23-101 Definitions, Sec. 23-102 Prohibited discharges, Sec. 23-105 Discharge permit required; issuance; conditions and Sec. 23-150 Discharge of hauled waste - *First reading approval was given on April 20, 2021 – Approved on second reading.*

### **EVENT RESOLUTIONS ITEMS 14 THROUGH 20**

Mrs. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said we are still adhering to COVID-19 protocols and encouraging event planners to follow CDC guidelines. We have reviewed the events below.

14. Resolution No.: R-2021-022 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Outfest Columbia in the 1200 block of Park Street between Gervais Street and Lady Street on Saturday, June 5, 2021 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2021-022 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Outfest Columbia in the 1200 block of Park Street between Gervais Street and Lady Street on Saturday, June 5, 2021.



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15. Resolution No.: R-2021-028 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the Juneteenth Fest on Saturday, June 19, 2021 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2021-028 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the Juneteenth Fest on Saturday, June 19, 2021.

16. Resolution No.: R-2021-030 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Ladies Who Lunch on Saturday, May 22, 2021 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2021-030 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Ladies Who Lunch on Saturday, May 22, 2021.

17. Resolution No.: R-2021-031 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the Columbia Food and Wine Festival in the 1600 block of Blanding Street on Sunday, May 23, 2021 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2021-031 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the Columbia Food and Wine Festival in the 1600 block of Blanding Street on Sunday, May 23, 2021.

18. Resolution No.: R-2021-032 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only at the Main Street Latin Festival in the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Main Street, the western half block of the 1200 block of Lady Street, the eastern half block of the 1100 block of Lady Street and the eastern half block of the 1100 block of Washington Street on Saturday, August 28, 2021 with a rain date contingency of Saturday, September 4, 2021 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2021-032 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only at the Main Street Latin Festival in the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Main Street, the western half block of the 1200 block of Lady Street, the eastern half block of the 1100 block of Lady Street and the eastern half block of the 1100 block of Washington Street on Saturday, August 28, 2021 with a rain date contingency of Saturday, September 4, 2021.



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19. Resolution No.: R-2021-035 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only within Boyd Plaza adjacent to the Columbia Museum of Art for First Thursdays on Main on Thursdays, June 3, 2021, July 1, 2021, August, 5, 2021, September 2, 2021, October 7, 2021, November 4, 2021 and December 2, 2021 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2021-035 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only within Boyd Plaza adjacent to the Columbia Museum of Art for First Thursdays on Main on Thursdays, June 3, 2021, July 1, 2021, August, 5, 2021, September 2, 2021, October 7, 2021, November 4, 2021 and December 2, 2021.

20. Resolution No.: R-2021-036 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only at the South Carolina Carnival in the 1800 block of Main Street between Laurel Street and Richland Street on Saturday, June 12, 2021 with a rain contingency date of Sunday, July 18, 2021 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2021-036 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only at the South Carolina Carnival in the 1800 block of Main Street between Laurel Street and Richland Street on Saturday, June 12, 2021 with a rain contingency date of Sunday, July 18, 2021.

Councilor McDowell said I hope the approval of all these events does not give anyone the notion of false normalcy. The numbers can change rather quickly and we need to continue to exercise an extreme amount of caution. We need to keep our mask ordinance because this virus is still present. Every CDC protocol has to be exercised.

### **ORDINANCES - FIRST READING**

21. Ordinance No.: 2021-021 Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 14, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article V, Offenses Involving Minors to add Division 4, Conversion Therapy for Minors Prohibited – *Approved on first reading.*



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Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2021-021 Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 14, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article V, Offenses Involving Minors to add Division 4, Conversion Therapy for Minors Prohibited.

22. Ordinance No.: 2021-024 Granting an encroachment to Columbia SC 63 for the use of the right of way area of the 1200 block of Main Street for the installation and maintenance of a historic marker adjacent to 1221 Main Street, Richland County TMS#09103-08-05 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2021-024 Granting an encroachment to Columbia SC 63 for the use of the right of way area of the 1200 block of Main Street for the installation and maintenance of a historic marker adjacent to 1221 Main Street, Richland County TMS#09103-08-05.

23. Ordinance No.: 2021-025 Granting an encroachment to Brian and Sally McCants for the use of the right of way area of the 600 block of Wando Street for the installation and maintenance of a block retaining wall adjacent to 604 Wando Street, Richland County TMS#13704-03-14 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2021-025 Granting an encroachment to Brian and Sally McCants for the use of the right of way area of the 600 block of Wando Street for the installation and maintenance of a block retaining wall adjacent to 604 Wando Street, Richland County TMS#13704-03-14.

**Councilor Devine left the meeting at 5:34 p.m.**

24. Ordinance No.: 2021-040 Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 11, Licenses, Permits and Miscellaneous Business Regulations, Article II, Business and Professional Licenses, Sec. 11-33 Purpose; expiration of license – *Approved on first reading.*

*It has been determined that the uniform date for business licenses as of 2022 shall be from May 1 to April 30. To conform with the uniform business license year, the current license year for business licenses in the City of Columbia for 2021 shall be extended to April 30, 2022.*





**We Are Columbia**

## **COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021**

Mr. Jeff Palen, Assistant City Manager and Chief Financial Officer said the South Carolina Business License Standardization Act 176 will provide the uniformity of all business license rules throughout the state. This act takes effect on January 1, 2022. This ordinance will extend the current business license year to April 30, 2022 from our current expiration date of December 31, 2021. It will set all future business license years to run from May 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Staff anticipates that in either June or July the model ordinance and new rate schedule will be on the agenda for approval. This will occur as we complete the review of last year's collection and as we set the rates for next year so we don't have a windfall in the revenue. The Municipal Association staff has been assisting City staff to accomplish this. July will be our final target date. We will notify customers of the changes.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2021-040 Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 11, Licenses, Permits and Miscellaneous Business Regulations, Article II, Business and Professional Licenses, Sec. 11-33 Purpose; expiration of license. Ms. Devine was not present for the vote.

25. Ordinance No.: 2021-039 Authorizing transfer of streets to the South Carolina Department of Transportation identified as Gadsden Street (100' R/W) from Richland Street to Calhoun Street, Richland County TMS#09011-10 & 13; Calhoun Street (100' R/W) from Gadsden Street to Lincoln Street, Richland County TMS#09011-10 & 11; Pendleton Street (100' R/W) from S. Main Street to Sumter Street, Richland County TMS#11304-01 & 08 and TMS#08916-05 & 06; Sumter Street (100' R/W) from Gervais Street to Pendleton Street, Richland County TMS#08916-04, TMS#11401-12, TMS#11304-01 & 02; and Pendleton Street from Assembly Street to Lincoln Street, Richland County TMS#08916-07, 08, 09 & 10; CF#220-610 – *Approved on first reading.*

*The above-referenced streets are City-owned streets in the city limits of Columbia and are proposed to be conveyed to the South Carolina Department of Transportation in exchange for the conveyance of Candi and the portion of Park Street from Gervais Street to Pendleton Street. This exchange will benefit the City of Columbia by providing access to the Three Rivers Greenway - Saluda Riverwalk, Park Ranger building, parking areas, and other amenities in its vicinity. (This item is associated with Resolution No.: R-2021-049.)*



## **COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2021-039 Authorizing transfer of streets to the South Carolina Department of Transportation identified as Gadsden Street (100' R/W) from Richland Street to Calhoun Street, Richland County TMS#09011-10 & 13; Calhoun Street (100' R/W) from Gadsden Street to Lincoln Street, Richland County TMS#09011-10 & 11; Pendleton Street (100' R/W) from S. Main Street to Sumter Street, Richland County TMS#11304-01 & 08 and TMS#08916-05 & 06; Sumter Street (100' R/W) from Gervais Street to Pendleton Street, Richland County TMS#08916-04, TMS#11401-12, TMS#11304-01 & 02; and Pendleton Street from Assembly Street to Lincoln Street, Richland County TMS#08916-07, 08, 09 & 10; CF#220-610. Ms. Devine was not present for the vote.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

26. Resolution No.: R-2021-049 Authorizing acceptance and dedication of street known as Candi Lane (50' R/W) to the City of Columbia from Greystone Boulevard to the Dead-End, Richland County TMS#07211-01, 07215-02, 07208-03 and acceptance and dedication of that portion of Park Street from Gervais Street to Pendleton Street (100' R/W), Richland County TMS#08916-02, 03,07, 08, 09, & 10; CF#220-610 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2021-049 Authorizing acceptance and dedication of street known as Candi Lane (50' R/W) to the City of Columbia from Greystone Boulevard to the Dead-End, Richland County TMS#07211-01, 07215-02, 07208-03 and acceptance and dedication of that portion of Park Street from Gervais Street to Pendleton Street (100' R/W), Richland County TMS#08916-02, 03,07, 08, 09, & 10; CF#220-610. Ms. Devine was not present for the vote.

27. Resolution No.: R-2021-026 Supporting the Housing Authority of the City of Columbia engaging in the Marion Street High Rise Disposition Project – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2021-026 Supporting the Housing Authority of the City of Columbia engaging in the Marion Street High Rise Disposition Project. Ms. Devine was not present for the vote.



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28. Resolution No.: R-2021-040 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Ground Lease between the City of Columbia and Hampton Park Associates for the lease of 1427 Park Street and 1429 Park Street, Richland County TMS# 09013-02-08A and 09013-02-08B for use as a public parking lot – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2021-040 Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Ground Lease between the City of Columbia and Hampton Park Associates for the lease of 1427 Park Street and 1429 Park Street, Richland County TMS# 09013-02-08A and 09013-02-08B for use as a public parking lot. Ms. Devine was not present for the vote.

29. Resolution No.: R-2021-053 Approving the honorary naming of the 1900 and 2000 blocks of Cushman Drive “Bishop C.L. Lorick, Sr. Drive” – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2021-053 Approving the honorary naming of the 1900 and 2000 blocks of Cushman Drive “Bishop C.L. Lorick, Sr. Drive”. Ms. Devine was not present for the vote.

### **PUBLIC INPUT ON CLOSING AND TRANSFER OF STREET**

30. Resolution No.: R-2021-050 Public Input on Closing and Transfer of a portion of Phillips Street from Sunset Drive to Avondale Drive

*City Council will receive public input on the closing and transfer of the described property. No further action will be taken at this time.*

### **Council opened the public hearing at 5:42 p.m.**

Mr. Chris Layman, Sox and Freeman Tree Expert Company said we are a 73-year-old company doing business in the City of Columbia. We are located at 3615 Phillips Street. I have spoken to others about this resolution and what this is going to do to our business. This will cause some trauma and aggravation to our business and two other businesses located on Phillip Street. If the street is closed, we have asked for the intersections of Cook and Miller Streets to be widened where they intersect at North Main but I have not been given any guarantee of that. I understand from traffic engineering that they are approving the plan and closing of Phillip Street, but they're also asking that the developer fund the development of these intersections. What I'm asking you tonight is to think about older businesses like ours that will pay the price long-term and say no to the closing of the street. This cannot be passed until the companies that have been a landmark in



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his community are protected. I am not against the development but I don't want it to come at the expense of the companies involved or we will have more trouble with ingress and egress.

**Councilor Devine returned to the meeting at 5:45 p.m.**

Mr. Jim Daniel, Catawba Properties, LLC said yesterday the planning commission approved the site plan contingent on the developer, the City, and the South Carolina Department of Transportation working out some avenue to increase the radius at Cook and Main and Cook and Miller. Who is going to pay for that? The City traffic engineer suggested that the developer pay for it. The Middleton's are building and placing parking in what is Phillip Street which is owned by the City of Columbia. Perhaps there could be some fee created for these parking spaces and those funds could be used to pay for the increasing of the radius at Main and Cook and Main and Miller.

Mr. Charles Salley via web portal comment said I am the owner of 1220 Cook Avenue. My tenant Real Floors Inc. has told me that he has suppliers that will not come to his warehouse if Phillips Street is closed because the turn radius from Main to Cook Avenue and the turn radius from Cook to Phillips Street is not adequate to accommodate a truck. The closing of this public road will place a burden on the other property owners that use Phillips Street.

**Council closed the public hearing at 5:57 p.m.**

### **APPOINTMENTS**

31. Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports, and Tourism - *Deferred*

### **OTHER MATTERS**

32. Diversity Internship Program - The Honorable Mayor Pro Tempore Edward H. McDowell, Jr. – *Received as information, no action was taken.*

Councilor McDowell said we have received a funding request of \$24,000 for the University of South Carolina Diversity Internship Program. After further discussion we determined that it is not an expense that we can use taxpayer dollars for. The only way we could possibly offer assistance is using hospitality tax dollars. I was introduced to the program by the director of diversity at USC. The money will be used for students to look at higher levels of hospitality. If we can't fund the whole \$24,000, we can try and fund as many students as possible for the ten-week program. This program is innovative and lends itself to diversity in that particular major.



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Councilor Rickenmann said it is a management program where there is a lack of diversity in the management restaurant field, especially in Columbia from the studies that have been done. Sarah Simmons is having a hard time getting personnel into her program that we committed to already. I suggest that we could assign some of these students to work with her and her management team to get the training there which would cut down the dollars that would be needed. Sarah committed to 50 graduates and this would help with filling her spots.

Mayor Benjamin said because of the pandemic we have macro issues that are creating a real challenge for folks in the hospitality industry and the ability to attract and keep talent. Let's facilitate a conversation with Sarah so we can use the funding that is not being utilized. I would love to find the money for the program. Maybe we can use accommodations tax instead of hospitality tax dollars.

33. Council is asked to approve the Installation of seven (7) Speed Humps in the Hollywood-Rose Hill Neighborhood, as requested by the Public Works Department. – *Approved*

*This request has been reviewed and approved by the Columbia Police Department and the Columbia Fire Department.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve the installation of seven (7) Speed Humps in the Hollywood-Rose Hill Neighborhood, as requested by the Public Works Department.

**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REFERRALS / REPORTS**

*No reports or referrals were made at this time.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to request that the matter of the Project Catawba Inclusion in the Multi-County Industrial Business Park be added to the next available agenda in order to consider a new ordinance, which will address prior concerns with the matter.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

*No comments were made at this time.*



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### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 6:23 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 34** through **37** as amended.

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

*COVID-19*

*CDBG-DR Grant Program*

*Closing and Transfer of a portion of Phillips Street from Sunset Drive to Avondale Drive*

35. Discussion of the employment of an employee pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(1)

*Special Assistant United States Attorney*

36. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)

*Dominion Franchise Agreement*

37. Discussion of compensation of an employee pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(1)

*Personnel Salaries*

*Fire Department*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC  
City Clerk