



COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia City Council conducted a Work Session on Tuesday, November 7, 2024 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, Mayor called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m. and the following City Council members were present: The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., The Honorable Will Brennan, Mayor Pro-Tem, The Honorable Aditi Bussells, The Honorable Peter M. Brown, and The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey. The Honorable Tina N. Herbert 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.

INVOCATION

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

PRESENTATIONS

1. Short-Term Rentals Update - Mr. David Hatcher, Director of Code Enforcement / Columbia Police Department – *Received as information.*

Councilor Brennan said it's been over a year since we started using the short term rental permit process. Now we can reflect on the past year, evaluate lessons learned, and review relevant data. Instead of presenting the findings to the Community Development Committee, the decision was made to bring the discussion to the full council for a more thorough review.

Mr. David Hatcher, Director of Code Enforcement outlined the city's short-term rental (STR) regulations, which require owners to obtain a business license and STR permit, inform adjacent residents, and provide two off-street parking spaces. Permits must be renewed annually, and owners must have a local registered agent within 45 miles. The Rentalscape software tracks STRs and provides valuable data. He shared data and statistics on STRs in the city, broken down by council district, neighborhood, and zip codes. He suggested adding a third-party vendor and a code enforcement officer to improve compliance monitoring.



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There was discussion about registration trends; the distinction between state and city laws; compliance status; roll cart violations; neighborhood transparency; the use of identifiable medallions on properties; use of door hangers for occupant notification; crime trends linked to STRs; increased penalties for non-compliance; tracking property use trends; properties bought by residents or investors; and adjusting the grace period for registration.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager asked if the issue regarding double payment of the TDF has been resolved. Do you feel better about how the booking agencies are handling it?

Ms. Kelly Smith, Business License Administrator shared the difficulties related to the collection and remittance of the TDF for STRs using platforms like Airbnb. Some STR owners had been informed by Airbnb that they were collecting and remitting the TDF on their behalf; however, the city was not receiving these funds. The situation has since shifted and Airbnb is now expected to remit the fees directly.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said I do want to look at these action items during our budget cycle, including the third party vendor. We may need to research the cost.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Brown, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 11: 54 a.m. for the discussion of **Items 2 through 4.**

2. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
 - *Convention Center*
 - *Finlay Park*
3. Receipt of legal advice related to matters covered by attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2)
 - *Parking Rate Study*
 - *1401 Main Street*



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4. Discussion of the employment of an employee pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(1)

- *Administration*

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk