



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2022

The Columbia City Council conducted a meeting on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Howard E. Duvall, Jr., The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tempore, The Honorable William Brennan, The Honorable Aditi Bussells, and The Honorable Tina N. Herbert. The Honorable Joe E. Taylor, Jr. 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. *The minutes are numbered to coincide with the order of the meeting.*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

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

Mayor Rickenmann welcomed Dr. Cynthia Duncan Joseph, M.A., Director of Student Success & Retention and Assistant Professor for Political Science at Benedict College along with 22 students currently enrolled in the Introduction to State and Local Politics class.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager recognized Melissa Gentry, P.E., Assistant City Manager for Development for 25 years of service with the city of Columbia. She joined the city of Columbia in 1993 as an intern and later became the city engineer. In 2003, she was promoted to the director of public works and in 2011 she became the assistant city manager for development. Driven by faith, Ms. Gentry believes it is an honor to provide the best customer service possible while serving the citizens of Columbia. She presented Ms. Gentry with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Service Award for her dedication to public service and professional management.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda, subject to moving executive session to the first order of business and withdrawing Resolution No.: R-2022-091 - 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 Flock Group Inc. to the list of agencies.



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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Ms. Herbert, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 4:12 p.m. for the discussion of **item 1** as outlined.

1. Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body pursuant to §30-4-70(a)(5) – *Received as information.*
 - *Project Framework*
 - *GSM of North Main, LLC and Peak Drift Beverages, LLC*

Council reconvened the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Reverend Eric Fink, Pastor of Living Springs Lutheran Church and a member of the executive board for More Justice said our members are concerned with issues of growing violent crime and gun violence in our communities. I had to bury a 22-year old father who never met his son. I attended a vigil for a 7-year old who was shot and killed. Since 2019, we have held 59 research meetings with city officials, public safety officers, various agencies, and representatives from other cities. The issue seems to be whether or not the city can afford staffing and an office dedicated to reducing violent crime. We cannot afford to wait any longer. The cost is too great to continue our current path. I invite us to continue to move forward with a new approach.

Reverend James Dennis, III, Pastor of Pine Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church and a member of More Justice described how his father was shot in the chest by a stray bullet while waiting outside of a restaurant. It is essential that our city invest in a proactive approach to tackling gun violence. I am excited that Mr. Mayor has explored a new method to make Columbia a safer city. Gun homicides and assaults occur at high rates within cities that have a historically disproportionate underfunded neighborhoods. Gun violence in Columbia reflects and amplifies this city's structural inequities. Gun violence can only be reduced by reversing these inequities. The focus should be prevention and intervention. Over policing historically black, brown and poor communities is a disaster waiting to happen. Our community is looking for sensible gun control and prevention.



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Mr. David Lee, member of More Justice and Shandon United Methodist Church said I've been a resident in a community near Five Points for 47 years. While exercising outdoors early one morning, a car pulled up. As I approached the car, I realized that a laser light was pointed at the middle of my chest. The car left. No shots were fired, but the threat was real. Gun violence and the threat of gun violence is widespread in Columbia. Lives are being tragically wasted. We are blessed to have great officers and outstanding leadership at the Columbia Police Department, but they cannot tackle this job alone. It is a community problem. More Justice has been calling for an organization to consult with our community on this. We identified the National Network for Safe Communities (NNSC) as they have a track record of dramatically reducing violence in other cities in the United States. We recommend that this avenue be considered as the Office of Violent Crime Prevention goes forward.

Reverend Jackie Utley, Pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church and co-president of More Justice said one evening in mid-August, we experienced numerous gun shots in the Eau Claire Community and then Wildwood Avenue was lined with numerous police vehicles. A shooting was reported around the corner on the same evening. It was a restless night. When we discuss gun violence in Columbia, we are not discussing data and statistics; we are discussing human lives. This forces me to ask how much is human life worth in the city of Columbia. We will always have limited financial resources; however, we make a choice of what to fund and what to promote. In my faith tradition, Jesus teaches that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. I see a budget as a moral document that reflects where our heart is. Every person has the right to be equally protected and valued. We need a trauma informed approach to our decision-making. The answer begins with having a moral and ethical approach which values all people and their experience over power, politics and economics.

Ms. Ashley Page Bookhart, Food Policy Committee member said thank you all for putting the food access initiative proposal on the agenda. This has been a long time coming. We are hoping to have a positive result.

Ms. Shana Catoe, Food Policy Committee Chair said work has been done over the last three years to get us to this point. We stand in support of it. We will continue to do the work.

Councilor Herbert said John Tyler had to leave the meeting, but he wanted to talk about the shoot out that occurred last night at the Hot Spot. The community intervention from city government and local organizations along with the Columbia Police Department is imperative.



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Ms. Doreen Skelton, Eureka Street resident said I have a contract that I would like for the city to consider. I would like to read it and hopefully you all will sign it. I hope the city of Columbia will consider my plans for ending homelessness.

Mayor Rickenmann said this is not the proper forum for that. We are supposed to meet and Ms. Belton will schedule that. We are addressing homelessness through Rapid Shelter Columbia. We are putting together wrap around services. The ability to have people in individual pods is a very compassionate option. We are ready to meet with you. We will look at what you have.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Council is asked to approve the October 4 and October 18, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes and the October 18, 2022 Work Session Minutes.

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to approve the October 4 and October 18, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes and the October 18, 2022 Work Session Minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 3 THROUGH 12

Mayor Rickenmann said we are investing heavily in the city. We are buying fire trucks and other vehicles. We are investing into the backend of Rapid Shelter Columbia services for security, turf, and restrooms. There is a lot of investment in the city for a better quality of life for every citizen. We continue to break down the Consent Decree process.

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve **Consent Agenda Items 3** through **12**.

3. Council is asked to approve the first renewal option for Target Solutions Training and Records Management Platform and Annual Maintenance Fee, as requested by the Columbia Fire Department on August 1, 2022. This is year one of one renewal option. Award to Municipal Emergency Services, as a Sole Source in an amount not to exceed \$66,820.68, which does not include a price increase. This vendor is located in Charlotte, NC. - *Approved*

Funding Source: Fire Suppression - Software License (1012303-627510) \$33,410.34 and Fire Administration - Software License (2082301-627510) \$33,410.34. The original budget amount is \$66,820.68.



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4. Council is asked to approve an Annual Contract for Motorola Radios, as requested by the Columbia Police Department on September 15, 2022. This is year five of the five year contract period. Award to Motorola Inc., using the SC State Contract, in the amount of \$327,101.78, which does not include a price increase. This vendor is located in Blythewood, SC. - *Approved*

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

5. Council is asked to approve New Contracts to Purchase Replacement Vehicles for Various Departments, as requested by the Fleet Services Division. Award to the following vendors in the total amount of \$2,543,812.93. - *Approved*

Vendor and Location	Description	Procurement Method
Spartan Fire and Emergency Roebuck, SC	Pierce Enforcer 100' Mid Mount Tower Truck for the Columbia Fire Department requested on September 19, 2022	HGAC Cooperative Contract
<i>Funding Source: Capital Replacement - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment (6308972-658500) - \$1,747,799.00</i>		
Alan Jay Automotive Management DBA Alan Jay Fleet Sales Sebring, FL	Two (2) 2023 Ford F150 Regular Cab Trucks for the Parks & Recreation Department and Traffic Engineering Division requested on September 13, 2022	Sourcwell Cooperative Contract
<i>Funding Source: Capital Replacement - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment (6308972-658500) - \$143,895.00</i>		
Alan Jay Automotive Management DBA Alan Jay Fleet Sales Sebring, FL	Five (5) 2023 Ford Escape Vehicles for the Columbia Police Department Pathways Team requested on September 30, 2022	Sourcwell Cooperative Contract
<i>Funding Source: Capital Replacement - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment (6308972-658500) - \$61,848.00</i>		
Performance Automotive Group Clinton, NC	2023 Ram 1500 Crew 4X4 Truck for the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant requested on September 26, 2022	SC State Contract
<i>Funding Source: Utilities Wastewater Treatment Plant- Auto, Truck, Heavy Equipment- Capital (5516208-658500) - \$83,736.16</i>		
Jet Vac Equipment Company Sumter, SC	900-ECO 12 Yard Truck Mounted Combination Sewer Cleaner Vacuum System for the Street Division requested on August 18, 2022	Sourcwell Cooperative Contract
<i>Funding Source: Streets-Storm Drains - Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment- Capital (5534203-658500) - \$506,534.77</i>		



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6. Council is asked to Ratify Emergency Procurements and Approve a New Professional Services Agreement for the Rapid Shelter Columbia Project, as requested by City Administration. Award to the following vendors in the total amount of \$1,165,302.54. - *Approved*

Vendor and Location	Description	Procurement Method
Allied Universal Security Services Columbia, SC	Security Services requested by the Columbia Police Department on October 5, 2022	SC State Contract #4400027825
<i>Funding Source: American Rescue Plan Act - Rapid Shelter Columbia (ARPA202205-2619999) - \$980,318.88</i>		
Adam Araujo/Purfect Turf Elgin, SC	Turbo Flow Turf requested by the Support Services Division on September 28, 2022	Emergency Procurement
<i>Funding Source: General Capital Projects - Rapid Shelter Columbia - Capital Project Costs (403999-CP901301-658650) - \$78,787.26</i>		
Portable Restroom Trailers, LLC Clover, SC	Portable Restroom Trailers requested by the Support Services Division on September 28, 2022	Emergency Procurement
<i>Funding Source: General Capital Projects - Rapid Shelter Columbia - Capital Project Costs (403999-CP901301-658650) - \$106,196.40</i>		

7. Council is asked to approve Contract Amendment #9 for Project WM4326; Water Tank Repainting and Maintenance Services, as requested by Columbia Water on September 20, 2022. Award to Utility Service Company, Inc. in the amount of \$618,786.00. This firm is located in Perry, GA. This is the final amendment for this contract. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Utilities Columbia Canal WTP (5516206-WM432601-638305) \$502,439.00 and Utilities Lake Murray Water Plant (5516207-WM432601-638305) \$116,347.00. The original budget amount is \$3,365,896.00. The budget amount for this amendment is \$618,786.00. The total revised budget amount is \$3,984,682.00.

Utility Service Company, Inc. is the prime contractor and will provide renovation, painting, and preventative maintenance services at 68.26% (\$422,408.00) of the amendment amount.

The following subcontractors will provide additional services:

Nordic Tank & Tower, Inc., located in Detroit Lakes, MI, will provide blast/paint labor services at 19.51% (\$120,710.00) of the amendment amount.

Carolina Tank Maintenance, LLC, located in Madison, NC, will provide blast/paint labor services at 12.23% (\$75,668.00) of the amendment amount.



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8. Council is asked to approve Contract Amendment #12 for Project SS7236; Consent Decree Program Management Services, as requested by Columbia Water on September 22, 2022. Award to CDM Smith Inc. in the amount of \$4,100,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. This is the final amendment for this contract. – *Approved*

Funding Source: Water and Sewer Capital Projects - CD Program Management - Capital Project Costs (5529999-SS723623-658650). The original budget amount is \$4,100,000.00.

This is a Clean Water 2020 Program project. CDM Smith, Inc. will provide program management for the Clean Water 2020 Program in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Consent Decree, development of Water Information Management System, and oversight of sub consultants at 75.00% (\$3,075,000.00) of the amended amount.

The following sub consultants will provide additional services under Contract Amendment #12:

Atlantic South Consulting Services, LLC, a Minority Business Enterprise located in Columbia, SC, will provide document standardization assistance at 0.51% (\$20,720.00) of the amended amount.

Blue Cypress Consulting, LLC, a Minority Business Enterprise (W) located in Decatur, GA, will provide review of existing data to evaluate the inspection/cleaning program to reduce Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) at 3.08% (\$126,566.00) of the amended amount.

Comprehensive Business Consultants, a Minority Business Enterprise (W) located in Columbia, SC, will provide project management oversight services at 7.84% (\$321,394.00) of the amended amount.

DESA Inc., a Minority Business Enterprise (W) located in Columbia, SC, will provide document controls support, public outreach assistance, and project support services at 7.82% (\$320,760.00) of the amended amount.

ELL Enterprises, LLC, a Minority Business Enterprise (W) located in Chapin, SC, will provide support services with America Water Works Association (AWWA) compliance, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lead and copper rule compliance, Compliance Schedule Authorizing Provisions (CSAP) plan maintenance, Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) maintenance, and asset management processes services at 5.75% (\$235,560.00) of the amended amount.

9. Ordinance No.: 2022-083 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 14, Article IV, to add Sec. 14-108, "Discharge of Fireworks" Establishing the Manner and Times of Lawful use of Fireworks and Providing Certain Civil Penalties for Violations thereof – *Approved on second reading.*

Public Safety Committee Recommendation: 09/27/2022; Approval (3-0). First reading approval was given on October 18, 2022.



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10. Ordinance No.: 2022-092 - Consenting to the Inclusion of Property in a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (Project Framework, a Portion of Richland County TMS #11501-01-04, 11501-01-21 and 11501-01-01) – *Approved on second reading.*

First reading approval was given on October 18, 2022.

11. Ordinance No.: 2022-095 - 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. 23-149 Sewer service rates – *Approved on second reading.*

First reading approval was given on October 18, 2022.

12. Ordinance No.: 2022-096 - Authorizing the Conveyance of 0.16 Acre (6,989 SF) being a portion of unopened Washington Street; Richland County TMS#09009-10; CF#250-579 Project Name: Proposed Hotel at Wayne Street and Hampton Street – *Approved on second reading.*

First reading approval was given on October 18, 2022.

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

13. Ordinance No.: 2022-097 - Granting an encroachment to Emily Bryan for the use of the right of way area of the 2700 block of Kingswood Drive and the 1000 block of Adeline Drive for the installation and maintenance of crosstie barriers and hardwood mulch adjacent to 2734 Kingswood Drive, Richland County TMS#11215-09-17 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2022-097 - Granting an encroachment to Emily Bryan for the use of the right of way area of the 2700 block of Kingswood Drive and the 1000 block of Adeline Drive for the installation and maintenance of crosstie barriers and hardwood mulch adjacent to 2734 Kingswood Drive, Richland County TMS#11215-09-17.



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14. Ordinance No.: 2022-098 - Granting an encroachment to Alice Palace Properties LLC, for the use of the right of way area of the 1400 block of Barnwell Street for the installation and maintenance of landscaping and irrigation and a sidewalk to connect to the existing public sidewalk along Barnwell Street adjacent to 1410 A, B and C Barnwell Street and 1412 A and B Barnwell Street, Richland County TMS#11406-01-14 and 11406-01-15 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2022-098 - Granting an encroachment to Alice Palace Properties LLC, for the use of the right of way area of the 1400 block of Barnwell Street for the installation and maintenance of landscaping and irrigation and a sidewalk to connect to the existing public sidewalk along Barnwell Street adjacent to 1410 A, B and C Barnwell Street and 1412 A and B Barnwell Street, Richland County TMS#11406-01-14 and 11406-01-15.

RESOLUTION

15. Resolution No.: R-2022-091 - 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 Flock Group Inc. to the list of agencies - *Withdrawn*

EVENT RESOLUTION

16. Resolution No.: R-2022-085 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Colaroo/USC Event and Fundraiser within Santee Avenue between Blossom Street and Harden Street on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. Brennan, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2022-085 - Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Colaroo/USC Event and Fundraiser within Santee Avenue between Blossom Street and Harden Street on Wednesday, November 16, 2022.



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OTHER MATTERS

17. Council is asked to approve the Establishment of the Office of Violent Crime Prevention and an Appropriation from the City's American Rescue Plan Act funding in the amount of \$150,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2022/2023, as requested by The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor. An annual budget for each phase will be submitted to City Council as part of the budget process. - *Approved*

Funding Source: American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Councilor Duvall asked to discuss the type of person or office the \$150,000 will be funding.

Mayor Rickenmann said it is for the Office of Violent Crime Prevention. We will be hiring a director who will be responsible for bringing all the groups and programs together like Jobs for American Graduates (JAG). C.A. Johnson is the only high school with this program and they have a 92% success rate. We will partner with the school district and other groups. We will fill in the gaps with a comprehensive plan built off of data related to people, places and behavior that leads back to prevention, intervention and enforcement. We are looking for someone who is community based with a history and education in areas from criminal justice, to mental health, to community development. We will use requirements from Dallas, New York, Philadelphia and Boston to develop what is needed here.

Councilor Duvall said we have another program already cranking up in the city of Columbia that has a \$900,000 Department of Justice grant. It is a multi-year project. I am not opposed to hiring someone and creating an office with the \$150,000. I think we should use the \$800,000 to provide complimentary programs to end gun violence. If the Serve and Connect program is focused in the 29203 area, we should use our money to create programs in our parks. We have good facilities that are underutilized. We could create an office that would coordinate afterschool programs or other programs that target our youth.

Councilor Herbert said that was one of my initial concepts, but I don't think the structure we are using prohibits that. With the plan that the new director comes up we have the opportunity to ensure that our parks are being utilized to the fullest of their ability. I can't debate that we had tons of kids before COVID-19. That will help contribute to reducing our crime numbers. That is a part of what I want to do. Does this prohibit that Mayor?



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Mayor Rickenmann said no. We have been clear about someone being the quarterback comprehensively. Parks are not the only solution; there are a lot of other pieces like making sure we have crisis teams. Prevention and intervention is multi-faceted. Serve and Connect is one piece. We have the option to go after seven DOJ grants. I hope the director will sit down with the young people and understand their needs. We have statistics and data but we need the rest of the pieces and that's why it is important to have the director.

Councilor McDowell said Serve and Connect has connections with the city and the community. Serve and Connect has its rudiments, but let's make this multi-faceted by getting other folks involved. I support this and I hope my colleagues will do likewise.

Councilor Brennan said I had a chance to learn more about the program Serve and Connect is building. Federal grants have a shelf life. It is important for us to take on the sustainability and moving forward to keep programs going; that is funding them year in and year out. It is important to take this step today to show that we are committed to making our community safer. The city is once again grasping and leading on such an important issue. Thank you for bringing this forward.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve the Establishment of the Office of Violent Crime Prevention and an Appropriation from the City's American Rescue Plan Act funding in the amount of \$150,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2022/2023, as requested by The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor. An annual budget for each phase will be submitted to City Council as part of the budget process.

18. Council is asked to approve an Appropriation from the City's American Rescue Plan Act funding for the Office of Violent Crime Prevention for Fiscal Years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 in the total amount of \$652,800.00, as requested by The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor. An annual budget for each phase will be submitted to City Council as part of the budget process. - *Approved*

Funding Source: American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Councilor Duvall said this is the continuation of the program into future years. Is it necessary for us to decide on the funding this year?

Mayor Rickenmann said this is what we have done with the rest of the ARPA money. We designated money for things for the Police Department and Fire Department for multiple years.



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Who is going to take a job if they see you are only supporting funding for one year? I don't think you will get the quality of a director that you need to tackle this. What is another life worth?

Councilor Bussells said it is important for us to look ahead on an issue as complex as gun violence considering the different causes, risk factors and potential mechanisms for prevention. We have to think long-term to ensure that our efforts are sustainable and that we are not setting this person up for failure. The same way that we established a very specific lane for our role in homelessness, it is very important for us to develop achievable pillars for this office to focus on.

Councilor Herbert said I am hoping the new person will bring us various suggestions and we will be able to do just that. That is the approach we are trying to take.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mayor Rickenmann, Council voted five to one to approve an Appropriation from the City's American Rescue Plan Act funding for the Office of Violent Crime Prevention for Fiscal Years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 in the total amount of \$652,800.00, as requested by The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor. An annual budget for each phase will be submitted to City Council as part of the budget process. Ms. Herbert, Dr. Bussells, Mr. Brennan, Mr. McDowell, and Mayor Rickenmann voted aye. Mr. Duvall voted nay.

19. Council is asked to approve the Food Insecurity Solutions Initiative and an Appropriation from the City's American Rescue Plan Act funding in the total amount of \$300,000.00, as requested by The Honorable Tina N. Herbert.

Funding Source: American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Councilor Herbert thanked the Food Policy Committee for all of the work that has been done over the years. I am hoping that this opportunity will allow us to see another step in that initiative. This is a temporary solution. The city and our partners will have to work on the long-term goals. This also allows us to get the public involved.

Mayor Rickenmann asked Ms. Herbert to describe how the process will move forward.

Councilor Herbert said we are allocating the funds. The Food Policy Committee brought us a mobile market concept in 2017 and they have been struggling to find the allocation and funding. The American Rescue Plan Act provided us the funds to be able to do it. We will go through a procurement process to receive submissions for a mobile market or another creative concept. I want to make sure we get enough submissions. If we don't get anything great for a mobile



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market we will have other ideas. That is the intent. It does not mean that any one group will get \$300,000. We wanted to put a pot aside to start. The preference is for a mobile market but we didn't want to lock ourselves into that. I hope we have the procurement process started in December. We will see something in 2023.

Mayor Rickenmann said we have been working on initiatives and I am very supportive of this. I am concerned that some of the guidelines from the federal government may inhibit us. Is the plan for a Request for Information (RFI)?

Councilor Herbert said procurement staff is not necessarily recommending a RFI. I am waiting because they wanted to research it further.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Herbert and seconded by Dr. Bussells, Council voted unanimously to approve the Food Insecurity Solutions Initiative and an Appropriation from the City's American Rescue Plan Act funding in the total amount of \$300,000.00, as requested by The Honorable Tina N. Herbert.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REFERRALS, REPORTS AND NEW BUSINESS

20. Affordable Housing Task Force Report - The Honorable Tina N. Herbert

Councilor Herbert reported that the Affordable Housing Task Force met on October 11, 2022. Dylan Gunnels is chairing the Advocacy Committee and they will focus on an education campaign, a housing justice directory, and establishing a housing court. The development committee is waiting on an evaluation of the tiers needed in the city of Columbia. The South Carolina Homebuilders Association is working on a market analysis. We are looking into capital opportunities and capacity building for nonprofits.

Mayor Rickenmann said I would love to attend your next meeting because I had conversations with folks about a unique idea to fill the gaps, which seems to be an issue especially with the caps. It is an avenue to increase the opportunities out there. Tax modernization will help. I would love to bring this to your committee to see what they think.

Councilor Duvall said affordable housing has been a project for More Justice for a number of years. I have worked with them at numerous meetings trying to establish and fund a housing trust fund that would be active in Richland County and the Midlands. The county has put substantial money into the housing trust fund. If we have ARPA money available, I am sure they would like to have that put into a trust fund.



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Councilor Herbert said I don't have any issues with that but we should do this research first because we want to put money where it is going to be most effective.

Mayor Rickenmann recalled that Council made a commitment to use the city's ARPA HOME funds to deal with the unsheltered. That is our first point of commitment.

Councilor Duvall said we have talked about using property owned by the city. Has that moved along?

Mayor Rickenmann said there is an RFP out now.

21. Council Legislative Committee Report - The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor

Mayor Rickenmann reported that the Council Legislative Committee met on October 25, 2022. We met with our lobbying team and city staff to discuss things that we know are going on. We talked about modernizing our tax structure and how that process would work. We talked about increasing fines for littering and other municipal fines and how we can make them punitive; safety cameras in school zones, work zones and neighborhoods; inclusionary zoning bills; workforce development for young adults; addressing mental health services after 5:00 p.m.; working with the Department of Mental Health on a crisis stabilization unit; Assembly Street; quiet zones; support for a comprehensive homeless shelter facility; home repair assistance; funding for parks; gap funding for affordable housing; maintenance funds for the beautification of our streets and roads; and raising the cap for ARPA funds for water and wastewater systems. We want to leverage every dime we can get to improve the quality of life here. We have hired third-party consultants to help us with every federal agency so that we don't miss out on any funding opportunity.

Councilor Brennan referred a resolution to Support Security Cameras in Nursing Homes, Residential Care Facilities and Assisted Living Facilities to the Public Safety Committee. There is legislation at the State House that is important as we pursue making our senior residents safe.

Mayor Rickenmann referred the screening of Municipal Court Judges to the Public Safety Committee. We have the applications in and I would like for the committee to come back to the rest of Council with recommendations. We need to get this in place by January.



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Councilor Duvall referred a review of Governor McMaster's increased oversight of the commercial bail-bond industry to the Public Safety Committee, as requested by Councilor Taylor. I would like a briefing on the tax modernization proposal and how it will impact the city.

Mayor Rickenmann said we will be sharing a legislative proposal at a work session.

Councilor Bussells said the Council Legislative Committee also discussed our eligibility to apply for the opioid funds and making sure that staff comes with suggestions about the abatement strategies we want to use. There are going to be funds available as part of a settlement with opioid companies. Most jurisdictions in South Carolina are getting an automatic eligibility. There will be funds available to focus on preventing opioid use and misuse that we are looking forward to taking advantage of. The deadline is in December.

Councilor Herbert asked if Council can provide input.

Councilor Bussells said I would like for Council to give their input.

PUBLIC INPUT

Dr. Cynthia Duncan Joseph, M.A., Director of Student Success & Retention and Assistant Professor for Political Science at Benedict College said this is a portion of our class. The students are getting an opportunity to see how local government is organized. We look for opportunities for service learning so that our students can be engaged in leadership training and development. We have students who want to run for office. We welcome opportunities for mentorship. Many of these students are criminal justice majors.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk