



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016 - 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL - 1737 MAIN STREET
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 3RD FLOOR

The Columbia City Council conducted a Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m. The following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Howard Duvall and The Honorable Edward McDowell, Jr. The Honorable Leona K. Plough and The Honorable Moe Baddourah were absent. Also present were Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager and Ms. Niki Daniels, Assistant City Clerk. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. *The minutes have been renumbered to reflect the order of the meeting.*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Masters David and Yasir led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Chaplain Byron Powers, Columbia Police Department offered the Invocation. He serves as the Senior Chaplain for the Columbia Police Department and as the Pastor of the Elmwood Avenue Church of God. He will be relocating to South Georgia after five years of service to the City of Columbia.

Mayor Benjamin thanked Chaplain Powers for his dedicated service.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve the adoption of the agenda as presented. Ms. Devine was not present for the vote.

PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one appeared at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [February 2, 2016 Council Meeting](#)

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of February 2, 2016, as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 2** through **8** and **10** through **13**.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS and AGREEMENTS

2. Council is asked to approve [additional funding for the Owens Field Park Project](#), as requested by the Assistant City Manager for Operations. Award to the Gills Creek Watershed Association in the amount of \$50,000.00. This organization is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Storm Water Utility Funds, 5534210 – **Note:** The total project cost is \$100,000 through a 50/50 split between the City of Columbia and Richland County. - Approved*
3. Council is asked to approve an [On-Call Chemical Analysis Services Agreement for the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to CH2M Hill, Inc., a Small Business Enterprise in the amount of \$75,000.00. This firm is located in Charlotte, NC. *Funding Source: Water Sewer Operations & Maintenance, 5516205-SS732016-638305 – **Note:** This is a Clean Water 2020 Program Project. The original budgeted amount is \$75,000.00. - Approved*
4. Council is asked to approve the [Vista Greenway Phase II Lincoln Tunnel Project](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Richland County in the amount of \$79,830.18. *Funding Source: Vista Greenway Phase Two, 4039999-CP105203 – **Note:** The city is being asked to provide funding of \$224,830.18 and anticipate reimbursement of \$145,000.00. - Approved*
5. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of one \(1\) Backhoe Loader](#), as requested by the Water Distribution Division. Award to Blanchard Machinery, Inc., using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$86,300.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Utilities Water Distribution and Maintenance-Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment Capital, 5516203-658500 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$93,242.88. - Approved*
6. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase Change Order for Project WM4364; Additional services for Barge Rental and Repairs needed at the Columbia Canal Water Plant](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to D&J Machinery and Rigging in the amount of \$96,363.00. This firm is located in Lexington, SC. *Funding Source: FEMA Disaster Response/Recovery-FEMA Emergency Operation, 2532201-638400 and Utilities Columbia Canal Water Treatment-FEMA Emergency Operations, 5516206-638400 – **Note:** This is a Clean Water 2020 Program Project and the original budgeted amount is \$598,665.20. – Approved*

7. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of one \(1\) F-450 Service Truck](#), as requested by the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to Dick Smith Ford, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$95,521.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Utilities Metro Wastewater Plant-Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment Capital, 5516208-658500 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$95,821.00. - Approved*
8. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of one \(1\) Backhoe Loader](#), as requested by the Street Division. Award to Blanchard Machinery, using the National Joint Powers Alliance Contract in the amount of \$112,944.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Streets Storm Drains-Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment Capital, 5534203-658500 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount for this project is \$140,000.00. - Approved*
9. Council is asked to approve an [Agreement for Actuarial Valuation Services](#), as requested by the Budget & Program Management Office. Award to Towers Watson in an amount not to exceed \$115,000.00. This firm is located in Atlanta, GA. *Funding Source: Health Insurance Benefits, 6048933 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount is \$130,000.00. – This item was removed from the consent agenda. Please refer to Item 13a.*
10. Council is asked to approve a [four \(4\) Month Contract Extension for Bill Printing and Postage Services effective March 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016](#), as requested by the Customer Care Center. Award to Laser Print Plus, a Local Business Enterprise in the amount of \$467,310.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Water Customer Service-Postage and Delivery, 5511407-631100 - Approved*
11. Council is asked to approve an [Agreement for the Upper Mill Creek Improvements Project](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood in the amount of \$739,540.00. This firm is located in Montgomery, AL. *Funding Source: Sanitary Sewer Capital, 5529999-SS7330-658650 – **Note:** This is a Mentor Protégé Program Project. Dennis Corporation, a Small Business Enterprise of Columbia, SC is the Protégé and will provide survey, permitting and construction observation services at \$147,100.00 (20%) of the contract value. This is a Clean Water 2020 Program Project and the original budgeted amount is \$1,000,000.00. - Approved*

12. Council is asked to approve an [Agreement for the East Rocky Branch Improvements Phase I Project](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Brown & Caldwell in the amount of \$1,397,000.00. This firm has headquarters in Walnut Creek, CA and a local office in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Sanitary Sewer Capital Budget, 5529999-SS733701-658650 – **Note:** This is a Mentor Protégé Program Project. 4D Engineering, a Women-Owned Business Enterprise of Lexington, SC is the Protégé and will provide analysis, design, permitting, geotechnical investigation, public relations bid phase assistance and construction administration services at \$310,190 (22.20%) of the contract value. This is a Clean Water 2020 Program Project and the original budgeted amount is \$2,000,000.00. The following sub-consultants will receive \$194,700.00 or 13.92% of the contract value: - Approved*

Sub-consultants	Locations	Services	Contract %	Amount
Chao & Associates (MBE/LBE)	Columbia, SC	Surveying and Easement Exhibits	5.15%	\$72,200.00
GEL Geophysics	Charleston, SC	Subsurface Utility Engineering	7.95%	\$111,000.00
Environmental Permitting Consultants, Inc. (SBE)	Greenville, SC	Wetlands Delineation and Permitting	0.82%	\$11,500.00

EVENT RESOLUTIONS

13. [Resolution No.: R-2015-107](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the “St. Pat’s in Five Points Festival” and authorizing the City Manager and the Parks and Recreation Director to sign Park Rules for the St. Pat's in Five Points Festival – *Approved*

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS and AGREEMENTS

14. **Council is asked to approve an [Agreement for Actuarial Valuation Services](#), as requested by the Budget & Program Management Office. Award to Towers Watson in an amount not to exceed \$115,000.00. This firm is located in Atlanta, GA. *Funding Source: Health Insurance Benefits, 6048933 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount is \$130,000.00. – Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to approve approve an Agreement for Actuarial Valuation Services, as requested by the Budget & Program Management Office. Award to Towers Watson in an amount not to exceed \$115,000.00. This firm is located in Atlanta, GA.

PRESENTATIONS

15. **Rare Disease Day Proclamation – The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin

Mayor Benjamin and the members of City Council proclaimed Monday, February 29, 2016 as Rare Disease Day in the City of Columbia.

Ms. Carissa Strickland said that her sister was diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis in 2013 and they don't know what caused it or what cures it. The condition is rare, but the story isn't, because one in ten Americans live with a rare disease. She invited the members of Council to join them at Richland Fashion Mall for the SC Fashion Truck Festival on February 29, 2016, the rarest day of the year where they will educate the community on rare diseases.

****Ms. Teresa Wilson**, City Manager presented Ms. Niki Daniels, Assistant City Clerk with a ten-year service pin. She said Ms. Daniels is a true member of our City Hall family.

16. [Update from Healthy Learners](#) – Ms. Jo Pauling-Jones, Executive Director of Healthy Learners

Ms. Jo Pauling-Jones, Executive Director of Healthy Learners said the statewide non-profit organization has existed for over 23-years to meet the unmet health needs of children. The organization is devoted to removing the children's health barriers to learning. Last year, the organization served 580 students and provided over 1,300 health care services in the City of Columbia. She urged City Council to join their efforts to support children who have unmet medical needs and to assist them with raising the funds needed to meet a \$1.4 million budget.

17. [Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Assessment and Recommendations](#) – Ms. Krista Hampton, Planning and Development Services Director

Ms. Krista Hampton, Planning and Development Services Director explained that the zoning ordinance is the tool being used to accomplish the Plan Columbia vision.

Mr. Craig Richardson, Esq., Director for Clarion Associates explained that the zoning ordinance will be drafted in three increments with the goal of completing it by the end of the year. He outlined the four themes of the zoning ordinance assessment: create user-friendly code; implement Plan Columbia; modernize regulations to strongly encourage and support infill and redevelopment; and support and encourage sustainable/green development practices. He outlined the recommendations for each theme. In closing, he said that Columbia has great assets in its community and a revised code will build on those assets.

Councilor Duvall commended staff and the consultants on the development of the plan.

Councilor Davis said this will allow neighborhoods to sustain or create their own character.

Mr. Craig Richardson, Esq., Director for Clarion Associates noted that there is a specific tool included in the recommendations that will remove obstacles, encourage redevelopment and protect character.

Mayor Benjamin inquired about undergrounding utilities.

Mr. Craig Richardson, Esq., Director for Clarion Associates said undergrounding utilities is mentioned in the assessment and the standard can be addressed in the regulations.

Councilor Devine inquired about edible landscaping.

Mr. Craig Richardson, Esq., Director for Clarion Associates said edible landscaping can be considered. He encouraged Council to share any additional comments with them.

Mayor Benjamin said continued public engagement is key.

OCTOBER 2015 HISTORIC FLOOD RECOVERY UPDATE

Ms. Keely Thibodeaux, AIA, PMP, Principal for Landmark Consulting reported that the primary source of funding is the Public Assistance Grant Program, which is a government to government program at a 75%/25% split. Additional funding is provided by the FEMA 406 Hazard Mitigation Program; Natural Resource Conservation Service Waterway Debris Removal Program; Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Program.; 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program; Five Year Hazard Mitigation Plan; and Community Disaster Loans. She reviewed the Flood Recovery Program life cycle with the execution phase lasting up to five years with grants management, compliance and project delivery. She noted that working sessions on project priorities have been held with staff; site visits have been conducted with FEMA; they are gathering documentation to submit to the State; and they are working to identify the requirements of each funding source in order to maximize the use and maintain compliance.

18. [Small Business Disaster Recovery Loan Program](#) – Mr. Paul Featheringill, Business Loan Officer for the Office of Business Opportunities

Mr. Paul Featheringill, Business Loan Officer for the Office of Business Opportunities reported that FEMA has approved more than \$16 million in business loans in South Carolina and the Small Business Administration has approved over \$7 million in disaster assistance loans for businesses in Richland County. He said there is still is a tremendous need for businesses and to help with that the City of Columbia launched the Small Business Disaster Recovery Loan Program for businesses within the City limits. He outlined the criteria for eligibility and noted that franchises and real estate ventures are ineligible to participate in the program. He outlined the eligible uses and underwriting criteria. This program is being funded in the amount of \$100,000 by the Community Development Block Grant from funds originally allocated to the Contractor Loan Program.

Ms. Tina Herbert, Office of Business Opportunities Director said the current applications will be sent for committee review and the application process will be reopened for additional applicants based on the remaining funding.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

19. Council is asked to approve [Contract Amendment #2 for an Update to the Water and Sewer Rate Study](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Black & Veatch Corporation in the amount of \$115,000.00. This firm has headquarters in Kansas City, MO and a local office in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 5511706-WM7358/SS7349-638305 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount is \$200,000.00. - Approved*

Councilor Duvall asked if the rate study will take the flood damages into consideration. He asked if the consultant was given any parameters on rate hikes.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said yes; discussions are ongoing with staff and our consultants. She believes that due to the consultant's previous involvement, they are clear on the range that is tolerable.

Councilor Devine noted that the consultant will provide options for Council's consideration.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to approve Council is asked to approve Contract Amendment #2 for an Update to the Water and Sewer Rate Study, as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Black & Veatch Corporation in the amount of \$115,000.00. This firm has headquarters in Kansas City, MO and a local office in Columbia, SC.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

Ms. Regina Williams, Booker Washington Heights Neighborhood Association appeared before Council to discuss the water in their neighborhood. She presented a photo of a brown water filter that is changed every six weeks. She said this is coming from the infrastructure in the street, because the pipes leading to her house are made from PVC pipe. She presented photos from another property where the lines have been flushed, but the clothing is discolored after being washed. She expressed concerns about the unknown contaminants.

Reverend Dr. Jamey O. Graham, Sr., Saint John Baptist Church said they have rusty water at the church and the City flushes the water monthly, but it has worsened. He said they noticed rust sediments after the baptism pool was drained. He expressed concern about the children that attend day care at the church and parishioners that attend weekly activities.

Ms. Regina Williams, Booker Washington Heights Neighborhood Association expressed further concerns about how the discolored water has affected the other churches, restaurants, doctors' offices and residents in the area. She said they are seeking testing from DHEC to determine the long term effects of this. She requested the City's assistance.

Councilor Devine asked if a project is in the CIP for this community. She stated that she has to bathe her babies in brown water sometimes.

Mr. Joey Jaco, Utilities and Engineering Department Director offered to make a future presentation on this neighborhood. He said this is iron deposits in the water caused by old galvanized piping. He said this is not from lead.

Councilor McDowell requested information regarding the demographics of brown water across the City.

Mr. Joey Jaco, Utilities and Engineering Department Director said brown water is seen mostly in older neighborhoods. He noted that a Consumer Confidence Report is published annually and hundreds of locations are tested monthly. He stated that free testing is also provided by the City of Columbia.

PUBLIC HEARING

20. [Resolution No.: R-2015-106](#) – Designating the 200, 300 and 400 blocks of Waccamaw Avenue in the Wales Garden Neighborhood as a Residential Parking Permit District - *Approved*

Council opened the Public Hearing at 7:49 p.m.

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

Council closed the Public Hearing at 7:49 p.m.

Upon a motion made by **Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Davis**, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-106 – Designating the 200, 300 and 400 blocks of Waccamaw Avenue in the Wales Garden Neighborhood as a Residential Parking Permit District.

Mayor Benjamin inquired about the status of the parking permit district for the Martin Luther King Neighborhood.

Ms. Melissa Gentry, P.E., Assistant City Manager for Operations said they are working with the Martin Luther King Neighborhood on appropriate locations for the placement of traffic control measures.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

21. [Ordinance No.: 2016-007](#) – Ordinance Granting Consent to Application for Franchise for Cable Service and Setting Franchise Fee (FTC Diversified Services, LLC) – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Duvall, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2016-007 – Ordinance Granting Consent to Application for Franchise for Cable Service and Setting Franchise Fee (FTC Diversified Services, LLC).

RESOLUTIONS

22. [Resolution No.: R-2016-015](#) – Repealing Resolution R-2013-045 and Setting a New Policy for Water & Sewer Transfers to the General Fund – *Item was withdrawn from the agenda.*
23. [Resolution No.: R-2016-011](#) – Permitting the Fire Department to collect money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association – *Approved*

Councilor Duvall advised against granting permission to solicit in the public right of ways, because it is dangerous.

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted four (4) to one (1) to approve Resolution No.: R-2016-011 – Permitting the Fire Department to collect money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Voting aye were Mr. McDowell, Ms. Devine, Mr. Davis and Mayor Benjamin. Mr. Duvall voted nay.

APPOINTMENTS

24. [Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee](#)

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. John Green to the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Bethany Bell to the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the reappointment of Mr. Keith Gosselin to the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

25. [Board of Zoning Appeals](#)

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Regina Williams to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

26. [Central Midlands Development Corporation](#)

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to reappointment Ms. Ellen Cooper to the Central Midlands Development Corporation Board.

25. [Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority \(The COMET\)](#)

Mayor Benjamin expressed concerns about The COMET Board being representative of the community and its riders. Currently, the ridership is overwhelmingly African Americans and a majority of females over the age of fifty. He said Ms. Carolyn Gleaton has been a rider of choice for forty years. She is a retired State employee and will add incredible perspective to the board.

Councilor Duvall nominated Ms. Walda Wildman who is handicapped. She has ridden the bus; she is an expert in finance; and she would be able to provide quality oversight.

Councilor McDowell supported the nomination of Ms. Carolyn Gleaton.

Councilor Duvall supported the nomination of Ms. Walda Wildman.

Councilor Devine supported the nomination of Ms. Carolyn Gleaton.

Councilor Davis supported the nomination of Ms. Carolyn Gleaton.

Mayor Benjamin supported the nomination of Ms. Carolyn Gleaton.

With four (4) nominations, Ms. Carolyn Gleaton was appointed to The COMET Board of Directors.

27. [Planning Commission](#)

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council approved the reappointment of Mr. Ernest Cromartie to the Planning Commission. Mr. Davis abstained from voting.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS/REFERRALS

No committee reports or referrals were made at this time.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk