



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia City Council conducted a Work Session on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and the following members were present: The Honorable Howard E. Duvall, Jr., The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., The Honorable William Brennan, The Honorable Aditi Bussells, The Honorable Tina N. Herbert, and The Honorable Peter M. Brown. Also present were Mr. Jeff Palen, Assistant City Manager of Financial Services and Chief Financial Officer and Ms. Erika D. Moore Hammond, City Clerk. The 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.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr. offered the invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

1. American Rescue Plan Act Budget - Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget, Program Management and Grants Director

Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget, Program Management and Grants Director presented Resolution 2023-055 to accept the American Rescue Plan Funds as well as adopt the proposed spending plan for the budget. She reviewed the origin, purpose, and required guidelines of the funds. ARPA Funds are used to: replace lost public sector revenue, support public health expenditures, address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, provide premium pay for essential workers, and invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. The City received \$27 million over a two year period. We received the first half of \$13 million in June of 2021 and the second half in June 2022. We also received an allocation of HOME ARPA Funds of \$2.5 million administered by Community Development specifically for affordable housing. In addition, the State of South Carolina comparatively received \$2.5 billion, which most of that allocation was used for the South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) Grant. The City has received an award of \$10 million for the Lower Crane Creek Equalization Storage Project. The City has received \$40 million through this program.



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The City Council established goals for utilizing these funds as one-time funds to minimize future budget burdens and cover deficits resulting from the pandemic. The focus was on immediate needs, restoring city services, and creating sustainable solutions without ongoing financial commitments. Some of the approved allocations included vaccine incentives, Police Department initiatives, demolition of hazardous properties, and COVID-19-related expenses.

The proposed allocations covered a continuation of existing projects and the addition of affordable housing construction and rehabilitation, park facility improvements, grant programs, and more. The federal funds must be committed and expended by December 2026, and compliance with federal requirements is crucial. Approximately \$17.5 million has been allocated and approved for various projects under the mentioned categories, leaving \$9.6 million to be proposed and allocated. Adjustments were made to the figures related to the City's Commercial Retention and Redevelopment (CRR) Program. There was a commitment of \$150,000 over the next three years recommended from the Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee from last June, in relation to the Lourie Center and Senior Resources unification.

Mayor Rickenmann said the only adjustment I see is for the JAG program. You need to add two more years, so it's \$160,000.

Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget, Program Management and Grants Director said we do have a little bit of contingency that we can make adjustments to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 2:22 p.m. for the discussion of Items 2 and 3.

2. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
 - Soda City
 - Finlay Park
 3. Receipt of legal advice relating to matters covered by attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
 - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
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Council adjourned Executive Session at 3:03 p.m.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 3:04 p.m. for the discussion of item 51 as outlined on the July 18, 2023 Council Meeting agenda.

4. Receipt of legal advice relating to a pending, threatened or potential claim pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
 - *Sandra Daniels v. City of Columbia*
 - *William Bolchoz vs. South Carolina Department of Transportation, Town of Forest Acres and City of Columbia*
 - *Douglas Luviano v. City of Columbia*
 - *Constan Carwash*

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk