



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING / ZONING PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016 - 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL - 1737 MAIN STREET
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 3RD FLOOR

The Columbia City Council conducted a Council Meeting and a Zoning Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Leona K. Plaugh, The Honorable Moe Baddourah, The Honorable Howard E. 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 Freedom of Information Act. The minutes are numbered to coincide with the order of the meeting.*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Master Corbin Riffenburg led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Chaplain Byron Powers, Columbia Police Department offered the Invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda, subject to the following amendments:

- Defer **Item 1** (*Approval of Minutes*)
- Withdraw **Item 22** (*315 South Maple Street*)
- Withdraw **Item 28** (*Resolution No.: R-2016-005*)
- Defer **Item 30** (*Hospitality Tax Funding Requests*)
- Add **Item 32** (*Discussion of Chambers*) from the Work Session Agenda

PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one appeared at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [December 15, 2015 Council Meeting](#) and [January 5, 2016 Council Meeting](#) – *Consideration of the minutes was deferred.*

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Ms. Plaugh, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 2** through **14**.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS and AGREEMENTS

2. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Assessment, Testing and Promotion Services](#), as requested by the Columbia Police Department. Award to the College of Charleston in the amount of \$60,000.00. This vendor is located in Charleston, SC. *Funding Source: Police Administration Services-Professional Services, 1012402-63660 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount is \$60,000.00. - Approved*
3. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of seventy-five \(75\) Body Armor Packages](#), as requested by the Columbia Police Department. Award to Lawmen’s, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$62,775.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Police Department-Uniforms and Clothing, 1012402-6241 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$62,775.00. - Approved*
4. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of one \(1\) Dump Truck](#), as requested by the Street Division. Award to Carolina International Trucks, Inc., a certified Local Business Enterprise, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$78,174.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Streets Water & Sewer Repair-Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment Capital, 5513202-658500 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$80,000.00. – Approved*
5. Council is asked to approve a [Contract Renewal for City-works Software and License Support](#) effective January 2016 through January 2017, as requested by the Information Technology Department. Award to Azteca Systems, Inc., for the following departments in the amount of \$100,000.00. This vendor is located in Sandy, UT. *Funding Source: Public Works Admin-Computer Equipment/Hardware, 1011124-627500; Public Works Admin-Maintenance and Service Contract, 1011124-638200; Forestry Horticulture-Maintenance and Service Contract, 1011217-638200; Streets & Side Walks-Maintenance and Service Contract, 1013201-638200; Traffic Operations-Maintenance and Service Contract, 1013204-638200; Street Storm Drain-Maintenance and Service Contract, 5534203-638200; Water & Sewer Repairs-Maintenance and Service Contract, 5513202-638200; Finance Customer Service-Maintenance and Service Contract, 5511407-638200; Utilities Water Customer Service-Maintenance and Service Contract, 5516202-638200; Utilities Wastewater-Maintenance and Service Contract, 5516205-638200; and Solid Waste Street Sweeping-Maintenance and Service Contract, 5534408-638200 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount is \$100,000.00. **CIO Comment:** The City-works software and licenses are required to support Clean Water 2020. - Approved*

Quantity	Department	Amount
1	Public Works – Administration	\$1,990.00
1	Public Works – Administration	\$5,000.00
1	Forestry & Beautification – Horticulture	\$7,500.00
1	Streets Division – Street & Sidewalks	\$2,000.00
1	Traffic Division – Operations	\$3,000.00
1	Streets Division – Storm Drain Maintenance	\$1,500.00
1	Streets Division – Water & Sewer	\$2,000.00
1	Finance – Customer Services	\$3,000.00
1	Utilities and Engineering – Water Customer Services	\$15,000.00
1	Utilities and Engineering – Wastewater Maintenance	\$49,010.00
1	Solid Waste Division – Street Sweeping	\$10,000.00

6. Council is asked to approve [Purchase of Planning Services for the Capital Mill District Area](#), as requested by the Planning and Development Services Department. Award to The Boudreaux Group in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Development Services-Professional Services, 1014101-636600 – **Note:** This plan is in collaboration with Richland County who has funded \$75,000 of the total amount. The original budgeted amount is \$150,000.00. - Approved*

7. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of one \(1\) Concrete Mixer Truck](#) for the Wastewater Maintenance, as requested by Fleet Services Division. Award to Carolina International Trucks, Inc. in the amount of \$154,287.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Utilities Wastewater Maintenance-Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment Capital, 5516205-658500 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$172,800.00. - Approved*

8. 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 is a six (6) month contract ending June 30, 2016 with an option to extend for two (2) additional years. The original budgeted amount is \$206,000.00. - Approved*

9. Council is asked to approve an [Agreement for Water Quality Monitoring Operation and Maintenance Services for Gills Creek, Kinley Creek, Rocky Branch and Smith Branch Phase I, Phase II and Phase III Stations](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Woolpert in the amount of \$283,514.00. This firm has headquarters in Dayton, OH and a local office in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Storm Drain Operating and Maintenance, 5534202-SD8385(3)-638305 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount for this project is \$283,514.00. The following sub-consultants will receive \$34,562.00 or 12.19% of the contract value: - Approved*

Sub-consultants	Locations	Services	Contract %	Amount
Rogers & Callcott	Columbia, SC	Stormwater runoff sample analysis and general laboratory services	5.64%	\$16,002.00
YSI, Inc.	Yellow Springs, OH	Monitoring equipment sales and monitoring site installation services	6.55%	\$18,560.00

10. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Magnesium Hydroxide](#), as requested by the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to Premier Magnesia in the amount of \$867,024.00. This vendor is located in West Conshohocken, PA. *Funding Source: Utilities Metro Wastewater Plant/Chemicals, 5516208-624800 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$867,024.00. - Approved*
11. Council is asked to approve a [Contract Renewal for the Dental Benefits Plan](#) effective January 2016 through December 2016, as requested by the Human Resources Department. Award to Delta Dental of Missouri, as a third party administrator in the amount of \$60,000.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Dental Insurance Fund GL-6028931 – **Note:** There are no changes to the contract for plan administration. The original budgeted amount was \$60,000.00. - Approved*
12. Council is asked to approve a [Contract Renewal for the Pharmacy Benefits Plan](#) effective January 2016 through December 2016, as requested by the Human Resources Department. Award to Medco/Express Scripts, as the third party administrator in the amount of \$138,000.00 This vendor is located in St. Louis, MO. *Funding Source: Health Insurance Fund GL-6048933 – **Note:** There are no changes to the contract for plan administration. The original budgeted amount was \$138,000.00. - Approved*
13. Council is asked to approve a [Contract Renewal for the Medicare Supplement and Prescription Coverage Plan](#) effective January 2016 through December 2016, as requested by the Human Resources Department. Award to United Healthcare in the amount of \$1,350,000.00. This vendor is located in Minneapolis, MN. *Funding Source: Health Insurance Fund GL-6048933 – **Note:** The eligible participants are Post-65 and Medicare eligible retirees and dependents. There are no changes to the contract for plan administration. The original budgeted amount was \$1,350,000.00. - Approved*

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

14. [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 second reading.*

PRESENTATIONS

15. [Introduction of the 2015 Employee of the Year \(Ms. Danielle Riffenburg, Reforestation Program Coordinator\)](#) – Mr. Robert Anderson, Director of Public Works

Mr. Robert Anderson, Director of Public Works introduced Ms. Danielle Riffenburg as the City of Columbia 2015 Employee of the Year. Ms. Riffenburg was the September 2015 employee of the month. He said unless you've worked with her it is hard to describe her; she is set apart by her perfectionism.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager presented Danielle Riffenburg with a token of appreciation and Mayor Benjamin presented Danielle Riffenburg with a plaque for being selected as the City of Columbia 2015 Employee of the Year.

16. [Centennial Park Project at Fort Jackson](#) – Command Sergeant Major (R) Marty Wells, President of the Gateway to the Army Association

Command Sergeant Major (R) Marty Wells, President of the Gateway to the Army Association announced that May 27, 2017 will mark the 100th anniversary of Fort Jackson. He reported that since 1917, over five million Americans have been trained at Fort Jackson. He explained that Centennial Park will memorialize the past and serve as an education venue. It will be located near the post museum and the central feature will be a 20' granite statute of a male and female drill sergeant standing at attention and surrounded by an amphitheater. There will be a wartime theater memorial, the pathway of patriots, and seven covered pavilions for families to gather. He requested City Council support in the amount of \$500,000 over two to three years. The plan is to have the first phase completed in 2017. He announced that several yearlong events will kick-off in June 2016 leading up to the capstone event in June 2017. The total monetary and in-kind donations for this project are estimated at \$2.7 million.

Mayor Benjamin agreed to take this under advisement. He said this is a clear demonstration of our full commitment to seeing Fort Jackson continue to grow. He asked that staff come back with ideas as to how we can meet some of or the entire request.

17. Update on [Lester Drive Traffic Counts](#) – Mr. David Brewer, Traffic Engineer

Mr. David Brewer, Traffic Engineer recalled that staff was asked to review traffic volumes for the reopened portion of Lester Drive. He presented traffic counts from November 2015 and January 2016. He reported that 1,150 cars traveled down Lester Drive from Bayberry Mews and 500 of those cars continued down Lester Drive through High Circle. He reported that 500 cars come down Lester Drive from Bailey Street towards High Circle and the houses on High Circle generate another 250 cars coming out onto Beltline Boulevard. He added that approximately 400 cars go up Lester Drive towards Bayberry Mews.

Mr. Robert Anderson, Director of Public Works noted that Lester Drive and Bailey Street are owned by the City of Columbia, but Randolph Street and High Circle are owned by SCDOT. He recalled that there was a proposed roadway on property owned by the Two Notch Development Corporation along the railroad tracks, but the terrain is sloped making it costly to install the road.

Mayor Benjamin explained that this would be a separate route to the east of the property. He said that might not be the highest and best use of prospective funding. He expressed concerns with the traffic on Randolph Street. He asked if there are alternative ways to direct traffic directly onto Interstate 277.

Mr. David Brewer, Traffic Engineer said traffic would come out at 277 and Farrow Road. He agreed to ask SCDOT about accessing that property.

Councilor McDowell also expressed concerns about speeding on Randolph Street.

Ms. Regina E. Williams, Vice President of the Historic Booker Washington Heights Neighborhood Association said before Lester Drive was opened there were fifty cars traveling in that area; there is an increase of 600 to 700 cars based on a study from 1996. She suggested that the City of Columbia close Lester Drive.

Mr. David Brewer, Traffic Engineer agreed that there has been an increase in traffic.

Councilor Duvall asked if the City could close the road using §5-27-150.

Ms. Natalie Armstrong, Assistant City Attorney said City Council can decide to file a petition to close the road based on an articulable reason. She agreed to review the Code.

Ms. Katie Bolden pled with Council to do something with Lester Drive. She said drivers go around the speed humps and come into the yards; crime will increase; and the kids have no place to play. She sought Council's support for youth jobs.

Councilor Plough asked to be briefed at the next Executive Session on the closing, prohibiting thru-traffic and to see what relief they can bring to the residents on Randolph Circle.

Mayor Benjamin asked staff to start conversations with SCDOT and to receive advice from the Fire and Police Departments. He stated for the record that 500 youth were employed in the City of Columbia last summer and we will continue to do that.

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

Council opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m.

18. [Ordinance No.: 2016-004](#) – Annexing 201 Club Ridge Road, Parcel A (0.41 acres) 5W/5 Club Ridge Road and Parcel 8 (0.28 acres) 5W/5 Club Ridge Road, Richland County TMS # 28900-01-15 (p) – *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 Ordinance No.: 2016-004 – Annexing 201 Club Ridge Road, Parcel A (0.41 acres) 5W/5 Club Ridge Road and Parcel 8 (0.28 acres) 5W/5 Club Ridge Road, Richland County TMS # 28900-01-15 (p).

19. [Ordinance No.: 2016-005](#) – Annexing The Crossing at Woodcreek, Phases One and Two, Richland County TMS# 28910-04-01, 28910-04-02, 28910-04-03, 28910-04-04, 28910-04-05, 28910-04-06, 28910-04-07, 28910-04-08, 28910-04-09, 28910-0410, 28910-04-11, 28910-04-12, 28910-04-13, 28910-04-14, 28910-04-15, 28910-0416, 28910-0417, 28910-05-01, 28910-05-02, 28910-05-03, 28910-05-04, 28910-05-05, 28910-05-06, 28910-05-07, 28910-05-08, 28910-05-09, 28910-05-10, 28910-05-11, 28910-05-12, 28910-05-13, 28910-05-14, 28910-05-15, 28910-05-16, 28910-05-17, 28910-05-18, 28910-05-19, 28910-05-20, 28910-05-21, 28910-05-22, 28910-05-23, 28910-05-24, 28910-05-25, 28910-05-26, 28910-05-27, 28910-05-28, 28911-04-02, 28911-05-01, 28911-05-02, 28911-05-03, 28911-05-04, 28911-05-05, 28911-05-06, 28911-06-01, 28911-06-02, 28911-06-03, 28911-06-04, 28911-06-05, 28911-06-06, 28911-06-07, 28911-06-08, 28911-06-09, 28911-06-10, 28911-07-01, 28911-07-02, 28911-07-03, 28911-07-04, 28911-07-05, 28911-07-06, and 28911-07-07 – *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 Ordinance No.: 2016-005 – Annexing The Crossing at Woodcreek, Phases One and Two, Richland County TMS# 28910-04-01, 28910-04-02, 28910-04-03, 28910-04-04, 28910-04-05, 28910-04-06, 28910-04-07, 28910-04-08, 28910-04-09, 28910-0410, 28910-04-11, 28910-04-12, 28910-04-13, 28910-04-14, 28910-04-15, 28910-0416, 28910-0417, 28910-05-01, 28910-05-02, 28910-05-03, 28910-05-04, 28910-05-05, 28910-05-06, 28910-05-07, 28910-05-08, 28910-05-09, 28910-05-10, 28910-05-11, 28910-05-12, 28910-05-13, 28910-05-14, 28910-05-15, 28910-05-16, 28910-05-17, 28910-05-18, 28910-05-19, 28910-05-20, 28910-05-21, 28910-05-22, 28910-05-23, 28910-05-24, 28910-05-25, 28910-05-26, 28910-05-27, 28910-05-28, 28911-04-02, 28911-05-01, 28911-05-02, 28911-05-03, 28911-05-04, 28911-05-05, 28911-05-06, 28911-06-01, 28911-06-02, 28911-06-03, 28911-06-04, 28911-06-05, 28911-06-06, 28911-06-07, 28911-06-08, 28911-06-09, 28911-06-10, 28911-07-01, 28911-07-02, 28911-07-03, 28911-07-04, 28911-07-05, 28911-07-06, and 28911-07-07.

Council closed the Public Hearing at 7:02 p.m.

ZONING PUBLIC HEARING

Council opened the Zoning Public Hearing at 7:02 p.m.

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

20. **1850 Pineview Road**, TMS#19000-01-03; request to annex, assign land use classification IND (Industrial), and zone the property M-1 (Light Industrial). The property is currently classified as Economic Development Center/Corridor and zoned GC (Commercial) in Richland County. – *Approved on first reading.*

Council District: 3
Proposal: Annex, assign land use classification IND and zone the property M-1
Applicant: Jeremy Wilson, Pineview Associates
PC Recommendation: Approve (6-0); 12/07/15
Staff Recommendation: Annex, assign IND Land Use Classification and M-1 Zoning

Ordinance No.: 2015-111 – Annexing and Incorporating 1850 Pineview Road, Richland County TMS #19000-01-03 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.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the *Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment & Zoning Map Amendment* for 1850 Pineview Road, TMS#19000-01-03; request to annex, assign land use classification IND (Industrial), and zone the property M-1 (Light Industrial). The property is currently classified as Economic Development Center/Corridor and zoned GC (Commercial) in Richland County **and** Ordinance No.: 2015-111 – Annexing and Incorporating 1850 Pineview Road, Richland County TMS #19000-01-03 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

21. 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). - *Denied*

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
Staff Recommendation:	Approve

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

Mayor Benjamin said we’ve endeavored to no avail to have a meeting of the minds between the parties. He asked staff to reach out to the developer and express an interest in seeing that parcel developed at its highest and best use.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to deny approval of the *Zoning Map Amendment* for 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).

22. 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 on December 1, 2015. – This item was withdrawn from the agenda.*

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

ZONING MAP AND TEXT AMENDMENT – FIRST READING

23. [1325 Park Street](#), TMS# 09013-12-09; request to rezone from C-4 (Central Area Commercial) to C-4, -DP (Central Area Commercial, Design Preservation). Amend Sec. 17-691 (c) to establish 1325 Park Street as a Group II individual historic landmark in the City of Columbia. – *Approved on first reading.*

Council District:	2
Proposal:	Rezone parcel from C-4 to C-4, DP and Amend Chapter 17 – Article V, Division 3 - §17-691 (c) to designate structure as a Group II Landmark
Applicant:	Krista Hampton, Director of Planning and Development Services
D/DRC Recommendation:	Approve (9-0); 11/12/15 Landmark Status
PC Recommendation:	Approve (6-0); 12/07/15
Staff Recommendation:	Approve

[Ordinance No.: 2016-002](#) – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 1 7, 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 1325 Park Street, TMS# 09013-12-09 – *Approved on first reading.*

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

Ms. Krista Hampton, Planning and Development Services Director explained that the property owner wants to pursue this designation, but there are no concrete plans at this time.

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the *Zoning Map Amendment* for 1325 Park Street, TMS# 09013-12-09; request to rezone from C-4 (Central Area Commercial) to C-4, -DP (Central Area Commercial, Design Preservation). Amend Sec. 17-691 (c) to establish 1325 Park Street as a Group II individual historic landmark in the City of Columbia **and** Ordinance No.: 2016-002 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 1 7, 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 1325 Park Street, TMS# 09013-12-09.

Council closed the Zoning Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

24. [Ordinance No.: 2016-003](#) – Granting encroachment to Lisa Hosti for installation and maintenance of an ornamental iron fence within the right of way area of the 2300 block of Blossom Street adjacent to her property located at 2303 Lowndes Street, Richland County TMS #1312-11-06 – *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.: 2016-003 – Granting encroachment to Lisa Hosti for installation and maintenance of an ornamental iron fence within the right of way area of the 2300 block of Blossom Street adjacent to her property located at 2303 Lowndes Street, Richland County TMS #1312-11-06.

25. [Ordinance No.: 2016-006](#) – Consenting to the Inclusion of Property in a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (Dominion Carolina Gas Transmission, 121 Moore Hopkins Lane, Richland County TMS# 07309-02-06) – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2016-006 – Consenting to the Inclusion of Property in a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (Dominion Carolina Gas Transmission, 121 Moore Hopkins Lane, Richland County TMS# 07309-02-06).

RESOLUTIONS

26. [Resolution No.: R-2016-003](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Release of Parking Restrictions between the City of Columbia and Devine Station, LLC for property known as 0.72 acres and 0.56 acres on northwestern corner of Maple Street and Devine Street - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2016-003 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Release of Parking Restrictions between the City of Columbia and Devine Station, LLC for property known as 0.72 acres and 0.56 acres on northwestern corner of Maple Street and Devine Street.

27. [Resolution No.: R-2016-004](#) – Certifying Twelve (12) Building Sites as Abandoned Buildings Pursuant to the South Carolina Abandoned Buildings Revitalization Act, Title 12, Chapter 67, Section 12-67-100 et seq., of the Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976), as amended, regarding property located at 2150 Harden Street, Richland County TMS #11501-01-01(p)

Ms. Krista Hampton, Director of Planning and Development Services explained that the Legislature enacted a law providing a state income tax or property tax credit as an incentive for rehabilitating abandoned buildings. The amendment allowed for local government to certify that the structure and site meet the definition of abandoned. She stated that Clachan Properties, the proposed developer has asked City Council to certify the Babcock Building and associated buildings. She noted that the Hughes Development Company's Design Review Board has signed off on the application.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2016-004 – Certifying Twelve (12) Building Sites as Abandoned Buildings Pursuant to the South Carolina Abandoned Buildings Revitalization Act, Title 12, Chapter 67, Section 12-67-100 et seq., of the Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976), as amended, regarding property located at 2150 Harden Street, Richland County TMS #11501-01-01(p).

28. [Resolution No.: R-2016-005](#) – Repealing Resolution R-207 3-045 Setting a Policy that the City of Columbia will not Exceed Five (5%) of the Cross Revenue of the Water and Sewer System – *This item was withdrawn from the agenda.*

APPEAL HEARING

29. [People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals \(PETA\) Parade Permit Appeal](#)

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager explained that the parade permit has been approved and the appeal is for the placement of a statue in the right of way.

Ms. Rosemary Thompson, Local Animal Advocate appealed to Council to allow PETA to place a mechanical life sized elephant in the right of way outside of the Colonial Life Arena during the circus on January 21-22, 2016 for two hours. She explained that the mechanical elephant would be manned by a PETA representative during that time. She said the sidewalk there is a lot larger than typical city sidewalks. She said there is little foot traffic on the sidewalk along Lincoln Street. The mechanical elephant is six feet tall and nine feet long.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager noted that there is a lot of construction going on in that area.

Mr. Temple Ligon told Ms. Thompson that Barnum and Bailey dropped the elephants last week and they are being placed in retirement.

Councilor Plaugh inquired about the objective for having the mechanical elephant.

Ms. Rosemary Thompson, Local Animal Advocate said it provides education by telling a story about the life of a circus elephant.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager asked how sound is produced.

Ms. Rosemary Thompson, Local Animal Advocate said it will be controlled by a PETA representative through recordings; it doesn't speak continuously.

Mr. William "Skip" Holbrook, Columbia Police Chief said anyone has the right to assemble; the permit is used for planning purposes. The permit was approved with the caveat of not placing the apparatus where it obstructs the roadway or the sidewalk. Their request doesn't present imminent danger, but they want to deviate from the ordinance and Council will need to decide whether to allow that or not.

Mayor Benjamin made a motion to grant the appeal for Ellie the Elephant to be placed at a location at the discretion of the City Manager in consultation with the Police Chief and other staff.

The motion failed for the lack of a second.

Ms. Melissa Gentry, P.E., Assistant City Manager for Operations inquired about the amount of time needed for the setup and breakdown of the elephant.

Ms. Rosemary Thompson, Local Animal Advocate said she is unsure about the setup and breakdown of the elephant.

Mayor Benjamin said we have to be thoughtful careful about freedom of speech and the right to assemble.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted five (5) to two (2) to support staff's denial of the request from PETA to place a mechanical elephant in the right of way. Voting aye were Mr. McDowell, Mr. Duvall, Mr. Baddourah, Ms. Devine and Mr. Davis. Voting nay were Ms. Plough and Mayor Benjamin.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

30. Hospitality Tax Funding Requests – *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

- Columbia Classical Ballet
- Columbia Museum of Art
- [Columbia Open Studios 2016](#)
- [Devine Street Merchants Association](#)
- North Columbia Business Association
- [Yellow Shirts Program](#)

APPOINTMENTS

31. [Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee](#)

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Julie Ann Hartwell to the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Upon a motion made by Mr. McDowell and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to authorize staff to re-open the application process for the Board of Zoning Appeals for a two-week period.

32. City Council Chambers / Reconfiguration of Desk – Mr. David Knoche, Director of General Services

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager asked Council for direction on the location, date and time for work sessions. She said all of this will impact the proposal, because it will require additional renovations in Chambers.

Mr. David Knoche, Director of General Services presented a schematic of the proposed desk, which moves the center section back two feet. This is the same setup that was used in 1951. He explained that proposal one is to reconfigure the existing desk at a cost of \$12,540 or proposal two is to construct a new desk at a cost of \$14,198. He described options for enhancing the sound for Council members at a cost of \$3,208.

Mayor Benjamin said the genesis of the discussion is considering whether or not we move the work session upstairs.

Mr. David Knoche, General Services Director suggested that two 10'x4' conference tables be built for the work session in Council Chambers in the amount of \$3,235 and that sound be added to a table at a cost of \$5,717.

Mr. Aubrey Jenkins, Columbia Fire Chief said the capacity will be less than 250.

Councilor Duvall moved to adopt the proposal to reconfigure the existing desk with improved sound; authorize staff to build two tables for work sessions; and move work sessions upstairs when the renovations are complete.

Mr. David Knoche, General Services Director said it would cost \$24,790.

Mayor Benjamin suggested that the podium be lowered so that everyone can view the Council from around the room. He agreed with reconfiguring the dais. He suggested that Mr. Duvall, Ms. Devine and Mr. Baddourah meet to come up with recommendations for the reconfiguration of Council Chambers prior to the next Council Meeting.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager suggested that funding come from the Council Contingency Fund.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Duvall and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to cancel the Work Session scheduled for February 2, 2016.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS/REFERALS

33. Administrative Policy Committee Report

Councilor Plough reported that the Administrative Policy Committee met on January 12, 2016 to review the suggested procedures and several items were held for discussion by Council.

Councilor Davis asked that the Economic and Community Development Committee review the updated Rental Housing Ordinance and then schedule a time to meet with the public.

Mayor Benjamin clarified that the reopening of Lester Drive was pursuant to a court order and staff wasn't operating independently. He also encouraged everyone to read Edwards vs. South Carolina where a lawsuit was filed by approximately 187 students whose right to petition and right to assemble were violated.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

No one appeared at this time.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Mr. McDowell, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk