



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

The Columbia City Council conducted a meeting on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tempore, The Honorable William Brennan, The Honorable Aditi Bussells, The Honorable Tina N. Herbert, and The Honorable Joe E. Taylor, Jr. The Honorable Howard E. Duvall, Jr. 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 deferring **Items 27** (*Appointments to the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee*) and **28** (*Appointments to the Climate Protection Action Committee*).

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Diane Wiley, Belvedere Community resident said the young lady called me yesterday and said that she wanted to put a CBD store with a restaurant in our neighborhood. We already have enough in our neighborhood. The restaurant is fine but our neighborhood is against the oil vape shop. I want to make sure people get in contact with us first because we are not going to have nothing that the neighbors don't want. I told her she can come to our meeting on Thursday and the people will tell her how they feel about it. We are trying to clean up our neighborhood.

Ms. Felicia Mack, Applicant for Item 14 said I did speak with her on yesterday in reference to what we intend to do. I am from that area. We are coming into the community to try and build up the community. I don't think Ms. Wiley completely knows about CBD and the benefits it can bring. The other store that they have is a vape shop but we are not a vape shop. We are going to do a restaurant and a CBD store. I think it could benefit the community with the store within walking distance. I will be going to the meeting on Thursday to explain that to the board.



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

Mayor Rickenmann said we can defer acting on the item until there is conversation with the community. We will bring it back at our next scheduled meeting. I want to take it off the consent agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Council is asked to approve the May 3, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve the May 3, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Golden Tornadoes Month Proclamation - The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor

Mayor Rickenmann and the members of City Council proclaimed the month of June as Golden Tornadoes Month in the City of Columbia.

Mr. Matthew Addison, President of the Booker T. Washington High School Alumni Association said I am a proud member and graduate of the class of 1962. I hope you are as excited to see us as we are to see you. As we pass on, we want to leave a legacy that is still alive. We are happy that you made this month, a month that will be remembered.

Ms. Gloria Graham, President of the Booker T. Washington High School Foundation said if it wasn't for our president emeritus, Doris Green, we would not be here today. This was her dream, to keep the Booker T. Washington legacy alive. On behalf of Doris, she wants to share this message: No words can truly express our gratitude for this written document, which honors and proclaims the historical significance and indelible legacy of the phenomenal Booker T. Washington High School. This afternoon, you have propelled the foundation's mission of preserving the school's history for perpetuity. In 2024, the foundation and the Booker T. Washington Alumni Association will commemorate and celebrate the 50 year anniversary of the closing of the landmark Booker T. Washington. We ask City Council to support us in this endeavor. BTW was built in 1916, as the first high school for African Americans in Columbia and Richland County. It was the second high school built for African Americans in the state of South Carolina.



We Are Columbia

COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

3. 2022 Tubing Season Update - Mr. Mike Mayo, Executive Director / Palmetto Outdoor

Mr. Mike Mayo, Executive Director / Palmetto Outdoor said I am here to present a gift to the city and to remind the city of the precious resource we have in our backyard. In 2006, we opened a small business with a 15 passenger van and 50 white water tubes designed for the river. We have grown this business all the way up until 2017, where we expanded from a little booth down by the Riverwalk to having a permanent location in Columbia. It is called the Palmetto Experience. Tourism is our business. Columbia is one of a handful of cities across the nation to have white water in their backyard. Columbia has all the amenities to support recreational tourism. We have the potential for growth. Our supply chain broke down because of COVID and we began sourcing our own equipment. We are proud to tell you that now we manufacture our double tube. Safety is number one and we now also manufacture our own life jackets. We are here to get children outside and help them realize there is more to life than video games and the internet. We invite you to come join us on the river. You'll have to come try it out for yourself.

Mayor Rickenmann said I had some incredible experiences through your company on the river. It is a wonderful asset that we need to continue to develop and utilize. It is part of our overall theme here in Columbia. This is one of those stories we need to keep telling. We need to build a better entryway into the water. We are working on that and we will definitely team up with you to talk about how we can make that part of the experience better for out of town guests.

Councilor Taylor said I want to note that more tubers come to the river in Columbia from other states than locally, which is amazing. You are one of our tourism ambassadors and we thank you.

Councilor Bussells said congratulations on becoming an ambassador for Experience Columbia. I took advantage of tubing during COVID when there was not much to do safely and we enjoyed it. There are a lot of young professionals that have been going on the trips as part of Leadership Columbia and Capture Columbia. We received a lot of positive feedback. Sometimes we take for granted how accessible our river is compared to other cities. We appreciate your efforts to make it known that we have a very unique treasure.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 4 THROUGH 13

Upon a single motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Ms. Herbert, Council voted unanimously to approve **Consent Agenda Items 4 through 13**.



We Are Columbia

**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022**

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4. Council is asked to approve a Contract to Purchase two Explosive Ordnance Disposal Suits with Helmets, as requested by the Columbia Police Department on March 11, 2022. Award to Safeware Inc., using the OMNIA Cooperative Agreement, in the amount of \$67,038.42. The vendor is located in Sandston, VA. – *Approved*

Funding Source: U.S. Justice Grants Control - Special Departmental Supplies - JAG-ED Byrne Memorial (2659999--9211000221-627100). The original budget amount is \$68,000.00.

5. Council is asked to approve a Contract to Purchase a Prefabricated Restroom Facility for the All-Star Baseball Field (Phase 4) in the Colony/North Pointe Community, as requested by the Parks and Recreation Department on March 30, 2022. Award to CXT Inc., using the Sourcewell Cooperative Contract in the amount of \$97,129.35. The vendor is located in Pittsburgh, PA. – *Approved*

Funding Source: S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism Parks and Recreation Development Grant - General Capital Projects - Capital Project Costs (4039999-658650). The original budget amount is \$97,129.35.

6. Annexation, Future Land Use Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment for 0.21 acres W/S Canal Drive; TMS #07311-08-17 - *First reading approval was given on May 17, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2022-039 - Annexing 0.21 acres W/S Canal Drive, Richland County TMS# 07311-08-17 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina Columbia, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map – Approved on second reading.

Council District: 2

Proposal: Request to annex the property and assign a land use classification of Urban Edge Residential Large Lot (UER-2) and assign zoning of Mixed Use District (MU-1) at the time of annexation. The property is currently classified as Mixed Residential (High Density) and zoned RS-MD by Richland County.

Applicant: Ina Lee Lightner

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 04/14/2022; Approval (5-0)



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

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7. Annexation, Future Land Use Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment for 2311 and 2301 Percival Road; TMS #19711-06-14 and 19711-06-15 - *First reading approval was given on May 17, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2022-040 - Annexing 2311 Percival Road and 2301 Percival Road, Richland County TMS# 19711-06-14 and TMS# 19711-06-15 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina Columbia, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map – Approved on second reading.

Council District: 4

Proposal: Request to annex the property and assign a land use classification of Urban Edge Multi-family (UEMF) and assign zoning of Residential Mixed District (RM-2) at the time of annexation. The property is currently classified as Neighborhood (Medium Density) and zoned RM-HD by Richland County.

Applicant: Samantha Eargle and Caroline Powell

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 04/14/2022; Approval (5-0)

8. Annexation, Future Land Use Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment for 3740 Pearl Street; TMS # 09103-06-01 - *First reading approval was given on May 17, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2022-042 -Annexing 3740 Pearl Street, Richland County TMS# 09103-06-01 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina Columbia, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map – Approved on second reading.

Council District: 1

Proposal: Request to annex the property and assign a land use classification of Urban Core Mixed Residential-2 (UCMR-2) and assign zoning of Employment Campus District (EC) at the time of annexation. The property is currently classified as Mixed Use Corridor and zoned GC by Richland County.

Applicant: Abbie L. Cochran and Charles Cochran

Staff Recommendation: Approval - see detail

PC Recommendation: 04/14/2022; Approval (5-0)



**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022**

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9. Annexation, Future Land Use Map Amendment, and Zoning Map Amendment for 1482 Caroline Road; TMS # 16414-08-04 - *First reading approval was given on May 17, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2022-043 - Annexing 1482 Caroline Road, Richland County TMS# 16414-08-04 into the City of Columbia, South Carolina Columbia, and Incorporating said property into Columbia Compass: Envision 2036 and the Official Zoning Map – Approved on second reading.

Council District: 3

Proposal: Request to annex the property and assign a land use classification of Urban Edge Mixed Residential (UEMR) and assign zoning of Office and Institutional District (OI) at the time of annexation. The property is currently classified as Neighborhood (Medium Density) and zoned RU by Richland County.

Applicant: Toma T. Patterson, A. Forbes Patterson, Trustee, and Alexander Forbes Patterson / Big & Tall, LLC

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 04/14/2022; Approval (5-0)

10. Zoning Map Amendment for 5901 Fairfield Road TMS #11708-07-01 - *First reading approval was given on May 17, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2022-044 - Amending the Official Zoning Map to modify the zoning for 5901 Fairfield Road, Richland County TMS #11708-07-01 – Approved on second reading.

Council District: 1

Proposal: Request to rezone the property from General Commercial District (GC) to Light Industrial District (LI).

Applicant: Ransom Creech, Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.

Staff Recommendation: Approval

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



**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022**

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11. Zoning Map Amendment for 1101, 1105, 1107 Balsam Road and 1405 Canal Drive, TMS # 07311-08-05, 07311-08-06, 07311-08-07, and 07311-08-08 - *First reading approval was given on May 17, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2022-046 - Amending the Official Zoning Map to modify the zoning for 1101, 1105 and 1107 Balsam Road and 1405 Canal Drive, Richland County TMS# 07311-08-05, TMS# 07311-08-06, TMS# 07311-08-07 and TMS# 07311-08-08 – Approved on second reading.

Council District: 2

Proposal: Request to rezone the property from Residential Single Family-Medium Lot (RSF-2) and Residential Single Family-Small Lot (RSF-3) to Mixed Use District (MU-1).

Applicant: Kathleen McDaniel, Burnette, Shutt, & McDaniel, PA

Staff Recommendation: Approval

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

12. Zoning Map Amendment for 446 Clemson Road and 446 Clemson Road Ext., TMS #25700-02-01 and 25700-04-02 - *First reading approval was given on May 17, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2022-045 - Amending the Official Zoning Map to modify the zoning for 446 Clemson Road and 446 Clemson Road Extension, Richland County TMS #25700-02-01 and TMS #25700-04-02 - Approved on second reading.

Council District: 4

Proposal: Request to rezone the property from Mixed-Use District (MU-2) to General Commercial District (GC).

Applicant: Craig Waites, Jr., Colliers International of South Carolina, Inc.

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 04/14/2022; Approval (5-0)

13. Ordinance No.: 2022-047 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute the Second Amendment of License Agreement and Memorandum of Lease between Core Campus I, LLC and the City of Columbia - *First reading approval was given on May 17, 2022 – Approved on second reading.*
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COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

ZONING / PLANNING MATTERS - SECOND READING

14. 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 – Deferred.*

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 – Deferred

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. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to defer second reading consideration of 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.

ZONING / PLANNING MATTERS - FIRST READING

15. Annexation, Interim Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment, and Interim Zoning Map Amendment for 12.59 acres, Shop Road Extension; TMS# 16200-01-25 – *Approved on first reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2022-050 - Annexing 12.59 acres, Shop Road Extension Richland County TMS# 16200-01-25 – Approved on first reading.

Council District: 3



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

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)

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the Annexation, Interim Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment, and Interim Zoning Map Amendment for 12.59 acres, Shop Road Extension; TMS# 16200-01-25 **and** Ordinance No.: 2022-050 - Annexing 12.59 acres, Shop Road Extension Richland County TMS# 16200-01-25.

16. Annexation, Interim Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment, and Interim Zoning Map Amendment for 8325 Old Percival Road; TMS# 19813-01-02 – *Approved on first reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2022-051 - Annexing 8325 Old Percival Road Richland County TMS# 19813-01-02 – Approved on first reading.

Council District: 4

Proposal: Request to assign an interim land use classification of Urban Edge Residential Small Lot (UER-1) and assign interim zoning of Residential Mixed District (RM-1) at the time of annexation. The property is currently classified as Neighborhood (Medium Density) and zoned RM-HD by Richland County.

Applicant: Hurricane Construction, Inc.

Staff Recommendation: Approval

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

Upon a motion made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the Annexation, Interim Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment, and Interim Zoning Map Amendment for 8325 Old Percival Road; TMS# 19813-01-02 **and** Ordinance No.: 2022-051 - Annexing 8325 Old Percival Road Richland County TMS# 19813-01-02.



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING & ORDINANCE FIRST READING

17. Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Proposed Budget Presentation - Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget, Program Management & Grants Director

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said each year we do something a little different like a budget open house where we had departments set up down in the gallery. We have done a budget in brief notebook. This year has been different as we are transitioning with the new Council. We have a narrative that we would like for you to utilize with your constituents. We will also go through the presentation and answer any questions you may have.

Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget, Program Management & Grants Director said as the budget is being presented, we would like to highlight those things that are significant to City Council and the budget. This budget is prepared with no property tax increase. There are no rate increases in water and sewer or in other areas. City Council is considering a competitive pay plan for the Police Department. Recruitment and retention for police has been a challenge. This pay plan will help recruit and retain our police positions. We have included a planned upgrade of body worn cameras and the interconnected system of the body cameras in the amount of \$400,000. The total budget is about \$1.1 million for that project. We have a grant for this first year of about \$700,000 to help offset some of the initial cost for the project. We will be completing the rollout of the citywide camera system upgrade in the amount of \$1.7 million. It is due to be online in October and is also reflected in the budget for the coming year. The accreditation renewal for our 911 Emergency Communication Center and our Fire Department is also reflected. The Fire Department will be going through a renewal process for their ISO, which is the insurance rating system. The city's ISO rating is one, which is the highest rating that can be achieved. That translates to our citizens as a savings on their insurance premiums. There are a number of operational increases in electricity and fuel. We have a number of departments in the general fund that have some maintenance and repair projects to various facilities, parks, and buildings in the amount of \$400,000. We are also continuing to transition to our no-kill shelter. That includes best practices like additional vaccines, as well as treatments for the animals when coming into the shelter. The Police Department has added an additional building to finish outfitting and furniture in the amount of \$75,000. Also included are additional police and crime scene specialized items in the amount of \$150,000. The fire extraction and safety equipment is included in the amount of \$200,000. Continuation of the capital replacement program in the general fund reflects a \$9 million capital lease program used for the annual replacement of vehicles and heavy equipment. That includes 119 vehicles and a ladder truck. The budget includes the restructure of the Economic Development Department, where we will focus on business recruitment and retention initiatives to promote a business friendly environment. In



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

regards to communications, we are focusing on the centralization of existing resources, citywide marketing, social media platforms, consistency, and branding. We have been able to consolidate some services and highlight certain areas that are of importance to this Council and the city manager.

The overall proposed budget for fiscal year 2022/2023 is \$391 million. This encompasses the operating funds, general fund, water and sewer, storm water, parking, accommodations tax, and hospitality tax. Water and sewer makes up about 48% of the total budget. The general fund makes up 42%. Our capital improvement program is proposed at \$52 million, which reflects \$13 million for water capital improvement programs, \$27 million for wastewater capital improvement programs, \$11 million for storm drains, and \$1 million for parking. The proposed general fund budget is \$164,810,594, which is a projected increase of \$9.2 million or 6% over the current year. Revenues are projected at \$141 million. The majority of our revenues in the general fund come from property taxes, licenses, and permits. Collectively, they make up over 50% of the total revenues.

Mayor Rickenmann asked how much the property tax collection is.

Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget, Program Management & Grants Director said the property tax revenue is \$62.9 million.

Councilor Duvall asked how much of the property tax is paid by the local option sales tax.

Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget, Program Management & Grants Director said the number is around \$29 million. Transfers-in total \$22.9 million, which is an increase of about 3.5% over the current year. This budget does include an allocation of \$3 million from fund balance and \$2 million from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. We are seeing a slight increase across all of our different revenue streams. The total increase in revenue is \$8.4 million.

Councilor Brennan said now that we have to meet the state format for business licenses, where is the revenue increase for business licenses going to fall?

Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget, Program Management & Grants Director said part of the reason for the 10% increase in business licenses is that last year's budget was lower than normal expectations because of COVID. Part of the increase is adjusting back to normal recommendations. The implementation of the business license module from the state leaves us revenue neutral. In regards to general fund expenditures, public safety makes up the majority of the city's general fund. Out of the \$164 million budget, \$75.7 million is for public safety which is



We Are Columbia

COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

49% of the total general fund budget. Operating expenses includes professional services, electricity, and things that are paid outside of the department. Service expenses would be supplies and consumables. Capital outlays would be vehicles, heavy equipment, and tools that are over \$5,000. We have debt service. Personnel services make up 24% of the general fund. Fringes make up 38% of the personnel budget. The general fund probably has the largest portion of personnel services in comparison to other categories.

Councilor McDowell asked about the 19.7% increase in general services.

Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget, Program Management & Grants Director said that reflects a couple of different adjustments across several different departments. That includes the Legislative/Mayor's Office, Central Administration, Human Resources Department, Public Relations, Finance, Information Technology and Legal. Part of that is the shifting of some services from other departments. There are technology additions for the City Clerk's Office. There was a 3% cost of living increase across all departments. That is now annualized in this coming year's budget. There is an addition of three positions for Code Enforcement to help address blight and nuisance enforcements. The Parks and Recreation Department is expanding their use of our CityWorks system, which is for remote work order management and inventory process. That is used in our Utilities Department and the Public Works Department. As we continue to expand on the use of that application across other departments, this will help them to be able to do remote work order processing in the field. Another part of the budget is the increase of the minimum hourly wage that was adjusted earlier this year to \$14.00 an hour. That is also impacting the general fund and departments. We do have funding for community promotions. These grants will be issued through a notice of funds available with direction from City Council. We will come back in a future budget workshop to discuss that process.

The proposed water and sewer operating fund budget is \$185 million. That is an increase of \$2.4 million over the current year. There is no proposed rate increase. Revenues reflect moderate growth and assume normal consumption levels across our current users. Water sales make up approximately 64% of the total water and sewer fund revenue streams. The operating budget expenditures reflect \$104 million in operating departments, which is 3% over the current year. The operating budget includes the continued provision of essential services, making sure that we are meeting our regulatory compliance improvements in our customer service areas, appropriate staffing levels, and the use of contractors to address potential service areas and gaps. Out of the \$185 million budget, debt service makes up \$48 million of the total budget for existing debt.



We Are Columbia

**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022**

Council Duvall said we are making a mistake by not having a modest increase in the water and sewer rates. We are in a period of great inflation that is causing all cost of our operations to be increased. They have already told us that the cost of some of the chemicals have doubled in the last few months, and you look at the cost of gas to operate those things. If you don't do a modest increase this year, you are going to be looking at a much higher increase in the near future. You also have the ISO inspection coming up. Water service is a big part of the ISO and the ISO rating impacts our citizens more than anything else that we do as a city government. It's going to be important for us to have the capability to maintain that one or you are going to see a 20% increase in the insurance program. I also worry about the capital improvement plan. The capital improvement plan has been \$120 million a year. We are going down to \$40 million this year. We cannot operate these major utilities without keeping up with the cost of doing business. Once we get into the budget year, we need to go back and look at the financing available to Columbia Water to see if we are providing them with the tools necessary to do the job. Another expense is the taste and odor problem caused by the algae. That is not going to be cheap if we want to put some infrastructure in to take care of that.

Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget, Program Management & Grants Director said the Utilities Department is the largest consumer of the water and sewer operating budget, which includes the operation of two water plants, the wastewater plant, maintenance divisions, compliance, and other functions. The transfers-out total \$29.7 million. Of that amount, \$22 million is for water and sewer capital improvements. The stormwater program budget is \$16.1 million, an increase of about 3% over the current year's budget. The primary source of the stormwater budget is from the stormwater fee. We suspended the fifth year of the rate increase for stormwater as we continue to evaluate where we are with cash, future projects, and the overall capital improvement program. The stormwater fund includes the functions and departments that help maintain our stormwater system, which primarily includes Public Works and Engineering. The operating department's budget is \$7.8 million, which is a 5% increase over the current year. Debt service is right at \$2.5 million based on existing debt and the existing debt schedule for payments. Transfers out total \$5.7 million of which \$5 million is for the stormwater capital improvement program. Our parking fund budget is \$10.2 million. This budget does not reflect any use of ARPA funds. This is based on revenues of the system. Parking meters and parking decks make up the majority of the total budget. We have utilized \$1 million from the parking fund balance in order to approve funds for a capital improvement program in our parking system. Parking fund expenditures include our parking operations department, support services, and parking facilities. Operations include the addition of two parking decks that are scheduled to open this fiscal year. Debt service is \$3 million and that is based on existing debt. The transfer out is \$500,000 to the general fund, which is the same as current year levels.



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

This year's capital improvement program includes improvements for the water system, wastewater system, stormwater, and parking. The total proposed capital improvement program is \$13 million: 62% for water quality projects and 19% for water treatment plant improvements. The water and sewer system exceeds well beyond the city's corporate limits and covers a much broader area. Our wastewater improvement program is proposed at \$27 million: 61% for projects attributed to capacity, 12% for rehabilitation of the system, and 4% for various plant improvements at the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant. The stormwater capital improvement program is within city limits and it is proposed at \$11 million.

The parking system capital improvement program is \$1 million, which includes the replacement of elevators at two of our parking garages and exterior painting at two additional parking garages. There is additional maintenance in the operating budget for parking facilities.

The hospitality tax budget is \$12.7 million, which is an increase of 2.7% over the current year. The accommodations tax is \$2.6 million. This budget is adjusted to reflect pre-pandemic levels and is based on activity that we are seeing in actual collections of the hospitality tax. We are in line with pre-pandemic levels of growth. We also did not include any use of ARPA in this proposed budget. City Council has already allocated \$3 million of this proposed budget for the hospitality tax committee. They are holding their first of three day meetings starting today. The remaining \$3.5 million is available for additional City Council initiatives that have yet to be determined. The transfer to the general fund is remaining at current year levels of \$3.7 million. Debt service is based on \$2.5 million. That is based on existing debt service schedules.

The accommodations tax budget is \$2.6 million. The collections come in every quarter. Revenue collections through this year are more than pre-pandemic levels. Expenditures for the accommodations tax fund are based on state law: \$25,000 to the general fund; 5% for general purpose of which \$40,000 has been included as part of the community promotions grants; and the rest is available for allocations pending City Council consideration. The committee has \$2.5 million available. The committee has also met and recommendations will be forthcoming to City Council for review and approval. Those allocations are also based on state law: 65% for tourism and 30% for marketing and promotion for tourism. That concludes the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020/2023 for the city of Columbia. We certainly do appreciate all of your attention and time that you have dedicated to the budget this year.

Councilor Taylor said I still have concerns with the escalation of hiring 400 employees during the next year when we have worked pretty good this year to knock down water maintenance work.



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said it is really more like 328 employees for next fiscal year. The 400 is reflective of the vacancies that are in the budget from May. Going forward, we have eliminated 52 positions. The vacancy number fluctuates every day.

Council opened the public hearing at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Raj Aluri, International Friendship Ministries said thank you for supporting the Columbia International Festival. I have been volunteering for this event for 27 years and a resident of Columbia for 46 years. Columbia is multicultural, multilingual, multi-ethnic, and has all the diversity you can find in any place in the world. I think about 200 nationalities are represented in Columbia. I can't think of any other event that defines us more as a city than the Columbia International Festival. About 7% of all the employment in our state is created by foreign manufacturing companies. At one point, South Carolina was the largest state in the country that attracted more foreign investments than any other state. People come to Columbia because of the diversity we have. The city can completely sustain the festival because the event is for the city.

Voicemail from Ms. Tracy, North Columbia Civic Club: I see safe communities in the budget as a complete rollout of city security camera systems. Cameras will not stop gun violence. We need programs for our youth. We need to keep them engaged to prevent them from engaging with people who create gun violence. Please, in this budget write something clearly addressing gun violence. I see 64 police cars being replaced. That is a lot of cars for staff that is shorthanded right now. Help us alleviate gun violence in Columbia.

Council closed the public hearing at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Rickenmann said thank you for your comments. We are funding multiple programs, not only through our Police Department but with our Parks and Recreation Department. An Office of Gun Violence Prevention will be rolling out later on along with announcements of different grants and efforts that we are working on. This is a community issue that needs to be a partnership by all: parents, community leaders, and churches. This is not just a law enforcement or government issue; this is a citywide issue. We look forward to working with you and other folks in the neighborhoods to continue to make an effort to prevent gun violence.

Councilor Herbert said police cars are actually important assets for our officers to have. We are not putting cars over people, but those help our guys patrol better. It is something that helps them in their service.



**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022**

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18. 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 – *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.: 2022-052 - To Raise Revenue and Adopt the Budget for the City of Columbia, South Carolina for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023.

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

19. 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 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to 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.

20. 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 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to 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.



We Are Columbia

**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022**

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21. 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 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to 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.

22. 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 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to 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.

23. 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 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to 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.

Councilor Taylor said thank you to the Economic and Community Development Committee and to our staff. For too long we have been unfair to small businesses. This is a great equalizer and it will save startup businesses as much as \$35,000 of dead costs. This is a great step forward.

Mayor Rickenmann said this is one of the things that we heard a lot about from smaller businesses trying to make investments across our community. I am excited that we were able to



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

get to this point and allow folks to make an investment here without such a great hurdle. Thanks to the economic development team that worked so hard.

RESOLUTIONS

24. Resolution No.: R-2022-045 - 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 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations to the list of agencies – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2022-045 - 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 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations to the list of agencies.

25. Resolution No.: R-2022-048 - Amending Resolution No.: R-2020-015 Adopting City of Columbia Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Forgivable Loan Program – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2022-048 - Amending Resolution No.: R-2020-015 Adopting City of Columbia Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Forgivable Loan Program.

Councilor Taylor said this is another one that will benefit small businesses. Historically, we have limited our program to local businesses. This opens it up to all businesses. We are working towards a rebate program that will let us do more without a net fiscal impact to the city. For small businesses and new businesses, this makes it easier and better to open here than other places.

Councilor McDowell commended Chief Holbrook and his team for acting in a very fiduciary way while talking through some of the issues that members of our city brought to your attention. So I want to just say thanks for the ability and the openness to hear what they had to say and to respond in a way that hopefully will lead to some resolution and efforts to decrease gun violence.



We Are Columbia

COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

EVENT RESOLUTIONS

26. Resolution No.: R-2022-043 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only within the 1700 block of Main Street between Laurel Street and Blanding Street for System Overload on Saturday, August 13, 2022 – *Deferred*

APPOINTMENTS

27. Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee – *Deferred*
28. Climate Protection Action Committee – *Deferred*
29. Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Patrick McLean and Johnston Cox to the Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission for a term of three years.

30. Food Policy Committee – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Rickenmann and seconded by Ms. Herbert, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Becca Smith to the Food Policy Committee for a term of two years.

OTHER MATTERS

31. Council is asked to approve traffic calming measures for the Earlewood neighborhood to include four 4-way stops and a neighborhood-wide speed limit of 25 mph with the exception of River Drive and Sunset Drive, as requested by the Earlewood Community Citizens Organization. – *Approved as amended.*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Rickenmann and seconded by Ms. Herbert, Council voted unanimously to approve traffic calming measures for the Earlewood neighborhood to include four 4-way stops. Consideration of the neighborhood-wide speed limit of 25 mph was deferred.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REFERRALS, REPORTS AND NEW BUSINESS

Refer to the Administrative Committee a discussion in regards to all the boards, commissions, and committees to make sure the bylaws are representative of what our functions are today and discuss the different positions required by some committees to see if there are any changes needed.

32. Lock It Up Campaign - The Honorable Aditi Bussells

Councilor Bussells said I received a letter from a constituent that inspired this campaign. It says: “Greetings Councilwoman Bussells. I’m a constituent of yours from the Hamptons/Old Woodlands Neighborhood. In light of the most recent heartbreaking mass shootings, I’m reaching out to you to urge measures on combating gun violence. It seems to have permeated our city and our nation as a whole. I’d love to see more accountability from our state senators and leaders in support of common sense gun reform laws. I have written to my state delegation sharing my thoughts on this matter, and I hope you will support these initiatives too. While we wait for action, if any, I’m hoping as a representative of our city that you can strategize and be a part of the solution by supporting initiatives locally that help reduce gun violence. I am concerned about the access at which children have to guns. It has been reported that 40% of gun owners do not lock up their guns and that the presence of a child in the home did not make a difference. One study found that households that locked both firearms and ammunition were associated with a 78% lower risk of self-inflicted firearm injuries and 85% lower risk of unintentional harm. Upon researching methods of what a city our size could take to reduce gun violence, I recommend a gun storage initiative with a social media campaign, a gun storage event, as well as awareness and the expansion of mental health resources which you all are already doing and the expansion of youth programs. I’ve seen some of this already within the City of Columbia. Keep it up”. I really appreciate this constituent reaching out, doing the research, and sharing some of her ideas and solutions. I was able to sit down with chief, our Parks and Recreation Department, ACM Henry, and the PR Department to start thinking about what a campaign would look like. I’m very excited to share with you all today that we will be launching a Lock It Up Campaign that will be a comprehensive effort from the city to help our constituents and our community understand the risks associated with leaving firearms unlocked. If you look at gun violence specifically associated with children here in South Carolina, we have about 59% related to them having access to guns within their own home. Over the next several months, we will be looking to talk about why it’s important to store firearms safely and safe storage device options. This will be in addition to continuing to share resources around youth engagement, summer programs, and all of the options that we have available as a part of our city. We will be providing free gun locks at some of our events while sharing resources that we know



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

are evidence based and can help reduce gun violence. We recognize that this is one piece and as the constituent said, this is just one piece that the city can do. I'm looking forward to working with my colleagues. Many of whom have many other initiatives in the works to continue to address violence in the city of Columbia.

33. Neighborhood Slow Zones - The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor

Mayor Rickenmann said traffic is one of the conversations that all of us have on a daily basis with our constituents. As we move forward over the next 30 to 45 days, we will present a formal presentation to Council in regards to neighborhood slow zones. To improve safety in our neighborhoods, schools, and entertainment districts we would like to start neighborhood slow zones to create safe road conditions for walking, biking, and quality of life. We can achieve a reduction in traffic speeds using a variety of traffic calming techniques. While certain speed controls alter the configuration of roads, other methods can change how people psychologically perceive and respond to a street. We will establish neighborhood zones, collector streets, safety zones around schools and parks, and slow zones around our entertainment districts. We will implement slower speeds using calming measures, such as medians, pinch points, parking curbs, alternating lanes, lane shifting, speed platforms, diversion breaks, speed cushions, and urban traffic calming paintings that have been used in a lot of different situations and produced incredible outcomes. We will be creative to provide a comprehensive calming plan to apply across the city, but specifically tailored to the streets in the corridors for the needs within our neighborhoods, entertainment districts, and school zones.

34. Central Midlands Council of Governments May 26, 2022 Meeting – *Received as information.*

35. Task Force to Prevent and End Homelessness May 18, 2022 Meeting - The Honorable Aditi Bussells

Councilor Bussells said we had our first task force meeting on May 18, 2022. It was a very engaging discussion. We started with a brief discussion about existing ordinances, as well as the ways in which our city funds various services. On average, the city funds \$3 million towards homeless services. There are a lot of different factors connected to homelessness and perhaps some of our other initiatives indirectly address the issue as well. We had a discussion about what is really going to be this committee's work. We also received a comprehensive update from Chief Holbrook around CPD data and the rates of homelessness that they are seeing as they are engaging with the public. We ended with a discussion about how we really make our goals achievable, knowing that homelessness is multifaceted and it is an issue that has a lot of different



We Are Columbia

COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

solutions. The next meeting will be on June 29, 2022 to continue to narrow down and develop our goals and really think about the best ways that we can continue to address homelessness through our priorities and funding mechanisms.

36. Tax Modernization Committee May 19, 2022 Meeting - The Honorable Joe E. Taylor, Jr.

Councilor Taylor said we have the draft recommendations for the mayor. We will spend the summer meeting with various stakeholders throughout the county. We plan to come back in September where the mayor will make a recommendation for an implementation committee to move forward. I'm very pleased to see the traction. The discussion of our uncompetitive tax rates are occurring in the press and in the county. This could be the most transformational thing we have seen in Richland County in decades if we can bring it to fruition.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said I wanted to look at the schedule to give us some direction for next week. Right now, you all have a council work session on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 3 p.m. The mayor and I have been trying to look at scheduling earlier today. There are several items slated for work sessions like follow up items to things that will be moving forward in the new budget year, hospitality tax, accommodations tax, the tourism development fee and statutes, and getting information from legal on the tourism development fee. There has also been the discussion of a community promotions notice of funds availability that Council may be interested in doing. We were directed to put together the potential requirements of such. The mayor and I talked about the possibility of rescheduling the July 19, 2022 meeting to a different date in July. We had talked about a work session in July. We have a work session next week, which we can use for any of the items that I noted for you.

The consensus of Council is to move the July 19, 2022 work session to July 26, 2022 at 2 p.m. then have the regular scheduled council meeting. The June 28, 2022 work session will be cancelled and the Administrative Policy Committee meeting will be scheduled for 3 p.m. on June 28, 2022.

PUBLIC INPUT

Ms. Tracy Jones-Ross, Founder and CEO of Shepherds Transformation Matching Communities (STMC) said we are here from Washington State to introduce our nonprofit that we would like to bring to South Carolina. STMC was established off my lived experiences as an incest and molestation survivor. I entered into foster care at the age of 15. While serving our country, I became a survivor of sexual assault by a Sergeant in the military. This caused Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. I was put on a medication that caused me to be homeless for three years. During



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022

my homelessness, I met many women; some hiding from sex traffickers, and some from domestic violence but there was one thing that we all had in common, we could not afford housing. Our vision at STMC is to provide affordable housing with onsite self-sufficient wraparound services: transportation, daycare, a learning center, and a fellowship club for our youth. We are asking for donations and to partner with agencies that are helping to end homelessness like the city of Columbia, Department of Commerce, addiction and mental health agencies, local churches, and youth programs that are currently running in the city. We would like for neighborhoods that want to bring our concept to their community, to give us a call so that we can have a community listening session. I look forward to making contact and partnering with you guys.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mayor Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. for the discussion of **Item 37**.

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

Executive Management and Leasing, Inc.

ADJOURNMENT

City Council adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk