



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022

The Columbia City Council conducted a meeting on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Howard E. Duvall, Jr., The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tempore, The Honorable William Brennan, The Honorable Aditi Bussells, and The Honorable Joe E. Taylor, Jr. The Honorable Tina N. Herbert participated remotely. 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. *The minutes are numbered to coincide with the order of the meeting.*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda subject to removing the consideration of *Contract Renewals and Extensions* from the Consent Agenda and deferring **Item 22** (Resolution No.: R-2022-040).

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No one appeared at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Council is asked to approve the May 10, 2022 Budget Workshop and May 17, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes. - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to approve the May 10, 2022 Budget Workshop and May 17, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes.



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BUDGET ORDINANCE - SECOND READING

2. Ordinance No.: 2022-052 - To Raise Revenue and Adopt the Budget for the City of Columbia, South Carolina for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023 - *First reading approval was given on June 7, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2022-052 - To Raise Revenue and Adopt the Budget for the City of Columbia, South Carolina for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023.

Mayor Rickenmann said as we continue to move through the year, we will continue to make this budget very open to our community. You will see us making significant changes over the year by investing in our city to make sure that we provide the best services possible to our community. We will keep investing in technology, training, and our employees.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

3. Fiscal Year/2023 Accommodations Tax Committee Recommendations - Mr. Hal Stevenson, Committee Chair – *Received as information.*

Mr. Hal Stevenson, Committee Chair said we met on June 2, 2022 and had presentations from Capital City Lake Murray Country Regional Tourism Board, Columbia Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau, Benedict College, Black Pages International, the Columbia Black Expo, Feed The City, LLC, and the South Carolina High School League. We are charged with conducting our accommodations tax recommendations by the guidelines of the Tourism Expenditure Review Committee (TERC). Bill H2186 states that the purpose of this act is not to provide services normally provided by county or municipality, but to promote tourism and enlarge economic benefits through advertising, promotion and providing those facilities and services that enhance the ability of the county or municipality to attract and provide for tourists. I have been on the committee for a number of years and was recently appointed as chairman of the committee. When I came onto the committee, there had been an agreement by the previous Council that accommodations tax funds would be allocated to tourism related agencies like Capital City Lake Murray Country Regional Tourism Board and the Columbia Metropolitan Conventions and Visitors Bureau. Because TERC reviews these awards, these are clear marketing organizations for the community and their marketing covers the whole city, Richland County, and Lexington County through Lake Murray. It had been determined some years ago that we would provide 85% of the funds to the Conventions and Visitors Bureau and 15% to the



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Capital City Lake Murray Country. A lot of accommodations tax is produced in the Harbison area and a lot of activity comes from Lake Murray. We listened and invited these other groups that applied. While they have very compelling events that they are putting on, we felt as a committee that we should stick with the tradition of what we have done. These two groups do not apply for hospitality tax funds. We have awarded 85% of the funds to the Conventions and Visitors Bureau and 15% to Capital City Lake Murray Country. Traditionally, there has been more money collected at the end of the year. We voted to have the overage split by the same 85%/15%.

Councilor Duvall said I am speaking on behalf of the Lake Murray Country application. They have a very important contract coming up and they need a nod from Council that they will get some money to do their share. If they are not able to make this application through the state, they will lose an opportunity to get some matching funds. I would like for Council to have a recorded motion that they will get a distribution this year - at least what they received last year and any new monies that Council will decide at the appropriate meeting.

Mayor Rickenmann said we can voice an intent but we cannot have any type of motion. We are in the discussion period.

Councilor Herbert said I agree with Mr. Duvall. I want to make sure that we set some kind of timeline for when we are going to make these decisions because the fiscal year is ending. We have one meeting in July, but organizations are trying to make plans and they need to have assurances or some kind of commitment so they can know what they can do. I don't want them to risk any funding.

Mayor Rickenmann said Council decided not to make full recommendations on any of these until the July 26, 2022 meeting. As we continue to move forward, we want to be supportive of agencies but we also want to understand that there are other resources that we need to put that money into. Traditionally, Council has looked at it this way, but I think today we are at a different juncture at the City of Columbia. We want to make sure that we have some options on the table and we will be discussing those as we continue to move forward. I know that we will support the agencies that we have supported and at the appropriate time we can make those announcements. We appreciate the committee, but we are going to have to dig in a little deeper from where we were last year to where we are today.



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4. Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Hospitality Tax Committee Recommendations - Ms. Terry Davis, Committee Chair – *Received as information.*

Ms. Terry Davis, Committee Chair said we haven't met for two years because of COVID. There were originally 57 applications, but eight of those were eliminated before we made any determinations. From the 49 who were eligible to be considered, 47% were recommended full funding and 35% were recommended partial funding. We had two organizations that were brand new and we recommended seed money. We had six applications that we did not recommend for funding because they didn't fit within the guidelines. We are also recommending a second round of funding. There are 20 organizations that have been regular applicants who did not apply this year. I know some just didn't realize the applications were out this year. We recommended \$460,000 for a second round for anybody who did not apply in this first round.

Councilor Taylor asked if the committee reviews the guidelines to make sure that our awards match with the published city guidelines for hospitality tax.

Ms. Terry Davis, Committee Chair said yes we do. I have a document that the committee wrote up a few years ago that outlines how we follow the guidelines and what we use in our evaluations.

Mayor Rickenmann said thank you for the committee's work. It was nice to be able to appropriate a nice sum of money for the committee to put out there. I am still kind of shocked with the number of applicants considering how many requests and phone calls we get at the Council level. I do appreciate having the background and the information you shared with us on the percentages and how you all decided to hold some money because we know there will be more applicants. I didn't know if there was a suggestion from the committee on what we could do to make sure that we are getting this information out better.

Ms. Terry Davis, Committee Chair said I would love for the city to go on record as funding more than 40 groups because the hospitality tax program is excellent. The city needs more acknowledgement of what you all do to bring all these activities to the city whether it is phone calls, emails, mailings, or public service comments that would be great.

Councilor Bussells said I appreciate the guidelines and some of the things you have suggested over the years. You talk about how some organizations have become self-sustained but on the other end there are a lot of organizations that year after year are applying for the hospitality tax. Is there a threshold or a metric that you use for when you decide that they are now self-sustaining?



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Ms. Terry Davis, Committee Chair said most of these groups would try to do what they do without the hospitality money but it wouldn't be at the same scale and quality. They are bringing people into town and filling those restaurant seats. They are worthy of the money and a great investment by the city.

Councilor Brennan said thank you to the volunteers for putting these together. The applications that come in always have a budget included that we can use to track these groups that have received hospitality tax funding to see their growth. Have you thought about asking for more details in the budget to make sure they are hitting those budget numbers or does that come from the process of sending in receipts?

Ms. Terry Davis, Committee Chair said that comes from the finance office. You can't get your money if you don't provide the appropriate receipts. It doesn't matter if you say you are doing something. Unless you have verification then you will not get reimbursement for it.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 14

Councilor Taylor asked for further information on **Item 5**.

Mr. William "Skip" Holbrook, Chief of Police said this contract terminates at the end of the fiscal year. This is the cost through the end of the current fiscal year. Initially, we were expecting for Motorola to transfer the contract to start earlier. Because of supply issues, we were not able to stand that up on the original timeframe. This is a stop gap.

Upon a single motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda **Items 5** through **14**.

5. Council is asked to approve Contract Amendment #11 for Citywide Video Camera Services, as requested by the Columbia Police Department on March 23, 2022. Award to Statewide Security Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$53,304.00. The firm is located in Columbia, SC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Police Administrative Services - Professional Services (1012402-636600). The budget amount for this amendment is \$53,304.00.



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6. Council is asked to approve a Contract to Purchase the VESTA 911 Software System, Inc. for the Emergency Operations Center, as requested by the Emergency Management Department on October 29, 2021. Award to Motorola Services, as a Sole Source in an amount not to exceed \$56,569.76. The vendor is located in Chicago, IL. – *Approved*

Funding Source: General Capital Projects - Computer Electrical Equipment - Capital (4039999-658600). The original budget amount is \$56,569.76.

7. Council is asked to approve Contract Amendment #2 for Powdered Activated Carbon for the Columbia Canal Water Treatment Plant, as requested by Columbia Water on June 7, 2022. Award to Cabot Norit Americas, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00. This firm is located in Marshall, TX. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Utilities Columbia Canal Water Treatment Plant - Chemicals (5516206-624800). The original budget amount was \$80,000.000. The budget amount for this amendment is \$150,000.00. The total revised budget amount is \$230,000.00.

8. Annexation, Interim Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment, and Interim Zoning Map Amendment for 12.59 acres, Shop Road Extension; TMS# 16200-01-25 - *First reading approval was given on June 7, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2022-050 - Annexing 12.59 acres, Shop Road Extension Richland County TMS# 16200-01-25 - First reading approval was given on June 7, 2022 – Approved on second reading.

Council District: 3

Proposal: Request to assign an interim land use classification of Industrial (IND) and assign interim zoning of Light Industrial (LI) at the time of annexation. The property is currently classified as Economic Development Center/Corridor and zoned M-1 by Richland County.

Applicant: Metal Park Investors 3, LLC, a South Carolina limited liability company

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 05/12/2022; Approval (4-0)



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9. Ordinance No.: 2022-032 - Granting an encroachment to Huger Senate Hotel Associates, LLC for the use of the right of way areas of the 1000 block of Huger Street and the 400 block of Senate Street for the installation and maintenance of parking spaces, sidewalks, landscaping, and irrigation adjacent to 1025 and 1043 Huger Street, Richland County TMS#08911-01-05 and 08911-01-15 - *First reading approval was given on June 7, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*
 10. Ordinance No.: 2022-035 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 15, Parks and Recreation, Sec. 15-1 Prohibited acts in parks (8) Alcohol - *First reading approval was given on June 7, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*
 11. Ordinance No.: 2022-049 - Granting an encroachment to 1813 Main Street, LLC for the use of the right of way area of the 1800 block of Main Street for the installation and maintenance of landscaping, irrigation, and landscaping support structures adjacent to the building located at 1813 Main Street, Richland County TMS#09082-04-01, 09082-04-29 and 09082-04-30 - *First reading approval was given on June 7, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*
 12. Ordinance No.: 2022-054 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Amendment to the Deed between the City of Columbia (“Grantor”) and T.E.O., LLC (“Grantee”) for the sale of 9.9 acres being known as Parcel C, N/S Farrow Road, Richland County TMS #11612-04-01 - *First reading approval was given on June 7, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*
 13. Ordinance No.: 2022-058 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Quit Claim Deed (With Reservation of Easement) from the City of Columbia to Chitwood Development, LLC for an approximately 0.277 acre undedicated parcel adjacent to Richland County TMS #08816-02-20, TMS #11204-01-05 and TMS #11204-01-04 - *First reading approval was given on June 7, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*
 14. Ordinance No.: 2022-059 - 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. 23-152 Sewer plant expansion fee - *First reading approval was given on June 7, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*
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CONSIDERATION OF BIDS AND AGREEMENTS

Ms. Pam Benjamin, Assistant City Manager for Administration said part of these are renewals for the Columbia Police Department and three items are for Columbia Water. The first one is for Security Management of South Carolina, LLC. You all should have a briefing note from Chief Holbrook. The increase is based on the fact that we have added an additional facility to the seven facilities we already had. The funding being requested is going to take us to the end of the calendar year. A big chunk of the increase is based on increases in the cost for personnel. It was running us \$14 an hour for security officers but now it's going to be \$19 an hour. That attributes to the increase in the cost for this particular item.

Mayor Rickenmann said I want to note that this contract ends this calendar year. Starting July 1st we will put out an RFP process for the contract.

Ms. Pam Benjamin, Assistant City Manager for Administration said yes, we do plan on looking at rebidding this to see if there is something that we can get that is more cost effective.

Councilor Taylor said it concerns me a great deal that we see these items at the twenty-third hour and we have to approve these things in order to continue the service. It also concerns me that when we get these consent items we don't get the details on price increases. I see a price increase like this and I just think we need to discover these things sooner and be more diligent in finding alternatives. This is not the proper way for us to do business.

15. Council is asked to approve Contract Renewals and Extensions. Award to the various vendors in the total amount of \$2,167,564.13. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Police Administrative Services - Professional Services (1012402-636600) \$571,974.65; Police Administrative Services - Professional Services (1012402-636600) \$315,378.39; Police Administrative Services - Professional Services (1012402-636600) \$180,000.00; Water and Sewer Capital Projects - Capital Project Costs (5529999-SS678620-658650) \$173,511.74; Meter Reading - Maintenance Service Contract (5516202-638200) \$750,000.00; Wastewater Compliance - Special Contracts (5516231-638300) Utilities Metro Wastewater Plant - Special Contracts (5516208-638300) \$176,699.35.



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Columbia Police Department				
Contractor/Vendor	Project Description	Renewal or Extension	Amount	Location
Security Management of SC, LLC	Security Guard Services	5 th Renewal of 5 Renewals (7/1/2022 - 12/31/2022)	\$571,974.65	Columbia, SC
Cross Safe	Crossing Guard Services	1 st Renewal of 3 Annual Renewals (7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023)	\$315,378.39	Charlotte, NC
Statewide Security Systems, Inc.	City Video Cameras	Extension (7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023)	\$180,000.00	Columbia, SC
Columbia Water				
Badger Meter, Incorporated	BEACON AMA Managed Solution	1 st Renewal of 20 Annual Renewals (7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023)	\$750,000.00	Milwaukee, WI
Rogers and Callcott Environmental	Environmental Sample Collection Testing	1 st Renewal of 3 Annual Renewals (9/1/2022 - 8/31/2023)	\$176,699.35	Columbia, SC
Vortex Services, LLC	Sanitary Sewer Manhole Rehab	1 st Renewal of 3 Annual Renewals (7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023)	\$173,511.74	Greenville, SC
Total: \$2,167,564.13				

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted six (6) to one (1) to approve the Contract Renewals and Extensions. Ms. Herbert, Dr. Bussells, Mr. Brennan, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Duvall, and Mayor Rickenmann voted aye. Mr. Taylor voted nay.

ZONING / PLANNING MATTERS - SECOND READING

16. Annexation, Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment for 2905 Two Notch Road; TMS# 11613-12-30 and 11613-12-31 - *First reading approval was given on May 17, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2022-038 - Annexing 2905 Two Notch Road, Richland County TMS# 11613-12-30 and TMS# 11613-12-31 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina Columbia, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map – First reading approval was given on May 17, 2022 – Approved on second reading.



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Council District: 2

Proposal: Request to annex the property and assign a land use classification of Urban Core Community Activity Center (UCAC-2) and assign zoning of Mixed Use District (MU-2) at the time of annexation. The property is currently classified as Mixed Residential (High Density) and zoned GC by Richland County.

Applicant: Elonda Mack

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 03/10/2022; Approval (7-0)

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to the Annexation, Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment for 2905 Two Notch Road; TMS# 11613-12-30 and 11613-12-31 **and** Ordinance No.: 2022-038 - Annexing 2905 Two Notch Road, Richland County TMS# 11613-12-30 and TMS# 11613-12-31 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina Columbia, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map.

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

17. Ordinance No.: 2022-053 - Granting an encroachment for the use of the right of way area of the 1800 block of Catawba Street for the installation and maintenance of a brick wall, landscaping and irrigation adjacent to 1808 Catawba Street, Richland County TMS# 11307-08-02 – *Approved on first reading.*

Mayor Rickenmann said I want to make sure that as we continue to move these encroachments, that we remind people of their responsibility for maintenance. We are going to do some campaigning about reminding folks of their responsibilities in the right of way to make sure that we have a beautiful city.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2022-053 - Granting an encroachment for the use of the right of way area of the 1800 block of Catawba Street for the installation and maintenance of a brick wall, landscaping and irrigation adjacent to 1808 Catawba Street, Richland County TMS# 11307-08-02.



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18. Ordinance No.: 2022-055 - Granting an encroachment to SC State Credit Union for the use of the right of way areas of the 800 block of Huger Street, the 500 block of College Street and the 800 block of Pulaski Street for the installation and maintenance of sidewalks, landscaping, irrigation, and parking spaces adjacent to 800 Huger Street and 816 Pulaski Street, Richland County TMS#08911-04-01 and 08915-14-01 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2022-055 - Granting an encroachment to SC State Credit Union for the use of the right of way areas of the 800 block of Huger Street, the 500 block of College Street and the 800 block of Pulaski Street for the installation and maintenance of sidewalks, landscaping, irrigation, and parking spaces adjacent to 800 Huger Street and 816 Pulaski Street, Richland County TMS#08911-04-01 and 08915-14-01.

19. Ordinance No.: 2022-056 - Granting an encroachment to Gusco, LLC for the use of the right of way area of the 2100 block of Senate Street for the installation and maintenance of landscaping and irrigation adjacent to 1030 Harden Street, Richland County TMS#11405-05-01 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2022-056 - Granting an encroachment to Gusco, LLC for the use of the right of way area of the 2100 block of Senate Street for the installation and maintenance of landscaping and irrigation adjacent to 1030 Harden Street, Richland County TMS#11405-05-01.

20. Ordinance No.: 2022-057 - Granting an encroachment to Lady Street Redevelopment, LLC for the use of the right of way area of the 1300 block of Lady Street for the installation and maintenance of landscaping and irrigation adjacent to 1310 Lady Street, Richland County TMS#11491-01-01 and 11491-06-01 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2022-057 - Granting an encroachment to Lady Street Redevelopment, LLC for the use of the right of way area of the 1300 block of Lady Street for the installation and maintenance of landscaping and irrigation adjacent to 1310 Lady Street, Richland County TMS#11491-01-01 and 11491-06-01.



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RESOLUTION

21. Resolution No.: R-2022-050 - Amending Resolution No.: R-2022-005 Approving and Ratifying Mutual Aid Agreements between the City of Columbia and the City of Columbia Police Department and Various Law Enforcement Agencies and Authorizing the City Manager of the City of Columbia and the Chief of Police of the City of Columbia to execute all such agreements to add the Naval Criminal Investigative Service to the list of agencies – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2022-050 - Amending Resolution No.: R-2022-005 Approving and Ratifying Mutual Aid Agreements between the City of Columbia and the City of Columbia Police Department and Various Law Enforcement Agencies and Authorizing the City Manager of the City of Columbia and the Chief of Police of the City of Columbia to execute all such agreements to add the Naval Criminal Investigative Service to the list of agencies.

EVENT RESOLUTIONS

22. Resolution No.: R-2022-040 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Because We Care Fundraiser on Saturday, September 10, 2022 – *Deferred*
23. Resolution No.: R-2022-047 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at NoMa Warehouse, 2222 Sumter Street, Indah Coffee, 2238 Sumter Street and the portion of Sumter Street between Jefferson Street and Franklin Street for the 11th Annual Palmetto Tasty Tomato Festival (a Fundraiser benefiting Sustainable Midlands) on Saturday, July 23, 2022 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2022-047 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at NoMa Warehouse, 2222 Sumter Street, Indah Coffee, 2238 Sumter Street and the portion of Sumter Street between Jefferson Street and Franklin Street for the 11th Annual Palmetto Tasty Tomato Festival (a Fundraiser benefiting Sustainable Midlands) on Saturday, July 23, 2022.

24. Resolution No.: R-2022-055 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the 2022 Second Artistic Showcase Festival/Vendor Event at Maxcy Gregg Park, 1651 Park Circle on Saturday, July 23, 2022, with a Rain Contingency Date of Saturday, July 30, 2022 – *Approved*



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Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2022-055 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the 2022 Second Artistic Showcase Festival/Vendor Event at Maxcy Gregg Park, 1651 Park Circle on Saturday, July 23, 2022, with a Rain Contingency Date of Saturday, July 30, 2022.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REFERRALS, REPORTS, AND NEW BUSINESS

25. Gun Lock Safety Campaign - The Honorable Aditi Bussells

Councilor Bussells took a moment of personal privilege to introduce Sam Grant. Sam will be interning with us this summer. He is an 18 year old student at Charleston Southern. He was also the youngest ever to testify about redistricting at the State House. We are so thankful that young people are stepping up and getting involved in local politics. As I previously shared, we have been working on different initiatives to promote youth engagement and prevent gun violence. Today, I am very pleased to introduce the City of Columbia's Lock It Up Campaign. This project is focused on ensuring safety in our communities by safely storing firearms. As you all may know, guns are the leading cause of death for children and teens in South Carolina. An average of 92 children and teens die by unintentional firearm violence. This is just one way that we can continue to promote prevention and safety to ensure that our children and youth are protected. We will be working with the Columbia Police Department, Parks and Recreation, community leaders, and Councilman McDowell to spread the word about how important it is to store your firearms safely, how to have conversations about gun violence with your family, and ways in which we can continue to be good neighbors and ensure that we have safe communities and safe neighborhoods. We will be passing out free gun locks. This will also include a cheat sheet, which will allow you to store information about your firearm. If for some reason your firearm is stolen, you can provide the proper information to CPD in order for them to register that gun as a stolen firearm. We will be continuing to engage with our neighborhood groups and nonprofit groups such as Serve and Connect and Building Better Communities to continue to build conversations and initiatives around the prevention of gun violence. We know that this is just one aspect of preventing gun violence, but this is an important one. I hope that you will join me in participating in this campaign. Our first stops will be on June 25, 2022 at Colonial Heights and June 23, 2022 at the Belmont Community. Please stay tuned to our city news and website, where we will share the different stops in our tour to pass out these resources and free gun locks.



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PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Aubrey Jenkins, Deacon at Progressive Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ said my church is located on 2224 Barhamville Road. I wanted to let you all know that there is a property adjacent to the church on Gordon Street. Over the course of last year, we purchased this property and have done some great things. That property was drug infested. When people started moving out, the house was being used for different things. We tore down about six or seven houses on both sides of the street. We own the whole 2400 block of Gordon Street. We are going to be doing a community cookout on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. We are inviting the community to come out and celebrate with us. We are going to have fun activities for the young and old. There are some other great things going on at the church. Every third Saturday, we do a food bank and we give out good food. During the weekdays, we are giving out fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, pastries, bread and fresh meats. We have partnered with Sam's Club and they have been providing us with a lot of stuff. At some point we may be coming before you to talk about that street and about the possibility of shutting the street down because we are making that a green space to make the neighborhood look good.

Mayor Rickenmann said tell Pastor Jenkins that we appreciate and thank him for all that he is doing in that community. What you all did by buying up those drug houses really made a difference, and it actually kept some of the neighbors further down the street from leaving.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 5:11 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 26 and 27**.

26. Receipt of legal advice relating to a pending, threatened or potential claim pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)

Cheryl Glugover v. City of Columbia

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

Water Bill Late Fees



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ADJOURNMENT

City Council adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk