



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014
6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL - 1737 MAIN STREET
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 3RD FLOORS

The Columbia City Council conducted a Meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman and The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan. The Honorable Leona K. Plough and The Honorable Moe Baddourah were absent. Also present were Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore, City Clerk. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Chaplain Byron Powers, Columbia Police Department offered the invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously adopt the agenda with the following amendments: to defer consideration of **Item 21** (*Resolution 2013-112 -Resolution to form a Sister City with Taichung City*) and **Item 23** (*Resolution 2014-002 – Authorizing the City Manager and Interim Chief of Police to execute a Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Columbia and City of Columbia Police Department and the South Carolina Department of Mental Health*).

PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one appeared at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Meeting Minutes – *Approved as presented.*

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to approve the following meeting minutes:

[July 9, 2013 Public Hearing](#)
[July 9, 2013 Council Meeting](#)
[August 13, 2013 Work Session](#)
[September 3, 2013 Work Session](#)
[September 3, 2013 Council Meeting](#)

PRESENTATIONS

2. Welcome Address – The Honorable Moe Baddourah, District III Representative – *The District III Evening Meeting was canceled.*
3. Greetings from the Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association – Mr. Durham Carter, President - *The District III Evening Meeting was canceled.*
4. Greetings from the Five Points Association – Ms. Amy Beth Franks Executive Director - *The District III Evening Meeting was canceled.*
5. [South Carolina Tunnel to Tower Event](#) – Retired Chief of the New York Fire Department Jack Oehm, Director of the Stephen Sillers Tunnel to Towers 5K Run Walk

Mr. Dan Hennigan presented a brief video from the 2013 Stephen Sillers Tunnel to Towers 5K Run Walk, which is held in remembrance of 9/11. He recalled that the months following September 11, 2001, White Knoll High School donated a fire truck to the New York Fire Department. He noted that Chief Jack Oehm lost 22 firemen on that day. He said the second largest Tunnel to Towers 5K run walk was held in Columbia, SC.

Retired Chief Jack Oehm, New York Fire Department / Director of the Stephen Sillers Tunnel to Towers 5K Run Walk expressed his gratitude for the efforts of the White Knoll students to raise funds and donate a fire truck to the New York Fire Department. He said once the fire truck is taken out of service, it will be donated to the Columbia Fire Department's Museum. He explained that the Stephen Sillers Tunnel 2 Towers 5k Run Walk raises funds for our military and first responders who continue to make the supreme sacrifice of life and limb for our country. He said the foundation was created in honor of Stephen Sillers who was off duty on 9/11, but returned to the fire station to serve and in doing so, lost his life.

****Ms. Teresa Wilson**, City Manager presented Mr. Jeff Palen, Chief Financial Officer with a five-year service pin.

6. [Ballpark Feasibility Study](#) – Mr. Wayne Gregory, Director of Economic Development

Mr. Wayne Gregory, Director of Economic Development said Brailsford and Dunlavey was selected to conduct the baseball feasibility study. He said they are the foremost firm involved in conducting these surveys with 25 years in the baseball industry. He said they are working to determine if there is something we can do here. He noted that they have also worked with the University of South Carolina.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey said the firm is considered to be the premiere firm in the country doing this kind of work with 110 employees with offices around the country. He noted that they've worked for 125 governmental entities and completed 12 projects in South Carolina. He said baseball is a complicated and highly regulated industry with 30 major league baseball franchises. He noted that the number of major league and minor league teams is fixed. He explained that there are two regional leagues that would work in Columbia: the South Atlantic League, which includes teams in Greenville, Charleston, Greensboro and Asheville and the Carolina League, which includes teams in Myrtle Beach and Winston-Salem. He noted that there are certain places that certain leagues and teams can go. He explained that major league baseball lives and dies on team performance. He explained that minor league baseball is affordable family entertainment targeting families, community groups, neighborhood associations, company outings, retirees and baseball fans. He said the development and refinement of neighborhood ballparks include traditional fixed seats, premium seating, luxury suites, picnic tables, group areas and grass berm seating. He said the options and features are limitless.

Mr. Jason Thompson, Regional Vice President for the Mid-West / Brailsford & Dunlavey reported that this is a great market for baseball and it would be among the largest existing South Atlantic and Carolina League markets. He noted that the large household sizes fit the family target market; the percentage of households with income over \$50,000 is higher than all but two of the comparable markets; and there is a significant corporate presence with 376 companies employing over 100 people each. He said Columbia deserves a team. He said having a minor league baseball team would complement USC Baseball, because there is a limited regular season schedule overlap; there is a distinct target market; and there is an opportunity to promote and follow former USC Baseball players. He noted that there are 19 former USC players in the minor league. He suggested a ballpark concept that is market driven with an 8,000 seat capacity, 16 suites, 200 club seats, and a 360 degree concourse. He reported that minor league baseball would cost as high as \$63 million and as low as \$27 million to develop and build. He noted that Nashville's budget for a new ballpark is \$65 million. He projected that it would cost \$41.8 million to include hard costs and fees, soft costs, a 10% contingency; and financing and legal cost. He stated that ballparks are typically funded by private sources to include lease payments, revenue sharing, equity and surcharges and the public sources included General Obligation debt, visitor taxes, sales taxes and grants. He presented three (3) project profiles to demonstrate how other projects were funded in Rome, Georgia; Bowling Green, Kentucky; and Dayton, Ohio. He outlined the recurring benefits of minor league baseball in Columbia as increased employment, wages, economic activity and fiscal benefits, noting that it could attract 500,000 people to downtown Columbia. He said the construction could support 915 jobs and annual operations could support 715 recurring jobs and 35,000 annual room nights. He outlined the 30-year benefits to include \$18.5 million in tax revenue and \$192 million in personal earnings.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey explained that communities conclude that there is a qualitative component that is equally if not more important than the economics, with the right owners. He said there are only 160 communities with minor league affiliated baseball teams. He noted that this would be a multipurpose facility that can house baseball camps, car shows, religious services, flea markets, special events, weddings, concerts, community events, and other charitable, athletic and networking events.

Mayor Benjamin noted that this is an independent analysis, because it did not make sense for a team owner or a third party to conduct the analysis.

Councilor Devine asked if a team would have to move here since there are a fixed number of teams; should the city expect a commitment from a team.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey said a team would need to relocate here and there would need to be a lock down agreement and a long term lease.

Councilor Devine asked what commitments cities look for.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey said a long-term lease commitment with at least a 20-year option, but it is a negotiated lease agreement that is done in many ways.

Councilor Devine asked for an explanation about their opinion that we would not be competing with USC.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey said he spent a lot of time in the parish next to LSU, but even for a major university when they win they attract a lot of fans and it is a baseball fan driven experience. He said they are two different markets and with the right owner-operator Columbia could have a significant positive impact on Minor League Baseball.

Mayor Benjamin said that Coach Tanner believes that Minor League Baseball and college baseball are very complementary.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey said the skilled minor league team owner-operator doesn't want a lot of individual season ticket owners; they want turn style so that people are coming to games on a regular basis.

Councilor Devine asked where the market numbers came from.

Mr. Jason Thompson, Regional Vice President for the Mid-West / Brailsford & Dunlavey said they presented a concept that they felt this market could support.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey clarified that the recommendations they've made will become part of the negotiation with the team owner-operator.

Councilor Devine asked about the comparable teams.

Mr. Jason Thompson, Regional Vice President for the Mid-West / Brailsford & Dunlavey outlined Winston-Salem, Bowling Green, Fort Wayne, Oregon, Michigan, Greenville, State College and Charleston as the comparable teams.

Councilor Davis asked what key factors were considered in the market analysis.

Mr. Jason Thompson, Regional Vice President for the Mid-West / Brailsford & Dunlavey said household size and household growth make this a wealthy market.

Mayor Benjamin asked what the ticket prices would be.

Mr. Jason Thompson, Regional Vice President for the Mid-West / Brailsford & Dunlavey said as low as \$5 and as high as \$12; it's a great value for the entertainment.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey said the most expensive seats go the fastest and the average cost is often increased. He said that requires a deeper analysis.

Councilor Davis asked what the real deal maker and deal killer would be.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey said the city must have a sense of how much they are willing to contribute along with the economic impact benefits and the quality of life. He said you must have the right owner-operator. He envisioned a \$42 million stadium with hard and soft costs included, but without infrastructure or land.

Councilor Davis said the proposal is part of a neighborhood with surrounding neighborhoods. He asked how that tends to play into negotiations or what a perspective team would consider in terms of the immediate areas that are more contiguous to the park.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey said he's not sure how much control a team owner-operator would have, but that is something the city has to be sensitive to. He said it is an 8,000 person stadium from April to September and there has to be consideration in terms of increased traffic flow.

Councilor Newman clarified that the firm viewed the market to determine whether or not a team could survive here. He said Council has to consider light pollution and traffic for the surrounding area. He said the firm didn't look at site selection. He noted that the city has additional things to determine if this will work. He said the support for these teams has been relatively inconsistent and people want to know why we are considering embarking on this path again. He said it is different in this scenario, because of the way teams are presented now. He asked how that is factored into the financing and how the support will impact the longevity of the stadium.

Mayor Benjamin stated that he has received good responses while advocating for this stadium. He said as we look at the potential of bringing in a professional team we have to look at construction, operations, maintenance, capital maintenance and improvements and other elected improvements. He said as you look at delivering this end product to this community, a significant amount of that money has to come from the public sector. He said this is a multi-use venue.

Councilor Newman said it is important to know how the special features will factor into this and what type of revenue will be generated.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey said in terms of the preferred site, the ballpark should be used as the anchor tenant. He said minor league baseball generates 225 cars per game. He said it has to be a community asset in terms of the uses, but that will not generate revenue.

Councilor Devine said we will have to be cognizant of taking business from other concert centers; we need to understand that and balance the needs of the entire community.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey said in the concert industry today, people decide whether to play indoors or outdoors. He said the ballpark would host a concert for 8,000 to 10,000 people. He said some groups choose to play in minor league ballparks. He said you can control that, but the concert industry will control that in some respects for you.

Councilor Runyan asked how many studies they have been involved with.

Mr. Jason Thompson, Regional Vice President for the Mid-West / Brailsford & Dunlavey said over 60.

Councilor Runyan asked of the 160 teams what percentage of the teams defaulted on their obligations to the municipality.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey said it has never happened to his knowledge. He said the league owns the franchise and if an owner-operator goes belly-up it is incumbent upon the major league affiliate to step in. He said they just don't go away; they have to fill the teams; they have to play the games.

Councilor Davis asked who the agreement is with.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey said the league would have to back stop the lease agreement until they find an owner-operator to step in.

Councilor Runyan asked how many stadiums have been built since 2000 with 50% private funds.

Mr. Jason Thompson, Regional Vice President for the Mid-West / Brailsford & Dunlavey said Midland, Michigan and Greensboro, but there are a number of other anomalies involved to include funds from nonprofits.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey said he can't think of any that were a 50/50 partnership; they were all heavily publicly funded.

Councilor Runyan asked how many days of operation per year does it take to turn a positive cash flow.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey said the team owner-operator will turn a profit just on baseball.

Councilor Runyan asked what the life span of a ballpark is.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey said 30 years.

Mr. Jason Thompson, Regional Vice President for the Mid-West / Brailsford & Dunlavey said they are 50 year buildings, but they construct the ballparks with flexibility to expand the market driven lifespan of the building.

Councilor Runyan asked if any owners participated in construction or ongoing costs.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey said he is not familiar with any.

Councilor Runyan asked how often 500,000 people will be drawn downtown.

Mr. Rich Neumann, Vice President of Major Accounts / Brailsford and Dunlavey said per season.

Councilor Runyan asked if there is data on hotel occupancy rates on game days in comparable markets.

Mr. Jason Thompson, Regional Vice President for the Mid-West / Brailsford & Dunlavey said they can research that. He said they have other specific data about the impact of ballparks on the property surrounding it.

Councilor Runyan said folks from a 50-mile draw would not stay overnight unless they were drinking so it would be helpful to have occupancy numbers, property values and the economic impact of similar markets over five (5) years.

Mr. Jason Thompson, Regional Vice President for the Mid-West / Brailsford & Dunlavey said it is important to think about other planning initiatives and development concepts.

Councilor Runyan requested examples of risks. He said it is important to integrate those risks into our planning.

Mr. Jason Thompson, Regional Vice President for the Mid-West / Brailsford & Dunlavey said their primary job is to reduce the risks to the client. He said that is done through the various contracts.

Councilor Davis requested economic impact data from other cities.

Mayor Benjamin said the study was very good and comprehensive and he looks forward to continued dialog. He announced that baseball community meetings have been scheduled. – [Click here to view the schedule of upcoming Baseball Community Meetings](#)

6a. Martin Luther King Day Celebration – Ms. Ray Gray, Special Projects Administrator for Governmental Affairs and Community Relations

Ms. Ray Gray, Special Projects Administrator for Governmental Affairs and Community Relations appeared on behalf of Mr. Durham Carter to announce the Martin Luther King Day Celebration on Monday, January 20, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at Martin Luther King Park with Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Toal serving as the speaker.

OTHER MATTERS

7. [Environmental Protection Agency Assessment Grant Application](#) – Mr. Fred Delk, Director of Columbia Development Corporation - *Approved*

Mr. Fred Delk, Director of Columbia Development Corporation sought approval to apply for a \$400,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency and if that grant is awarded, he sought authorization to enter into a contract with Cardno TBE to administer the grant.

Councilor Davis questioned why staff couldn't administer the grant instead of paying a firm to do it for us.

Mr. Fred Delk, Director of Columbia Development Corporation noted that due to the technical nature of the grant, staff has always sought assistance with administering the grant.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to authorize staff to apply for a \$400,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency and if that grant is awarded, staff is authorized to enter into a contract with Cardno TBE to administer the grant. Mr. Runyan was not present for the vote.

8. [Neighborhood Street Lighting Requests](#) - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve the following neighborhood street lighting requests. Mr. Runyan was not present for the vote.

Neighborhoods Listed by Priority	Existing Lights	Requested Lights	Current Lease Cost / Annually	Project Request Total	Total Year to Date
3317 Wilmot Avenue	2	1	\$237.84	\$118.92	\$13,698.64
1212 House Street	2	1	\$237.84	\$118.92	\$13,817.56

9. Council is asked to approve the [Installation of Six \(6\) Speed Humps](#) in the Ashewood Commons Neighborhood.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the installation of six (6) Speed Humps in the Ashewood Commons Neighborhood. Mr. Runyan was not present for the vote.

Councilor Devine asked about the speed humps for Lyon Street and the area near Second Nazareth and Hills Barbershop.

Mr. Robert Anderson, Public Works Director agreed to check on that.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a single motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 10** through **18**. Mr. Davis was not present for the vote.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS, AGREEMENTS and CHANGE ORDERS

10. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Three \(3\) Chevrolet Tahoes](#), as requested by the Fire Department. Award to Love Chevrolet Company, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$80,112.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Fire Administration-Autos, Truck, Heavy Equip Capital; 1012301-658500 – **Note:** These vehicle purchases are part of the annual replacement schedule. - Approved*
11. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Five \(5\) Chevrolet Impalas](#) for the Police Department, as requested by the Fleet Services Division. Award to Love Chevrolet Company, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$103,805.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Capital Replacement-Autos, Truck, Heavy Equip Capital; 6308972-658500 – **Note:** These vehicle purchases are part of the annual replacement schedule and are funded from General Obligation Bond proceeds. - Approved*
12. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Five \(5\) Ford Sedan Police Interceptors](#), as requested by the Fleet Services Division. Award to Vic Bailey Ford, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$117,895.00. This vendor is located in Spartanburg, SC. *Funding Source: Capital Replacement-Autos, Truck, Heavy Equip Capital; 6308972-658500 – **Note:** These vehicle purchases are part of the annual replacement schedule and are funded from General Obligation Bond proceeds. - Approved*
13. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Twenty-five \(25\) Chevrolet Caprices](#) for the Police Department, as requested by the Fleet Services Division. Award to Love Chevrolet Company, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$690,475.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Capital Replacement-Autos, Truck, Heavy Equip Capital; 6308972-658500 – **Note:** These vehicle purchases are part of the annual replacement schedule and are funded from General Obligation Bond proceeds. - Approved*
14. Council is asked to approve the [Renewal of an Annual Maintenance and Support Agreement for the IFAS Financial Software](#), as requested by the Budget Office. Award to SunGard Public Sector in the amount of \$167,039.37. This vendor is located in Lake Mary, FL. *Funding Source: FY 13/14 Annual Budget; 6218950-638200 – **Note:** The Chief Information Officer (CIO) supports this annual renewal. - Approved*

15. Council is asked to approve the [Renewal of an Annual Maintenance Agreement to provide Computer Aided Dispatch \(CAD\) Software](#) coverage through November 2014, as requested by Columbia-Richland 911 Communications. Award to TriTech Software Systems in the amount of \$273,138.61. This vendor is located in Dallas, TX. *Funding Source: City Account 1012701-638200; \$136,569.30 and County Account 2082702-638200; \$136,569.31 - **Note:** The Chief Information Officer (CIO) supports this renewal of the annual maintenance for TriTech, computer-aided dispatch (CAD) software used by 911 to manage response to calls (initial incident information collection and follow-on incident management) and associated resources (e.g., ambulance, police, fire). - Approved*

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

16. [Ordinance No.: 2013-126](#) – Granting encroachment to First Citizens Bank for installation and maintenance of eight (8) in-ground LED lights within the right of way area of the 1200 block of Main Street adjacent to its building at 1210-1214 Main Street, Richland County TMS #09103-07-12 – *First reading approval was given on December 10, 2013. – Approved on second reading.*
17. [Ordinance No.: 2013-133](#) – Granting encroachment to the State of South Carolina Budget and Control Board for installation and maintenance of a concrete island bump out and aluminum fencing within the right of way area of the 1200 block of Pendleton Street adjacent to the Brown Building located at 1205 Pendleton Street, Richland County TMS # 11304-01-01 – *First reading approval was given on December 10, 2013. – Approved on second reading.*
18. [Ordinance No.: 2013-135](#) – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 14, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article I, In General, to add Sec. 14-6 Selling or furnishing individual cigarettes or cigarettes not in original packaging – *First reading approval was given on December 10, 2013. – Approved on second reading.*

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

19. [Ordinance No.: 2013-134](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment No. 5 to Amended and Restated Agreement of Sale and Purchase between the City of Columbia and Baker and Baker Real Estate Developers, LLC for the sale of Parcel "A" containing approximately 27,664 square feet (0.64 acre) and Parcel "B" containing approximately 25,444 (0.58 acre) square feet located on the eastern side of Gist Street between Laurel Street and Blanding Street and known as Richland County TMS No. : 09005-02-44 and 09005-02-23 – *Approved on first reading by a vote of six (6) to one (1). - Approved on second reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Runyan and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2013-134 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment No. 5 to Amended and Restated Agreement of Sale and Purchase between the City of Columbia and Baker and Baker Real Estate Developers, LLC for the sale of Parcel "A" containing approximately 27,664 square feet (0.64 acre) and Parcel "B" containing approximately 25,444 (0.58 acre) square feet located on the eastern side of Gist Street between Laurel Street and Blanding Street and known as Richland County TMS No. : 09005-02-44 and 09005-02-23.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

20. [Ordinance No.: 2013-130](#) – Granting encroachment to Terry Dimmery and Betsy Dimmery for installation and maintenance of a wrought iron fence, brick knee wall, brick columns, a walk gate and drive gate within the right of way area of the 2400 block of Wheat Street adjacent to their property located at 2420 Terrace Way, Richland County TMS #11311-07-04 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2013-130 – Granting encroachment to Terry Dimmery and Betsy Dimmery for installation and maintenance of a wrought iron fence, brick knee wall, brick columns, a walk gate and drive gate within the right of way area of the 2400 block of Wheat Street adjacent to their property located at 2420 Terrace Way, Richland County TMS #11311-07-04.

RESOLUTIONS

21. [Resolution No.: R-2013-112](#) – Resolution to form a Sister City with Taichung City – *Consideration of this item was deferred on December 10, 2013 and January 7, 2014.*
22. [Resolution No.: R-2014-001](#) – Authorizing W. Ronald Bonds, Esquire to represent the City of Columbia in a class action lawsuit to recover unpaid business license fees from online travel companies - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Runyan and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2014-001 – Authorizing W. Ronald Bonds, Esquire to represent the City of Columbia in a class action lawsuit to recover unpaid business license fees from online travel companies.

23. [Resolution No.: R-2014-002](#) – Authorizing the City Manager and Interim Chief of Police to execute a Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Columbia and City of Columbia Police Department and the South Carolina Department of Mental Health – *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items 24** and **25**.

24. [Resolution No.: R-2014-003](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only at the Party Animals Mardi Gras at City Roots – *This event is March 1, 2014. - Approved*
25. [Resolution No.: R-2014-004](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only at the Jam Room Music Festival in the 1400 block of Main Street, 1100 block of Hampton Street and Boyd Plaza – *This event is October 11, 2014. - Approved*
26. [Resolution No.: R-2014-006](#) – Recognizing and Honoring the Contributions of Coach Frank Joseph McGuire to USC Basketball and his Illustrious Career and Honorary Re-naming of the 800, 900 and 1000 blocks of Greene Street between Assembly Street and Gadsden Street as "McGuire Way" - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2014-006 – Recognizing and Honoring the Contributions of Coach Frank Joseph McGuire to USC Basketball and his Illustrious Career and Honorary Re-naming of the 800, 900 and 1000 blocks of Greene Street between Assembly Street and Gadsden Street as "McGuire Way".

APPOINTMENTS

27. [Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee](#)

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Dianne Rushing to the Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee as a licensed commercial contractor.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS/REFERRALS

28. Council is asked to refer a presentation from The Benefit Bank of SC to the Economic and Community Development Committee, as requested by The Honorable Sam Davis.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to refer a comprehensive presentation from SC Thrives (*formerly known as The Benefit Bank*) and the Community Development Department to the Economic and Community Development Committee at the appropriate time.

29. Council is asked to refer the discussion of drainage matters in the Rosewood Park / trail area and the ball field parking to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee, as requested by The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Runyan and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to refer the discussion of drainage matters in the Rosewood Park / trail area (Owens Field) and the ball field parking area to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee.

30. Administrative Policy Committee December 17, 2013 [Report](#)

Councilor Devine reported that they discussed the Affordable Housing recommendations and will continue that discussion this month. She reported that the Columbia Housing Authority has closed its waiting list and the Council needs to hone in on the availability of affordable housing in our community to make sure the needs are being met. She said Council needs to identify action items and be ready to implement them.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to refer a review of the evaluation process for the City Manager, City Attorney and Judges to the Administrative Policy Committee.

31. Environment and Infrastructure Committee December 17, 2013 [Report](#)

Councilor Devine reported that staff presented on the city's recycling efforts at events and they will be releasing another Request for Qualifications for the water and sewer line warranty program. She reported on the Change Up Program which is designed to provide water and sewer customers with financial assistance on past due bills. She noted that eligible customers can receive up to \$100 a year, but not more than twice in thirty six months.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to direct staff to add a section on all funding applications for applicants to outline their event recycling plans.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Lee Carroll expressed concerns about parks and recreation and the kids not having uniforms or professional staff.

Mayor Benjamin recalled that Council supported a plan to fund youth sports. He said it is a very real concern.

Mr. Jeff Caton, Director of Parks and Recreation said the plan is to move forward with spring sports activities. He said that meetings are being scheduled with the school district and other partners. He said we are not prepared to fund the winter sports.

Mayor Benjamin asked Mr. Caton to talk with Mr. Carroll.

Elder Norman Summers appeared on behalf of the Police Chief. He asked that Chief Santiago be taken into consideration, because he is doing a great job solving crime and he is doing a great job as the interim police chief.

Councilor Devine said there will be an opportunity for the public to meet all candidates during this process. She agreed that Ruben is doing a great job and every candidate will be given good treatment.

Mr. Jaja Akair said he supports Ruben Santiago as Police Chief and by having a meeting with him he learned a lot. He said he doesn't agree with everything the officers are doing, but he knows that his concerns are heard.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk