



The Columbia City Council met in Executive Session on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Leona K. Plough, The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman and The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan. The Honorable Moe Baddourah 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 Freedom of Information Act.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 4:09 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 1** through **3** as outlined.

1. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements - *These items were discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
 - *Soda City Agreement*
 - *Palmetto Utilities – This item was not discussed in Executive Session.*
 - *Harden Street Lease Agreement*
 - *Plexos Group*
 - *Magic Ice USA*
 - *Wateree Community Actions*

2. Receipt of legal advice which relates to a matter covered by attorney-client privilege- *These items were discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
 - *Hotel Litigation*
 - *Hospitality Tax Funding*
 - *Columbia Canal*

3. Receipt of legal advice which relates to a pending, threatened or potential claim- *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
 - *Taboo*

- **Council adjourned the Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.**

The Columbia City Council conducted a Meeting and a Sidewalk Vending Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Leona K. Plough, The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman, The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan and The Honorable Moe Baddourah. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Master Jacob Goodwin, Little Miss Isabella Goodwin and Master Evan Powe led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Chaplain Byron Powers, Columbia Police Department offered the Invocation.

Mayor Benjamin said this is our first meeting since the flood and I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the way in which our City responded.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda, subject to removing **Item 11** (*Contract Extension for Auditing Services*) and **Item 18** (*Ordinance No.: 2015-085*) from the Consent Agenda; presenting **Item 33** (*Recognition of Coach Joy Holman and The Forces*) after the approval of the Consent Agenda; and adding **Item 38a** (*Wateree Community Actions Update*).

PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one appeared at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4. [September 15, 2015 Work Session & Council Meeting](#), [October 5, 2015 Emergency Meeting](#) and [October 7, 2015 Emergency Meeting](#) – *Approved as presented.*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to approve the September 15, 2015 Work Session & Council Meeting Minutes, the October 5, 2015 Emergency Meeting Minutes and the October 7, 2015 Emergency Meeting Minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 5 through 10, 12 through 16, 19 through 26, 28 and 29.**

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS & AGREEMENTS

5. Council is asked to approve the [Renewal of an Agreement between Richland County School District One and the City of Columbia](#) for the elementary school water safety and swimming instruction program. - *Approved*
6. Council is asked to approve an [Agreement for On-Call Stormwater Services for Fiscal Year 2015/2016](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Woolpert, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Engineering Stormwater Operating Budget, 5534202-SD836016-638305 – Note: The original budgeted amount is \$50,000.00.* - *Approved*
7. Council is asked to approve an [Invoice for Flagman and Railmaster Services related to Project SS7076; Burnside Gravity Sanitary Sewer Project](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to CSX Transportation in the amount of \$51,110.66. This vendor is located in Atlanta, GA. *Funding Source: Savings from Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Capital Improvement Project SS725302 / Digesters 1-5 at the Metro WWTP – Note: This is a Clean Water 2020 Program Project.* - *Approved*
8. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Parts to Rebuild Four \(4\) Train I Primary Basins](#), as requested by the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to Evoqua Water Technologies, as a Sole Source in the amount of \$55,210.00. This vendor is located in Waukesha, WI. *Funding Source: Utilities Metro WWTP - Small Hand Tools/Other Equipment, 5516208-623100 – Note: The original budgeted amount is \$55,210.00.* - *Approved*
9. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Three \(3\) Chevrolet Tahoes for the Fire Department](#), as requested by the Fleet Services Division. Award to Love Chevrolet, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$95,556.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Capital Replacement-Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equipment Capital 6308972-658500 – Note: The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$103,200.48.* - *Approved*
10. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Flowable Fill Materials](#), as requested by the Wastewater Maintenance Division. Award to Thomas Concrete, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$100,000.00. This vendor has a corporate office in Pooler, GA and a local office in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Utilities Wastewater Maintenance-Paving and Asphalt Supplies 5516205-623500 – Note: The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$100,000.00.* - *Approved*

11. Council is asked to approve a [Contract Extension for Auditing Services](#), as requested by the Finance Department. Award to Webster Rogers, LLP in an amount not to exceed \$134,900.00. This firm is located in Florence, SC. *Funding Source: \$67,450 will come from Accounting-Audit Costs 1011401-635600 and \$67,450 will come from Finance Water Administration Audit Costs 5511409-635600 – Note: The original budgeted amount is \$134,900.00. - Approved*

Councilor Plough noted that this is the eighth year that we've engaged this firm. She said the auditor works for this Council and it is very important that City Council become engaged in a more competitive process.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager explained that this is the second renewal as part of the contract and we will go through that process after the upcoming year.

Mayor Benjamin said we've been very happy with the work Webster Rogers has done, but we encourage transparency in all things and when it comes to the fiscal health of the City.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to approve a Contract Extension for Auditing Services, as requested by the Finance Department. Award to Webster Rogers, LLP in an amount not to exceed \$134,900.00. This firm is located in Florence, SC.

12. Council is asked to approve [Implementation and Conversion Services for IFAS, the City's Integrated Financial System](#), as requested by the Budget and Program Management Office. Award to Sungard Public Sector of Lake Mary, FL in the amount of \$183,340.00. *Funding Source: 6218950-636600 – CIO Comment: I am in agreement with this IFAS Upgrade to ONESolution. - Approved*
13. Council is asked to approve [Project SD8387; An Agreement for conducting an assessment and developing a comprehensive management plan for the Rocky Branch Watershed](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to McCormick Taylor in an amount not to exceed \$217,454.77. This firm has headquarters located in Philadelphia, PA and a local office in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Storm Drain Capital Budget 5549999-SD8387-658650 – Note: Project SD8387 was previously identified as a Supplemental Environmental Project under the Clean Water 2020 Program. The sub-consultant KCI Technologies has headquarters in Sparks, MD and a local office in Columbia, SC. KCI Technologies will provide hydrologic and hydraulic analysis and water quality data collection and analysis for \$77,290.64. The original budgeted amount for this project is \$300,000.00. - Approved*

14. Council is asked to approve [Change Order #7 for Project SS696612; Annual Sewer Rehabilitation](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Improved Technologies Group, LLC in the amount of \$270,309.55. This firm is located in Knoxville, TN. *Funding Source: Savings from Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Capital Improvement Project SS725302 / Digester 1-5 at the Metro WWTP – **Note:** This is a Clean Water 2020 Program Project and a Mentor Protégé Program Project. Holzheimer of Gilbert, SC is the Protégé and will receive \$83,081.00. - Approved*
15. Council is asked to approve [Project SS695401; Crane Creek Sanitary Sewer Outfall Project](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to South Carolina Electric & Gas in an amount not to exceed \$314,696.42. *Funding Source: Capital Projects Budget 5529999-SS695401-638650 – **Note:** SCE&G will relocate the gas mains within the joint easement located at the I-20 crossing. The original budgeted amount is \$314,696.42. - Approved*
16. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of a Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning \(HVAC\) PoolPak™ for the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center](#), as requested by the Support Services Division. Award to Cullum Services, Inc. in the amount of \$322,015.00. This vendor is located in Lexington, SC. *Funding Source: General Capital Project-Capital Project Cost 4039999-658650 and Drew Wellness Pool-Capital Project Cost CP004307-658650 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount is \$334,800.00. - Approved*

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

17. [Ordinance No.: 2015-082](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Contract of Sale and any other documents necessary to consummate the transfer of approximately 0.70 acres (30,266 sq. ft.) of the Blanding Street Right of Way adjacent to Richland County TMS #09010-13-01 and 09010-13-05, and Parcel 30, Richland County TMS #09009-02-01 to William L. Cogdill, Jr. – *First reading approval was given on September 15, 2015. – Consideration of this item was deferred.*
18. [Ordinance No.: 2015-085](#) – Amending Ordinance 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 #0911 0-12-02 – *First reading approval was given on September 15, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*

Councilor Plaugh inquired about the intended use of the parcel and the budget for this purchase.

Mr. John Spade, Director of Parking Services said it is a 55 space parking lot with additional room for bicycle and motorcycle parking. He said it wasn't originally budgeted, but it's coming out of the fund balance.

Councilor Plaugh asked if this is tied to an economic development effort or if this parking facility will help to generate jobs.

Mr. John Spade, Director of Parking Services said a number of people have talked with our development team about the potential for economic growth in that area based on the fact that parking would be available to support a number of different businesses.

Councilor Davis said we've had two to three opportunities to bring businesses to the area that would create local jobs, but parking is a challenge; this will add to the availability of off-site parking.

Mayor Benjamin further explained that the challenge is parking on North Main Street, north of Elmwood Avenue where there has been significant interest from people who want to bring their businesses there. The depth of the lots are not deep enough to allow space for buffering the neighborhoods on the east and west sides of North Main Street. He said we want to provide offsite parking to help stimulate development.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-085 – Amending Ordinance 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 #0911 0-12-02.

LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT – SECOND READING

19. [Land Use Element: request to amend the City of Columbia Comprehensive Plan to update the Future Land Use Map to include rezoned parcel at 121/201 Moore Hopkins Lane.](#) – *First reading approval was given on September 15, 2015.* – *Approved on second reading.*

Council District:	2
Proposal:	Amend Future Land Use Map of <i>The Columbia Plan: 2018</i> for 121/201 Moore Hopkins Lane to be classified as an Employment Campus.
Applicant:	City of Columbia
PC Recommendation:	Approve (9-0); 06/01/15
Staff Recommendation:	Approve

[Ordinance No.: 2015-081](#) – Amending the City of Columbia Comprehensive Plan 2018 Future Land Use Map to reassign the properties at 121 and 201 Moore Hopkins Lane as an Employment Campus – *First reading approval was given on September 15, 2015.* – *Approved on second reading.*

ANNEXATIONS, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP AMENDMENTS, & ZONING
MAP AMENDMENTS – SECOND READING

20. **1030 Andrews Road**, TMS#11211-06-76; request to annex, assign land use classification SD-1 (Sports/Amusement District), and zone the property M-1 (Light Industrial). The property is currently classified as Mixed Residential and zoned M-1 (Light Industrial) in Richland County. – *First reading approval was given on September 15, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*

Council District: 3
Proposal: Annex, assign land use classification SD-1, and zone the property M-1
Applicant: Richland County Recreation Commission
PC Recommendation: Approve (8-0); 08/03/15
Staff Recommendation: Annex, assign SD-1 Land Use Classification and M-1 Zoning

Ordinance No.: 2015-080 – Annexing and Incorporating 1030 Andrews Road, Richland County TMS #11211-06-76 into the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan Putting the Pieces Together adopted by Ordinance No.: 2015-014 on February 17, 2015 – *First reading approval was given on September 15, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*

21. **2102 South Beltline Boulevard**, TMS#13606-02-01; request to annex, assign land use classification IND (Industrial), and zone the property M-2 (Heavy Industrial). The property is currently classified as Mixed Residential and zoned HI (Heavy Industrial) in Richland County. – *First reading approval was given on September 15, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*

Council District: 3
Proposal: Annex, assign IND Land Use Classification and M-2 Zoning
Applicant: Spur Carolina, LLC
PC Recommendation: Approve (8-0); 08/03/15
Staff Recommendation: Annex, assign IND Land Use Classification and M-2 Zoning

Ordinance No.: 2015-079 – Annexing and Incorporating 2102 South Beltline Boulevard, Richland County TMS #13606-02-01 into the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan Putting the Pieces Together adopted by Ordinance No.: 2015-014 on February 17, 2015 – *First reading approval was given on September 15, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*

22. **7011 Garners Ferry Road**, TMS#16406-04-01; request to annex, assign land use classification AC-2 (Community Activity Corridor), and zone the property C-3 (General Commercial). The property is currently classified as Mixed Residential zoned M-1 (Light Industrial) in Richland County. – *First reading approval was given on September 15, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*

Council District: 4
Proposal: Annex, assign AC-2 Land Use Classification, and C-3 Zoning
Applicant: Veterans Heights, LLC
PC Recommendation: Approve (8-0); 08/03/15
Staff Recommendation: Annex, assign AC-2 Land Use Classification and C-3 Zoning

[Ordinance No.: 2015-078](#) – Annexing and Incorporating 7011 Garners Ferry Road, Richland County TMS #16406-04-01 into the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan Putting the Pieces Together adopted by Ordinance No. : 2015-014 on February 17, 2015 – *First reading approval was given on September 15, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*

ZONING MAP AMENDMENTS – SECOND READING

23. [121 Moore Hopkins Lane \(Revised\)](#), TMS#07309-02-06, request to rezone from C-3 (General Commercial District) to M-1 (Light Industrial District). – *First reading approval was giving on September 15, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*

Council District: 2
Proposal: Rezone parcel from C-3 to M-1
Applicant: David Lockwood
PC Recommendation: Approve (7-0), 08/03/15
Staff Recommendation: Approve

24. [1221 Huger Street](#), TMS#08912-13-02; request a major amendment to a PUD-C, -DD (Planned Unit Development-Commercial, Design/Development Overlay District). – *First reading approval was given on September 15, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*

Council District: 2
Proposal: Request a major amendment to a PUD-C, -DD
Applicant: J. Russ Davis, Jr.
PC Recommendation: Approve with Recommendation (7-0), 08/03/15
Staff Recommendation: Approve with Recommendations

EVENT RESOLUTIONS

25. [Resolution No.: R-2015-088](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Vista Lights 2015 on Thursday, November 19, 2015 - *Approved*
26. [Resolution No.: R-2015-090](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the ArtLinc Sidewalk Art Festival in the Lincoln Street Tunnel and 1300 block of Lincoln Street on Saturday, November 7, 2015 - *Approved*
27. [Resolution No.: R-2015-092](#) – Amending Resolution No.: R-2015-084 Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at the Chili Cook Off in Five Points in Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park on November 7, 2015 to add a relocation provision in event of inclement weather – *This event has been canceled.*

28. [Resolution No.: R-2015-096](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only at the Palmetto Peanut Boil Fundraiser on October 24, 2015 - *Approved*
29. [Resolution No.: R-2015-097](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only at Jerry Fest at the Five Points Fountain on October 25, 2015 - *Approved*

PRESENTATIONS

30. [Introduction of the October 2015 Employee of the Month \(Mr. David Goodwin, Master Patrol Officer\)](#) – Mr. William “Skip” Holbrook, Columbia Police Chief

Mr. William “Skip” Holbrook, Columbia Police Chief introduced Master Police Officer David Goodwin as the October 2015 Employee of the Month. He described Master Police Officer Goodwin as a 15 year employee who is currently assigned to the Traffic Unit. He said that MPO Goodwin took an assignment in the South Region to help out during the flood event and he has done an outstanding job while working there. The Police Department received a letter describing MPO Goodwin as courteous, efficient and helpful from someone he had issued a citation to.

Mayor Benjamin and City Manager Teresa Wilson presented Master Police Officer David Goodwin with a plaque and a token of appreciation for being selected as the City of Columbia October 2015 Employee of the Month.

31. Recognition of Coach Joy Holman and the Double Dutch Forces – Mr. Randy Davis, Interim Director of the Parks and Recreation Department

Mr. Randy Davis, Interim Director of the Parks and Recreation Department introduced Coach Joy Holman and The Forces as the 2015 World Double Dutch Champions. He recognized The Forces for celebrating 30-years of jumping and he presented a video of The Forces in action.

Coach Joy Holman thanked the City of Columbia and City Council for their constant support. She said we’ve traveled as far as Long Beach, California to perform and The Forces had an opportunity to travel to New York for five (5) days during the summer. The Forces also recorded a documentary with ESPN that won two Emmys. She noted that the kids only practice on weekends and they are learning the ropes of life; we don’t just make good jumpers, we make good people. She asked Council for support of their 30th Anniversary on December 12, 2015. The Forces will be performing at the South Carolina State Fair on Sunday, October 25, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

32. [Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation](#) – The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine

Councilor Devine said we canceled the 9th Annual Mayor’s Walk Against Domestic Violence due to the flood event, but we certainly want to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She recognized the hard work and dedication of the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault SC and Sistercare. In lieu of the walk she asked citizens to wear purple and to volunteer to help our neighbors with cleaning up after the flood.

She also encouraged citizens to help those affected by domestic violence and to educate themselves about domestic violence.

Mayor Benjamin and the members of City Council proclaimed October 2015 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

33. [National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day Proclamation](#) – The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine

Mayor Benjamin and the members of City Council proclaimed Thursday, October 15, 2015 as National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day in the City of Columbia.

Ms. Kristi Bothur, Founder of Naomi’s Circle said she is a wife and a mother of seven; two on earth and five in heaven. She said when a parent loses a baby in pregnancy or infancy it is much like going through a flash flood; a flood that has hit her family five times between 2009 and 2014. She said your life is turned upside down and the future is suddenly completely different than what you expected. She said it can make you feel very alone; however, the proclamation being made today is a step to increase awareness; it builds empathy among those whose lives have not been disrupted by the flood of pregnancy loss; and it makes those who have walked that path feel less alone. She thanked the Mayor and members of Council for standing with the parents who will never forget the children to whom we have said an early goodbye; thank you for not forgetting them either.

34. Recognition of the Rock the Pink Lip Sync Contest and the Pinked Out Office Contest Winners – Ms. Connie Bailey, Ombudsman for the Office of the City Council

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager recognized City staff for the effort they have put into thinking of new ways to bring light to breast cancer.

Ms. Connie Bailey, Ombudsman for the Office of City Council said this is the City of Columbia’s 15th year for participating in Breast Cancer Awareness Month. She introduced Officer Jason Van Valkenburgh of the Columbia Police Department as the Rock the Pink Lip Sync Contest Winner. She presented a video of Officer Valkenburgh’s rendition of Beyoncé’s “Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)”. She also recognized the Information Technology Department as the Pinked Out Office Contest Winner. She presented Mr. David Williamson, Web Systems Administrator for the Information Technology Department with a Certificate of Appreciation for his assistance. She thanked Firefighter Benji Leverette for the Fill the Helmet idea; the committee collected \$1,300 within four hours at Wal-Mart.

35. [FoodShare Columbia](#) – Ms. Wanda Austin, Community Recreation Resource Coordinator for the Parks and Recreation Department

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager said the FoodShare Columbia Program is an excellent program being done in partnership with a number of agencies. The program is housed at the Katheryn M. Bellfield Cultural Arts Center in the Booker Washington Heights Neighborhood. He noted that this type of program was originally envisioned for this community.

Ms. Wanda Austin, Community Recreation Resource Coordinator for the Parks and Recreation Department said the FoodShare Program at the Kathryn M. Bellfield/Booker Washington Heights Cultural Arts Center is a program with a number of community partners. She introduced Ms. Beverly Wilson as the brain of the program.

Ms. Beverly Wilson, Director of the Food Share Program / University of South Carolina School of Medicine recognized the following partners: City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, EdVenture Children's Museum, Richland County Public Library, Columbia Housing Authority, University of South Carolina Nutrition Center, Clemson Cooperative Extension, and the Booker Washington Heights Neighborhood Association. She explained that the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department allows them to use the cafeteria every other Wednesday to pack fresh fruits and vegetables from the State Farmers Market. Residents can place orders at the Bellfield Center during the week and pick up their boxes of food and recipes on every other Wednesday. The boxes cost \$20, but SNAP recipients pay \$10 and receive \$10 in healthy bucks. Since April 2015, over 1,200 boxes have been distributed, which is over 1,500 pounds of fruits and vegetables. Over 40% of those purchases are made by SNAP participants. She said they are developing a cooking skills program and a nutrition education program. She said they would like to implement gardening for children and walking trails. She said they are also interested in developing a commercial kitchen in partnership with the Clemson Cooperative Extension where residents can use the certified kitchen for food businesses and EdVenture can conduct cooking demonstrations.

Mr. Harry Crissy, Extension Agent for the Clemson Cooperative Extension explained that a commercial kitchen typically costs \$20 - \$40 per hour for use. He said this is cost prohibitive for startups, so they decided to build one at a much lower cost. He said USDA certified kitchens have been built for \$60,000 each. He said this is a grassroots effort to develop new skill sets for people who need it the most. He said the cost would be \$6 per hour. He noted that something similar is being done at Sandhills.

Mayor Benjamin said the program is exciting and it goes to the core of the issues we are trying to address.

Councilor Devine said the National League of Cities is watching the things we do here and this is one of the very exciting programs that we have been able to talk with them about along with how we are integrating healthy lifestyles. She urged citizens to order fresh food boxes. She said we are excited about growing this partnership and as we look at the commercial kitchen, she hopes this Council will support the expansion of the Bellfield Center.

Councilor Davis thanked staff for having the Bellfield Center open and for assisting the Eau Claire Community during the flood event.

SIDEWALK VENDING PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

36. [Ordinance No.: 2015-088](#) – Amending Ordinance 2015-074 Granting a Franchise to Richard Dittmar d/b/a Capital City Dog for the operation of a stationary sidewalk vending cart on the northeast corner of Main Street and Lady Street - *Approved on first reading.*

Council opened the Sidewalk Vending Public Hearing at 7:14 p.m.

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

Council closed the Sidewalk Vending Public Hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Newman, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-088 – Amending Ordinance 2015-074 Granting a Franchise to Richard Dittmar d/b/a Capital City Dog for the operation of a stationary sidewalk vending cart on the northeast corner of Main Street and Lady Street.

STAFF REPORTS

37. Update on the City’s Response to the October 2015 Historic Flood Event – Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said we will continue with this portion of the agenda for some time to come as we provide a transparent update during the different phases. She said this City will be faced with much reporting and work on behalf of the citizens of Columbia and to reimburse ourselves for the work done as a result of the October 2015 flood. She said we will provide an update on our response to the flood event and preliminary numbers.

- [Individual Assistance Program / Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#) – Ms. Katie Norris, State Hazard Mitigation Officer for the South Carolina Office of the Adjutant General Emergency Management Division

Ms. Katie Norris, State Hazard Mitigation Officer for the South Carolina Office of the Adjutant General Emergency Management Division said disaster response happens quickly, but disaster recovery takes some time. She said her agency’s role is to help the City of Columbia understand and work through the process. She reviewed FEMA’s Individuals and Households Program, which is a direct relationship between FEMA and the individual for housing assistance and other needs assistance. This assistance helps the individual get back to a safe and sanitary living environment. She clarified that insurance is the first line of defense and they only step in for uninsured losses. She noted that other federal agencies also offer individual assistance programs. She reviewed the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which is used to create a safer community in the long term and reducing the cost of disasters in the future. The funding for this program is channeled from FEMA through the State government to local governments. She noted that these

funds are tied to the total federal share of the disaster costs; FEMA can cover 75% of a project and the applicant is responsible for 25%, which can include in-kind contributions. She presented a timeline for the disbursement of funding since the disaster was declared on October 5, 2015. The next step is for sub-applicants or local governments to submit pre-applications. Then an interagency committee determines what the State's priorities are for mitigation funds. She said they determine which projects make sense and then begin further development and FEMA review. She noted that the Federal team is exceeding expectations, but the application review process takes time. She said until one year from the date of declaration all of the numbers are estimates. She outlined the individual process for requesting assistance. She also outlined the governmental process for assistance.

Councilor Devine asked how much money will become available for mitigation projects and land acquisition.

Ms. Katie Norris, State Hazard Mitigation Officer for the South Carolina Office of the Adjutant General Emergency Management Division said they will receive estimates from FEMA for the total cost of the disaster or their share thereof at 30-days from declaration and at six months from declaration; a final amount will be received at one year from declaration, which can be appealed if necessary. She said the general justification for land acquisition is a property that is problematic, but can be converted into green space. She noted that the interagency committee will convene by next week to determine the project types they hope to fund.

Councilor Baddourah asked how long the disaster recovery centers will remain open.

Mr. Dan Shulman, Internal Affairs Specialist for FEMA said we work with the State to set up the disaster recovery centers and to continue to identify the need; as long as we have people coming into the disaster recovery centers we will continue to keep them open. He reported that approximately 5,700 people went into the various centers throughout the State. We are asking for everyone's help in identifying those who have been affected by the flood. Individuals can register by calling (800)621-3362 or by visiting www.FEMA.gov. He said they can send disaster survival assistance teams into neighborhoods for registration.

Councilor Baddourah asked if FEMA is offering assistance for private dams.

Ms. Katie Norris, State Hazard Mitigation Officer for the South Carolina Office of the Adjutant General Emergency Management Division acknowledged that dams are very complicated, because a road owned by DOT may run across a privately owned dam. She noted that a dam taskforce has been established at the joint field office in Blythewood. She said they are actively searching for answers, while acknowledging that each scenario may be different due to the location, ownership and need. She said if a dam eliminates the ability to create a safe and sanitary living condition then it might qualify for assistance.

Councilor Baddourah inquired about funding to rebuild the Gills Creek Watershed and ponds.

Mr. Dan Shulman, Internal Affairs Specialist for FEMA said by law FEMA is prevented from providing grants for anything that would be under the jurisdiction of another Federal agency and we do not provide grants for individually, privately owned dams. He agreed to talk with staff about where the intersection is with the different federal agencies, such as the Corps of Engineers and the National Resources Conservation Service.

Ms. Katie Norris, State Hazard Mitigation Officer for the South Carolina Office of the Adjutant General Emergency Management Division said they are meeting with the Gills Creek Watershed Association tomorrow to discuss their unmet needs and to determine the scope along with any assistance that might be available.

Councilor Plough asked what can the State do with privately owned dams.

Ms. Katie Norris, State Hazard Mitigation Officer for the South Carolina Office of the Adjutant General Emergency Management Division said the relationship between government and the dams is generally restricted to those that are regulated by the government. She said the taskforce is seeking the best information possible about who owns and regulates the dams. She said most of the programs are not designed to deal with the dams, but we are looking to see what creative solutions we can come up with. She agreed to have representatives from the dam taskforce speak at a neighborhood meeting or directly with Ms. Plough.

Councilor Plough agreed to put the taskforce in touch with the homeowners associations that are dealing with private dams. She sought clarification on the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, because she thought it would help individual homeowners.

Ms. Katie Norris, State Hazard Mitigation Officer for the South Carolina Office of the Adjutant General Emergency Management Division said the State can only disburse those funds to units of government or non-profits. Individuals cannot apply, but a unit of government can act as a pass-thru if the homeowner voluntarily gives the unit of government permission to do so.

Councilor Plough inquired about the level of funding available in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Mr. Dan Shulman, Internal Affairs Specialist for FEMA said it is 15% of the total amount that FEMA will spend on this disaster. To date, FEMA has approved nearly \$37.5 million in individual assistance and nearly \$4 million in public assistance. The 15% is an additional amount that will be made available to the State for cost effective mitigation projects.

Councilor Plough said there will be a statewide calculation on a decision about how to allocate that money geographically.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager clarified that it would require the submission of applications. She said the City has a water source it must secure and that is a potential hazard mitigation project from the City of Columbia. She said the City can't look at buyouts or hazard mitigation projects anytime soon in comparison to when they are having to make decisions now. She said the taskforce decisions are very critical.

Councilor Plough said it sounds like the pot of money for individual assistance is the same pot of money that will help us address issues with our water system.

Mr. Dan Shulman, Internal Affairs Specialist for FEMA said not necessarily; the money that will be spent to repair public infrastructure that was damaged by the disaster will not take away from the mitigation dollars that will be available. He said now is the time for the City to be thinking about the mitigation projects they want to pursue.

Councilor Plough asked Mr. Shulman to identify the other source of money available for public infrastructure.

Mr. Dan Shulman, Internal Affairs Specialist for FEMA said the Disaster Relief Fund is a revolving fund at the Federal level. He noted that FEMA manages the Individual Assistance Program for individuals, Public Assistance Program for state, local and other units of government and nonprofits, and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which is a post-disaster program for long-term projects that will make everybody safer.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said we have to do that with our water source and it is very important that we say that and make it clear to our community that we are also going to be looking at the Hazard Mitigation Program as well as the individual opportunities in the community for homeowners.

Ms. Katie Norris, State Hazard Mitigation Officer for the South Carolina Office of the Adjutant General Emergency Management Division explained that the goal of the Public Assistance Program is to right the ship and to create a functioning condition for the community. She said the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is not for repairs, rebuilding, fixing or maintaining; it is to make things better. She said we have to be cautious about the delineation between the two programs. You can request additional funds under Section 406 of the Hazard Mitigation Program. These funds can be used to enhance a facility's ability to resist similar damage in future events.

Councilor Baddourah said there are streets, neighborhoods and cul-de-sacs where 90% of the homes are flooded, but what do you do with residents who are adamant about not leaving.

Ms. Katie Norris, State Hazard Mitigation Officer for the South Carolina Office of the Adjutant General Emergency Management Division said this is a voluntary program, one person could stay; we don't have to look at chunks of homes or entire streets.

Councilor Baddourah asked how to maintain the character of a neighborhood.

Mr. Dan Shulman, Internal Affairs Specialist for FEMA said it is a challenge, but the program is 100% voluntary; we cannot use FEMA money to force someone out.

Mayor Benjamin said this is a larger policy discussion we need to have as a Council. He reiterated that the Emergency Recovery Centers will remain open as long as our citizens need them. We need to make clear as a Council that we are going to aggressively advocate for every individual by recognizing the fact that when major events hit other parts of the Country the people of South Carolina have participated with their time, talent and taxes and it's time for that same treatment to be made to the benefit of our citizens. There are larger policy decisions we will have to make as a Council on how this changes the City prospectively.

Mr. Dan Shulman, Internal Affairs Specialist for FEMA urged the citizens to stay in touch with FEMA even after they receive their eligibility letters.

- Overview of the Columbia Preliminary Report – Ms. Keely Thibodeaux, AIA, PMP, Principal and Mr. Fred Tombar, Senior Vice President for Plexos / Landmark Consulting

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said our consultants have been most helpful to City staff. She acknowledged that the group set a deadline of October 16, 2015 and have come up with a preliminary funding request for more than \$13 million from expedited category b. This number is based off of damages and repairs at the Canal for more than \$10 million and multi-department force account labor, equipment and supplies, professional services and contracts.

Mr. Fred Tombar, Senior Vice President for Government Services for the Plexos Group said they are partnered with Landmark Consulting. Both Louisiana based firms specialize in disaster management and members of the team have been involved with every disaster event that has happened since Hurricane Katrina. He said they were engaged to help the City of Columbia with the public assistance process. He said for every \$1 of public assistance that you receive, there are 988 federal regulations that come with it and we are experts in those regulations. He said FEMA recognizes the importance of having that expertise as you navigate through the disaster recovery process and they allow for these expenses to be compensated by FEMA through the Public Assistance Program.

Ms. Keely Thibodeaux, AIA, PMP, Principal of Landmark Consulting explained that they have performed an initial assessment, met with every department that has experienced damages, and conducted site visits of the damaged areas. She said the State has conducted the applicant briefing and the City of Columbia is in the system and ready to move forward. She noted that applicant briefings are usually conducted at the County level, but because the City was well organized and ready to get started, the State conducted that meeting early. She said they have gained access to the South Carolina Recovery website and the portal allows the team to request assistance and reimbursement and track the status of payments. She said the expedited category b for emergency protective measures project worksheet is the first deliverable and it is due next Friday, October 30, 2015. She said the initial submission for expedited funds will include expenses that occurred through October 16, 2015 and an amendment will be submitted later. She said the staff was briefed on the Public Assistance Program; we created a recovery committee along with City staff; we established a city representative to liaison with the State and FEMA; and we have co-located our offices with the City. The expedited category B project worksheet will include actions taken by the City before, during and after the disaster to save lives and

protect public health and safety, prevent damage, improve public and private property, search and rescue, security, construction of the temporary dam repairs, bracing and shoring, shelters and sand bagging. This will provide immediate cash to help alleviate the use of general funds. She reiterated that the initial request is valued at over \$13 million to include \$10 million in Canal supplies and repairs and \$3 million for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) multi-departmental force account labor. She said the amendment to the costs can include emergency work that is concluded within six (6) months of the incident period. Some of the challenges we are monitoring is getting a consistent point of contact from FEMA and the State. A kickoff meeting has not occurred with FEMA and the State. This is important, because they write the grants and make the payments. We are keeping our eyes on cost sharing, because we do not know how much the State will pick up. We anticipate that other funding sources will become available and volunteer hours can buy down that cost share.

Councilor Plough asked if 25% will come from the State.

Mr. Fred Tombar, Senior Vice President for the Plexos Group said the expectation is that the City of Columbia will meet the 25% match. He said the volunteer hours will be used to offset that amount and the Mayor has requested a waiver of the match. He noted that in some instances cost sharing has changed to 90%/10% and the State Legislature is planning to take action to consider what portion of that local cost share they will assist cities with.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said we have to take into account the National Guard resources that were provided by the State to the City of Columbia. She understands that there may not be an expectation for reimbursement for those services.

Councilor Davis asked how the consultants would advise or assist the City in making sure the local economy benefits from this.

Mr. Fred Tombar, Senior Vice President for the Plexos Group said there is tremendous value to having local participation in the vast amount of recovery activities that will go on in this community in the years to come. He said hundreds of millions of dollars of activity will occur and the best thing a community can do is organize right now. He said the requirement from the Federal government is fair and open competition, but it prohibits local preference. He said you should poise and organize your local businesses as best as possible for opportunities that are forthcoming.

Ms. Keely Thibodeaux, AIA, PMP, Principal of Landmark Consulting acknowledged the importance of local participation and agreed to support that as much as possible.

Mayor Benjamin said the City Manager had our consultants meet with everyone in City government in an effort to make sure they have a global view of the impact of the storm and the opportunities and programs we currently have in place. It is important to determine how to keep as much business locally as possible; that's important to this entire Council.

Councilor Newman asked if a minority participation component is included in the requirements for Federal funding.

Ms. Keely Thibodeaux, AIA, PMP, Principal of Landmark Consulting said yes, it includes minority and women participation, but there isn't a specific requirement. She said governments have set goals.

Councilor Newman recommended that City Council set those goals.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said City Council should have received an email regarding the advertisement we made for disaster recovery assistance. We wanted everyone to know that they need to register for [Bid Online](#). We want to ensure that our small, minority, women-owned businesses are aware of the opportunities that will be coming from the City as we continue this process.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Marvin Heller, 1213 McDuffie Street said residents of the Lyon Street Community were here to express concerns about the horrendous shooting that occurred in Gonzalez Gardens, but they are pleased that City and Housing Authority staff have reached out to them.

Councilor Devine said they will be setting a meeting to address the concerns.

Mr. Harry Watson, 3509 Randolph Street said they are upset about the reopening of Lester Drive. He said they didn't have any idea that this was happening and they came as a group to plead with Council for help. He said we have a narrow street and it wouldn't accommodate 1,000 cars coming through there. He said the residents of Bayberry Mews don't want to come through Randolph Street and High Circle. He recalled seeing a bus that turns and infringes on his property, because there isn't enough roadway to accommodate the bus. He referenced a traffic study from 1996 and noted that they have a petition from residents. He said there is a court order requiring the City to reopen Lester Drive by the end of this month. He asked why the community wasn't included in the proceedings.

Ms. Regina E. Williams, Vice President of Booker Washington Heights Neighborhood said she won't be directly impacted by this, but they were never informed about the changes or the ex parte hearing that was held. She questioned why a legal proceeding was needed to undo something that was done illegally. She asked that there be an appeal.

Ms. Katie Bolden said they met at Francis Burns Church over 15 years ago and they told them not to put so many people so close together. She said our youth have no place to play, except for the closed road with two basketball goals. We want a safe place for our young people and our seniors. She said if we open the road we need to have a gym or a place for our young people to go. She said the community hasn't had a representative for 12 months. She urged Council to have job training at the baseball stadium.

Mr. James Sanders said neither the city nor the county have cleaned the side of the road and since the road has been closed there hasn't been an incident. He said they put the basketball goals there and they have cookouts to encourage something different in our neighborhood. He said the pictures taken in our neighborhood are mug shots and of crime scenes. We try to secure our neighborhood and we pick up the paper on Lester Drive, High Circle, Randolph Street and Farrow Road. He said we have elderly people and widows and we won't allow anyone to disrespect them. He described the efforts of the residents to assist the elderly members of the community.

Ms. Kathy Goodwin, Randolph Street resident expressed concerns about the construction of Bayberry Mews and the additional cars tearing up the roads. She said we are homeowners and all of the crime from the Colony Apartments and Bethel Bishop will come to our area. We did not know this was taking place we are looking for help to stop this.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said as staff we have been well aware of this situation. She said this was a State Court order, a declaratory judgment order, a mandamus order that we were notified of at the same time that you were notified. She said that Ms. Gentry couldn't notice the community; the action was taken by the Housing Authority to State Court. This is not happening because the City took any initiative to begin this process.

Ms. Regina Williams, Vice President of Booker Washington Heights Neighborhood asked why the Housing Authority sued the City to have the road opened when the Housing Authority has sold Bethel Bishop to a company in Alabama. She asked why Bayberry Mews only has one exit. She said the City purchased land adjacent to the railroad to develop a road leading out to Beltline Boulevard, which would alleviate traffic from coming through the neighborhood. She asked why that hasn't been done. She said there are public safety concerns. She said break away barriers can be installed on Lester Drive for emergency purposes instead of opening Lester Drive to over 1,000 cars per day. She cited the traffic study as saying that Randolph Street would not be the better option.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager agreed that those concerns needed to be addressed. She said the immediate concern is that there is a court order for the City to open the road on Wednesday and we didn't have an opportunity to contest that.

Councilor Devine said there was no action taken by this Council or a previous Council to officially close the road. She said our understanding is that staff was directed to close the road; it was done; and there were no complaints. She said we cannot disobey a court order.

Ms. Katie Bolden asked if the order can be appealed.

Ms. Teresa Knox, Esq., City Attorney said we cannot appeal the order; it's a final order.

Ms. Regina Williams, Vice President of Booker Washington Heights Neighborhood said they were told that an ex parte hearing would be frowned upon by the Supreme Court if we had the money to take it further.

Councilor Devine said we are offering to sit down and address your concerns; we have talked about these things before, but we didn't come to a resolution.

Ms. Teresa Knox, Esq., City Attorney said it was not a road closing hearing; it was a hearing to determine if the action taken by City Council was lawful.

Mayor Benjamin said there are a lot of major issues and the Police and Fire Departments have expressed concerns about access to Lester Drive. He said what happened twenty years ago is unclear and we need to figure out the things we need to be doing. He acknowledged that this community has been very active in doing some great things lately. He insisted that we continue to grow programs and invest in Booker Washington Heights.

Ms. Regina Williams asked Council to look at the Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP), because it is a reversible mortgage that creates a lien.

Councilor Devine said staff is reviewing options and that has not come back to the committee.

Councilor Runyan asked City Manager Wilson about the property that could be developed to provide egress.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said the other property we discussed would be used to develop a ballpark or playground. She said we would have to look at ingress and egress with the public safety officials. She said we have made the closing of the street work as best as we could; this is a court order that I don't think had anything to do with our public safety officials.

Councilor Runyan asked if we could take the proper actions to close Lester Drive at a later date with the establishment of a new road. Can we do a traffic study?

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said staff can look at a refreshed traffic study and options. She said we want to respect the community and she expects that whatever we are ordered to do on Wednesday is done safely and with the respect of everybody in mind.

Mayor Benjamin said he is prepared to authorize staff to look at a traffic study or any other options. He said this doesn't impact the court order, but it is something we can put at the top of our agenda.

Ms. Plaugh made a motion to close Lester Drive in whatever official capacity we can use to expeditiously do so. The motion was seconded by Mr. Runyan.

Ms. Teresa Knox, Esq., City Attorney said we are under a court order to open it; I don't know that a Council resolution to close it at this point is going to be legally recognized.

Councilor Davis said he understands the motion, but he also understands the position we are in; we cannot fight the order. Respecting that, he hopes we can sit down, consider that the traffic impact is greater now and look at the practicality of an alternate route.

Mr. Kareem Akil asked Council to consider the alternate route.

Ms. Teresa Knox, Esq., City Attorney noted that it is a Department of Transportation road and we need their approval to do anything to it.

Councilor Devine agreed that an updated study is needed.

Ms. Teresa Knox, Esq., City Attorney suggested that Council open up Lester Drive according to the court order, proceed with the process for closing a road, let staff conduct a study, contact SCDOT, meet with the neighborhood, and bring this matter back to Council. We have to open the road in the morning and then close it legally.

Councilor Devine asked if we need SCDOT's permission to install speed humps.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said speed humps are already there.

Mayor Benjamin said it is important to note that we have been talking about this issue for the last several years; everyone up here has been aware of the discussions; this is not new to us. He said there are other things we need to work on as well. He said the street was not properly closed and moving forward we can try to do this in a proper manner.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said she has concerns about our City staff going at 9:00 a.m. to begin this process. She outlined the tasks to be addressed at that time. She sought a legal way to request additional time to work through these issues with the community. She asked for patience and respect for everyone's safety in the morning as the work begins. She expects that all work will be done peacefully.

Councilor Baddourah asked if the City would be the applicant for the request to close the road.

Ms. Teresa Knox, Esq., City Attorney said we would need to establish who owns the road.

Mayor Benjamin insisted that the Council make an informed decision based on data and engagement with SCDOT and the community. He said closing the road prohibits the ability of the Fire Department to meet the safety needs of the people who live there and it prohibits the Police Department from properly policing the area. He asked if Ms. Plough still wanted to close the road.

Councilor Plough said her motion still stands. She clarified that her motion was to close Lester Drive as expeditiously as possible. She said she is trying to give the community comfort and this Council needs to go on record stating that we will use all of our powers to expedite the closing of Lester Drive.

Councilor Devine said she can't support the motion, because we have a court order to open it. She wholeheartedly supports addressing the issues.

Mayor Benjamin restated his concerns with the motion. He said this motion is not the responsible path.

A motion made by Ms. Plough and seconded by Mr. Runyan to close Lester Drive as expeditiously as possible, failed by a vote of three (3) to four (4). Voting aye were Mr. Baddourah, Mr. Runyan and Ms. Plough. Voting nay were Mr. Newman, Ms. Devine, Mr. Davis and Mayor Benjamin.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to authorize staff to move forward with a traffic study; look at alternate points of ingress and egress to the neighborhood while keeping in mind the existing neighborhood safety and future growth; continue to work with responsible parties to look at ways to mitigate traffic along those lines; work with the neighborhood association to find ways to not only ensure safety and calm traffic in the neighborhood, but also look at ways in which we can enhance the neighborhood, i.e. beautification efforts, recreation opportunities for the children and job creation efforts.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

38. Temporary Emergency Administration Procedures

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said both Mayor Benjamin and Mr. Runyan suggested incentives or waiving business license fees for contractors.

Mayor Benjamin said he shared several ideas with staff seeking ways to maximize and expedite the ability of our citizens to recover from the flood. He suggested doing so by finding ways that do not conflict with FEMA regulations. He said we don't want to have rules that are more restrictive than FEMA's rules. He has received ideas from residents and the business community on ways to continue to expedite recovery. He said staff is already doing work with permitting and business licensing; there are some things that will require Council action. He said we are keeping our eyes on equity and parity. He asked staff to be as aggressive as possible to soften the effects of the natural disaster on our citizens. He asked staff to look at opportunities to make changes to ordinances or to seek relief from the State or Federal government.

Councilor Plough asked that we proceed with an ordinance to reduce the building permit fees for homeowners affected in the flood area to \$100 for 6-months and to temporarily suspend the calculation used on the 5-year look back period on property improvements. She asked for staff recommendations on the timeframe for reducing the look back period.

Mayor Benjamin asked the City Manager to share the recommendations that were sent via email with the media that is present.

38a. Wateree Community Actions – Mr. Paul Featheringill, Loan Officer for the Office of Business Opportunities

Mayor Benjamin recused himself from this discussion, because his father in law is the volunteer chairman of the board of Wateree.

Mr. Paul Featheringill, Loan Officer for the Office of Business Opportunities recalled that the loan for Wateree Community Actions, Inc. was approved by City Council in February 2015 in the amount of \$115,000.00. The loan was to be repaid in one lump sum principal and interest payment on July 1, 2015. The organization requested a loan to cover their operating expenses while they applied to the State for funding, which would be used to repay the loan. They didn't receive the reimbursement from the State on July 1, 2015 and weren't able to repay the loan until September 25, 2015. The original repayment amount was \$116,623.00, but they repaid \$117,802.00 due to the late fee and interest from July 1, 2015 and September 25, 2015. They are now paid in full and the loan money has gone back into our account for lending.

ZONING MAP AND TEXT AMENDMENT – SECOND READING

39. **2150 Harden Street, Parker Annex Building**, TMS#11501-01-01(p); request to rezone from PUD-LS (Planned Unit Development-Large Scale) to PUD-LS, -DP (Planned Unit Development-Large Scale, Design Preservation). Amend Sec. 17-691 (c) to establish the Parker Annex Building at 2150 Harden Street as a Group II individual historic landmark in the City of Columbia. – *First reading approval was given on July 21, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*

Council District:	2
Proposal:	Rezone parcel from PUD-LS to PUD-LS, 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
DDRC Recommendation:	Approve (5-0), 05/14/15 Landmark Status
PC Recommendation:	Approve (9-0), 06/01/15
Staff Recommendation:	Approve

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to the *Zoning Map Amendment* for 2150 Harden Street, Parker Annex Building, TMS#11501-01-01(p); request to rezone from PUD-LS (Planned Unit Development-Large Scale) to PUD-LS, -DP (Planned Unit Development-Large Scale, Design Preservation). Amend Sec. 17-691 (c) to establish the Parker Annex Building at 2150 Harden Street as a Group II individual historic landmark in the City of Columbia.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

40. [Ordinance No.: 2015-087](#) – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 17, Planning, Land Development and Zoning, Article V, Historic Preservation and Architectural Review, Division 4, Landmarks, Sec. 17-691 Buildings and sites list, (c), to add 2150 Harden Street, Parker Annex Building, TMS# 11501-01-01 (p) – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-087 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 17, Planning, Land Development and Zoning, Article V, Historic Preservation and Architectural Review, Division 4, Landmarks, Sec. 17-691 Buildings and sites list, (c), to add 2150 Harden Street, Parker Annex Building, TMS# 11501-01-01 (p).

41. [Ordinance No.: 2015-084](#) – Granting an encroachment to the University of South Carolina for the use of the right of way areas of the 900 block of Lincoln Street and 900 block of Gadsden Street for installation and maintenance of high density polyethylene (HDPE) conduit for the Discovery Building and Colonial Life Arena adjacent to Richland County TMS #08915-03-02, 08916-08-01, 08915-02-01, 08915-03-01 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-084 – Granting an encroachment to the University of South Carolina for the use of the right of way areas of the 900 block of Lincoln Street and 900 block of Gadsden Street for installation and maintenance of high density polyethylene (HDPE) conduit for the Discovery Building and Colonial Life Arena adjacent to Richland County TMS #08915-03-02, 08916-08-01, 08915-02-01, 08915-03-01.

42. [Ordinance No.: 2015-090](#) - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, Mayor and Council, Sec. 2-31 Salaries of mayor and councilmembers – *Note: This item is being reviewed by the Administrative Policy Committee and may require Council action.* – *This item failed for the lack of a motion.*

Councilor Plough reported that the Administrative Policy Committee met to discuss this and they do not have a recommendation to move forward at this time.

Mayor Benjamin stated that our Council people work incredibly hard and at some point we must have frank discussions about ways in which volunteer citizen legislators are compensated for the time that they spend serving the needs of the people. He said he has received feedback from members and others that have strong opinions on this, but they don't have the will to speak up on the issue. He is happy that Ms. Devine raised the issue. He anticipated that the issue will be voted down.

Mayor Benjamin said this item failed for the lack of a motion.

43. [Ordinance No.: 2015-091](#) - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, Mayor and Council, Division 2, Council Meetings, Sec. 2-53 Quorum and rules of order and adding Sec. 2-62 remote meeting attendance – *Note: This item is being reviewed by the Administrative Policy Committee and may require Council action.* - First reading consideration is scheduled for November 10, 2015.

Councilor Plough reported that the Administrative Policy Committee met to discuss this ordinance and revisions were made. The committee recommended that any right to vote remotely be removed from the ordinance; therefore, only the participation section remains in the ordinance. The sentiment of the committee is that if you are participating remotely you might be in an awkward situation of being required to vote without having the same information as your colleagues. She said the other change is to not allow remote participation in Executive Session, because there were concerns with having a secure connection.

Mayor Benjamin said 80% of the ordinance has been redacted by the committee. He said we must recognize the fact that technology is here. He said his larger concern is the issue of transparency and making sure the public is fully engaged in the decisions we make. He said we can do a lot more.

Mr. Baddourah made a motion to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-091 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, Mayor and Council, Division 2, Council Meetings, Sec. 2-53 Quorum and rules of order and adding Sec. 2-62 remote meeting attendance, as amended. Ms. Plough seconded the motion.

Mayor Benjamin said he would feel more comfortable if we had shared the revised ordinance with the public.

A motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Ms. Plough to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2015-091 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, Mayor and Council, Division 2, Council Meetings, Sec. 2-53 Quorum and rules of order and adding Sec. 2-62 remote meeting attendance as amended, was withdrawn.

The ordinance will be scheduled for first reading consideration at the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

44. [Resolution No.: R-2015-087](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Mutual Aid Agreement for the Three Rivers Greenway between Lexington and Richland Counties, the Sheriffs of Lexington and Richland Counties, the cities of Columbia, Cayce and West Columbia, the Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the University of South Carolina Division of Public Safety, the Irmo Fire District, the Congaree Swamp National Park and the River Alliance - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-087 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Mutual Aid Agreement for the Three Rivers Greenway between Lexington and Richland Counties, the Sheriffs of Lexington and Richland Counties, the cities of Columbia, Cayce and West Columbia, the Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the University of South Carolina Division of Public Safety, the Irmo Fire District, the Congaree Swamp National Park and the River Alliance.

45. [Resolution No.: R-2015-093](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Equipment Rental Agreement between the City of Columbia and Magic Ice USA, Inc. for the lease of a portable ice skating rink in Boyd Plaza – *Approved by a vote of four (4) to three (3).*

Councilor Plough said the weather was not very favorable last year for ice skating and the deficit for this venture is going to continue to grow. She hopes that the City Center Partnership can provide an injection of excitement to keep this on an upward slant. She said with the losses we are incurring, I will not be able to support it.

Councilor Runyan asked if the ice skating rink in downtown Greenville is run by the taxpayers or the downtown business group.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager said when we started this three years ago, it was ran by the Parks and Recreation Department in Greenville.

Mayor Benjamin noted that Greenville doesn't have a portable rink that is brought in every year. He said we've received great feedback from the Art Museum, Main Street merchants and others. He agreed that the weather created challenges last year.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted four (4) to three (3) to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-093 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Equipment Rental Agreement between the City of Columbia and Magic Ice USA, Inc. for the lease of a portable ice skating rink in Boyd Plaza. Voting aye were Mr. Newman, Ms. Devine, Mr. Davis and Mayor Benjamin. Voting nay were Mr. Baddourah, Mr. Runyan and Ms. Plough.

46. [Resolution No.: R-2015-100](#) - Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Lease between the City of Columbia and ASH Bickley Road, LLC for the lease of 727 Harden Street, Richland County TMS #11308-07-04 – *Approved*

Mayor Benjamin said this has been wanted by the Five Points Merchants Association for a long time. We need to keep our eyes fixed squarely on additional parking.

Councilor Plough said she is concerned about how we balance our resources to make sure we fulfill our commitment to Bull Street and address other issues in the City. She asked if we can expect more small lots to become available in the City.

Mr. John Spade, Parking Services Director said he doesn't expect a lot of scattered parking in the future. He said this creates an opportunity for us, because it eliminates a use that wasn't fitting for Five Points.

Councilor Plough asked if there is an expectation that we will do structured parking.

Mr. John Spade, Parking Services Director said no; a garage in Five Points would almost have to be a public private partnership.

Councilor Baddourah said we've had many conversations about parking in Five Points and they said they were only interested in a parking garage. When did that change? He is hesitant because we went down this road two years ago.

Mayor Benjamin clarified that the Merchants Association didn't say that they were against a parking garage; they support this as much needed parking in Five Points.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-100 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Lease between the City of Columbia and ASH Bickley Road, LLC for the lease of 727 Harden Street, Richland County TMS #11308-07-04.

Mr. Runyan left the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS

47. [Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee](#) – *Consideration was deferred.*

Councilor Devine asked that the appointments be made in a timely manner, because the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is essential to us continuing on the path that we've started.

48. [Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority Board \(COMET\)](#)

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman for a three-year term and the reappointment of Mr. Ronald Anderson for a two-year and Mr. Derrick Huggins for a one-year term to the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority Board (COMET).

49. [Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee](#)

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the reappointment of Ms. Jennifer Bishop as a Small Business Owner; the appointment of Ms. Ashley Heeling-Goodson as an Attorney; the appointment of Ms. Kathleen Abraham as a Commercial Banker; and the appointment of Mr. Mills Snell as a Small Business Owner.

50. [Fire Advisory Committee](#)

Ms. Connie Bailey, Ombudsman for the Office of the City Council recommended that the Public Safety chair serve on the Fire Advisory Committee.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of The Honorable Sam Davis to the Fire Advisory Committee. Ms. Devine was not present for the vote.

51. [Midlands Housing Alliance](#)

Upon a motion made by Ms. Plough and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to approve the reappointment of The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine to the Midlands Housing Alliance for a three (3) year term.

Councilor Devine said the appointment of Mr. Rick Rowe to another term is not an exception to our policy, it is a recommendation from the Downtown Coalition of Neighborhoods.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve the reappointment of Mr. Rick Rowe to the Midlands Housing Alliance for a three (3) year term as a representative of the Coalition of Downtown Neighborhoods.

52. [Ministerial Recorder](#)

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Brian Kelly as a Ministerial Recorder for Municipal Court.

OTHER MATTERS

53. 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 and Wales Garden Neighborhoods. - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to 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 and Wales Garden Neighborhoods.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS / REFERRALS

54. Council is asked to refer the review of a Clean City Streets Ordinance to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee, as requested by The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to refer the review of a proposed Clean City Streets Ordinance to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Bill Manley thanked the City and all departments and City Council for their hard work during the flood. He said he was glued to the television and he wanted to express his appreciation as a citizen of Columbia.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk