



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

The Columbia City Council conducted a meeting on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at the Busby Street Community Center, 1735 Busby Street, Columbia, SC 29203. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 2:14 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, 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. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Council is asked to approve the September 7, 2021 City Council Meeting and September 8, 2021 Emergency Meeting Minutes. – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve the September 7, 2021 City Council Meeting and September 8, 2021 Emergency Meeting Minutes.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Recognition of Ms. Vickie Shockley, Human Resources Specialist - Ms. Pamela Benjamin, CPM, Chief of Staff – *Received as information. No action was taken.*

Ms. Pamela Benjamin, CPM, Chief of Staff said I want to thank the Mayor, Council and Ms. Wilson for giving me the opportunity to say thank you to Ms. Vicki Shockley for over 30 years of service. Vicki was hired in 1989 and she has spent all of her career in HR. She has spent her



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

life helping us through our life changes with a smile on her face and in the best spirit. She has provided really exceptional customer service. Vicky exemplifies all of the things that the City holds valuable such as hard work, dedication and service. We wanted to recognize her service and let her know that we will miss her.

Mayor Benjamin said thank you so much on behalf of the city and all the men and women you helped along the way. I can't imagine how many journeys you've helped shape. Thank you and may God bless you.

3. Vote 411 Update - Mrs. Lady June Cole, PhD., President and Mrs. Keller Barron, Co-Chair of Vote 411 / League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area – *Received as information. No action was taken.*

Mrs. Lady June Cole, PhD., President of League of Women Voters said we want to promote informed voters and we want to give candidates the opportunity to share their insights, their views, and values on the 411 platform. This platform was designed specifically to help voters get information on candidates.

Mrs. Keller Barron, Co-Chair of Vote 411 said you know that we have elections coming up and you may know who is running, but there are some people who don't know who is running and why. The League of Women Voters, a hundred-year-old nonpartisan organization, is trying to help the voters through a very successful website: www.vote411.org. We are asking the candidates to tell us about themselves, their motivation for running, what they see as the most pressing problems, solutions, and funding. We are getting the word out wherever we have an opportunity. This information is free to the voter and to the candidates. Go to the website, put in your address and find what is on your ballot. There are four candidates for mayor and two have filled out the information. We have seven at large candidates and only one has responded. We have heard from both district one candidates and the district four candidate. Voters in the City of Columbia have a very important responsibility, not only to 150,000 persons within the city limits but downstate. We can be the gold standard for city government. The voters need to hear from all candidates and we look forward to the responses. Let's make democracy work together.

Mayor Benjamin said thank you for the work that the league continues to do across the state; always doing good in making sure people are engaged and know what is happening, especially in this incredible year in which we are dealing with redistricting and reapportionment. Thank you for your continued and constant leadership.



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

4. Public Safety Update – *Received as information. No action was taken.*

Mr. William “Skip” Holbrook, Police Chief / Columbia Police Department highlighted three command staff promotions. Chris White was recently promoted to the rank of major. Chris will celebrate 26 years with the Columbia Police Department next month. Chris has been instrumental in the department’s efforts to prevent crime in North Columbia. He has fostered long lasting and valuable community relationships while serving with community partners such as Serve and Connect, Harvest Hope, the North Columbia Business Association, Columbia Council of Neighborhoods and a number of churches. The next staff promotion is Chris Roberts who has been promoted to the rank of major. Chris is a 24-year veteran of the Columbia Police Department. For 12 years, Chris served as a SWAT operator and a SWAT supervisor leading many high risk operations, which resulted in the safe apprehension of some of our city's most violent offenders. Chris was a liaison between the police department and the many neighborhoods. He was instrumental in developing our response to homeless concerns and issues we face in our business areas. In his most recent role as captain, Chris has established a new alcohol team and coordinated a successfully executed alcohol safety enforcement plan in Five Points, the Vista, and the Main Street corridor. It is also my pleasure and privilege to introduce you to Captain Cynthia Waggoner who is a 16-year veteran of the Columbia Police Department. She was named rookie of the year in 2006 while assigned to patrol in the Metro Region. In 2011, she was promoted to the rank of corporal and she became the first female corporal on the canine unit. During the recent CPD awards ceremony, she received a medal of valor for her actions during the May 2020 civil unrest after helping an injured officer that was surrounded by violent protestors. In addition to these three appointments, a promotional process is also underway for the ranks of corporal, investigator, sergeant, and lieutenant. We partnered with the Richland County Public Library to provide assistance with study materials, resume writing, and suggested readings. I want to introduce our Pathways Unit. The team is comprised of Ms. Angela Anderson and Master Police Officer Chris Boiling. The Pathways Unit is a collaboration between the South Carolina Department of Mental Health and the Columbia Police Department. This team will respond to situations involving persons in mental distress or crisis. Angela, the embedded clinician, has over 17 years of service with various service organizations. MPO Boiling has nine years of service with the Columbia Police Department. He is a crisis intervention trained officer, a field training officer, and a police bike instructor. He is instrumental in building community partnerships with the many businesses and service providers operating in the downtown business corridor. He has gained a reputation for being professional, fair and working with empathy and respect.



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

The U.S. has had a sharp increase in murder and gun violence in 2020. This trend has continued and intensified in 2021. Recently, I participated in a press conference with Chief Keel with the State Law Enforcement Division, where he indicated murders have increased 25% last year and 51% over the last five years. This year it's trending in the same direction. This year in Columbia, we have seen some increases as well but we have also seen some positive signs. Although violent crime is up 8%, property crime is trending down 6%, and our overall crime is trending down 4%. However, gun crimes remain an issue that we must address with urgency. Persons hit and shootings have increased by 15 incidents from last year. We had 51 in 2020 compared to 66 this year. Nonfatal shootings have increased by 16 incidents; 39 in 2020 compared to 55 this year. However, gun murders have decreased from 12 in 2020 to 11 this year. Firearm possession charges have increased steadily since 2016, especially since we have established a crime gun intelligence unit. Gun seizures are tracking similarly and are projected to meet or exceed previous year seizures of 852. Again, this is due to the emphasis we have placed on identifying prolific violent offenders who carry or shoot guns. ShotSpotter® continues to complement our crime gun intelligence unit efforts. To date we have received over a 1,000 alerts, made 23 arrests, seized 40 guns, and recovered almost 2,000 shell casings from the ShotSpotter® coverage area. We have test fired 457 seized guns and entered 521 fired casings into our national ballistics information system. We will continue to leverage technology and focus on partnerships, people, places, and behavior. We will do this while maintaining a focus on the small percent that we know are committing most of our violent crimes. We will maintain balance between law enforcement and intervention programs. We will look to partnerships with groups like the National Network for Safer Communities, the Turning Leaf Project, and Sowing Seeds.

From the moment I was sworn in 2014, staffing has been an issue and an impediment to the speed of progress and advancement of this agency. With that said, the support and willingness of the manager, the mayor, and council to find pathways for salary increases and incentives over the years has been unwavering and very much appreciated and recognized by our staff. However, we haven't moved the needle like we would like. Over the last seven and a half years, we have had an authorized strength ranging from 408 to our current strength of 436. Vacancies have averaged about 71 a year with the highest being this year at 93. Hiring has been consistent, averaging 40 officers hired annually. It is important to note that in 2016, we were awarded a cops grant of 15 positions and then in 2018 we absorbed 10 court positions. Our current vacancies for frontline patrol services is at 52. I have three recommendations. One, the capital city should have the highest paid municipal police department. There is no other city in our state with a jurisdiction containing state government, our flagship state university, Allen University, Benedict College, Midlands Tech, Fort Jackson training facility, and a daily population fluctuation of approximately 68,000 people. We live in a vibrant, diverse, and growing city with unique challenges and service demands. We should lead in annual compensation for sworn and civilian



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

professional staff. Two, we need to have one-to-one take home cars for our officers. This is keeping in line with our neighboring jurisdictions and jurisdictions that oftentimes pluck our seasoned officers. Three, we have to invest in facilities. Work conditions and design of facilities impacts morale, pride, communication, and efficiency. Our officers do courageous and great things every single day. They put their lives on the line and at the same time they have the same responsibilities we all have at home and that sometimes gets forgotten.

Councilor Devine said thank you so much Chief for that comprehensive report and the recommendations. Thank you for what you guys do. This year has been challenging for everybody, but especially for law enforcement. On top of COVID, we forget the racial unrest that was happening over the country in the last year and a half. We had officers retire and some people leave the profession but you guys have stayed the course and continue to improve on what we have. I want to shout out Angela. She came on and hit the ground running. Most of you know that I do legal work in mental health so I see our citizens who are dealing with mental distress on a daily basis. I see the impact that this has particularly in our community downtown, Five Points, and the Vista. Having Angela and MPO Boiling will be a tremendous impact but as a city we also need to expand that unit. We have got to be able to address the needs of our citizens who are having mental health challenges. I know you talked about the number of officers who have crisis intervention training (CIT). Yesterday, the Department of Mental Health committed to help train all officers if we can follow up on that. We have to make sure that we are working with our partners and hold them accountable. This should not be all on law enforcement. If we can just continue to do that so that our officers are not only trained in crisis intervention but that they have the resources when someone does not. Most of these people do not belong in jail and we need to be able to get them to where they need to be; off the streets in a facility that will help them. What would it take to get to the one-to-one car recommendation?

Mr. William "Skip" Holbrook, Police Chief / Columbia Police Department said that is a fluid number considering vacancies. We are slated for approximately 30 vehicles this fiscal year. We think another 30 vehicles will get us to where we need to be with also taking some of our older cars that have exceeded their shelf life.

Councilor McDowell said the introduction of ShotSpotter[®] in districts one and two has been tremendous. The data proves that it works. At some point in time are we thinking about expanding into other areas?

Mr. William "Skip" Holbrook, Police Chief / Columbia Police Department said my suggestion is to always follow the data and put technology where it's needed. An important takeaway from any discussion we have with our strategy is how we are leveraging technology. There is a sharp



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

upward trajectory across this nation. Unfortunately, we have often talked about how we have always been twice the national average. We want to affect that and we feel we have some processes and systems in place between the ShotSpotter®, the incredible surveillance camera project that we're getting ready to roll out, our license plate readers, the situational awareness board, and our real-time crime center. That is really going to position us well to be responsive and be able to quickly get to the bottom of some of our serious crimes.

Councilor McDowell said the two majors and the captain all have community experience and that is admirable as it relates to them interacting with the community. I thank you for them and for what they will bring.

Mr. William "Skip" Holbrook, Police Chief / Columbia Police Department said we lost 50 years of experience with two majors leaving and we replaced them with 50 years of experience. We are getting ready to engage with our CALEA accreditation recertification in the next month and one of the things that we send our assessors is our command staff and executive staff. We have a very diverse command staff and executive staff and I think that is important for a healthy organization.

Mayor Benjamin said I wound up on a Washington Post panel earlier this year. It was the observation that in midsize and large cities all across the country last year, we saw a massive spike and in some places a 100% spike in violent crimes and homicides. The reason I was asked to be on the call is because we saw the exact opposite in Columbia. That is so important to note and it is because of the innovative and thoughtful leadership of Chief Holbrook and his staff that Columbia is trending in the right direction. We are seeing the commitment to lifelong learning in these three promotions highlighted today. I am really thankful for your continued leadership. I am convinced that this focus on behavioral health, leveraging technology as a force multiplier, and making sure we are delivering an equitable system of justice with 21st century policing into our communities is encouraging. You are working in historically challenging times but I am convinced we have the right men and women on deck.

Mr. Aubrey Jenkins, Fire Chief / Columbia-Richland Fire Department said we have some new positions added. One of the positions is the Fire Accreditation/Community Risk Reduction Chief. This will greatly help us to identify significant risks that impact the citizens and the services of the Fire Department and implement those strategies. The other position is Fire Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Repair Technician. This position is vital to our continued efforts to reduce the potential cancer exposure to personnel. Along with instituting a more comprehensive cleaning and care program over time this will: reduce cost of repair, extend the life of the existing gear, and establish clear guidance to our cleaning, repair, and decontamination



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

procedures. This position will save us a tremendous amount of money and will pay for itself. We have established FLOW: Family Life Officer Wellness, a program for the mental well-being of our personnel and their families. We are going through a pandemic and we all have COVID fatigue, but we have to continue to respond so we want to make sure that all of our firefighters and their families are doing well mentally. We have 508 full time positions. Out of those, 54 are non-suppression positions, which means administration, training, fire prevention, and logistics. From these, 32 positions are 50/50; the city provides 50% of the funding and the county provides the other 50%. We have 454 suppression positions: 221.5 belong to the city and 232.5 belong to the county. Anytime there are recruits in class, those positions are charged as 50/50 until their assignment post-graduation. At the time when we put this document together we had 19 suppression open positions: one captain, ten engineers, and eight combination. As of 9/20/2021 we lost another eight positions due to retirement, termination, and one death. Starting pay for a firefighter is set at \$33,669.36 annually. This equates to \$12 an hour. This salary is based on the firefighter working a 106-hour fire shift schedule. This means that when on shift, the firefighter would be paid an overtime rate (1.5) once they exceed 106 hours in a 14-day pay cycle. However, when in recruit school, we must work the recruits on a 40-hour schedule and overtime is incurred after exceeding the 40-hour threshold in a week. This equates to \$16 an hour but once they graduate and go to shift work they work a little over 2,700 hours a year at a little over \$12 an hour.

Councilor Rickenmann said it does not matter how you dice or slice the pay it comes down to about \$12.50 an hour and that is something we have to examine.

Mr. Aubrey Jenkins, Fire Chief / Columbia-Richland Fire Department said when we talk about our attrition rate, number of losses divided by full staffing of 454 positions, we are averaging 11.31%. We should only be around 3% to really keep a vibrant department. For 2021 we are averaging 8.59%. If you include the eight positions lost, that will increase to 10.35%. I expect to have other retirements by the end of the year so that is going to push our attrition rate even higher. There are some ways we can combat that but pay is always an issue. We have had firefighters leave, not to another fire department, but to another agency or store paying \$15 an hour working only 80 hours opposed to working 106 hours every two weeks. We do some of the best training in the state. We train our firefighters well and they become very marketable. Literally, everybody wants them. We have had people come to the station from other departments to try and recruit our firefighters. I think we have some great opportunities for advancement but when we start talking about the lack of pay that is a real conversation to be had. We don't borrow equipment; we demo equipment because we don't want to buy something we can't use. In regards to our facilities, we have to make sure that the living conditions are up to par. We can do this and plan for you all to fund a minimum of \$1.5 million and that is only going



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

to put a band-aid on it. Over the course of the next six years we can really invest in our fire stations and make them model stations. All of our stations need some serious work done. We have a duty to make sure that where firefighters live one third of their lives is up to par.

Councilor McDowell said I want to make sure we continue to emphasize the issue of fire equipment.

Mr. Aubrey Jenkins, Fire Chief / Columbia-Richland Fire Department said that is included. Currently, we have some firefighters still working that have had cancer so we do have testimonies.

Councilor Devine said you mentioned the fire stations condition and I know over the last two years the fire marshals have done a whole lot more with inspections. Have you done an assessment on the increase of work and whether or not there is a need to increase your total strength of the fire department in various positions?

Mr. Aubrey Jenkins, Fire Chief / Columbia-Richland Fire Department said yes, right now we are working on our staffing model. The staffing model would tell us exactly how many positions we need and how many bodies I need to put in one position. As you continue to annex, it really puts a strain on our fire marshals.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said I am thankful for the Fire Advisory Committee that Chief Jenkins leads with members of City Council and County Council being reinstituted. That is how we can make progress with some of these issues so we can tackle staffing, equipment, and facilities prior to the budget process for both the city and the county. We can take recommendations to the committee so we can work through them. There needs to be better communication with the chief from County Council in regards to their expectations of facilities and staffing so that when he gets the county budget it is indicative of what we were expecting financially. I am hoping that would be a good working group that can provide the chief, the county administrator, and me some directions.

Mayor Benjamin said your team has really stepped up in so many different ways we never could have anticipated over the last year and a half. We are thankful for the leadership of the firefighters and fire marshals. I know this has been a very difficult week with the losses of Chief Joseph C. Desso and Chaplain Billie Bright. It has been difficult and we will keep their families in our prayers. Our two chiefs have probably been on the news more than anyone else and we couldn't be better served by Chief Jenkins and Chief Holbrook out front representing this municipal corporation. Thank you for your constant, compassionate, and thoughtful leadership.



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

5. COVID-19 Update - The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin – *Received as information. No action was taken.*

Mayor Benjamin said we all have been following the data and it is encouraging that we see a slight dip in hospitalizations. It is important to note that we are also seeing more people dying. We are still in incredibly perilous times and the impact on our city family has been difficult for all of us.

- *COVID-19 Situational Report - Mr. Harry Tinsley, Emergency Management Director*

Mr. Harry Tinsley, Emergency Management Director said staff continues to work on vaccine clinics throughout the city. There is one today at Melrose Park in partnership with DHEC. We have another one on Thursday at Woodland Park in partnership with DHEC as well. We have additional ones scheduled for October and those are on our city website, as well as our Resilient Columbia micro-site. We are at 670,000 confirmed cases to date. That brings the cumulative case count to over 800,000 in our state. In the last 14 days, we have averaged a little over 54,000 combined cases per day in our state. We have plateaued and we are starting to see a trend downward. There has been over 629,000 tests administered in the last 14 days. That puts us at over 10.5 million test administered. Today's case count is a little over 2,158. Of those, 1,852 were confirmed cases. The state's percent positivity rate according to DHEC is 13%. Sadly, 110 additional deaths were reported in our state. Hospitalization numbers have dropped from a little over 2,600 to 2,381. In Richland County, 52,688 confirmed cases were reported. The case count reported for today is 161 and 124 were confirmed. The 14-day recent disease incident rate was high at our last meeting and it is now low. Our percent positivity rate was 10.1% for Richland County and as of the 15th of September it is 4.6%. We are starting to see a downward trajectory, which is encouraging. There is 82.3% bed utilization and 2,381 patients currently hospitalized due to confirmed or suspected COVID-19. In Richland County, the bed utilization rate is 74.1% and 130 people are in the hospital due to confirmed or suspected COVID-19. We are at 4.8 million vaccines. As of the 19th, 50.8% of those 12 years or older are considered fully vaccinated in our state and 59.5% have received at least one dose. In Richland County, 53.6% have completed their vaccinations and 62.2% have received at least one dose. That is a little over 219,000 citizens. According to the CDC, 64% of the U.S. population has been vaccinated: 82.9% of those over 65 have been fully vaccinated and 76.5% of those 18 and older have been vaccinated as of September 20th.



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

Councilor Rickenmann said we need to push the vaccinations and obviously we need to get that number up higher. Can we look at doing some afterhours stuff? There are a lot of people who can't get anywhere by five o'clock. Let us make it easy for people to get this vaccination. It is key for us to have a better future. There are entire countries that are at 90% and we are trying to target 70% at this point.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 6 THROUGH 22

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve **Consent Agenda Items 6** through **22**.

6. Council is asked to approve an Agreement Covering Municipal Lighting for the Street Lighting LED Conversion Project, as requested by the Public Works Department. Award to Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. – *Approved*
7. Council is asked to approve a Professional Services Agreement for State Lobbying Services for Fiscal Year 2021/2022, as requested by the Office of Governmental Affairs. Award to Tompkins, Thompson & Brown Government Affairs in an amount not to exceed \$54,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Governmental Affairs (1011103-636600). The original budget amount is \$54,000.00.

8. Council is asked to approve the Annual Contract Renewal for Cornerstone On Demand Automated Recruiting Module, as requested by the Human Resources Department. Award to Cornerstone On Demand, Inc., in the amount of \$61,087.91. The firm is located in Santa Monica, CA. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Program Management Office - Cloud Based Software Solutions (6218950-632170). The original budget amount is \$61,087.91

9. Council is asked to approve the Riverfront Access Road Easement and Maintenance Agreement for the Carolina Crossroads Project between SCDOT, the City of Columbia, and Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc., as requested by the Legal Department. – *Approved*



**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

-
10. Council is asked to approve an Economic Development Grant Agreement for a Business Relocation and Expansion Project within the City of Columbia, as requested by the Economic Development Department. Award to Graph-itti, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: ED Special Allocation (5511301-638508). The original budget amount is \$15,000.00.

11. Council is asked to approve an Economic Development Grant Agreement for a Facilities Expansion Project within the City of Columbia, as requested by the Economic Development Department. Award to Bierkeller, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: ED Special Allocation (5511301-638508). The original budget amount is \$100,000.00.

12. Council is asked to approve a Contract for a Genetec Streamvault 2011E Series Server, as requested by the Information Technology Department. Award to Knights Security Systems, LLC, using the GSA Cooperative Contract in the amount of \$63,051.10. This vendor is located in Austin, TX. – *Approved*

Funding Source: General Capital Projects - Computer/Electrical Equipment Capital (4039999 - CP105908 - 658600). The original budget amount is \$65,000.00.

13. Council is asked to approve a Renewal of the Lease Agreement for Motorola Radios, as requested by the Columbia Police Department. Award to Motorola Inc., using the SC State Contract, in the amount of \$327,101.78. The vendor is located in Blythewood, SC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Police Administrative Services - Radio Equipment (1012402 - 627800). The original budget amount is \$327,101.78.

14. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of a Western Star 4700 Cab/Chassis for the Solid Waste Division, as requested by the Fleet Services Division. Award to Shealy's Truck Center Inc., using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$268,017.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Capital Replacement - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment - Capital (6308972-658500). The original budget amount is \$268,017.00.



We Are Columbia

**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

-
15. Council is asked to approve a Memorandum of Agreement for In-Contract Utility Relocation SCDOT Project ID# P030765; City of Columbia Water Line Relocation due to Construction and Improvements of Sidewalk Installation along Brickyard Road, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to SCDOT in the amount of \$58,387.84. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Water Improvement Fund – Utility Conflicts FY 21/22 CIP (WM335521 & WM335522). The original budget amount is \$58,387.84.

16. Council is asked to approve a Memorandum of Agreement for In-Contract Utility Relocation SCDOT Project ID P030764; City of Columbia Water Line Relocation due to Construction and Improvements of Sidewalk Installation along Christie Road, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to SCDOT in the amount of \$97,429.72. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Water Improvement Fund-Utility Conflicts FY 21/22 CIP (WM3355). The original budget amount is \$97,429.72.

17. Council is asked to approve a Memorandum of Agreement for In-Contract Utility Relocation SCDOT Project ID# P030763; City of Columbia Water Line Relocation due to Construction and Improvements of Sidewalk Installation along Piney Woods Road, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to SCDOT in the amount of \$187,511.58. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Water Improvement Fund – Utility Conflicts FY 21/22 CIP (WM335521 & WM335522). The original budget amount is \$187,511.58.

18. Council is asked to approve an addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement for Lake Katherine to partner with the Homeowners Association for consulting and purchase of a new gate control on the outlet structure of the lake, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to the Lake Katherine Homeowners Association in the amount of \$110,000.00. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Wastewater Improvement Fund - FY 21/22 CIP (SS726101). The original budget amount is \$110,000.00



We Are Columbia

**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

-
19. Council is asked to approve the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Purchase of Grundfos Yeomans, PACO, Chicago and Morris Pumps, Parts, Maintenance and Repair Services for the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to Charles Underwood Inc., as a Sole Source in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00. This vendor is located in Sanford, NC. – *Approved*

*Funding Source: Utilities Metro Wastewater Plant-Machinery and Equipment - Capital (5516208-658300).
The original budget amount is \$90,000.00.*

20. Council is asked to approve the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Purchase of VAG Valves, Morris Pumps, Control Panels, VFD's, Rotork Electrical Valve Actuators, Control Systems Seepex Pumps, Parts, Repairs and Maintenance for the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to Heyward-Charlotte Inc., as a Sole Source in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00. This vendor is located in Charlotte, NC. – *Approved*

*Funding Source: Utilities Metro Wastewater Plant-Machinery and Equipment - Capital (5516208-658300).
The original budget amount is \$100,000.00.*

21. Council is asked to approve the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Purchase of Flygt Pumps Products, Parts, Repair Services and Maintenance for the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant, as requested by Columbia Water. Award to Xylem Water Solutions USA Inc., as a Sole Source in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00. This vendor is located in Charlotte, NC. – *Approved*

*Funding Source: Utilities Metro Wastewater Plant-Machinery and Equipment-Capital (5516208-658300).
The original budget amount is \$200,000.00.*

22. Ordinance No.: 2021-063 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 and Sec. 15-4 Hours of operation. First reading approval was given on September 7, 2021. - *First reading approval was given on September 7, 2021 – Approved on second reading.*



**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

RESOLUTION

23. Resolution No.: R-2021-102 Ratifying and Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement between the City of Columbia and the United Way of the Midlands for the Regional Coordination of Homeless Services in the Midlands for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2021-102 Ratifying and Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement between the City of Columbia and the United Way of the Midlands for the Regional Coordination of Homeless Services in the Midlands for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

24. Resolution No.: R-2021-104 Authorizing acceptance of donated property within the Bull Street Development known as the Pump Station Parcel, which property is a portion of Richland County TMS R11501-01-01 from Bull Street Development, LLC, for development of a new pumping station and authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to effectuate this transfer – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2021-104 Authorizing acceptance of donated property within the Bull Street Development known as the Pump Station Parcel, which property is a portion of Richland County TMS R11501-01-01 from Bull Street Development, LLC, for development of a new pumping station and authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to effectuate this transfer.

EVENT RESOLUTIONS

Councilor Devine left the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

25. Resolution No.: R-2021-095 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Vista Lights Annual Holiday Festival on Thursday, November 18, 2021 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2021-095 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Vista Lights Annual Holiday Festival on Thursday, November 18, 2021.



**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

-
26. Resolution No.: R-2021-101 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Five After Five in Five Points on Thursday, October 21, 2021 – *Approved as amended.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2021-101 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Five After Five in Five Points on Thursday, October 21, 2021, as amended to reflect the removal of the Exxon parking lot which is City property and add the utilization of Saluda Avenue as the footprint for the event, which is the older footprint that the organization has utilized in the past.

PUBLIC HEARING & FIRST READING FOR ZONING / PLANNING MATTER

27. ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT for revisions to new City of Columbia Zoning Map effective August 30, 2021 in conjunction with the newly adopted Unified Development Ordinance to account for recently annexed and rezoned parcels. - *First reading was given on September 21, 2021 – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No: 2021-071 Amending the Official Zoning Map for the City of Columbia, Chapter 17, Unified Development Ordinance of the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina – Approved on second reading.

Proposal: Revise new City of Columbia Zoning Map effective August 30, 2021 in conjunction with the newly adopted Unified Development Ordinance to account for recently annexed and rezoned parcels.

Applicant: Rachel Bailey, Zoning Administrator

Staff Recommendation: Approval

PC Recommendation: 08/02/2021; Approval (5-0)

Ms. Krista Hampton, Planning and Development Services Director said the Unified Development Ordinance was effective on August 30, 2021. When you adopted the code and map, 20 properties were annexed and two were rezoned. Since then, 6430 Norris Street was withdrawn. The Unified Development Ordinance amendments are: 1.43 acres of 4030 W Beltline; 1314 Rosewood Drive; 1215 Shop Road; 509 acre S/S Candi Lane; a number of parcels in S Evans Street; 1307 Mason Road; 0.418-acres S/S Mabron Road; 504 Percival Road; 7315 Coachmaker Road; 2213 Apple Valley Road; 40.18 acre portion S/S Old Leesburg Road; 8.80 acres S/S Old Leesburg Road; 291 Harbison Boulevard; 8025 and 8041 Garners Ferry Road; 7432 Broad River Road; 314 Heyward Street; 409 Hampton Trace Lane; 10.60 acres W/S Broad River Road and 8.12 acres W/S Broad River Road; 26.36 acres S/S Technology Circle; 80-acre



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

portion N/S Percival Road; 4655 Percival Road N/S Percival Road; 1135 Carter Street; 2030, 2006, and 2010 Oak Street; and 2027, 2023, 2015, 2007, 2305, 2014 Henry Street.

Council opened the public hearing at 3:57 p.m.

No comments were received at this time.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No: 2021-071 Amending the Official Zoning Map for the City of Columbia, Chapter 17, Unified Development Ordinance of the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina.

Council closed the public hearing at 3:57 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

28. Community Development Draft 2020 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) / Final Public Hearing - Ms. Dollie Bristow, Community Development Administrator – *Approved*

Ms. Gloria Saeed, Community Development Director said in accordance with federal regulations, the City of Columbia is preparing a draft Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report (CAPER) for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. The CAPER is an end-of-year requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The purpose of the CAPER is to provide an overall evaluation of federally-funded activities and accomplishments to HUD and the community. The performance report is prepared with public review and comment and is submitted electronically to HUD. Citizens have the opportunity to comment on performance of the entitlement programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA), the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) and Mitigation Programs (CDBG-MIT), and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act programs including CDBG-CV and HOPWA-CV. The citizen participation process includes a 30-day comment period which began August 23, 2021 and concludes September 23, 2021. It has been modified to include virtual meeting options. CDBG funds totaled \$1,663,163 in revenue for projects including \$1,040,310 in new CDBG funds, \$610,886 in program income/revolving loan fund, and \$11,967 in prior year funding. The total CDBG expended is \$1,132,479. HOME total revenue was \$886,992 including \$636,992 in new HOME funding and \$250,000 in program income. The total HOME funds expended is \$216,459.



**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

HOPWA total revenue was \$1,601,461 including \$1,517,489 in new HOPWA funding and \$83,972 in prior year funding. The total HOPWA funds expended is \$1,476,104. HOPWA-CV revenue was \$220,838 and the total funds expended to date is \$71,475. CDBG-CV revenue was \$1,588,189 and the total funds expended to date is \$150,223. Total expenditures across all entitlement and CARES Act funding for fiscal year 2020 are \$3,046,709. This is a slight 2% increase over 2019 totals as the city remained resilient during the COVID-19 pandemic although some programs were suspended during the 2020/2021 fiscal year and the collateral impact resulted in a decrease in expenditures. The total impact of federal funding is \$7.5 million leveraged in private and other funding sources.

Councilor Devine returned to the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Council opened the public hearing at 4:09 p.m.

No one appeared at this time.

Council closed the public hearing at 4:09 p.m.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve submittal of the Community Development Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

OTHER MATTERS

29. Council is asked to approve the Installation of two (2) Speed Humps on Heath Hill Road, as requested by the Public Works Department. – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to approve the installation of two (2) Speed Humps on Heath Hill Road.

APPOINTMENTS

30. Climate Protection Action Committee – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to appoint Jennifer Heinmiller as a voting member and Peggy Smedley, Barbara Bowers, and Priscilla Preston as non-voting members to the Climate Protection Action Committee for a term of three years.



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

31. Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports, and Tourism – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to appoint David Erbacher to the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports, and Tourism for a term of three years.

32. Transportation Penny Oversight Committee – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to appoint John Black and Connor Parker to the Transportation Penny Oversight Committee for a term of three years.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REFERRALS / REPORTS

33. Affordable Housing Task Force Report - The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine

Councilor Devine said the Affordable Housing Task Force met last week. The last time we made a presentation to Council there was some conversation about us looking at the affordable housing definition again. We have taken that back to the committee and had a lot of conversations about what we want to communicate as far as the public education process. We have settled on: Affordable housing consists of inclusive, equitable, and safe spaces to live for owners and renters priced such that all Columbians can afford necessities of living and fully engage in our community. There was a question about whether or not we wanted to include a percent of median income. The conversation of the committee was that we wanted this definition not to include numbers. However, as a part of our final document we will have the definition along with the mission, priorities, and a glossary of terms. In the glossary of terms, we will have definitions for priority housing, workforce housing, and the standard HUD affordable housing. That way we can assess where the different percentages of median incomes are. After a conversation with State Housing it was approved for Dr. Grady to do a citywide housing needs assessment. We recommend SC Housing moving forward and the approval of this definition.

PUBLIC INPUT

No comments were received at this time.



We Are Columbia

**COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 4:26 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 34** and **35**.

34. Receipt of legal advice related to matters covered by attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2) – *Received as information. No action was taken.*

*COVID-19
Redistricting
Bond Court
Business License Model Ordinance*

35. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2) – *Received as information. No action was taken.*

Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Orangeburg, SC

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk