



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2017

The Columbia City Council conducted a Meeting and a Budget Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m. Also present were The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Howard E. Duvall, Jr., The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr. and The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann. The Honorable Moe Baddourah was absent. Also present were Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore, 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. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda, subject to deferring second reading consideration of **Item 6** (*Annexation, Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment and Zoning Map Amendment for 1115 Shop Road; TMS# 11210-01-01*); amending **Item 21** (*Ordinance No.: 2017-044 - 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. 23-143 Water service rates and Sec. 23-149 Sewer service rates (a) and (b)*) to reflect the inside city water service rate for a 1.5" meter at \$17.28 instead of \$11.28; and deferring consideration of **Item 26** (*Appointment to the Transportation Penny Advisory Committee*).

PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one appeared at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. April 4, 2017 Meeting Minutes – *Approved as presented.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the April 4, 2017 Meeting Minutes.



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CONSENT AGENDA 2 THROUGH 10

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve **Consent Agenda Items 2** through **5** and **7** through **10**.

2. Council is asked to approve Change Order #4 for Project SS6966 (17); Annual Pipe Rehabilitation Services, as requested by the Engineering Department. Award to Inland Pipe Rehabilitation in the amount of \$1,468,218.00. This firm is located in Conyers, GA. *Funding Source: Sanitary Sewer Improvement Fund, 5529999-658650-SS6966(17). This is a Mentor Portege Program Project and the Protégé will provide excavation and point repair services at 20% of the change order amount. - Approved*
3. Council is asked to approve Change Order One for the Purchase of Magnesium Hydroxide, as requested by the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to Premier Magnesia in the amount of \$133,188.00. This firm is located in Conshohocken, PA. *Funding Source: Utilities Metro Wastewater Plant-Chemicals; 516208-624800. The original budgeted amount is \$133,188.00. - Approved*
4. Ordinance No.: 2017-008 - Authorizing the Granting of Property Tax Credits to Smoky Properties, LLC for Richland County TMS #08911-05-11 pursuant to the South Carolina Abandoned Buildings Revitalization Act, Title 12, Chapter 67 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended - *First reading approval was given on May 16, 2017. – Approved on second reading.*
5. Ordinance No.: 2017-042 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Agreement for Sale, deed and any other documents necessary to consummate the transfer of approximately 0.38 acres (16,553 SF) known as 611 Blanding Street and 615 Blanding Street, Richland County TMS #09010-11-17 and TMS #09010-11-16 to Matt Varner - *First reading approval was given on May 16, 2017. – Approved on second reading.*



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6. Annexation, Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment and Zoning Map Amendment - 1115 Shop Road; TMS# 11210-01-01 – *First reading approval was given on May 16, 2017. Second reading consideration of this item was deferred.*

Ordinance No.: 2017-034 - Annexing and Incorporating 1115 Shop Road, Richland County TMS #11210-01-01 into the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan Putting the Pieces Together adopted by Ordinance No.: 2015-014 on February 17, 2015 – *First reading approval was given on May 16, 2017. Second reading consideration of this item was deferred.*

Council District: 3
Proposal: Request to annex, assign land use classification of Employment Campus (EC) and assign zoning of Light Industrial District (M-1). The property is currently classified as Mixed Residential (High Density) by Richland County and zoned as M-1 by Richland County.
Applicant: 1115 & 1087 Shop Rd, LLC / Reign Living, LLC
Staff Recommendation: Approval
PC Recommendation: 03/06/2017; Cancelled; 03/20/2017; Approval (6-0)

7. Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment - 30 National Guard Road; TMS# 11100-01-04 - *First reading approval was given on May 16, 2017. – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2017-036 - Amending the City of Columbia Comprehensive Plan 2018 Future Land Use Map for 30 National Guard Road, Richland County TMS #11100-01-04- *First reading approval was given on May 16, 2017. – Approved on second reading.*

City Council District: 3
Proposal: Request to amend Chapter 8.3 of The Columbia Plan 2018 – Future Land Use Map to modify the land use classification from EC to SD-1.
Applicant: City of Columbia Planning & Development Services
Staff Recommendation: Approval
PC Recommendation: 03/06/2017; Cancelled 03/20/2017; Approval (6-0)



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8. Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment - 6825 Pennington Road, 843 Pepper Street and 851 Pepper Street; TMS# 16407-07-02, 16407-07-05 and 16407-07-04 - *First reading approval was given on May 16, 2017. – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2017-035 - Amending the City of Columbia Comprehensive Plan 2018 Future Land Use Map for 6825 Pennington Road, 843 Pepper Street and 851 Pepper Street, Richland County TMS #16407-07-02, 16407-07-05 and 16407-07-04- *First reading approval was given on May 16, 2017. – Approved on second reading.*

City Council District: 4
Proposal: Request to amend Chapter 8.3 of The Columbia Plan 2018 – Future Land Use Map to modify the land use classification from AC-2 to IND.
Applicant: City of Columbia Planning & Development Services
Staff Recommendation: Approval
PC Recommendation: 03/06/2017; Cancelled; 03/20/2017; Approval (6-0)

9. Zoning Map Amendment - Willow Street S-40-506 (formerly Pine Street); south of TMS# 11601-25-01 - *First reading approval was given on May 16, 2017. – Approved on second reading.*

Council District: 2
Proposal: Request to rezone the parcel from RG-1A to RG-2
Applicant: Gilbert Walker, Columbia Housing Authority
Staff Recommendation: Approval
PC Recommendation: 04/03/2017; Approval (7-0)

10. Resolution No.: R-2017-051 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only within Boyd Plaza adjacent to the Columbia Museum of Art for the Wicked Weed Brewery Launch on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 – *Approved*



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ZONING MATTERS - SECOND READING

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to **Items 11** through **14**. Mayor Benjamin abstained from voting due to a potential conflict of interest.

11. Annexation, Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment - ±2.49 acres proposed for Woodcreek Farms Road, a/k/a: 10750 Two Notch Road and E/S Old National Highway (p), E/S Old National Highway, and 168 Riding Grove Road(p), TMS# 28900-01-11 (p), 28900-01-14, and 28900-01-10 (p) - *First reading approval was given on May 16, 2017. – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2017-037 - Annexing and Incorporating 2.49 acres proposed for Woodcreek Farms Road, a/k/a: 10750 Two Notch Road and E/S Old National Highway (p), E/S Old National Highway, and 168 Riding Grove Road(p), Richland County TMS#28900-01-11 (p), 28900-01-14, and 28900-01-10 (p) into the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan Putting the Pieces Together adopted by Ordinance No.: 2015-014 on February 17, 2015 - *First reading approval was given on May 16, 2017. – Approved on second reading.*

Council District:	4
Proposal:	Request to annex, assign land use classification of Urban Edge Residential-Large Lot (UER-2), and assign zoning of PUD-R (Planned Unit Development-Residential District). The property is currently classified as Neighborhood (Medium Density) and zoned as PDD by Richland County.
Applicant:	Woodcreek Development LLC f/k/a Woodcreek Development Partnership
Staff Recommendation:	Approval
PC Recommendation:	04/03/2017; Approval (7-0)



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12. Annexation, Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment - 152 Island View Circle; TMS# 28907-01-08 - *First reading approval was given on May 16, 2017. – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2017-038 - Annexing and Incorporating 152 Island View Circle, Richland County TMS #28907-01-08, into the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan Putting the Pieces Together adopted by Ordinance No.: 2015-014 on February 17, 2015 - *First reading approval was given on May 16, 2017. – Approved on second reading.*

Council District: 4

Proposal:

Request to annex, assign land use classification of Urban Edge Residential-Large Lot (UER-2) and assign zoning of Planned Unit Development-Residential District (PUD-R). The property is currently classified as Neighborhood (Medium Density) by Richland County and zoned as PDD by Richland County.

Applicant:

Executive Construction Homes, LLC

Staff Recommendation:

Approval

PC Recommendation:

04/03/2017; Approval (7-0)

13. Annexation, Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment: ±347.2 acres, a/k/a 10750 Two Notch Road; TMS# 28900-01-11(p) - *First reading approval was given on May 16, 2017. – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2017-040 - Annexing and Incorporating 347.2 acres a/k/a 10750 Two Notch Road, Richland County TMS #28900-01-11(p), into the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan Putting the Pieces Together adopted by Ordinance No.: 2015-014 on February 17, 2015 - *First reading approval was given on May 16, 2017. – Approved on second reading.*



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Council District: 4
Proposal: Request to annex, assign land use classifications of Urban Edge Residential-Small Lot (UER-1), Urban Edge Residential-Large Lot (UER-2), and Community Activity Corridor (AC-2), and assign zoning of Planned Unit Development-Residential District (PUD-R). The property is currently classified as Neighborhood (Medium Density) and zoned PDD by Richland County.
Applicant: Woodcreek Development, LLC
Staff Recommendation: Approval
PC Recommendation: 04/03/2017; Approval (7-0)

14. Annexation, Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment: 29.25 acres N/S Riding Grove Road (p); TMS# 28900-01-11(p) and 28900-01-30 - *First reading approval was given on May 16, 2017. – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2017-039 - Annexing and Incorporating 29.25 acres N/5 Riding Grove Road, Richland County TMS # 28900-01-11 (p) and 28900-01-30 into the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan Putting the Pieces Together adopted by Ordinance No.: 2015-014 on February 17, 2015 - First reading approval was given on May 16, 2017. – *Approved on second reading.*

Council District: 4
Proposal: Request to annex, assign land use classification of Urban Edge Residential-Small Lot (UER-1), and assign zoning of PUD-R (Planned Unit Development-Residential District). The property is currently classified as Neighborhood (Medium Density) by Richland County for both parcels and zoned PDD by Richland County for TMS# 28900-01-11 (p) and RS-MD by Richland County for TMS# 28900-01-30.
Applicant: ARBO Woodcreek LLC
Staff Recommendation: Approval
PC Recommendation: 04/03/2017; Approval (7-0)



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ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

15. Ordinance No.: 2017-046 - Granting an encroachment to the University of South Carolina for the use of the right of way area of the 800 block of Sumter Street and 1300 block of Greene Street for installation and maintenance of curbing, guttering, landscaping, paving, bicycle lanes, irrigation and a raised median, adjacent to the School of Journalism at 800 Sumter Street and Preston College at 1323 Greene Street, Richland County TMS #11304-05-01 and 11303-05-01A – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2017-046 - Granting an encroachment to the University of South Carolina for the use of the right of way area of the 800 block of Sumter Street and 1300 block of Greene Street for installation and maintenance of curbing, guttering, landscaping, paving, bicycle lanes, irrigation and a raised median, adjacent to the School of Journalism at 800 Sumter Street and Preston College at 1323 Greene Street, Richland County TMS #11304-05-01 and 11303-05-01A.

16. Ordinance No.: 2017-047 - Amending Ordinance No.: 2015-016 Granting an encroachment to the University of South Carolina for the use of the right of way areas of the 600 and 700 blocks of Park Street, 900 block of Greene Street, 600 and 700 blocks of Lincoln Street, 900 block of Blossom Street, 900 block of Devine Street for installation and maintenance of sidewalks, curbing, guttering, landscaping and an irrigation system adjacent to the West Campus Development, Phases 1 and 1 A, Richland County TMS #08914-18-01, 08915-09-01, 08915-10-01 to incorporate the amendments to the landscaping and irrigation plan dated March 3, 2017 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2017-047 - Amending Ordinance No.: 2015-016 Granting an encroachment to the University of South Carolina for the use of the right of way areas of the 600 and 700 blocks of Park Street, 900 block of Greene Street, 600 and 700 blocks of Lincoln Street, 900 block of Blossom Street, 900 block of Devine Street for installation and maintenance of sidewalks, curbing, guttering, landscaping and an irrigation system adjacent to the West Campus Development, Phases 1 and 1 A, Richland County TMS #08914-18-01, 08915-09-01, 08915-10-01 to incorporate the amendments to the landscaping and irrigation plan dated March 3, 2017.



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17. Ordinance No.: 2017-051 - Providing for the Issuance and Sale of not Exceeding \$1,500,000 Principal Amount, Columbia, South Carolina Special Obligation Bonds or Notes (Hospitality Fee Pledge), Series 2017, In Order To Refinance Certain Indebtedness; Authorizing The Mayor, The City Manager And The Assistant City Manager For Finance And Economic Services, Or Any Two Of Them Acting Together; To Determine Certain Matters With Respect To The Bonds Or Notes; Prescribing The Form And Details Of Such Bonds Or Notes; And Other Matters Relating Thereto – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2017-051 - Providing for the Issuance and Sale of not Exceeding \$1,500,000 Principal Amount, Columbia, South Carolina Special Obligation Bonds or Notes (Hospitality Fee Pledge), Series 2017, In Order To Refinance Certain Indebtedness; Authorizing The Mayor, The City Manager And The Assistant City Manager For Finance And Economic Services, Or Any Two Of Them Acting Together; To Determine Certain Matters With Respect To The Bonds Or Notes; Prescribing The Form And Details Of Such Bonds Or Notes; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

PRESENTATIONS

18. Majors Roger and Melody Coulson Day - The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said she is glad to recognize such honorable public servants before they move on to their next tour of duty.

Mayor Benjamin and the members of City Council proclaimed Tuesday, June 13, 2017 as Majors Roger and Melody Coulson Day in the City of Columbia.

Mayor Benjamin said we are thankful for your service to God, to country and to all of our citizens in Columbia. We appreciate your leadership and your ability to be strong, kind and thoughtful.

Major Roger Coulson said we have been thoroughly blessed by our time here in the Midlands and we are grateful for the new assignment.

Major Melody Coulson said thank you for loving and accepting us. She said Columbia is on the list for their retirement in nine years.



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Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager also acknowledged Mr. Mac Bennett for his public service.

19. National Homeownership Month and Preserving the Dream Award Presentation - Ms. Gloria Saeed, Community Development Director

Ms. Felicia Kilgore, Senior Loan Officer for the Community Development Department announced that June is National Homeownership Month. This year's theme is "Preserving the Dream". She reported that the Community Development Department conducted a homebuyer's workshop last weekend with over forty participants. She presented the Preserving the Dream Award to Mr. Drink Small for completing the City of Columbia Housing Loan Program and purchasing his first home at the age of 84.

Mr. Drink Small said he was born in Bishopville, South Carolina. He always enjoyed playing the guitar and singing gospel and the blues. He explained how he left Bishopville at a young age with a guitar on his back and hopes of putting Bishopville on the map.

Councilor McDowell stated that Catherine Bruce was awarded the 2017 Historic Preservation Book Prize from the University of Mary Washington for the *The Sustainers*. He asked to recognize Ms. Bruce on June 20, 2017.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCES FIRST READING

20. Fiscal Year 2017/ 2018 Budget Presentation - Ms. Melisa Caughman, Budget and Program Management Director

Ms. Melisa Caughman, Budget and Program Management Director presented a high-level review of the 2017/2018 proposed budget for the City of Columbia. The total proposed operating budget for the City of Columbia is \$329,857,239 for the general fund, parking fund, storm water fund, water & sewer fund, hospitality tax fund and the accommodations tax fund. The budget includes basic operations and services provided to over 133,000 citizens on a daily basis. The budget focuses on meeting the City's obligations; addressing immediate needs for providing basic services; and moving forward with the Envision Columbia Work Plan initiatives. It reflects increases in health care and state retirement system rates; funding for employee cost of living adjustments; funding for the step based Public Safety Retention Program; and new and expanded programs. The general fund revenue is projected at \$142,680,401, which includes the recapture of 2 mills. She noted that the City of Columbia's mills represent less than 18% of a residential property tax bill. Each mill generates approximately \$560,000. The estimated annual impact on a \$100,000 home is \$8 per year. She noted that Public Safety makes up most of the general fund



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budget. The proposed water and sewer operating fund is \$152.8 million with the majority of the revenue coming from water and sewer sales. The proposed rate increase of 4.75% will help to support the annual Capital Improvement Program, the Clean Water 2020 Program, AMI/AMR and water quality projects. The estimated impact on a residential customer using an average of 800 cubic feet of water is \$2.49 per month for in city customers and \$4.24 for out of city customers. The storm water budget has increased to \$12,630,100 and is funded almost entirely by storm water rates. The 74% rate increase is being proposed to fund a comprehensive multi-year \$93 million capital improvement program. The current rate of \$6.80 per equivalent residential unit per month will increase by \$5 in fiscal year 2017/2018 and by 6.25% for the next four fiscal years. The budget includes an aggressive capital improvement program to address city-wide flooding and storm water quality; partial funding for operating increases as a result of the expanded CIP; increases in health care and state retirement; and the \$200,000 commitment to the Gills Creek Watershed Association as a match to their DHEC 319 grant, if awarded. The reserve is a new line item and we will be issuing bonds using storm water funds for the first time. The parking fund is \$8 million, which is a 3% decrease. The majority of revenues come from parking meters and parking garages. The budget focuses on addressing operational improvements, facility maintenance and business growth. The proposed hospitality tax budget is \$11,426,264, which is 3% more than the current year. The budget reflects \$327,000 in multi-year commitments; funding for the committee and line item agencies in the total amount of \$4.8 million; and an increased transfer to the general fund in the amount of \$700,000 for our Greenway, Walk/Bike initiatives and the maintenance of major thoroughfares. The accommodations tax budget is projected at \$2,226,244, which is a 4.3% increase over the current year. She noted that State law is very specific about how the funds are to be allocated. The budget includes a direct transfer of \$25,000 to the general fund; 95% goes to the Accommodations Tax Committee; and 5% can be used for general purposes. She explained that two organizations receive funding from the accommodations tax. The fiscal year 2017/2018 water and sewer capital improvement program is \$120 million. The water CIP is \$40 million and focuses on water quality issues and AMI/AMR. The sewer CIP is \$80 million and focuses on the Clean Water 2020 Program/Consent Decree related projects; sewer rehab projects; system upgrades; and capacity enhancement projects. The CIP is funded with \$12.3 million in cash and \$107.7 million in bonds. She presented a map of the water and sewer projects, noting that the service areas include properties outside city limits. She presented a list of projects for the first three years of the storm water five year CIP totaling \$93 million along with a map of the projects. She noted that the City's storm water service area is only within City limits. The budget that has been presented will be implemented on July 1, 2017. She reported that over the next six months staff will research and evaluate revenue streams for the general fund; continue to explore options for our health care costs while providing benefits and managing those costs; and we will continue to link our annual work plan and strategic plan while tracking and reporting our progress.



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Councilor Duvall asked Ms. Caughman to explain why the City Manager's budget has increased.

Ms. Melisa Caughman, Budget and Program Management Director explained that some funding for the internal auditor position shifted from Council's budget to the City Manager's budget and a position was moved from the Council Support Services budget to the City Manager's budget.

Councilor Rickenmann said the Public Safety budget includes 911, Fire and Police and the cornerstone to economic development is a clean and safe city. There is not a lot of fat in this budget. We've made investments for the future and we still have challenges. Our health care budget is nearly \$30 million. Also, we have to make it more equitable for the 4,000 non-taxable properties in our community. We must look at the little things and change policies that would allow us to redirect resources and have a bigger impact. The additional \$5 per month in storm water fees will have a huge impact in the future with less flooding, water and property damage. The impact of this budget is going to be great. As we look at next year's budget, we are committed to addressing those issues and making it more equitable for our taxpayers.

Councilor Davis said raising the rates has been challenging over the years, because of the impact that increases has on taxpayers. He concurred with Mr. Rickenmann's statement. It's not just a matter of continuing to patch the system, but taking it into a 20th century profile. He encouraged taxpayers to review the budget and participate in discussions. Staff has spent a lot of time and energy while having conversations with Council to get to this point. Columbia has one of the premiere Public Safety departments in the southeast and that's because of our commitment to seeing that they get the best training and recruitment programs. It is our commitment to do what we can to retain our police officers and firefighters. This budget comes with an understanding of where we want to go and what it will take to get there.

Councilor McDowell recalled having concerns last year. He said we are now on the right path. It's a journey that we will continue to make. Staff was able to carry us through a process where we were able to discern individually and collectively what was the right thing to do. There will be push back. I have a better grasp on what is happening in this City now and this budget reflects the genesis of what is going to take place down the road. I am appreciative for what this staff has done and I am appreciative because we are able to move to the next tier.



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Councilor Devine thanked City Manager Wilson and all levels of staff, because this budget clearly reflects a lot of hard work and cooperation. There are a lot of things that departments want and need, but they were able to think long-term and determine what we could implement this year. It is hard to contemplate increases and this year we have several. We are trying to look at where we are today; where this City is trying to go; and what is going to get us there. The real test is investing in the future of this City. We all had things that we wanted to see in this budget and additional things will come forward. We need to determine how we support worthy opportunities and projects within the City, but also understand that we have to buckle down internally. If we are a strong city then our non-profits and partner agencies will be strong, as well. She asked that we continue to look at innovative ways to continue to grow and be on the forefront. She noted that during a recent radio interview she only received one call expressing a concern and the other callers thought the budget process was transparent. She told Mr. Duvall that people are excited about AMI. She asked staff to continue to educate citizens about what we are doing and why we are doing it and she hopes that more people will participate next year.

Mayor Benjamin thanked City Manager Wilson for her leadership and he thanked Council for working together and being solution-oriented in helping to address the City's priorities. We still have work to do together to address our stated priorities. I am most proud of the fact that we worked together to establish a long-term vision for what we want the City to be in twenty years. Every financial decision that we are making is lined up with those priorities. We must continue to be very thoughtful and creative about how we meet other pressing needs. This is the manifestation of hard work and productive dialog. I am proud of the process and the product.

Council opened the Public Hearing at 7:19 p.m.

Ms. Pam Dukes, Executive Director of Senior Resources said with the City of Columbia's funding, the agency has helped 157 senior citizens to remain independent in their homes; served over 10,000 nutritionally balanced meals to frail homebound seniors; and 800 hours of assistance with personal care. The Meals on Wheels waiting list has been reduced to 95 seniors and Richland County has allocated additional funds for next year to eliminate this waiting list. This will only happen if the City of Columbia provides the same level of funding that was received this year. We have 140 people waiting for home care. She requested continued funding for the Meals on Wheels service.

Mayor Benjamin reiterated that if we do step up we will be working in concert with Richland County to eliminate the Meals on Wheels waiting list.



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Ms. Brenda Creson, 3409 Earlewood Drive appeared in opposition to the rate increases. She attended the water office drop-in and was told that her water bill would increase by \$50 or \$60 per year with this increase. She said she uses a minimum amount of water, she's on a fixed income and she has to make do with what she has. She wanted to give a face to the increase and to remind Council that someone on a fixed income may have to cut something else out of their budget. She recalled twenty years ago when the City voted to move money out of the water and sewer fund for other projects. She feels as though she is being punished for that decision.

Ms. Vi Hendley, Capital City Mill District resident appeared in support of the public safety budget. She is an advocate for the firefighters and is thrilled to hear that we are moving forward with the Olympia Fire Station. She spoke in favor of the water and sewer increases. If the City doesn't plan for the deteriorating infrastructure, we will all be without water. She said their pipes are made of clay and brick and their water comes out orange.

Ms. Nancy Reeder asked what will happen at the end of five years.

Mayor Benjamin said at the end of five years, we would have addressed every single priority storm water project in the City; there will be no additional increases.

Ms. Nancy Reeder asked if the rates will then decrease.

Mayor Benjamin said no. The rates will stay where they are at the end of five years.

Councilor Devine added that we will have debt service on the bonds that we issue to complete the projects.

Ms. Nancy Reeder asked why the streetscaping for North Main was on the list as a water and sewer project.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager explained that the North Main Street project is ongoing and water and sewer infrastructure in that corridor is paid for through those operating budgets in conjunction with Richland County to leverage the Penny Tax funding. The project will be finished very soon.

Mayor Benjamin added that it's for the construction and relocation of water and sewer utilities up and down North Main.



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Dr. Raj Aluri reported that this year's Columbia International Festival was very successful with 19,000 attendees representing 200 countries and speaking more than 90 languages. It is a signature event for the City of Columbia; however, funding has not been adequate. The organization received \$20,000 last year. He estimated that 10% of the City's population is foreign born with 2% living downtown. He estimated further that the 2% who are living downtown create a \$15 million economic impact. He wonders if the City really wants to keep this festival. He thanked Council for their continued support.

Ms. Robin Waites, Executive Director of the Historic Columbia Foundation encouraged Council to approve the recommended allocation. She noted that they requested a one-time allocation of \$40,000 through the ColumbiaSC 63 Project, for an exhibit for Ward One at the Palmetto Compress Warehouse. She also asked the City to consider \$25,000 for capital repairs at the Robert Mills Mansion and Mann-Simons Cottage, which are City-owned museums. She announced that they received \$40,000 for exhibit improvements at Mann-Simons and \$295,000 for Modjeska Simpkins from outside sources.

Council closed the Public Hearing at 7:34 p.m.

21. Ordinance No.: 2017-044 - 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. 23-143 Water service rates and Sec. 23-149 Sewer service rates (a) and (b) – *Approved on first reading, as amended to reflect the inside city water service rate for a 1.5" meter at \$17.28 instead of \$11.28.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2017-044 - 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. 23-143 Water service rates and Sec. 23-149 Sewer service rates (a) and (b), as amended to reflect the inside city water service rate for a 1.5" meter at \$17.28 instead of \$11.28.



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22. Ordinance No.: 2017-049 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 23, Utilities and Engineering, Article VII, Stormwater Management, Sec. 23-205 Stormwater service charge rates (b) – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2017-049 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 23, Utilities and Engineering, Article VII, Stormwater Management, Sec. 23-205 Stormwater service charge rates (b).

23. Ordinance No.: 2017-048 - To Raise Revenue and Adopt the Budget for the City of Columbia, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2017-048 - To Raise Revenue and Adopt the Budget for the City of Columbia, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018.

APPOINTMENTS

24. Council is asked to approve the appointment of fifteen (15) individuals to the Food Policy Committee.

Councilor Duvall read the list of recommended appointees.

Mayor Benjamin asked to add five (5) individuals to the list.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to amend the list of nominees and approve the appointment of the following individuals to the Food Policy Committee.

Marie Boyd	Douglas Groendyke	Lee Patterson
Rachel Barnett	Ashley Hutto	Christina Spach
Francis Bradley	Namita Koppa	Laura Stepp
Kitwanda Cyrus	Robert McClam	Amy Weaver
Tracy Dixon	Robert Moore	Beverly Wilson
Carrie Draper	John Newman	Todd Woods
Breanna Grant	Ashley Page	



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25. Council is asked to approve the appointment of three (3) individuals to the Quiet Zone Advisory Committee.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Patrick Cleary, Mr. Ben Dubard and Mr. Frank Houston to the Quiet Zone Advisory Committee.

Mayor Benjamin asked the committee to begin meeting.

Councilor Devine said she received calls from citizens questioning the need for this committee. She said as members of Council we have to take all citizen concerns seriously. There may be issues that are important to some people, but that issue may not rise to the same level of importance for others.

26. Council is asked to approve the appointment of one (1) individual to the Transportation Penny Advisory Committee. – *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

OTHER MATTERS

27. Council is asked to approve the installation of one (1) additional street light at 1800 Gary Street, as requested by the Traffic Engineering Division. - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve the installation of one (1) additional street light at 1800 Gary Street.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS / REFERRALS

28. Administrative Policy Committee Report for June 2, 2017 - The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr.

Councilor McDowell reported that the Administrative Policy Committee met to address the facility and site naming policy and the honorary street naming policy. There was much discussion about the guidelines. For streets, we wanted to limit the designation from one block to two signs; make white on brown the standard color; and set the naming to expire ten years after the policy is adopted. He reported that the City shall name facilities only after deceased persons. He asked to present the resolution for Council's consideration on June 20, 2017.



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Councilor Devine asked about the expiration date for the honorary street renaming.

Councilor Duvall said the expiration date can be extended by Council.

Councilor McDowell noted that we have three pending requests and there aren't any guidelines.

Councilor Devine asked if we will no longer use green or any other color for the signs.

Councilor Duvall said 911 asked that the signs be uniform to avoid confusion.

Councilor McDowell asked that the Administrative Policy Committee be allowed to look at the process for issuing proclamations and keys to the city.

Mayor Benjamin asked that Council spend more time digesting the policies and processes.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

No one appeared at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore, CMC
City Clerk