



The Columbia City Council conducted a Council Meeting and a Zoning Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. The following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Leona K. Plaugh and The Honorable Moe Baddourah. The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman was absent. The Honorable Cameron Runyan was absent due to a business trip. Also present were Councilman-Elect Howard Duvall, Councilman-Elect Edward McDowell, Jr., Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore, City Clerk. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. *The minutes are numbered to coincide with the order of the meeting.*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Little Miss Gabriel Goodwin led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Chaplain Bryon Powers, Columbia Police Department offered the Invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the adoption of the agenda, subject to removing **Items 2** through **5** from the **Consent Agenda**.

PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one appeared at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [October 20, 2015 Council Meeting](#) and [November 18, 2015 Special Called Meeting](#) – *Approved as presented.*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to approve the October 20, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes.

****Ms. Teresa Wilson**, City Manager recognized Mayor Benjamin's Birthday. The audience sang "Happy Birthday" to Mayor Benjamin and he was presented with a cake that was served during the meeting.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted four (4) to one (1) to approve the November 18, 2015 Special Called Meeting Minutes. Voting aye were Mr. Baddourah, Ms. Devine, Mr. Davis and Mayor Benjamin. Ms. Plaugh voted nay, because she was not present for the special called meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a single motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 6** through **29**.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS and AGREEMENTS

2. Council is asked to approve a [Contract Renewal for Professional Services related to the retention of military personnel, services and operations located at Fort Jackson](#) during the upcoming rounds of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and sequestration for Fiscal Year 2015/2016, as requested by the Economic Development Department. Award to the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$53,000.00. This firm is located Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Special Projects 5518419-638500 – The original budgeted amount is \$53,000.00. – Approved by a vote of three (3) to two (2).*

Councilor Plaugh said Fort Jackson is very critical to the growth and prosperity of our City. She made a motion to approve the contract renewal with the funding source being the council contingency fund. She noted that the balance of the fund is \$107,000.00. Mr. Baddourah seconded the motion.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said she needed to verify the balance of the council contingency fund, because there are items that may not have been accounted for. She said the council contingency fund will be used to fund the expense accounts for the councilmen-elect in the amount of \$16,000.00. Council took action during the budgeting process to add funding for leadership travel and special projects to include the Domestic Violence Prevention Walk, Youth Violence Prevention Week and the Red Dress Campaign.

Councilor Plaugh explained that she pulled several items from the consent agenda, because it is not appropriate to fund them out of the water and sewer fund. She said there is adequate money to fund the items outlined by the City Manager and the \$53,000.

Mr. Ryan Coleman, Economic Development Director explained that Council generally approved these amounts that were set aside in the economic development budget, but we need formal approval in order to release funding to the partners.

Mayor Benjamin said it would have been helpful if these issues were raised in advance. He said the relationship with the Chamber of Commerce and the Cassidy Group working to protect the interests of Fort Jackson has been very successful where other communities have not. Fort Jackson has a \$2 billion economic impact on this region and we need to move forward with approving this contract with the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilor Devine added that staff has been working to determine where the Yellow Shirt funding for the Vista will come from. She said these items were discussed during the budget cycle and now we are being asked to approve the contracts.

A motion made by Ms. Plough and seconded by Mr. Baddourah to allocate funding from the council contingency fund for the Contract Renewal for Professional Services related to the retention of military personnel, services and operations located at Fort Jackson during the upcoming rounds of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and sequestration for Fiscal Year 2015/2016, as requested by the Economic Development Department. Award to the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$53,000.00, failed by a vote of two (2) to three (3). Voting aye were Mr. Baddourah and Ms. Plough. Voting nay were Ms. Devine, Mr. Davis, and Mayor Benjamin.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted three (3) to two (2) to approve a Contract Renewal for Professional Services related to the retention of military personnel, services and operations located at Fort Jackson during the upcoming rounds of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and sequestration for Fiscal Year 2015/2016, as requested by the Economic Development Department. Award to the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$53,000.00. Voting aye were Ms. Devine, Mr. Davis, and Mayor Benjamin. Voting nay were Mr. Baddourah and Ms. Plough.

3. Council is asked to approve a [Contract Renewal for Professional Services for assistance with cluster development, project management, promotions, marketing and research for Fiscal Year 2015/2016](#), as requested by the Economic Development Department. Award to EngenuitySC in the amount of \$65,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Special Contracts 5511301-638300 – The original budgeted amount is \$ 65,000.00. – Approved by a vote of three (3) to two (2).*

Councilor Plough said these contracts are very beneficial to the City, but not appropriate for water and sewer funding.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted three (3) to two (2) to approve a Contract Renewal for Professional Services for assistance with cluster development, project management, promotions, marketing and research for Fiscal Year 2015/2016, as requested by the Economic Development Department. Award to EngenuitySC in the amount of \$65,000.00. Voting aye were Ms. Devine, Mr. Davis, and Mayor Benjamin. Voting nay were Mr. Baddourah and Ms. Plough.

4. Council is asked to approve a [Contract Renewal for Professional Services for improvement and operational services within the Downtown Business Improvement District](#) and marketing, advertising and cleanliness and safety services (“Yellow Shirt” Program) for Fiscal Year 2015/2016, as requested by the Economic Development Department. Award to the City Center Partnership in the amount of \$70,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Special Contracts 5511301-638300 – The original budgeted amount is \$70,000.00. – Approved by a vote of three (3) to two (2).*

Councilor Davis said he is supportive of the BRAC process; he has been to the Pentagon with the Chamber and other business partners; and the significance of this process is critical to the City of Columbia.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted three (3) to two (2) to approve a Contract Renewal for Professional Services for improvement and operational services within the Downtown Business Improvement District and marketing, advertising and cleanliness and safety services (“Yellow Shirt” Program) for Fiscal Year 2015/2016, as requested by the Economic Development Department. Award to the City Center Partnership in the amount of \$70,000.00. Voting aye were Ms. Devine, Mr. Davis, and Mayor Benjamin. Voting nay were Mr. Baddourah and Ms. Plaugh.

Councilor Devine noted that this contract is for the extension of the Yellow Shirts on Main Street, but we still need to look at extending the contract for the Vista Yellow Shirts, which has been beneficial to the safety and security of the Vista. A decision needs to be made in the next few weeks or they will need to lay off employees. She said the Vista Guild was asked to look at the costs, but the City will also have costs associated with that.

5. Council is asked to approve a [Contract Renewal for Professional Services for assistance and recruitment, project management, marketing and research for Fiscal Year 2015/2016](#), as requested by the Economic Development Department. Award to Central SC Alliance in the amount of \$120,500.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Special Contracts 5511301-638300 – The original budgeted amount is \$120,500.00. – Approved by a vote of three (3) to two (2).*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted three (3) to two (2) to approve a Contract Renewal for Professional Services for assistance and recruitment, project management, marketing and research for Fiscal Year 2015/2016, as requested by the Economic Development Department. Award to Central SC Alliance in the amount of \$120,500.00. Voting aye were Ms. Devine, Mr. Davis, and Mayor Benjamin. Voting nay were Ms. Plaugh and Mr. Baddourah.

Mayor Benjamin agreed that the Yellow Shirts have been indispensable and we need to discuss funding at the next meeting. He said the relationship with the Central SC Alliance is growing jobs and economic development across the region. The water and sewer transfers have decreased by 7% and we will continue in that direction all the way down to zero. In our last budget we decided to only make the transfers for public safety needs.

6. Council is asked to approve a [Contract Renewal for ArcGIS Software Maintenance effective January 1, 2016 through January 1, 2017](#), as requested by the Information Technology Department. Award to Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$60,843.00. This firm is located in Redlands, CA. *Funding Source: Geographic Information System/Maintenance and Service Contract 5511121-638200 (\$40,211); Development Services/Computer License 1014101-627510 (\$3,400); Engineering/Computer License, 5511706-627510 (\$4,600); Traffic Engineering/Maintenance and Service Contract 1013203-638200 (\$2,225); Public Works Administration/Computer License 1011124-627510 (\$1,875); Police Administration Services/Computer License 1012402-627510 (\$3,300); Utilities Wastewater Maintenance/Maintenance and Service Contract 5516205-638200 (\$5,232) – The original budgeted amount is \$60,843.00. **CIO Recommendation:** I approved the renewal of ArcGIS software maintenance. - Approved*
7. Council is asked to approve a [Contract Extension for Project Management Services for the Implementation of the City Works Inspection Module and EnerGov Land Development Software](#), as requested by the Budget and Program Management Office. Award to Advanced Automation Consulting in the amount of \$98,280.00. This vendor is located in Irmo, SC. *Funding Source: General Administration Information Technology, 6218950 – The original budgeted amount is \$100,000.00. **CIO Recommendation:** I approved this contract renewal. - Approved*
8. Council is asked to approve a [Contract Extension for Project Management Services for the Implementation of the City's hiring automation and onboarding solution \(Cornerstone On-Demand\) and other applications for various departments](#), as requested by the Budget and Program Management Office. Award to Advanced Automation Consulting in the amount of \$200,200.00. This vendor is located in Irmo, SC. *Funding Source: General Administration Information Technology, 6218950 – The original budgeted amount is \$215,000.00. **CIO Recommendation:** I approved this contract renewal. - Approved*
9. Council is asked to approve a [Contract Renewal for IFAS Software Maintenance and Support effective December 1, 2015 through November 30, 2016](#), as requested by the Budget and Program Management Office. Award to Sungard Public Sector in the amount of \$177,699.00. This firm is located in Lake Mary, FL. *Funding Source: General Admin Information Tech-Maintenance and Service Contract – The original budgeted amount for this renewal is \$177,699.00. **CIO Recommendation:** The Information Technology Department supports the renewal of the City's financial system. - Approved*

10. Council is asked to approve a [Contract Renewal to Provide Uninterrupted Computer-Aided Dispatch \(CAD\) Software and Maintenance Services](#) through November 2016, as requested by the Columbia-Richland 911 Communications Center. Award to TriTech Software Systems in the amount of \$236,702.20. This vendor is located in Dallas, TX. *Funding Source: City Account 1012701-638200 (\$118,351.10) and County Account 2082702-638200 (\$118,351.10) – The original budgeted amount is \$236,702.20. - Approved*
11. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Eighty \(80\) sets of Morning Pride Bunker Gear](#), as requested by the Fire Department. Award to Newton's Fire & Safety in the amount of \$166,752.00. This vendor is located in Swepsonville, NC. *Funding Source: Fire Department-Fire Suppression/Safety Clothing and Supplies, 1012303-625900 – The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$166,752.00. - Approved*
12. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Three Hundred \(300\) Body Worn Camera Packages and Nineteen \(19\) Peripheral Equipment Packages](#), as requested by the Police Department. Award to COBAN Technologies, Inc., as a Sole Source in the amount of \$169,565.00. This vendor is located in Houston, TX. *Funding Source: JAG-Body Worn Cameras: Computer Equipment/Hardware; GL-2659999/627500-JL9211000115/627500 (\$79,720); City Wide Security Camera: Computer Equipment/Hardware; GL-4039999/627500-JL-CP106503/627500 (\$89,845) – The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$169,565. **CIO Recommendation: I approved this purchase and the use of new technology.** - Approved*
13. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of a Hydraulic Excavator](#), as requested by the Water Distribution Division. Award to Blanchard Machinery Company, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$80,079.84. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Utilities Wastewater Maintenance-Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment Capital 5516203-658500 – The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$80,079.84. - Approved*
14. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Two \(2\) Ford F-450 Trucks](#), as requested as requested by the Wastewater Maintenance Division. Award to Dick Smith Ford, Inc., using SC State Contract in the amount of \$104,566.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Utilities Wastewater Maintenance-Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment Capital, 5516205-658500 – The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$114,480.00. – Approved*

15. Council is asked to approve [Contract Amendment #1 for Project SD8387; Project SD8387; An agreement for conducting an assessment and developing a comprehensive management plan for the Rocky Branch Watershed](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to McCormick Taylor in an amount of \$54,000.00. This firm has headquarters in Philadelphia, PA and a local office in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Storm Drain Capital Budget 5549999-SD8387-658650 – The original budgeted amount for this project is \$300,000.00. **Note:** Project SD8387 was previously identified as a Supplemental Environmental Project under the Clean Water 2020 Program. The initial agreement was approved on October 20, 2015 in the amount of \$217,454.77, but the original agreement amount was \$271,454.77 leaving a remaining balance of \$54,000. The sub-consultant KCI Technologies has headquarters in Sparks, MD and a local office in Columbia, SC. KCI Technologies will provide hydrologic and hydraulic analysis and water quality data collection and analysis for \$77,290.64. - Approved*
16. Council is asked to approve [Project SS7365; 24” Sanitary Sewer Force Main Emergency Repair at Mill Creek and Bluff Road](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to G.H. Smith Construction, the lowest responsive bidder in the amount of \$123,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Sewer Maintenance Fund, 5516205-638305 – **Note:** This is a Clean Water 2020 Program Project. The following sub-consultants will receive \$28,000.00 or 23% of the contract value: - Approved*

Sub-consultants	Locations	Services	Contract %	Amount
Fortiline Waterworks	Columbia, SC	Pipe and Fittings	16%	\$20,000.00
Xylem	Charleston, SC	Pump Rental	2%	\$2,500.00
Vulcan	Columbia, SC	Rock	1%	\$500.00
Knights Precast	Summerville, SC	Manhole	4%	\$5,000.00

17. Council is asked to approve a [Water Main Extension Agreement for the River Shoals Subdivision](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to NKD, Inc., in the amount of \$183,726.00 to be provided in the form of water certificates/taps with a defined expiration period of ten (10) years, as outlined in the agreement. This firm is located in Lexington, SC. - *Approved*
18. Council is asked to approve [Project CP104504; An Agreement for Professional Services for the Harden Street Phase II–B Improvements at Taylor Street](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Grice Consulting Group in an amount not to exceed \$370,698.00. This firm has headquarters located in Atlanta, GA and a local office located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Federal Earmark Fund 4139999-CP104504 – The original budgeted amount for professional services and construction of this project is \$1,449,915.00. **Note:** The following sub-consultants will receive \$211,014.52 or 56.92% of the contract value: - Approved*

Sub-consultants	Locations	Services	Contract %	Amount
CDM Smith	Columbia, SC	Roadway/Drain Design	28.81%	\$106,800.00
Construction Support Services	Columbia, SC	Surveying	5.89%	\$21,836.92
S&ME	Columbia, SC	Geotechnical	4.51%	\$16,700.00
GWA, Inc. (LBE)	Columbia, SC	Electrical Engineering	7.20%	\$26,700.00
Grimball Cotterill & Associates	Charleston, SC	Landscape Design	6.74%	\$25,000.00
HDR/ICA	Columbia, SC	Environmental	3.77%	\$13,977.60

19. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Water Meters for Fiscal Year 2015/2016](#), as requested by the Water Distribution Division. Award to the following vendors of each lot in the amount of \$624,060.72. *Funding Source: Utilities Water Distribution & Maintenance/Meter Parts & Supplies, 5516203-625600 – The original budgeted amount is \$630,000.00. - Approved*

Lots	Size	Vendors/Locations	Amount
1	¾ & 1”	HD Supply Waterworks LTD (West Columbia)	\$147,040.00
2	1 ½” & 2”	United Utilities (Smyrna, TN)	\$76,350.00
3	4”, 6”, 8” & 10”	Neptune Technology Group (Tallasse, AL)	\$354,444.00
		SC Sales Tax	\$46,226.72
		Total	\$624,060.72

20. Council is asked to approve a [Contract to Purchase Screenings, Grit & Sludge Hauling and Container Rental Services](#), as requested by the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to Waste Management in an amount not to exceed \$881,400.00. This firm is located in Elgin, SC. *Funding Source: Utilities Metro Wastewater Plant-Special Contracts, 5516208-638300 – The original budgeted amount is \$900,000.00. **Note:** The total contract term shall not exceed a five (5) year term ending June 30, 2020. - Approved*

21. Council is asked to approve [Project WM4269; Water Main Construction along Sylvan Drive, Briarwood Road, Trenholm Road and Lakecrest Drive](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to G.H. Smith Construction, the lowest responsive bidder in the amount of \$2,290,268.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Water Improvement Fund, 5529999-WM426901-658650 – The original budgeted amount for this project is \$2,290,268.00.00. **Note:** This is a Mentor Protégé Program Project. Lake Murray Utilities of Chapin, SC is the Protégé and will receive \$428,053.60 (20%) of the contract value. The following sub-consultants will receive \$820,000.00 or 19.15% of the contract value: - Approved*

Sub-consultants	Locations	Services	Contract %	Amount
Fortiline Waterworks	Columbia, SC	Pipe & Fittings	19%	\$440,000.00
Concrete Supply	Columbia, SC	Flowable Fill & Concrete	.08%	\$185,000.00
Lane Construction	West Columbia, SC	Asphalt Paving	.05%	\$132,000.00
Air Force Excavating	Columbia, SC	Directional Bore	.02%	\$63,000.00

22. Council is asked to approve a [Contract to Purchase Screenings, Grit & Sludge Landfill Disposal Services](#), as requested by the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to Waste Management, the lowest responsive bidder in the amount of \$2,950,950.00. This firm is located in Elgin, SC. *Funding Source: Utilities Wastewater Treatment Plant-Special Contract, 5516208-638300 - The original budgeted amount is \$3,000,000.00.– Note: This contract is for a five (5) year term ending June 30, 2020 with an option to extend two (2) additional one year terms for a total of seven (7) years. - Approved*

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

23. [Ordinance No.: 2015-082 \(Revised\)](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Contract of Sale and any other documents necessary to consummate the transfer of approximately 0.70 acres (30,266 sf) of the Blanding Street Right of Way adjacent to Richland County TMS #0901 0-13-01 and 09010-13-05, and Parcel 30, Richland County TMS #09009-02-01 to Vista Associates, LLC – *First reading approval was given on September 15, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*
24. [Ordinance No.: 2015-084](#) – Granting an encroachment to the University of South Carolina for the use of the right of way areas of the 900 block of Lincoln Street and 900 block of Gadsden Street for installation and maintenance of high density polyethylene (HDPE) conduit for the Discovery Building and Colonial Life Arena adjacent to Richland County TMS #08915-03-02, 08916-08-01, 08915-02-01, 08915-03-01 – *First reading approval was given on October 20, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*
25. [Ordinance No.: 2015-087](#) – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 17, Planning, Land Development and Zoning, Article V, Historic Preservation and Architectural Review, Division 4, Landmarks, Sec. 17-691 Buildings and sites list, (c), to add 2150 Harden Street, Parker Annex Building, TMS# 11501-01-01 (p) – *First reading approval was given on October 20, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*
26. [Ordinance No.: 2015-088](#) – Amending Ordinance 2015-074 Granting a Franchise to Richard Dittmar d/b/a Capital City Dog for the operation of a stationary sidewalk vending cart on the northeast corner of Main Street and Lady Street – *First reading approval was given on October 20, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*
27. [Ordinance No.: 2015-098](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only at the 2016 Famously Hot New Year Event – *First reading approval was given on November 18, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*

EVENT RESOLUTIONS

28. [Resolution No.: R-2015-103](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Soda City HolidayFest on December 12, 2015 – *Approved*

29. [Resolution No.: R-2015-105](#) – Authorizing tastings only of locally produced wine and beer only provided by market vendors and operation of Soda City, an open-air market featuring farmers and food from January, 2016 to December, 2018 within the 1500 block of Main Street excluding Boyd Plaza and the sidewalk areas - *Approved*

PRESENTATIONS

30. [Business Spotlight Program Honoree \(Bohemian, Inc.\)](#) – Mr. Angelo McBride, Administrator for the Office of Business Opportunities

Mr. Angelo McBride, Administrator for the Office of Business Opportunities said Bruce and Dennis Schultze have been running Bohemian, Inc. since 1978 and it is known for having amazing wall art, clocks, murals, gadgets and accessories.

Mr. Lee Catoe, Director of Community Affairs & Small Business Engagement for the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce said this recognition gives businesses the opportunity to network, create more partners and generate additional revenue.

Mr. Bruce Shultze, President of Bohemian, Inc. thanked the City of Columbia for supporting small businesses.

Mayor Benjamin and the members of City Council proclaimed Bohemian, Inc. as the Third Quarter Business Spotlight Honoree for 2015.

31. Presentation of the International Association of Business Communicators SC Palmetto Award to the Public and Media Relations Department – Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager recognized the City of Columbia Public and Media Relations Department for receiving the International Association of Business Communicators SC Palmetto Award for their #LoveColumbia Photo Challenge initiative. The #LoveColumbia Photo Challenge initiative is an annual City initiative that encourages citizens to submit photos by way of social media of their favorite images taken within the city limits. The Palmetto Award was created to recognize the outstanding work in the communications field. IABC held their annual awards ceremony on November 3, 2015 at the Palmetto Club.

32. [April 2016 South Carolina African American History Calendar Honoree \(Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins\)](#) – Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager recognized Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins for being selected as the April 2016 South Carolina African American History Calendar Honoree.

Mr. Ted Creech, Director of External Affairs for AT&T said this is the 27th year that AT&T and BellSouth have produced this calendar for the purpose of providing a storehouse of stories of success among African Americans in South Carolina.

Mr. Aubrey Jenkins, Fire Chief for the Columbia Fire Department said he doesn't feel worthy and his success is depicted by the people who support him.

Mayor Benjamin and the members of City Council presented Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins with a framed calendar for the month of April 2016 from the South Carolina African History Calendar.

33. Introduction of Mr. Terence L. Murchison, Sr., Chief Information Officer – Mr. Jeff Palen, Assistant City Manager for Economic and Financial Services / Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Jeff Palen, Assistant City Manager for Economic and Financial Services / Chief Financial Officer introduced Mr. Terence L. Murchison, Sr. as the new Chief Information Officer for the City of Columbia.

Mr. Terence L. Murchison, Sr., Chief Information Officer thanked everyone for the opportunity to lead and develop our people, processes and information technology support. He has reviewed how we link technology to the City's strategy; how our internal business capabilities can be linked to technology and external products and services; and how technology will help us to compete.

34. InnovateHER 2016: Innovating for Women Business Challenge – Ms. Gerry Lynn Hall, Program Coordinator for the Office of Business Opportunities

Ms. Gerry Lynn Hall, Program Coordinator for the Office of Business Opportunities said the United States Small Business Administration launched the first InnovateHER competition in 2015. Gabby Bows was selected as one of fifteen national finalists. Gabby Bows placed 4th in the national competition and was recognized as the youngest entrepreneur present. Gabby was interviewed by the Washington Post, the Chicago Tribune and CNN. The City's most recent InnovateHER competition was held on November 12, 2015.

Ms. Rozalynn Goodwin, Mommy-Inventor of Gabby Bows said the City of Columbia is the best place in the world to start a business. She reported that Gabby Bows is less than two years old; can be found in nearly 100 retail stores; and has filled online orders in 38 states and five countries. She introduced Mr. Anthony Ned as the City of Columbia 2016 InnovateHER Pitch Competition winner.

Mr. Anthony Ned said he invented Rooster Booster, which is a product that can jump start a car without using jumper cables. He hopes to represent the City and State as well as Gabby Bows has. The Rooster Booster is patent pending.

Little Miss Gabriel Goodwin demonstrated Gabby Bows, which can be purchased online at www.gabbybows.com.

35. Introduction of Selfie Saturday Winners – Ms. Gerry Lynn Hall, Program Coordinator for the Office of Business Opportunities

Ms. Gerry Lynn Hall, Program Coordinator for the Office of Business Opportunities said the City's Office of Business Opportunities and our local business associations launched the 2016 Selfie Saturday promotion campaign in October. Every Saturday in November was an opportunity to shop, snap and tweet a selfie for a chance to win a \$50 gift card. The business promotion ended on Saturday, November 28, 2015, which was National Small Business Day. She announced that Ms. Sally Rickenbacker was the Selfie Saturday winner.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS and AGREEMENTS

36. Council is asked to approve [Project WM419102 / SS7266; Administrative and Maintenance Offices for the Water and Wastewater Divisions](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Contract Construction, a Local Business Enterprise and the lowest responsive bidder in the amount of \$15,152,500.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: CIP Improvement Fund 5529999-658660/WM419102-658650 - The original budgeted amount for this project is \$15,000,000.00 and additional funding in the amount of \$152,500.00 will come from Unforeseen Projects WM396516/SS728801. – Note: This is a Subcontracting Outreach Program Project and the sub-consultants will receive \$8,871,698.10 or 57.8% of the contract value. Construction Dynamics was the second lowest bidder in the amount of \$15,522,000.00. – Approved by a vote of three (3) to two (2). - [Click here to view the water / wastewater facility drawings](#)*

Mayor Benjamin said we do large water and sewer improvements on a regular basis. The stadium funded by hospitality taxes is probably the largest non-water and sewer project we've done in the history of the city and this may be the second largest project. This is an important project that adds a significant amount of life, economic development and community development to a corridor that we all hope will see even better days. This will bring approximately 800 jobs, shopping and restaurants.

Ms. Melissa Gentry, P.E., Assistant City Manager for Operations said the water and sewer administration facility will be located on Beltline Boulevard at the old Newsome Chevrolet site. It is a 10-acre redevelopment project with a LEED certified design. She said the intent is to relocate our water and sewer maintenance operations from Colonial Drive to Beltline Boulevard; this does not include the Solid Waste Division. She clarified that we are using low-impact development techniques; removing two acres of pervious pavement; installing rain gardens and landscaping; and reusing three buildings. The front facility will have a green roof. We are making a \$15 million investment in the Beltline corridor. She explained that the current facility houses public works, a portion of general services, and our water and sewer operations. She noted that we have been working on this project for several years and this project won an award for best design.

Mayor Benjamin said we are significantly reducing storm water runoff.

Ms. Melissa Gentry, P.E., Assistant City Manager for Operations noted that there will be approximately 400 to 600 employees at this location, but a lot of them will leave during the day time and report back in the afternoon. She reiterated that there will be no garbage trucks at this location, but there will be a significant amount of activity at this location. She noted that we do have 24-hour operations for emergencies and on-call services. The new administration building is 15,000 sq. ft. She presented schematics of the facility.

Mayor Benjamin said the car dealerships have moved to the suburbs and nothing has been done with these spaces. He said the best example he has seen as a reuse of a car dealership is in Chester, South Carolina where they have relocated their economic development offices. This is more exciting. The facility will include community meeting space, as well.

Councilor Davis said a lot of municipalities are reusing big boxes that are located in major corridors. He said this is a significant corridor and it is a good project.

Councilor Devine said as we try to redevelop corridors throughout the City, developers look at traffic counts and the number of people that will be able to spend money in an area. She said this will be a prime area for other development and she is excited to see this happen. She recalled that we purchased this property at least six years ago and this project has been delayed a lot. We can expound upon a plan for the whole corridor. She hopes we will look at the benefits of having this here and what else we can do to complement the area.

Councilor Plough said this is very important for that corridor and we have been looking at this for five years. It comes at a precarious time in the life of the City as it relates to the great flood of October. She said there are so many pending liabilities even though there is great hope that the \$100 million needed for canal repairs will be funded from other sources. If not, it will come from us. She made a motion to delay the contract approval for three months to allow us the opportunity to know what those liabilities are, what we have to cover and how much the Federal government is going to step up. If the Federal government doesn't step up, we will have to pay. Mr. Baddourah seconded the motion.

Mayor Benjamin said we discussed this briefly during the work session. This is a catalyst project for District Two and I believe that Beltline Boulevard has waited long enough. This project will bring jobs and economic development. It will serve as a cornerstone for a number of great things we hope to see happening. He acknowledged that Beltline Boulevard needs a new park, a revitalized baseball field, façade grants, beautification and a lot of great things. He said he has been deeply involved in our flood recovery efforts. He encouraged his colleagues to become very involved in how we minimize the exposure that the City may have for some of the improvements that are needed. He said we have work to do and we can use this very same energy and concern to aggressively advocate before our Governor, Director Shwedo, Congressman Clyburn, and the other members of our Federal Delegation to minimize any particular impact. He said Ms. Plough's concern is duly noted, but in three months she may not have the certainty that she seeks. This is important for the community and we need to move forward now.

A motion made by Ms. Plough and seconded by Mr. Baddourah to defer consideration of Project WM419102 / SS7266; Administrative and Maintenance Offices for the Water and Wastewater Divisions, as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department for a three month period failed by a vote of two (2) to three (3). Voting aye were Mr. Baddourah and Ms. Plough. Voting nay were Ms. Devine, Mr. Davis and Mayor Benjamin.

Mr. Harry Watson, President of the Historic Booker Washington Heights Neighborhood said this will be a great improvement for the neighborhood, but they want to see how much money will trickle down to the community from the project.

Mayor Benjamin requested an explicit vote to not move Solid Waste to this facility and to use the same approach as done with the stadium to equip people from the community to work on the project. CCEB put together a training program for many residents that are currently working on the stadium or other construction projects around the City. He said it would be great to do this training for this facility as well.

Ms. Katie Bolden said the community and jobs for young people are important to her. She would like for the surrounding communities to meet with Councilman-Elect McDowell to review this project together. She asked Council to reconsider Lester Drive and to work with them to save the young people in the community.

Ms. Diane Wiley said she is glad the garbage trucks won't be at this facility. She asked where the water will go, because they have an issue with the water system in the Belvedere Community. She said there are big potholes on Truman Street, Webb Court, Belvedere Drive and Garden Drive. She hopes this will not bring more water into the neighborhood.

Ms. Martha Thompson, 2707 High Circle said since Council opened the road her family is having a hard time with the heavy traffic. She said the open road is like Beltline Boulevard; they are speeding and playing loud music. She said someone broke into the house across the street after the road was opened. She invited Council members to sit on her porch to view the traffic. She has always voted and now she wants results and safety. She expressed disappointment in the City's Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP).

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted three (3) to two (2) to approve Project WM419102 / SS7266; Administrative and Maintenance Offices for the Water and Wastewater Divisions, as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Contract Construction, a Local Business Enterprise and the lowest responsive bidder in the amount of \$15,152,500.00, subject to not moving the Solid Waste Division to this location and requiring Contract Construction to utilize the same program used on Bull Street to train and hire people, with a focus on young people, to help build this facility. Voting aye were Ms. Devine, Mr. Davis and Mayor Benjamin. Voting nay were Mr. Baddourah and Ms. Plough.

Councilman-Elect Edward McDowell said he heard concerns from constituents in District Two. We have worked alone for a long time; there has been a famine in District Two. I want to make sure that the needs and concerns are met collaboratively to push District Two into a

One Columbia where needs are being met. He stated that the Mayor has pledged his support for the community. He ensured the constituents that they have a voice now; you don't have to search for the answers; together, we will find the answers.

ZONING PUBLIC HEARING

Council opened the Zoning Public Hearing at 7:54 p.m.

ANNEXATION, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP AMENDMENT & ZONING MAP AMENDMENT – FIRST READING

37. **1750 Andrews Road**, TMS#13701-01-17; request recommendation concerning application to annex, assign land use classification Urban Core Residential Small Lot - 1 (UCR-1) and zone the property RG-1 (General Residential District -1). The property is currently classified as Mixed Residential (High Density) and zoned RM-MD (Mixed Residential-Medium Density) in Richland County. – *Approved on first reading.*

Council District: 3
Proposal: Annex, assign land use classification UCR and zone the property RG-1
Applicant: Pro Tow of Columbia, Inc.
PC Recommendation: Approve (7-0); 11/02/15
Staff Recommendation: Annex, assign UCR-1 Land Use Classification and RG-1 Zoning

Ordinance No.: 2015-108 – Annexing and Incorporating 1750 Andrews Road, Richland County TMS #13701-01-17 into the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan Putting the Pieces Together adopted by Ordinance No.: 2015-014 on February 17, 2015 – *Approved on first reading.*

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to this matter.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the *Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment & Zoning Map Amendment* for 1750 Andrews Road, TMS#13701-01-17; request recommendation concerning application to annex, assign land use classification Urban Core Residential Small Lot - 1 (UCR-1) and zone the property RG-1 (General Residential District -1) **and** Ordinance No.: 2015-108 – Annexing and Incorporating 1750 Andrews Road, Richland County TMS #13701-01-17 into the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan Putting the Pieces Together adopted by Ordinance No.: 2015-014 on February 17, 2015.

38. **3807 Capers Road**, TMS#13805-07-17; request recommendation concerning application to annex, assign land use classification UCR-1 (Urban Core Residential – Small Lot), and zone the property RS-3 (Single Family Residential). The property is currently classified as Mixed Residential and zoned RS-HD (Residential, Single-Family, High Density) in Richland County. – *Approved on first reading.*

Council District: 3
Proposal: Annex, assign UCR-1 Land Use Classification, and RS-3 Zoning
Applicant: Sarah J. Gareau
PC Recommendation: Approve (7-0); 11/02/15
Staff Recommendation: Annex, assign UCR-1 Land Use Classification and RS-3 Zoning

[Ordinance No.: 2015-107](#) – Annexing and Incorporating 3807 Capers Avenue, Richland County TMS #13805-07-17, into the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan Putting the Pieces Together adopted by Ordinance No. : 2015-014 on February 17, 2015 – *Approved on first reading.*

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to this matter.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the *Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment & Zoning Map Amendment* for 3807 Capers Road, TMS#13805-07-17; request recommendation concerning application to annex, assign land use classification UCR-1 (Urban Core Residential – Small Lot), and zone the property RS-3 (Single Family Residential) **and** Ordinance No.: 2015-107 – Annexing and Incorporating 3807 Capers Avenue, Richland County TMS #13805-07-17, into the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan Putting the Pieces Together adopted by Ordinance No. : 2015-014 on February 17, 2015.

39. [7316, 7320, 7324, and 7340 Garners Ferry Road](#), TMS#16409-01-01; request recommendation concerning application to annex, assign land use classification AC-2 (Community Action Corridor) and zone the property C-3 (General Commercial District). The property is currently classified as Neighborhood (Medium Density) and zoned GC (General Commercial) in Richland County. – *Approved on first reading.*

Council District: 3
Proposal: Annex, assign AC-2 Land Use Classification, and C-3 Zoning
Applicant: Associate Management, Inc.
PC Recommendation: Approve (7-0); 11/02/15
Staff Recommendation: Annex, assign AC-2 Land Use Classification and C-3 Zoning

[Ordinance No.: 2015-106](#) – Annexing and Incorporating 7316, 7320, 7324 and 7340 Garners Ferry Road, Richland County TMS #16409-01-01, into the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan Putting the Pieces Together adopted by Ordinance No.: 2015-014 on February 17, 2015 – *Approved on first reading.*

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to this matter.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the *Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment & Zoning Map Amendment* for 7316, 7320, 7324, and 7340 Garners Ferry Road, TMS#16409-01-01; request recommendation concerning application to annex, assign land use classification AC-2 (Community Action Corridor) and zone the property C-3 (General Commercial District) **and** Ordinance No.: 2015-106 – Annexing and Incorporating 7316, 7320, 7324 and 7340 Garners Ferry Road, Richland County TMS #16409-01-01, into the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan Putting the Pieces Together adopted by Ordinance No.: 2015-014 on February 17, 2015.

40. [NE/S Spears Creek Church Road](#), TMS#28800-01-10 (p); request recommendation concerning application to annex, assign land use classification UEMF (Urban Edge Multi-Family), and zone the property PUD-R (Planned Unit Development-Residential). The property is currently classified as Neighborhood and zoned PDD (Planned Development District) in Richland County. – *Approved on first reading.*

Council District: 4
Proposal: Annex, assign land use classification UEMF, and zone the property PUD-R
Applicant: Woodcreek Development, LLC
PC Recommendation: Approve (5-0); 09/14/15
Staff Recommendation: Annex, assign UEMF Land Use Classification and PUD-R Zoning

[Ordinance No.: 2015-086](#) – Annexing and Incorporating 5.13 acres NE/S Spears Creek Church Road and W/S Woodcreek Farms Road, Richland County TMS #28800-01-10 (portion) into the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan Putting the Pieces Together adopted by Ordinance No.: 2015-014 on February 17, 2015 – *Approved on first reading.*

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to this matter.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Plough and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the *Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment & Zoning Map Amendment* for NE/S Spears Creek Church Road, TMS#28800-01-10 (p); request recommendation concerning application to annex, assign land use classification UEMF (Urban Edge Multi-Family), and zone the property PUD-R (Planned Unit Development-Residential) **and** Ordinance No.: 2015-086 – Annexing and Incorporating 5.13 acres NE/S Spears Creek Church Road and W/S Woodcreek Farms Road, Richland County TMS #28800-01-10 (portion) into the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan Putting the Pieces Together adopted by Ordinance No.: 2015-014 on February 17, 2015.

ZONING MAP AMENDMENT – FIRST READING

41. 1511 Williams Street, 600 Canalside Street, N/S Canalside Street (multiple parcels), 610 Depot Street, 1625 Williams Street, 463 MacDougall Street, 485 MacDougall Street, N/S Irwin Park Circle, E/S Irwin Park Circle, 361 Taylor Street, 638 Taylor Street, 535 Depot Street, 645 Canalside Street, TMS#09005-03-01, -02, -03 to -06, -15, -18, -07, -08, -09, -10, -11, -12, -13, -14, -16, -17; request major amendment to (Canalside) a PUD-C/DD Planned Unit Development-Commercial/Design Development Overlay District). **1511 Huger Street, 419 Hampton Street, 4 Science Alley, 21 Science Alley, 9 Science Alley, 1504 Williams Street, 401 Hampton Street, 1510 Williams Street, 1512 Williams Street, and 1516 Williams Street, S/S Huger Street**, TMS# 09009-14-11, -14, -15, -22, -23, -24, -25, -26, -27, -28, -31; request recommendation to rezone from C-1/DD (Office and Institutional District/Design Development Overlay District) to PUD-C/DD (Planned Unit Development-Commercial/Design Development Overlay District). – *Approved on first reading.*
- Council District: 2
- Proposal: Rezone parcel from C-1/DD to PUD/DD
- Applicant: Ryan Hyler, Land Holdings Two, LLC
- PC Recommendation: Cancelled due to Weather 10/05/15 / rescheduled to 11/02/2015
- PC Recommendation: Approve (7-0); 11/02/15
- Staff Recommendation: Approve

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to this matter.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the *Zoning Map Amendment* for 1511 Williams Street, 600 Canalside Street, N/S Canalside Street (multiple parcels), 610 Depot Street, 1625 Williams Street, 463 MacDougall Street, 485 MacDougall Street, N/S Irwin Park Circle, E/S Irwin Park Circle, 361 Taylor Street, 638 Taylor Street, 535 Depot Street, 645 Canalside Street, TMS#09005-03-01, -02, -03 to -06, -15, -18, -07, -08, -09, -10, -11, -12, -13, -14, -16, -17; request major amendment to (Canalside) a PUD-C/DD Planned Unit Development-Commercial/Design Development Overlay District). **1511 Huger Street, 419 Hampton Street, 4 Science Alley, 21 Science Alley, 9 Science Alley, 1504 Williams Street, 401 Hampton Street, 1510 Williams Street, 1512 Williams Street, and 1516 Williams Street, S/S Huger Street**, TMS# 09009-14-11, -14, -15, -22, -23, -24, -25, -26, -27, -28, -31; request recommendation to rezone from C-1/DD (Office and Institutional District/Design Development Overlay District) to PUD-C/DD (Planned Unit Development-Commercial/Design Development Overlay District).

42. **1319 Caroline Road**, TMS#16414-09-07; request to rezone from UTD (Urban Transitional District) to C-1 (Office and Institutional). – *This item was withdrawn.*
 Council District: 3
 Proposal: Rezone parcel from UTD to C-1
 Applicant: Donald J. Simons
 PC Recommendation: Deny (5-0), 05/04/15
 Zoning Public Hearing: Deferred, 07/21/15
 Zoning Public Hearing: Deferred, 09/15/15
 Staff Recommendation: Deny
43. **1000/1010 Lady Street, 1218 Park Street**, TMS#09013-09-01, -02, -22; request recommendation to rezone from M-1, -DD (Light Industrial, Design Development Overlay) to C-4, -DD (Central Area Commercial, Design Development Overlay). - *Consideration of this item was deferred at the request of the applicant.*
 Council District: 2
 Proposal: Rezone parcel from M-1, -DD to C-4, -DD
 Applicant: William H. Bailey
 PC Recommendation: Deny (7-2), 04/06/15
 Zoning Public Hearing: Deferred, 05/19/15
 Zoning Public Hearing: Deferred, 06/02/15
 Staff Recommendation: Approve
44. **315 South Maple Street**, TMS#11313-04-02; request to rezone from RS-3, CC-1 (Single Family Residential District, Community Character) to C-1 (Office and Institutional District). – *Consideration of this item was deferred.*
 Council District: 3
 Proposal: Rezone parcel from RS-3/CC1 to C-1
 Applicant: Michael Pate
 PC Recommendation: Deny (8-0), 08/03/15
 Staff Recommendation: Deny
45. **3513 North Beltline Boulevard**, TMS#11613-06-07; request recommendation to rezone from RS-2 (Single Family Residential District) to C-1 (Office and Institutional District). – *Approved on first reading by a vote of four (4) to one (1).*
 Council District: 2
 Proposal: Rezone parcel from RS-2 to C-1
 Applicant: Oscar Mitchell
 PC Recommendation: Deny (5-0), 09/14/15
 Staff Recommendation: Deny

Mr. Oscar Mitchell, Owner of 3513 North Beltline Boulevard said he rents the property and tried to sell it as a residential property. He would like to rezone the property in order to maximize his opportunity to sell it for commercial use.

Ms. Krista Hampton, Planning and Development Services Director said staff recommended denial, because they do not encourage encroachment of commercial into residential areas. She said they are also relying on the Land Use Plan.

Councilor Davis said the property is on a corridor that will likely transition.

Mr. Oscar Mitchell, Owner of 3513 North Beltline Boulevard said the property next door is a contractor's office; it's already commercial.

Mayor Benjamin asked if feedback had been received from any of the neighbors.

Ms. Krista Hampton, Planning and Development Services Director said no.

Mayor Benjamin explained that Council usually has a policy against commercial encroachment into residential areas. It's rare that you find one on the commercial corridor where on the one side it's clearly commercial and on the other side it's clearly residential. It is a compelling case, but in direct contravention to our policy.

Ms. Krista Hampton, Planning and Development Services Director noted that we suffer from an oversupply of commercial properties, especially along these corridors. As a land use policy we don't want to encourage additional commercial when we are already trying to fill up the ones we have. There is disinvestment along these corridors.

An unidentified female reiterated that Mr. Mitchell had the property listed as residential for two years and no one was interested in purchasing it, because it is located on a busy thoroughfare. When the property was listed with the pending zoning change, three people were interested in purchasing the property as commercial.

Mayor Benjamin said this is a unique case and he appreciates staffs' consistency with its recommendations to Council, but he has no reservations with approving this map amendment.

Councilor Devine asked if the neighboring property is being used commercially.

Ms. Krista Hampton, Planning and Development Services Director said one of them is a contractor, but she is unsure about the other property.

Councilor Plaugh inquired about the properties to the east and west.

Mr. Oscar Mitchell, Owner of the property said the house on the right is owner occupied and the property to the left is a contractor.

Councilor Baddourah said he will support this and asked that the neighbors be able to come and express concerns prior to second reading approval.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted four (4) to one (1) to give first reading approval to the *Zoning Map* Amendment for 3513 North Beltline Boulevard, TMS#11613-06-07; request recommendation to rezone from RS-2 (Single Family Residential District) to C-1 (Office and Institutional District). Voting aye were Mr. Baddourah, Ms. Devine, Mr. Davis, and Mayor Benjamin. Ms. Plaugh voted nay.

TEXT AMENDMENT – FIRST READING

46. [Recommendation to City Council to Amend §17-404 \(e\) \(4\) \(Prohibited Signs\)](#) to define how the spacing requirement is measured for the conversion of an outdoor advertising sign to changeable copy adjacent to an interstate highway.

Proposal: Chapter 17, Article III, Division 12, Amend §17-404 (e)(4) to define how the residential spacing requirement is measured for the conversion of an outdoor advertising sign to changeable copy adjacent to an interstate highway.

Applicant: The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin

PC Recommendation: Approve (6-0), 11/02/15

Staff Recommendation: Approve

[Ordinance No.: 2015-102](#) – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 17, Planning, Land Development and Zoning, Article III, Zoning, Division 12, Signs, Sec. 17-404 Prohibited signs (e)(4) – *Approved on first reading by a vote of four (4) to one (1).*

Ms. Krista Hampton, Planning and Development Services Director said this text amendment will define how the spacing requirement is measured for the conversion of an outdoor advertising sign to changeable copy adjacent to an interstate highway. She said the zoning district line is in the middle of the highway. She said you would measure from the sign to the parcel.

Councilor Baddourah asked if this will impact the number of signs on the highways.

Ms. Krista Hampton, Planning and Development Services Director said it will not impact the number of signs; it will impact the conversion of a sign to digital billboard.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Ms. Plaugh, Council voted four (4) to one (1) to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-102 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 17, Planning, Land Development and Zoning, Article III, Zoning, Division 12, Signs, Sec. 17-404 Prohibited signs (e)(4). Voting aye were Ms. Plaugh, Ms. Devine, Mr. Davis, and Mayor Benjamin. Mr. Baddourah voted nay.

Ms. Katie Bolden asked if the property owners and the billboard companies were notified.

Mayor Benjamin said it was properly noticed and it was requested by folks in the business.

Council closed the public hearing at 8:15 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS

47. [Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee](#)

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Ms. Plaugh, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Fritz Hamer, Ms. Jane Downey and Ms. Deborah Bloom to the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

48. [Board of Zoning Appeals](#) – *Consideration of this item was deferred. The vacancies will be re-advertised for a two week period.*

49. [Richland County Board of Assessment Appeals](#) – *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

UPDATE ON THE CITY'S RESPONSE TO THE OCTOBER 2015 HISTORIC FLOOD EVENT - Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager

- [Ordinance No.: 2015-095](#) – Enacting Temporary Waiver of Five-Year Cumulative Period for Purposes of Determining Whether Substantial Improvements Have Been Made to a Structure for Flood Hazard Mitigation Purposes; Providing for Severability; Providing an Expiration Date; and Setting forth an Effective Date – *First reading consideration was given on November 2, 2015.*

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager explained that the update will consist of the presentation made to the House Ways and Means Committee, an update from our consultants, and an update on the five-year look back. She said we continue to bring the ordinance forward, but we do not recommend action tonight. She reported that parts of our City experienced rainfall that exceeded once in a lifetime thousand year levels. Our average annual rate of rain is 45” and we got over 24” of rainfall in 48 hours. The rainfall caused historic flooding and unprecedented damages. The 911 Communications Center processes between 2,500 and 3,000 calls in a 24 hour period. During the first 24 hours of the flood event, those numbers more than doubled. Almost 400 homes and 60 businesses were damaged, but we are waiting to receive better numbers from FEMA. There is an estimated \$65 million in damages. There were multiple dam failures; a massive breach in the Canal; and over 100 streets in the City were closed, blocked or impassable. There were multiple sewer and water line ruptures and breaks. The City lost significant use of fire station #3 and its training facility. She reported that inspections are ongoing and additional damages are being discovered. FEMA has reported that over 840 active flood insurance policies do exist in Columbia. She presented a picture of the Canal and the 60’ section that washed away. The Canal breach and numerous breaks in our water system led to a widespread impact to clean drinking water for ten days for 375,000 people. We had an unprecedented system wide boil water advisory that also affected our hospitals, nursing homes, government agencies, colleges, military installations,

schools, banking institutions, restaurants, hotels, tourist destinations and other businesses and organizations. She indicated that Nashville's boil water advisory was also system wide, but it lasted for over a month. We are thankful that we were able to get back to normal, as best we could, within a ten day period.

Councilor Plough asked the City Manager to coordinate a one-day trip to Nashville.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager agreed that the trip could be coordinated. She doesn't think it is necessary for Council to take that trip. She said we had consultants assisting us from day one; the water system isn't exactly the same; and they are still going through their audit. She said we may be able to accomplish the same thing through a telephone conversation. She said Ms. Devine and Mr. Baker recently attended the National League of Cities conference in Nashville.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager added that Nashville provided a tour and the storm water management personnel were in charge of the presentation at their Canal. They showed us the problems they incurred. He asked one of Nashville's firemen who assisted with flood recovery in Columbia, Orangeburg and Georgetown to compare the two incidents. The fireman believed that Columbia was more prepared than Nashville and Columbia received assistance from the National Guard. He said that ACM Gentry's staff has held conference calls with everyone involved. From an emergency preparedness standpoint, we were as ready for the flood as we could've been. Nashville is willing to do whatever we need for them to do.

Councilor Plough said Nashville is viewed as the model in terms of using hazard mitigation resources for the betterment of their city.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager said Nashville is willing to share the lessons they learned from 2010.

Mayor Benjamin said he has received calls from constituents wanting to participate in a trip to Nashville. He said the more focused knowledge we have, the more power we have in leveraging our abilities. He said the very real life and death decisions that weighed on the City and our staff and the work they did was incredible. We can only continue to get better by learning from our experiences and the experiences of others. Let's figure out the most fiscally responsible and thoughtful way to make sure we're educated on how places like Nashville used hazard mitigation funds and other resources.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager said the coordination of resources is really important. He noted that Nashville consolidated their governments in 1962 and that made it much easier to bring the resources together.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager presented the various categories that will be funded and the submissions that have been and will be made. She explained that from October 1, 2016 to October 16, 2016, we captured every emergency protective measure taken and submitted that for an obligation of cost for those estimates upfront. We had an \$11.5 million cost estimate; the repairs to the Canal were estimated at \$10 million; and we were fortunate that the State was helpful in covering some of that cost. We submitted \$7.6 million for the emergency protective measures; we received a \$5.7 million obligation; and we received a check in the amount of \$4,313,982.25. The remaining 25% is being held until we submit the actual costs. We have been successful in having some of our funds reimbursed. She continued to explain that Category A and Category B are costs that the City spent to respond to the emergency and associated damages caused by the rain and the flooding, which include labor, overtime, equipment, supplies and contractor costs. Categories C through G will be recovery work that will take months or years to complete. We've transitioned from the response to the emergency to the recovery phase. Category A included debris removal, which was handled internally by our Solid Waste Division. They did a phenomenal job removing the debris and it meant a lot to the neighborhoods. This does not take waterway debris removal into consideration. We have been talking with the State and the County about collaborating on waterway debris removal. The National Resource Conservation Service has \$3 million set aside for the state and we anticipate that the Midlands will have significant waterway debris removal costs. I anticipate that it will mirror or be more than the debris we've already tackled at a cost of over \$400,000.

Councilor Plough asked if this cost is reimbursable.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager hopes that we will be included in the funding that has been set aside, but that hasn't been clarified. She continued to report that the largest cost for emergency protective measures was for the Canal at over \$7 million. She noted that we are transitioning into the permanent repairs for the Canal. She asked if there were questions about the work being done at the Canal. She continued to report that \$1.5 million is for roads and bridges; a large portion of that amount is for the Lost Creek Bridge; and other repairs to damaged roads throughout the City are estimated at over \$500,000.

Councilor Davis inquired about work that has already been done on North Main Street.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager asked for additional information and agreed to research the area in question for Mr. Davis. She reported that Category D included waste water control facilities for the Canal. The \$100 million includes restoration to the previous condition and mitigation measures at \$50 million. She said this is our major water source and that justifies having additional consideration for the reimbursement.

Councilor Plough asked about the amount of funding requested from Washington.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said there is a trickle-down effect from the Federal government's appropriation to the State of South Carolina. We can't begin to set priorities and make applications until the Federal government allocates what the State will get; then the State divvies it up; and a committee has to be appointed. Our consultants recommended that Mayor Benjamin request a Columbia representative to serve on the State committee where the priorities will be reviewed. She told Ms. Plough that our first ask would be that the mitigation for the Columbia Canal be covered at 100%. She continued to report that the current estimate of \$700,000 is for buildings and equipment. We had park facilities, a fire station and fire and police equipment that was lost or damaged while operating in flood waters. Fire Station 3 on Bluff Road was severely damaged. Lift stations were built to the 100-year flood standard, yet they still suffered damages. She noted that several sections of sewer lines were damaged and repaired during the emergency. We are concerned that there are more sections that we need to check for potential problems. She reported that \$9.5 million was spent in mitigation measures to raise Sewer Lift Station #110 above the 100-year flood level in 2013. She said this station experienced only \$300,000 in damages compared to an estimated \$6 million without the mitigation measures. She reported that repairs to the Hydroelectric Plant are reported at \$2.25 million and repairs to recreational and other park facilities are estimated at \$200,000.

Councilor Davis asked if the foundation at Greenview Park has been compromised as a result of the flood.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager said the contractor was asked to ensure that the foundation has not been compromised and that there hasn't been any groundwater damage to the construction.

Councilor Devine said Kaboom has disaster relief funds that can be utilized for parks.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said our future financial considerations include a \$120 million capital budget for the next five years. She noted that 70% is federally mandated and we will not defer from those projects. She said 25% of \$100 in storm related costs is a \$25 million expense that would potentially affect the City. We are looking to not affect our credit rating; we would have to look at short-term financing or borrowing, because we don't want to raise rates for the recovery and mitigation costs.

Councilor Plough said we've been fortunate to receive \$4 million and we'll ultimately get \$5.7 from FEMA. She asked if it is reasonable to think that we will be able to get \$200 million from another source.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said we must continue to work with our consultants and look at other opportunities; there are other pots of funding, but they aren't available to us yet. We will have to do things differently with our normal CDBG allocation this year. We are determining which projects would be prime candidates for hazard mitigation.

Councilor Plough said she doesn't understand why we aren't all panicking now with having a \$200 million obligation.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager clarified that the estimate is \$132 million. She said the lessons learned through our joint efforts on fire services with Richland County is that there is additional response time and limited access routes and rural water supplies in Lower Richland. They have to modify staffing levels to ensure sufficient personnel to respond in that area. That leads to increased costs associated with overtime and stressors to our personnel to meet the requirements. This is ultimately a safety issue. Other challenges and opportunities include sheltering guidelines, mosquito abatement, and public safety partnerships.

Ms. Keely Thibodeaux, AIA, PMP, Principal for Landmark Consulting and the Plexos Group reported that FEMA and the State had a kick-off meeting on November 9, 2015. We completed our first deliverable; the Category B Emergency Protective Measures Project Worksheet was submitted and funded. The State commented that this was one of the largest most organized project worksheets they've received to date and it was one of the first to be funded for that reason. We conducted initial site visits with FEMA to review damages at the Canal and we discussed mitigation opportunities. We also supported the preparation for the Ways and Means Committee report to advocate for a cost share reduction and other unmet needs such as vector control, individual assistance and mitigation. We have been performing compliance reviews for Federal procurement and contracting as well as the scope of work from an engineering perspective on all of the requests for proposals that have been issued. We anticipate that 75% of the estimates will be covered by FEMA during the grant process. We have to work on the other 25%. Our immediate next steps are to prepare an amendment to that Category B project worksheet by reconciling all of the costs for emergency protective measures to actual costs beyond October 16, 2016. She noted that the City of Columbia has 6-months from October 5, 2016 to complete all emergency work. The debris removal project is our next deliverable that will be submitted on December 18, 2016. This will capture roadway and solid waste removal that was performed in-house by City staff at an estimated value of \$411,000. Public Works is recycling a lot of the vegetative debris into mulch for reuse. We are working on the waterway debris removal, which is complicated, because we are coordinating amongst four different Federal agencies. We are awaiting approval from the National Resource Conservation Service and coordinating with other municipalities. All locations have been inspected by City staff and mapped and documented by GIS. We must prioritize our site visits to continue project worksheet formulation. One challenge is the cost share; we are waiting for the State to decide what portion of the cost share they will pick up. We anticipate that other funding sources will become available to help with these costs. We are working with the United Way to quantify the use of volunteer hours. She noted that everyone needs to enroll for individual assistance; those numbers drive funding from other Federal Programs. The State extended the deadline to January 4, 2016 for anyone seeking individual assistance.

Mayor Benjamin reiterated that the disaster aid deadline has been extended to January 4, 2016. He encouraged citizens to contact FEMA at (800)621-3362 from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. daily. The disaster recovery centers are open daily from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

50. [Ordinance No.: 2015-073](#) – Granting an encroachment to Rick Patel (Sheraton Downtown Columbia) at 1400 Main Street, Richland County TMS #09014-08-15, for installation and maintenance of sixteen (16) planters, and installation and maintenance of ten (10) tables and twenty-eight (28) chairs within the tree zone and sidewalk right of way area of the 1400 block of Main Street and 1200 block of Washington Street adjacent to 1400 Main Street for use by its patrons for outdoor dining during normal business hours of 5:00 a.m. until 11:00p.m. Monday- Friday and 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-073 – Granting an encroachment to Rick Patel (Sheraton Downtown Columbia) at 1400 Main Street, Richland County TMS #09014-08-15, for installation and maintenance of sixteen (16) planters, and installation and maintenance of ten (10) tables and twenty-eight (28) chairs within the tree zone and sidewalk right of way area of the 1400 block of Main Street and 1200 block of Washington Street adjacent to 1400 Main Street for use by its patrons for outdoor dining during normal business hours of 5:00 a.m. until 11:00p.m. Monday- Friday and 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

51. [Ordinance No.: 2015-089](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Lease between the City of Columbia and The Free Medical Clinic for Parcel D, Portion of Richland County TMS #11408-12-01A at 1875 Harden Street – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-089 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Lease between the City of Columbia and The Free Medical Clinic for Parcel D, Portion of Richland County TMS #11408-12-01A at 1875 Harden Street.

52. [Ordinance No.: 2015-096](#) – Granting an encroachment to Persona Wood Fired Pizzeria at 1202 Main Street, Richland County TMS #09013-08-14, for installation and maintenance of six (6) tables and twenty-four (24) chairs within the tree zone and sidewalk right of way area of the 1200 block of Main Street adjacent to 1202 Main Street for use by its patrons for outdoor dining during normal business hours of 11:00 a.m. and 9:00p.m. Sunday- Thursday and 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-096 – Granting an encroachment to Persona Wood Fired Pizzeria at 1202 Main Street, Richland County TMS #09013-08-14, for installation and maintenance of six (6) tables and twenty-four (24) chairs within the tree zone and sidewalk right of way area of the 1200 block of Main Street adjacent to 1202 Main Street for use by its patrons for outdoor dining during normal business hours of 11:00 a.m. and 9:00p.m. on Sunday - Thursday and 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

53. [Ordinance No.: 2015-097](#) – Consenting to the Inclusion of Property in a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (Seibels Insurance Technology and Services, Richland County TMS #1501 Lady Street, Richland County TMS #11402-12-14) – *Approved on first reading.*

Mr. Ryan Coleman, Economic Development Director explained that the company is requesting inclusion in the multi-county industrial park for the purposes of receiving a State Jobs Tax Credit. We will receive 1% of property tax revenue over the next three years in the amount of \$225.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-097 – Consenting to the Inclusion of Property in a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (Seibels Insurance Technology and Services, Richland County TMS #1501 Lady Street, Richland County TMS #11402-12-14).

RESOLUTIONS

54. [Resolution No.: R-2015-094](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute and ratifying the execution of a Contract of Sale and Purchase between the City of Columbia and Edens Properties, LLC for 543-603 Saluda Avenue, Richland County TMS #11308-11-13 and any documents necessary and approved by the City Attorney to consummate the purchase – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-094 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute and ratifying the execution of a Contract of Sale and Purchase between the City of Columbia and Edens Properties, LLC for 543-603 Saluda Avenue, Richland County TMS #11308-11-13 and any documents necessary and approved by the City Attorney to consummate the purchase.

55. [Resolution No.: R-2015-101](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Third Amendment to Lease Agreement between the City of Columbia and National Railroad Passenger Corporation, a District of Columbia Corporation for lease of the Amtrak Station – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-101 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Third Amendment to Lease Agreement between the City of Columbia and National Railroad Passenger Corporation, a District of Columbia Corporation for lease of the Amtrak Station.

OTHER MATTERS

56. [Neighborhood Street Lighting Requests](#) – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to approve the following Neighborhood Street Lighting Requests:

Neighborhoods Listed by Priority	Existing Lights	Requested Lights	Current Lease Cost / Annually	Project Request Total	Total Year to Date
4121 Devereaux	0	1	\$0.00	\$118.92	\$237.84
1830 Henderson Street	2	1	\$237.84	\$118.92	\$356.76

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS/REFERRALS

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to refer a review of second and third mortgages for St. Anna’s Court to the Economic and Community Development Committee.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

Ms. Regina Williams asked that the Economic and Community Development Committee provide a report on the Maintenance Assistance Program in January 2016.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk