



The Columbia City Council conducted a Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. The following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Leona K. Plough, The Honorable Moe Baddourah, The Honorable Howard Duvall and The Honorable Edward McDowell, Jr. Also present were Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore, City Clerk. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the South Carolina 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. Davis and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted five (5) to two (2) to adopt the agenda, subject to removing **Item 7** (*Agreement between the City of Columbia and Telcos*) from the Consent Agenda and moving the appointment of the *Mayor Pro-Tempore* to the last item on the agenda. Voting aye were Mr. McDowell, Mr. Baddourah, Ms. Devine, Mr. Davis and Mayor Benjamin. Voting nay were Mr. Duvall and Ms. Plough.

PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one appeared at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a single motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 1** through **4**, **6** and **8** through **12**.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS and AGREEMENTS

1. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of an Asphalt Compactor and Trailer](#), as requested by the Street Division. Award to Hills Machinery, using the National Joint Powers Alliance Contract and the SC State Contract in the amount of \$59,023.65. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Streets Water & Sewer Repair-Autos, Trucks, Heavy Equipment Capital, 5513202-658500 – Note: The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$60,000.00. - Approved*

2. Council is asked to approve a [Professional Services Contract for Booking Youth and Adult Sports Officials](#), as requested by the Parks and Recreation Department. Award to HOTEPE Sports for the following sports events in the amount of \$71,960.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Parks & Recreation Programs-Professional Services, 1015106-636600 – **Note:** This will be a six (6) months contract ending June 30, 2016 with an option to renew for one (1) additional year. The original budgeted amount is \$72,000.00. - Approved*

Sports Events	Number of Events	Amount
Youth Basketball	300	\$17,700.00
Youth Baseball	110	\$7,950.00
Youth Girl Softball	40	\$1,080.00
Youth Soccer	30	\$1,050.00
Adult Softball	200	\$10,800.00
Adult Kickball	450	\$24,300.00
Adult Basketball	80	\$5,840.00
Adult Volleyball	60	\$3,240.00

3. Council is asked to approve an [Agreement for Engineering Services for Technical Consulting Support for Gills Creek Watershed Supplemental Environmental Project](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Thomas &Hutton in the amount of \$59,500.00. This firm has headquarters in Mt. Pleasant, SC and a local office in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Storm Drain Budget, 5549999-SD387001-658650 – **Note:** This is a Clean Water 2020 Program Project and the original budgeted amount is \$300,000.00; \$240,500.00 is budgeted for construction services and \$59,500.00 is budgeted for engineering services. - Approved*
4. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Knife Gate Valves and Installation Services at the North Columbia Pump Station](#), as requested by the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to Hammerhead Utilities in the amount of \$99,800.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Utilities Metro Wastewater Plant-Special Contracts, 5516208-638300 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$100,000.00. - Approved*
5. Council is asked to approve a [Contract for Compost Grinding](#), as requested by the Solid Waste Division. Award to Martin Edwards & Associates, Inc., the lowest responsive bidder in the amount of \$205,269.51. This firm is located in Erwin, NC. *Funding Source: Solid Waste Compost-Special Projects, 1014406-638500 – **Note:** This will be a six (6) months contract ending June 30, 2016 with an option to extend for two (2) additional years. The original budgeted amount is \$206,000.00. – This item was withdrawn from the agenda.*

6. Council is asked to approve [Project WM4335; Construction along Lucius Road, Lindsay Street, Riverview Court and Darlington Street](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to McClam & Associates, the lowest responsive bidder in the amount of \$560,274.00. This firm is located in Little Mountain, SC. *Funding Source: Water Improvement Fund, 5529999-658650-WM433501 – Note: This is a Mentor Protégé Program Project. Patriot Construction of Columbia, SC is the Protégé and will implement \$436,686.07 (78%) of the contract value. The original budgeted amount for this project is \$750,000.00. - Approved*
7. Council is asked to approve an [Agreement between the City of Columbia and Telcos](#) to accept funds in the amount of \$227,000.00 to be used exclusively to offset cost associated with infrastructure improvements at the Bull Street Development, as requested by the Assistant City Manager for Operation. - *Approved*

Mr. Gregory Tucker, Special Projects Administrator said items related to penalties or fines imposed on the City of Columbia have been removed from the agreement.

Councilor Plough incurred about the dates of the payments.

Mr. Gregory Tucker, Special Projects Administrator said the checks are in hand, but haven't been cashed.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Plough and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to approve an Agreement between the City of Columbia and Telcos to accept funds in the amount of \$227,000.00 to be used exclusively to offset cost associated with infrastructure improvements at the Bull Street Development, as requested by the Assistant City Manager for Operation.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

8. [Ordinance No.: 2015-100 \(revised\)](#) – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 10, Law Enforcement, Article I, In General (*False Security Alarms*) – *First reading approval was given on December 15, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*
9. [Ordinance No.: 2015-101 \(revised\)](#) – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 8, Environmental Health and Sanitation, Article I, In General and Article II, Nuisances – *First reading approval was given on December 15, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*
10. [Ordinance No.: 2015-109 \(revised\)](#) – Consenting to the Inclusion of Property in a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (CD/Park 7 Columbia SC High Rise Owner LLC, Parcel 4, Richland County TMS #08916-09-07, Assembly Street) – *First reading approval was given on December 15, 2015. – Approved on second reading as amended to include an indemnification clause.*

11. [Ordinance No.: 2015-110](#) – Granting an encroachment to Hampton-Taylor-Gregg, LLC for installation and maintenance of a sidewalk/ramp and hand railing within the right of way area of the 1900 block of Hampton Street adjacent to 1919 Hampton Street, Richland County TMS #11407-11-11 (portion) – *First reading approval was given on December 15, 2015 – Approved on second reading.*

EVENT RESOLUTIONS

12. [Resolution No.: R-2016-001](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at First Thursday on Main Street - *Approved*

PRESENTATIONS

13. [Blue Ribbon Animal Committee Report](#) – Ms. Anne Sinclair, Chair of Blue Ribbon Animal Committee

Ms. Anne Sinclair, Chair of Blue Ribbon Animal Committee recalled that City Council appointed a committee during the Fall of 2015 to determine what is needed for the City of Columbia to become a No Kill Shelter. She said the committee members worked well together to develop the strategies that are being recommended. She commended City staff for working to reduce the number of animals that are euthanized. She reported that 70% of the animals that come into the shelter come from Richland County. It is important for the two governments to work together. The committee recommended additional staffing at the shelter; increased collaboration with local private veterinarians; a mandatory spay/neuter program for pit bulls and pit bull mixes; a trap-neuter-release program; increasing the number of dogs allowed in each household; banning unattended tethering; and a regular review of the city's policies and procedures related to the shelter and care of animals. She noted that the city/county agreement establishes a city/county committee; the city has two slots with one vacancy; and the county has two vacancies. She encouraged City Council to appoint citizens to the committee so that it can be a sounding board for the city and county. The committee's objective was to generate a plan. If the recommendations are implemented, we can become a no-kill community within three years. The definition of no-kill is avoiding euthanasia of adoptable animals. In closing, Ms. Sinclair outlined the five goals, strategies for accomplishing each goal and budgetary considerations as recommended by the Blue Ribbon Committee.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to direct the City Manager and staff to bring back specific ordinances, policy recommendations and potential financial responsibilities to make the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee a reality.

14. Multi Use Entertainment Venue / Noise and Lighting Study – Ms. Emily Piersol / Wrightson, Johnson, Haddon and Williams, Inc. and Musco Sports Lighting, LLC – *This item was withdrawn from the agenda. The consultants will be asked to review the studies with the neighborhoods prior to presenting to City Council.*

15. RICH Program Update and [Young Adults Pledging for Cultural Understanding Day Proclamation](#) – Dr. Germon Miller, Park Leader for the Parks and Recreation Department and RICH Program Founder

Dr. Germon Miller-Bey, Park Leader for the Parks and Recreation Department and RICH Program Founder recognized the RICH Legacy Coalition as the group of outreach and volunteer members from South Carolina and surrounding states. She presented a video of young adults pledging cultural understanding. She announced that she first appeared before the Columbia City Council five years ago.

Mayor Benjamin and the members of Council proclaimed Tuesday, January 5, 2016 as Young Adults Pledging for Cultural Understanding Day in the City of Columbia.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

16. [Ordinance No.: 2016-001](#) – Granting an easement to South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&C) along a portion of City-owned property identified as Richland County TMS#08915-05-07 (The Colonial Life Arena) for utilities to serve the Greene Street, Phase I/Foundation Square Streetscape Project; CF#250-385 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2016-001 – Granting an easement to South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&C) along a portion of City-owned property identified as Richland County TMS#08915-05-07 (The Colonial Life Arena) for utilities to serve the Greene Street, Phase I/Foundation Square Streetscape Project; CF#250-385.

RESOLUTIONS

17. [Resolution No.: R-2015-109 \(revised\)](#) – Amending Resolution Nos.: R-2005-028 and R-2013-032 Establishing a policy for term limits for members of city boards, commissions, committees and development corporations - *Denied*

Councilor Duvall said we should keep the current policy for two (2) terms to allow others the opportunity to serve. He agreed with allowing individuals to serve two (2) terms after completing less than 50% of an unexpired term.

Councilor Devine said she generally agrees with the resolution. She described how leadership positions rotate on several regional boards and commissions. She recalled how the City would have missed the opportunity for an appointee to serve as chair on the Airport Commission. She said this resolution would give Council the discretion to extend the term for someone who is being considered for a leadership position.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager added that this issue has come up with the Central Midlands Regional Council of Governments as well.

A motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-109 (revised) – Amending Resolution Nos.: R-2005-028 and R-2013-032 Establishing a policy for term limits for members of city boards, commissions, committees and development corporations failed by a vote of three (3) to four (4). Voting aye were Ms. Devine, Mr. Davis and Mayor Benjamin. Voting nay were Mr. McDowell, Mr. Duvall, Mr. Baddourah and Ms. Plough.

APPOINTMENTS

18. [City Center Partnership](#)

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of The Honorable Edward McDowell, Jr. as the District II representative and the appointment of Mr. Don Tomlin to the City Center Partnership for a three year term.

19. [Climate Protection Action Committee](#)

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. John Epting to the Climate Protection Action Committee for a three year term.

20. [Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee](#) – *The consideration of this item was deferred and the pending applications will be sent to the members of City Council.*

21. [Board of Zoning Appeals](#)

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Tyler Scott Gregg, Esq. to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a three year term. *The remaining two (2) vacancies will be considered at a later date.*

22. [Richland County Board of Assessment Appeals](#)

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Michael McMillan to the Richland County Board of Assessment Appeals for a three year term.

23. [Richland Lexington Airport District Commission](#)

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Carol Fowler to the Richland Lexington Airport District Commission for a four year term.

24. Election of Mayor Pro-Tempore

A motion was made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Davis to appoint The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine as Mayor Pro-Tempore.

A motion was made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Duvall, to appoint The Honorable Leona K. Plough as Mayor Pro-Tempore.

The Honorable Leona K. Plough was elected as Mayor Pro-Tempore by the following roll call votes:

Councilor McDowell voted for Ms. Plough
Councilor Duvall voted for Ms. Plough
Councilor Baddourah voted for Ms. Plough
Councilor Plough voted for Ms. Plough
Councilor Devine voted for Ms. Devine
Councilor Davis voted for Ms. Devine
Mayor Benjamin voted for Ms. Devine

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS/REFERRALS

Councilor Devine asked that Council block off time for the discussion of the hospitality tax fund.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager agreed to schedule the discussion of the hospitality tax bond and policy regarding yellow shirts funding and the study of hospitality tax funding during the next work session.

Mayor Benjamin asked that there be an overall discussion of the hospitality tax.

Councilor Plough stated that the Administrative Policy Committee wasn't able to meet prior to the holidays to discuss the proposed policies and procedures. She said Council can decide following the retreat if we will handle this as a committee of the whole.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Jordan Myers inquired about the City's efforts to bring jobs to Columbia. He said unemployment creates crime. He acknowledged seeing changes occur in District One, but people living in those communities aren't being hired.

Mayor Benjamin encouraged Mr. Myers to share his ideas, because we want to be a City that has opportunities for all citizens.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk