



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020

The Columbia City Council conducted a virtual Emergency Meeting on Thursday, August 27, 2020 using video conferencing technology. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Howard E. Duvall, Jr., The Honorable Mayor Pro-Tempore Edward H. McDowell, Jr., The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, and The Honorable William Brennan. The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine was absent. Also present were Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore Hammond, City Clerk. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

INVOCATION

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda, subject to adding an Executive Session discussion for the receipt of legal advice related to matters covered by attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2) – COVID-19.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 10:09 p.m. for the receipt of legal advice related to matters covered by attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2) – COVID-19.

Council adjourned the Executive Session at 11:01 a.m.

ORDINANCE - SECOND READING

1. Ordinance 2020-077 Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 5, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article VIII, Rental Housing Regulations, Sec. 5-330 Violations and assignment of violations (d)(1)(d) - *First reading approval was given on August 18, 2020 – Approved on second reading.*

Mayor Benjamin said we all recognize the significant efforts being made by this Council, our business community, and students and faculty of the University. We need everyone to step up their game to slow down this rapidly growing public health threat. This is a step in the right direction.



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Councilor Rickenmann asked City Manager Wilson to reach out to the University and ask them to provide a list of events and gathering opportunities and what they have planned for the students they have brought back to campus. What plans have they made to accommodate the students?

Councilor Brennan reiterated that we are all in this together. I want to thank the property managers and landlords for helping us educate tenants. We will provide an informative one-pager for them to share with their tenants. We need their help in curbing COVID-19 locally. It will be available online and our Code Enforcement Division will email it to registered landlords.

Mayor Benjamin added that we have been working closely with the University, Benedict, and other colleges. It would be helpful to have their response plans to suppress the growth of the virus. Thank you all for your continued leadership. Ms. Devine had a professional commitment today.

Councilor McDowell asked how we will communicate with property owners who live out of town.

Mr. David Hatcher, Housing Official / Columbia Police Department agreed to send letters to all registered property managers.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to Ordinance 2020-077 Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 5, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article VIII, Rental Housing Regulations, Sec. 5-330 Violations and assignment of violations (d)(1)(d).

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk