



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL – 1737 MAIN STREET
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Columbia City Council conducted a Meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 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. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman, The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan and The Honorable Moe Baddourah. The Honorable Leona K. Plough was absent. 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

Master Gabriel Baker, Fifth Grade Advanced Academic Program Student at Arden Elementary School led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. He thanked Mayor Benjamin for the opportunity to lead the Pledge and he thanked his pastor, Dr. Carl Wells of Second Calvary Baptist Church for his spiritual guidance.

INVOCATION

Mr. Aubrey Jenkins, Fire Chief of the Columbia Fire Department offered the Invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to approve the adoption of the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [May 19, 2015 Council Meeting](#) and [June 2, 2015 Work Session & Council Meeting Minutes](#) - *Approved as presented.*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the May 19, 2015 Council Meeting and June 2, 2015 Work Session & Council Meeting Minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a single motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 2** through **5**.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS & AGREEMENTS

2. Council is asked to approve an [Agreement for Special Inspections and Testing for the Multi-Use Entertainment Venue](#), as requested by the Special Projects Administrator. Award to the Dennis Corporation of Columbia, SC as a Local Business Enterprise in an amount not to exceed \$85,120.00. *Funding Source: 4189999-CP220001-658650 Hospitality Tax Bond – The original budgeted amount is \$100,000.00. - Approved*

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING

3. [Ordinance No.: 2015-046](#) - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 21, Stormwater Management and Sedimentation Control, Article III, Flood Damage Prevention, Division I, Generally, Sec. 21-125 Definitions to add Functionally dependent use and Sec. 21-134 Severability; Division 2, Administration, Sec. 21-151 Responsibility for administration; Sec. 21-154 Appeals and variances; and Division 3, Flood Hazard Reduction, Sec. 21-172 Specific standards; Sec. 21-173 Standards for streams without established base flood elevations or floodways; and Sec. 21-175 Standards for areas of shallow flooding – *First reading approval was given on June 2, 2015. – [Click here for additional information](#) – Approved on second reading.*

EVENT RESOLUTIONS

4. [Resolution No.: R-2015-041](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the Italian Festival in the 7600 block of Blanding Street adjacent to the Robert Mills House and Hampton Preston Mansion - *This event is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2015. - Approved*
5. [Resolution No.: R-2015-047](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only at Jerry Fest at the Five Points Fountain on October 4, 2015 - *Approved*

PRESENTATIONS

6. [Introduction of the June 2015 Employee of the Month \(Ms. Maria D. Ragin, Community Safety Officer\)](#) – Major Randy Martin, Columbia Police Department

Mr. William “Skip” Holbrook, Police Chief for the Columbia Police Department introduced Ms. Maria Ragin, Community Safety Officer as the June 2015 Employee of the Month. He described Ms. Ragin as a tremendous asset to the Columbia Police Department. He noted that she has only taken one sick day in the last several years and she frequently fills in for her peers.

Mayor Benjamin and City Manager Teresa Wilson presented Ms. Maria Ragin, Community Safety Officer for the Columbia Police Department with a plaque tokens of appreciation for being selected as the City of Columbia June 2015 Employee of the Month.

7. [Year of the Lady Gamecocks Proclamation](#) – The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine

Councilor Devine said the Lady Gamecocks had a tremendous year and we could not let more time go by without recognizing their significant achievements. She said communities come together around good things and bad things, but to see the excitement during the Lady Gamecocks season was very exciting. She told the Lady Gamecocks that this proclamation is a small token of their City's appreciation of their accomplishments.

Mayor Benjamin and the members of City Council proclaimed 2015 as the Year of the Lady Gamecocks in the City of Columbia.

Ms. Aleighsa Welch, former Center for the Lady Gamecocks thanked the Mayor and members of Council for honoring the Lady Gamecocks. She said it was a historic season and a season to enjoy; and with receiving this proclamation and support from the City of Columbia it has been a season that keeps on giving.

Ms. Olivia Gaines, former Guard for the Lady Gamecocks thanked the Mayor and members of Council. She said we really appreciate it.

BUDGET ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

8. [Ordinance No.: 2015-025](#) – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 23, Utilities and Engineering, Article V, Water and Sewer Rates, Sec. 23-143 Water service rates and Sec. 23-149 Sewer service rates – *The Budget Public Hearing was held on May 19, 2015. First reading approval was given on June 2, 2015 by a vote of four (4) to three (3). – Approved on second reading by a vote of four (4) to two (2).*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted four (4) to two (2) to give second reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-025 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 23, Utilities and Engineering, Article V, Water and Sewer Rates, Sec. 23-143 Water service rates and Sec. 23-149 Sewer service rates. Voting aye were Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine, Mr. Newman and Mayor Benjamin. Voting nay were Mr. Runyan and Mr. Baddourah.

9. [Ordinance No.: 2015-037](#) - Amending Section 9 of the Franchise Agreement between South Carolina Electric & Gas Company ("SCE&G") and the City of Columbia dated February 20, 2002 and amended February 15, 2011 and May 1, 2013 – *The Budget Public Hearing was held on May 19, 2015. First reading approval was given on June 2, 2015 by a vote of four (4) to three (3). – Approved on second reading by a vote of four (4) to two (2).*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted four (4) to two (2) to give second reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-037 - Amending Section 9 of the Franchise Agreement between South Carolina Electric & Gas Company ("SCE&G") and the City of Columbia dated February 20, 2002 and amended February 15, 2011 and May 1, 2013. Voting aye were Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine, Mr. Newman and Mayor Benjamin. Voting nay were Mr. Runyan and Mr. Baddourah.

10. [Ordinance No.: 2015-036](#) – To Raise Revenue and Adopt the Budget for the City of Columbia, South Carolina, for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2016 – *The Budget Public Hearing was held on May 19, 2015. First reading approval was given on June 2, 2015 by a vote of four (4) to three (3). – Approved on second reading by a vote of four (4) to two (2).*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted four (4) to two (2) to give second reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-036 – To Raise Revenue and Adopt the Budget for the City of Columbia, South Carolina, for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2016. Voting aye were Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine, Mr. Newman and Mayor Benjamin. Voting nay were Mr. Runyan and Mr. Baddourah.

Councilor Devine asked the City Manager to educate our citizens on the impact of the new water rates. She recalled hearing from a citizen who was told that her water bill was going up by \$20 per month, but by using the online calculator it was determined that the bill is only increasing by \$1.06 per month. She asked that Angela Adams film a Public Service Announcement with Public Relations on how to review your bill.

SIDEWALK VENDING PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE - FIRST READING

11. [Ordinance No.: 2015-026](#) - Granting a Franchise to All Star Hot Dogs for operation of a stationary sidewalk vending cart in the mid-block pad of the 1100 block of Gervais Street - *Approved on first reading.*

- **Council opened the Sidewalk Vending Public Hearing at 6:32 p.m.**

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

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-026 - Granting a Franchise to All Star Hot Dogs for operation of a stationary sidewalk vending cart in the mid-block pad of the 1100 block of Gervais Street.

- **Council closed the Sidewalk Vending Public Hearing at 6:33 p.m.**

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

12. [Ordinance No.: 2015-047](#) – Annexing 954 Custer Street, Richland County TMS #07305-06-03 – *Approved on first reading*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-047 – Annexing 954 Custer Street, Richland County TMS #07305-06-03.

13. [Ordinance No.: 2015-049](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Agreement to Sell and Purchase Real Estate between the City of Columbia and Pinnacle, Inc. for the purchase of 2725 Drayton Street, Richland County TMS #09119-12-02 – *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

RESOLUTIONS

14. [Resolution No.: R-2015-049](#) – Amending Resolution R-2014-045 Amending R-2014-024 Adopting a Policy and Criteria to Consider the Inclusion of Real Property in a Multi-County Industrial Park to Apply Richland County’s Special Source Revenue Credit Incentive to Real Property within the Corporate Limits of the City of Columbia to remove the exclusion of privately owned market rate housing projects and to sunset the tax credit effective December 31, 2015 - *Approved*

Mr. Newman made a motion to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-049 – Amending Resolution R-2014-045 Amending R-2014-024 Adopting a Policy and Criteria to Consider the Inclusion of Real Property in a Multi-County Industrial Park to Apply Richland County’s Special Source Revenue Credit Incentive to Real Property within the Corporate Limits of the City of Columbia to remove the exclusion of privately owned market rate housing projects and to sunset the tax credit effective December 31, 2015. It was seconded by Mayor Benjamin.

Councilor Baddourah sought clarification on the matter. He said we talked about ending the incentives for student housing, but we are expanding this to rentals and privately owned market rate housing projects. He said we keep giving tax incentives for buildings; it is obvious that our taxes are too high and the only way to get developers to come is by giving them incentives. He said he is having a hard time understanding giving away revenue from our school districts and how that will help the City as a whole. He urged his colleagues to figure out something we can do for everybody and not just developers. He said the cost of operating the City is increasing, because we just imposed a 2% franchise fee to keep operating the City. He said he will not support this resolution.

Mayor Benjamin said when we discussed the sunset of the student housing program we talked about the unintended consequences on some developers, particularly one developer that became the model for why we started the incentive. He explained that prior to the development of this incentive and support from Richland County Council in 2013 we saw a freeze on development. He said as a result of this Council's leadership we will see an additional \$100 million coming into this community over the next twenty (20) years. He said the property at the corner of Harden and Gervais Streets was paying less than \$40,000 in taxes per year and now it will pay over \$700,000 in taxes even with the tax abatement in place and almost \$1.5 million after the abatement is done. He said this resolution is meant to clean up other issues that were unintended consequences going forward. He said we are looking at an additional \$60 million going to Richland School District One over the next twenty years and that's a big deal.

- **Mr. Newman left the meeting at 6:38 p.m.**

Councilor Davis said he understands and respects Mr. Baddourah's concerns, but there is a sunset clause; this doesn't continue in perpetuity. He said there will be similar type projects and offerings for the City. He said he has a special interest in that and it shows that if we want to grow we have to be creative in attracting investments that add to the revenue base. He said he is cautious that this doesn't get out of hand. He asked if these investments would come if this incentive wasn't in place.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted four (4) to one (1) to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-049 – Amending Resolution R-2014-045 Amending R-2014-024 Adopting a Policy and Criteria to Consider the Inclusion of Real Property in a Multi-County Industrial Park to Apply Richland County's Special Source Revenue Credit Incentive to Real Property within the Corporate Limits of the City of Columbia to remove the exclusion of privately owned market rate housing projects and to sunset the tax credit effective December 31, 2015. Voting aye were Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine, Mr. Runyan and Mayor Benjamin. Mr. Baddourah voted nay. Mr. Newman was not present for the vote.

15. [Resolution No.: R-2015-050](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Agreement between the City of Columbia and Edwards Communities Development Company for Parking, Lighting, Curb, Gutter and Sidewalk Improvements underneath the Blossom Street Bridge - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-050 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Agreement between the City of Columbia and Edwards Communities Development Company for Parking, Lighting, Curb, Gutter and Sidewalk Improvements underneath the Blossom Street Bridge.

16. [Resolution No.: R-2015-052](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Amended and Restated Agreement between the City of Columbia and City of West Columbia for Wastewater Services and Participation in Capital Wastewater Improvements - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-052 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Amended and Restated Agreement between the City of Columbia and City of West Columbia for Wastewater Services and Participation in Capital Wastewater Improvements.

17. [Resolution No.: R-2010-053](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a 911 Communications Center Consolidation Agreement Extension between the City of Columbia and Richland County - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2010-053 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a 911 Communications Center Consolidation Agreement Extension between the City of Columbia and Richland County.

OTHER MATTERS

18. Council is asked to approve a [Certificate of Convenience and Necessity](#) for Ms. Sylvia Ann Tatum doing business as Buckhead Mobile Ads, Inc. located at 201 Sunset Drive, West Columbia, SC 29172. – *Note: The applicant is placing four (4) pedicabs into service and additional pedicabs will be added at a later date.* - *Approved*

- **Mr. Baddourah left the meeting at 6:43 p.m.**

Ms. Sylvia Tatum, Owner of Buckhead Mobile Ads, Inc. presented packets for Council's review. She said she conducted a one month pilot in Atlanta, Georgia and they moved 7,000 people around Atlanta. She would like to provide a free service for people walking around the City of Columbia if she is allowed to advertise on the vehicle. She hopes to serve the senior population and provide more transportation opportunities for people. She would like to start within the next few weeks.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for Ms. Sylvia Ann Tatum doing business as Buckhead Mobile Ads, Inc. located at 201 Sunset Drive, West Columbia, SC 29172.

19. Council is asked to approve a [Certificate of Convenience and Necessity](#) for Mr. Steven L. Riddle doing business as DUI Taxi located at 3680 Dorchester Road, North Charleston, SC 29405. – *Note: The applicant is placing one (1) taxi into service and additional taxis will be added at a later date.* - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to approve a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for Mr. Steven L. Riddle doing business as DUI Taxi located at 3680 Dorchester Road, North Charleston, SC 29405.

20. [Neighborhood Street Lighting Request](#) - *Approved*

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

Neighborhoods Listed by Priority	Existing Lights	Requested Lights	Current Lease Cost / Annually	Project Request Total	Total Year to Date
1209 Franklin Street	1	1	\$118.92	\$118.92	\$6,211.44

21. Council is asked to approve the [Installation of a Multi-Way Stop at the intersection of Heyward Street and Gregg Street](#), as requested by the Hollywood / Rose Hill Neighborhood. – *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

22. Council is asked to approve the [Installation of a Four-Way Stop at the intersections of Read Street, Heidt Street and Waverly Street](#). - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the Installation of a Four-Way Stop at the intersections of Read Street, Heidt Street and Waverly Street.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS / REFERRALS

23. Council is asked to refer a review of Requests for Pop-Up Shops to the Economic and Community Development Committee, as requested by The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine.

Councilor Davis said this is an initiative we worked on with a North Columbia and he looks forward to coming up with a resolution that works for the City at large.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to refer a review of Requests for Pop-Up Shops to the Economic and Community Development Committee.

24. [Business License Ad-Hoc Committee Report](#)

Councilor Devine reported on behalf of Mr. Baddourah, committee chair. She noted that the Business License Ad-Hoc Committee met on June 3, 2015 to discuss Mr. Baddourah’s proposed ordinance regarding a business license for non-profits. She said there are a lot more questions than answers and staff is not able to run revenue projections, because the proposed ordinance is unclear on which non-profits will be affected. She reported that Chuck Beaman, Chief Executive Officer for Palmetto Health expressed concerns that Palmetto Health would have with the current proposal. She said that Mr. Beaman provided additional information on their costs and economic impact. She said Council members need to submit questions to the City Manager for follow-up. She said one question involves the nonprofits that are in competition with businesses. She said the committee will continue its discussions and a review of revenue sources, but the committee isn’t ready to move forward with a recommendation at this time.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager recognized her daughter Alex Wilson who was in attendance. She announced that Alex’s eleven and twelve year old 4x100 relay team won the Junior Olympics State Championship and Alex is 6th in the State for the 100 meter sprint.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

No one appeared at this time.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk

Meeting Dates	Type of Meeting	Meeting Times
June 23, 2015	Economic Development Committee Meeting	9:00 a.m.
	<i>City Hall – 1737 Main Street – 2nd Floor Conference Room</i>	
	Arts & Historic Preservation Committee Meeting	<i>TBD</i>
	<i>City Hall – 1737 Main Street – 3rd Floor Conference Room</i>	
July 21, 2015	Work Session	2:00 p.m.
	<i>City Hall – 1737 Main Street – 2nd Floor Conference Room</i>	
	Council Meeting / Zoning Public Hearing	6:00 p.m.
	<i>City Hall – 1737 Main Street – Council Chambers – 3rd Floor</i>	