



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015 - 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL - 1737 MAIN STREET
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 3RD FLOOR

The Columbia City Council conducted a Meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:08 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. Niki Daniels, City Clerk Assistant. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Little Miss Skyla Joyner, Miss Anastasia Wilson, Miss Alexis Douglas and Master Cedric Bailey led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Chaplain Jim Reese, Columbia Fire Department offered the Invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

PRESENTATIONS

1. [Introduction of the February 2015 Employee of the Month](#) – Mr. Robert Anderson, Director of Public Works

Mr. David Brewer, Traffic Engineering Superintendent introduced Mr. Anthony Cleckley, Electronics Technician I, as the February 2015 Employee of the Month. He said that Mr. Cleckley began working with the City of Columbia in November 2008 and he installs and maintains the two-way radio system throughout the City. He described Mr. Cleckley as a man of integrity who is punctual and pursues excellence in his job duties.

Mayor Benjamin and City Manager Teresa Wilson presented Mr. Anthony Cleckley with a plaque and a token of appreciation for being selected as the City of Columbia February 2015 Employee of the Month.

2. Promotions within the Columbia Police Department Command Staff – Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager and Mr. William “Skip” Holbrook, Police Chief

Mr. William “Skip” Holbrook, Police Chief recognized four (4) officers that were recently promoted within the Columbia Police Department. He said these individuals represent the best of the department and the City of Columbia. The positions include one (1) major and three (3) captains:

- Major Dana Oree, 19 year veteran
- Captain Christopher Roberts, 18 year veteran
- Captain Joseph Rowson, 24 year veteran
- Captain George Drafts, 24 year veteran

3. Columbia Lifesavers Blood Drive Day Proclamation – The Honorable Stephen K. Benjamin

Mayor Benjamin and the members of Council proclaimed Friday, February 27, 2015 as Columbia Lifesavers Blood Drive Day in the City of Columbia.

4. 2 Fat 2 Fly Proclamation – The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine

The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine introduced a video presentation for 2 Fat 2 Fly. She encouraged citizens to watch the premier reality show on Saturday, February 28, 2015 on the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN).

Mayor Benjamin and the members of Council proclaimed Saturday, February 28, 2015 as 2 Fat 2 Fly Day in the City of Columbia.

Mr. Corey Simmons and Mr. Ramone Dickerson, Owners of 2 Fat 2 Fly thanked the members of Council and the City for the support in the City of Columbia.

OTHER MATTERS

5. Council is asked to approve the [Installation of Two \(2\) Speed Humps in the T.S. Martin Park Area](#), as requested by the Edgewood / Read Street Community Improvement Cooperative Council. *Note: The Columbia Fire and Police Departments support this request. – Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to approve the Installation of Two (2) Speed Humps in the T.S. Martin Park Area, as requested by the Edgewood / Read Street Community Improvement Cooperative Council.

6. [Neighborhood Street Lighting Requests](#) – *Approved*

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

Neighborhoods Listed by Priority	Existing Lights	Requested Lights	Current Lease Cost / Annually	Project Request Total	Total Year to Date
Kipling Drive	2	2	\$237.84	\$237.84	\$1,545.96
Northwood Hills	52	15	\$6,183.84	\$1,783.80	\$3,329.76

7. Quarterly Update on the Bull Street Development Agreement Deliverables – Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager

Mr. Gregory Tucker, Project Administrator presented an overall timeline for the Bull Street Multi-Use Entertainment Venue. He said the next major milestone is the completion of the venue design documents from the architects, which are due Friday, February 27, 2015. He said the balance of the full construction package will be scheduled for Council’s approval in March. He provided an update on the soil sampling; he said DHEC defined the park as an active/passive use and no adverse effects were found on the property. He gave an update on the financial portions of the agreement; to-date, no money has been used from the City.

Councilor Plough asked if the \$1 million allocated from the City was spent on infrastructure.

Mr. Gregory Tucker, Project Administrator said the developer Bob Hughes has given written confirmation that the \$1 million can be used for site preparation; the total \$1 million has not been spent, but the work is well under way.

Councilor Baddourah asked if any of the construction from Appendix C in the agreement regarding lots/parcel design has been completed.

Mr. Gregory Tucker, Project Administrator said that portion has not been completed.

Councilor Baddourah asked about the allocations from the Water and Sewer budget for Bull Street. He said the City has met its funding obligations for starting the project; has the developer honored his part of the deal.

Mr. Gregory Tucker, Project Administrator said he wouldn’t call it not honoring the deal; the agreement states that the actual development may occur more or less rapidly based on market conditions and the final product mix.

Councilor Baddourah asked how long it will be before this part of the agreement becomes true.

Mr. Gregory Tucker, Project Administrator said a 12 month projection of the funds needed on the infrastructure portion of the work will soon be completed.

Councilor Baddourah asked how long it will take for the parcels of land to be developed.

Mayor Benjamin agreed to get the question to Mr. Hughes and bring back a response at the next meeting.

Mr. Gregory Tucker, Project Administrator outlined the funding obligations for phase four, the City's parking obligation and the funding request protocol for drawing public funding for the infrastructure.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 8** through **23**.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS and AGREEMENTS

8. Council is asked to approve a [Contract Renewal for IFAS Software Support](#), as requested by the Budget and Program Management Office. Award to Sunguard in the amount of \$173,492.83. This vendor is located in Lake Mary, FL. *Funding Source: General Admin Information Tech/Maintenance and Service Contract; 6218950-638200 – **Note:** This enterprise wide software includes core financials, purchasing, human resources and budgeting components. The original budgeted amount is \$180,000.00. **CIO Comment:** IT supports this renewal of support for a key citywide system. – Approved*
9. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Four \(4\) Oracle Servers for Hosting the Banner Utility and IFAS Financial Applications](#), as requested by the Information and Technology Department. Award to Mythics, using GSA schedule in the amount of \$247,934.70. This vendor is located in Virginia Beach, VA. *Funding Source: Technology Replacement/Computer-Elect Equipment Capital; 6218954-658600 – **Note:** Six (6) servers are being replaced with four (4) newer generation servers to allow more processing and memory for virtualization capacity on the applications. The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$275,000.00. **CIO Comment:** IT supports this replacement and improvement of infrastructure supporting a key citywide system. – Approved*
10. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Three \(3\) Debris Collection Trucks with Swing Gates and Two \(2\) Debris Collection Trucks with Lift Gates for the Solid Waste Division](#), as requested by the Fleet Services Division. Award to Carolina International Trucks, a Local Business Enterprise, in the amount of \$348,134.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Capital Replacement-Autos, Truck, Heavy Equipment Capital; 6308972-658500 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$472,610.16. – Approved*

11. Council is asked to approve [Contract Amendment #3 for Project WM4139; An Agreement for Engineering Services for the Chapin Booster Pump Station Improvements](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Brown and Caldwell, Inc., a Small Business Enterprise in an amount not to exceed \$50,580.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Sanitary Sewer Capital Outlay Fund; 5529999-WM4139-658650 – **Note:** Sub-consultant Howard Engineering, a Woman-Owned Business Enterprise located in Columbia, SC will receive 1.6% (\$800) of the contract value for a total amount of \$9,600 (2%) for this project and sub-consultant Chao & Associates, a MBE located in Columbia, SC will receive .08% (\$400) of the contract value for a total amount of \$43,135 (11%) for this project. The original contract amount for this project was \$354,000 and the revised contract amount is \$404,850.00. – Approved*

12. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of the Smart Cover Monitoring System](#), as requested by the Wastewater Maintenance Division. Award to WC Equipment Sales, Inc., as a Sole Source Purchase in the amount of \$93,823.92. This vendor is located in Suwanee, GA. *Funding Source: Utilities Wastewater Maintenance; 5516205-625700 – **Note:** Smart Covers gather, transmit and analyze information in real time for maintaining continuous water level data and allows monitoring water levels in critical manhole locations throughout the City. This project is associated with Clean Water 2020. The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$93,823.92 – Approved*

13. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Flygt Pumping Components](#), requested by the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to Xylem Water Solutions USA, Inc., in the amount of \$94,970.08. This vendor is located in Charlotte, NC. *Funding Source: Utilities Metro Wastewater; 5516208-623100 – **Note:** These components are for the replacement of existing pumps. The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$94,970.08. – Approved*

14. Council is asked to approve an [Agreement for Instrumentation and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition \(SCADA\) System Maintenance Services](#), as requested by the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to CITI, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$502,222.50. This firm is located in Charlotte, NC. *Funding Source: Utilities Metro Waste Water Plant-Maintenance and Service Contract; 5516208-638200 – **Note:** This project is associated with Clean Water 2020. The original budgeted amount is \$520,000.00. – Approved*

15. Council is asked to approve [Contract Amendment #2: An Agreement for Engineering Services for Modeling and Evaluating the Sanitary Sewer System Piping and Pump Station to Support the Capacity Assurance Program](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Hazen and Sawyer, a Small Business Enterprise in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Sanitary Sewer; 5516205-SS685402-638305 – **Note:** The original budget for this project is \$100,000.00; the original contract price is \$1,761,508.00 and the revised contract price is \$1,961,508.00. This project is associated with Clean Water 2020. – Approved*
16. Council is asked to approve a [Contract for Wastewater Collection Systems Flow Monitoring Services](#), as requested by the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to Woolpert, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$427,250.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Utilities Waste Water Maintenance-Special Contract W/S,SW; 5516205-638305 – **Note:** This contract will end June 30, 2016 with an option to extend for two (2) additional one year terms. This project is associated with Clean Waster 2020. The original budgeted amount for this project is \$500,000.00. – Approved*
17. Council is asked to approve an [Agreement for Engineering Services for the Condition Assessment of a portion of the Interceptor Sewer System with 36” to 60” Diameter Pipes](#) in compliance with the Continuing Sewer Assessment Program (CSAP), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to RedZone Robotics in an amount not to exceed \$1,510,000.00. This firm is located in Pittsburgh, PA. *Funding Source: Sanitary Sewer Capital Outlay Fund; 5529999-SS727701-658650 – **Note:** The sub-consultant for this project, McClam & Associates, located in Little Mountain, SC will provide clearing, casting adjustments, crane service and field support and will receive 10% (\$150,000) of the contract value. This project is associated with the Clean Water 2020 Program. The original budgeted amount for this project is \$4,500,000.00. – Approved*
18. Council is asked to approve an [Agreement for Engineering Services to Collect Structural Data of Sewers with 15” to 30” Diameter Pipes](#) in compliance with the Continuing Sewer Assessment Program (CSAP), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Hydromax USA in an amount not to exceed \$1,543,950.00. This firm is located in Louisville, KY. *Funding Source: 5529999-SS727801-658650 – **Note:** The sub-consultant for this project Construction Support Services, a MBE firm located in Columbia, SC will receive 17.81% (\$275,000.00) of the contract value. This project is associated with Clean Water 2020. The original budgeted amount for this project is \$3,000,000.00. – Approved*

19. Council is asked to approve Project [WM3752; Raw Water Reservoir Dredging and Sedimentation Basin Improvements at the Canal Water Treatment Plant](#), as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to M.B. Kahn Construction, the lowest responsive bidder in the amount of \$6,365,500.00 with a project contingency of \$300,000.00 for a total amount of \$6,665,500.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Improvement Fund; 5529999-658660-WM375202-658660 – **Note:** This is a Subcontracting Outreach Program Project. The original budgeted amount for this project is \$6,534,174.00. – Approved*
20. Council is asked to approve a [Contract for the 2015 Resurface Project at Five \(5\) City Locations](#), as requested by the Street Division. Award to Sloan Construction Company, the lowest responsive bidder in the amount of \$816,365.46. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Street Resurfacing Capital Project/ Capital Project Costs; 4079999-658650 and City Streets Paving Maintenance/ Capital Project Costs; SR911303-658650 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount for this project is \$800,000.00; additional funds will come from the two funding sources as listed. The following locations are included: - Approved*

Locations	Amount
E Exchange Boulevard	\$207,871.23
Shady Lane	\$462,860.56
1200 Henderson Street	\$25,430.68
Alley between Sumter Street Garage and Marriot	\$39,819.95
Bower Parkway	\$57,928.04
Mobilization	\$20,800.00
Owners and Contractors Protective Liability Insurance	\$1,655.00

21. Council is asked to approve a [Contract for the 2015 Rehabilitation Project for Nineteen \(19\) Streets](#), as requested by the Street Division. Award to Lane Construction Company, the lowest responsive bidder in the amount of \$561,000.00. This firm is located in West Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Street Resurfacing Capital Project/Paving and Asphalt Supplies; 4079999-623500 and City Streets Paving Maintenance/Paving and Asphalt Supplies; SR911303-623500 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount for this project is \$700,000.00. The following streets are included in the contract: - Approved*

Street Name	Amount
Heritage Village Lane (from Broad River Road to end of City Maintenance)	\$30,000.00
Tawny Branch Road (from Heritage Village Lane to Heritage Village Lane)	\$5,000.00
Boston Commons Court	\$4,000.00
Guilford Green Court	\$4,000.00
Devine Street (from Henderson Street to Barnwell Street) (from Barnwell Street to Blossom Street)	\$62,000.00
Lincoln Street (from RR tracks at Greek Village to Whaley Street)	\$50,000.00
Senate Street (from Huger Street to Pulaski Street)	\$77,000.00

(from Gist Street to Huger Street)	
Abelia Road (from Devine Street to Devereaux Road)	\$36,000.00
Hagood Avenue (from Kershaw to Millwood)	\$21,000.00
Marthas Glen Road (from Arrow Field Road to Old Woodlands Road)	\$42,000.00
Harper Street (from Read Street to Chestnut Street)	\$20,000.00
Willis Street (from Read Street to Elmwood Avenue)	\$7,000.00
Marbrent Court (from Elmwood Avenue to End)	\$7,000.00
Elmwood Avenue (from Oak Street to Two Notch Road)	\$33,000.00
Tryon Street (from Heyward Street to Catawba Street)	\$29,000.00
Richland Street (from Gregg Street to Dead End)	\$14,000.00
Hampton Springs Court (from Wilshire Drive to Cul-de-sac)	\$37,000.00
Hamptonwood Way (from Hampton Spring Court to Cul-de-sac)	\$58,000.00
Hampton Court (from Hamptonwood Way to Cul-de-sac)	\$2,000.00
Owners and Contractors Protective Liability Insurance	\$23,000.00

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING

22. [Ordinance No.: 2014-126](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Quit-Claim Deed from the City of Columbia to the South Carolina Department of Transportation for Conveyance of 0.044 Acre (1,909 square feet portion) of City Property identified as Richland County TMS#14705-01-08 (The Heritage Hills Water Pump Station Site); CF#247-01C – ***Note:** The City is constructing a 30” sanitary sewer force main along Bluff Road from the Mill Creek Sewer Pump Station to the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant (CIP Project #SS6764) as part of the Clean Water 2020 sanitary sewer system upgrade. In lieu of granting an easement, SCDOT agreed to a property swap since they need property from the City for widening US21 (Wilson Boulevard) at Killian Road. SCDOT originally requested \$4,000 from the City for the property; however, we negotiated this property swap at a savings of \$1,300.00 for the City on this transaction. – First reading approval was given on February 10, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT – SECOND READING

23. [Comprehensive Plan Land Use Element](#). Adoption of the Land Use element of the comprehensive plan pursuant to S.C. Code § 6-29-530. – [Plan Columbia Review/Adoption Process](#). – *Approved on second reading.*

Council District: 1,2,3,4
Proposal: Amend the City of Columbia Comprehensive Plan 2018 by Adopting the Plan Columbia Land Use Plan
Applicant: Krista Hampton, Director of Planning and Development Services
Staff Recommendation: Approve
PC Recommendation: Approve, 2/2/2015 (6-1)

[Ordinance No.: 2015-014](#) – Amending the City of Columbia Comprehensive Plan 2018 to repeal the "Existing and Future Land Use Components of the Physical Area Development Element" and adopt the "Plan Columbia Land Use Plan" – *First reading approval was given on February 10, 2015. – Approved on second reading.*

END CONSENT AGENDA

ANNEXATIONS WITH MAP AMENDMENTS – FIRST READING

24. [1840 Columbia College Drive](#), TMS#11606-07-07; request to annex and zone the properties C-3 (General Commercial). The property is zoned GC (General Commercial) in Richland County. – *Approved on first reading*

Council District: 2
Proposal: Annex and zone properties C-3; contiguous; Donut Hole
Applicant: Willie J. Milton
PC Recommendation: Defer (7-1); 11/3/14
Approve (4-1); 12/1/14
Staff Recommendation: Approve

[Ordinance No.: 2015-001](#) – Annexing 1840 Columbia College Drive, Richland County TMS #11606-07-07 – *First reading approval was given on February 10, 2015. – Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the Map Amendment for 1840 Columbia College Drive, TMS#11606-07-07 and Ordinance No.: 2015-001 – Annexing 1840 Columbia College Drive, Richland County TMS #11606-07-07.

25. [125 Cort Road \(fmr. 1031 Buckner Park Drive\)](#), TMS#11704-03-24; request to annex and zone the properties M-1 (Light Industrial). The property is zoned M-1 (Light Industrial) in Richland County. – *First reading approval was given on February 10, 2015. – Approved on first reading.*

Council District: 1
Proposal: Annex and zone properties M-1; contiguous;
Secondary
Applicant: CPRT HE Columbia, LLC
PC Recommendation: Approve (5-0); 12/01/14
Staff Recommendation: Approve

[Ordinance No.: 2015-002](#) – Annexing 125 Cort Road, formerly known as 1031 Buckner Park Drive, Richland County TMS #11704-03-24 – *Approved on first reading.*

Mayor Benjamin asked if the issue had been resolved.

Ms. Krista Hampton, Director of Planning and Development said Mr. Hopkins had no comment on this matter.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Map Amendment for 125 Cort Road (fmr. 1031 Buckner Park Drive), TMS#11704-03-24 and Ordinance No.: 2015-002 – Annexing 125 Cort Road, formerly known as 1031 Buckner Park Drive, Richland County TMS #11704-03-24.

RESOLUTIONS

26. [Resolution No.: R-2015-013](#) – Authorizing the City Manager and Chief of Police to execute a Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Columbia and City of Columbia Police Department and the Town of Pine Ridge and the Town of Pine Ridge Police Department – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-013 – Authorizing the City Manager and Chief of Police to execute a Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Columbia and City of Columbia Police Department and the Town of Pine Ridge and the Town of Pine Ridge Police Department.

27. [Resolution No.: R-2015-015](#) – (*Revised*) Instructing the City Manager to proceed with the evaluation of the responses to the Request for Expression of Interest issued January 8, 2015 entitled "Efficiency Opportunities Related to the Operation and Maintenance of Water & Wastewater Treatment and Distribution Systems Public Private Partnership" except for those privatization responses that propose the sale, lease, service concession arrangement or certain public-private financing or refinancing of the system or any related capital improvement projects – *Approved*

Mayor Benjamin thanked Ms. Devine and Ms. Plough for their hard work with the resolution; they did their best to come up with a consensus for an agreement; there are some additional elements that we may want to see in the resolution, but it's important that we move forward together.

Council Plough asked that Council hear from the public.

Mr. Jim Reid said the term public private partnership is the same term as privatization; this friendly term is used by large water corporations to make privatization sound better to the public; rates go up and there are no improved efficiencies. He asked Council to oppose any public private partnerships; no staff or community time should be spent on this process. He said stop moving water and sewer to any parts of public spending.

Mr. Bill Manley said he has lived in Columbia over 60 years and raised six children in the Eau Claire Community. He said we are against the privatization of our water and sewer system. He said we can talk to our council members about rate increases, not a private company.

Anne Spears said a private corporation's obligation is going to be to profit and to shareholders; our City government is obligated to take care of its citizens.

Mayor Benjamin clarified that the resolution supports not privatizing water and sewer.

Mr. Mel Jenkins said that water is a common right and Council treats everything in the City as a property right.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-015 – Instructing the City Manager to proceed with the evaluation of the responses to the Request for Expression of Interest issued January 8, 2015 entitled "Efficiency Opportunities Related to the Operation and Maintenance of Water & Wastewater Treatment and Distribution Systems Public Private Partnership" except for those privatization responses that propose the sale, lease, service concession arrangement or certain public-private financing or refinancing of the system or any related capital improvement projects.

- **Mr. Runyan left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.**

Mayor Benjamin invited the public to attend the Work Session discussion on March 10, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. regarding water and sewer data and rate increases. He said we are moving forward with significant enhancements to our water and sewer, wastewater and storm water systems that are overdue; the system is not dilapidated, but these significant improvements will help us during our wet weather events. He said as a Council and a community, we will work through the rate increases that are necessary to help meet some of the most pressing and environmental needs in this region; no one likes rate increases or to pay more money, but as you compare apples to apples in other communities, the City's rates are lower. He said if we are going to improve the infrastructure, we have to invest in

it. He encouraged everyone to remain engaged in this discussion and to push Council to do the right thing with investing into our system and protecting our water.

Councilor Davis said our goal and responsibility is to move forward and continue to make our system one of the best water providers in this region; we are prepared to comply with a plan and we are committed to reaching the goals; at the end of the day, we hope we have done right by the people who pay the bills.

Councilor Plough thanked Council for supporting the resolution; it shows that we can come together to communicate to our citizens and to our corporate citizens what this Council is really interested in. She thanked the community for being the voice of the City.

28. [Resolution No.: R-2015-018](#) – Authorizing the City Manager and Chief of Police to execute an Agreement between Lexington County and the Lexington County Police Department and the City of Columbia and City of Columbia Police Department – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-018 – Authorizing the City Manager and Chief of Police to execute an Agreement between Lexington County and the Lexington County Police Department and the City of Columbia and City of Columbia Police Department.

- **Mayor Benjamin left the meeting at 7:05 p.m.**

29. [Resolution No.: R-2015-022](#) (*Revised*) – Authorizing the City Manager to direct the Office of Business Opportunities to issue a collateral loan to Wateree Community Actions, Inc. – *Approved by a vote of three (3) to two (2).*

Councilor Newman noted that the motion includes amendments to the third paragraph of the resolution.

Councilor Devine asked if the prime plus one rate is 3.25.

Ms. Tina Herbert, Executive Director of Office of Business Opportunities said yes.

Councilor Baddourah asked about the value of the properties that were put up for collateral.

Ms. Tina Herbert, Executive Director of Office of Business Opportunities said we were provided a list of 27 properties and the total tax value is \$357,665.

Councilor Baddourah asked who came up with the numbers.

Ms. Tina Herbert, Executive Director of Office of Business Opportunities said we used the tax assessor's value.

Councilor Baddourah made a substitute motion to send the resolution back to the Office of Business Opportunities committee to go through the loan process that is usually completed to approve loans. Ms. Plaugh seconded the motion.

Councilor Plaugh said this is real challenge when you begin to use tax payers' dollars to finance an agency that has had some financial difficulties; how do you pick and choose which agency in this City to help and to use tax payers' dollars in this way. She said I do not support putting tax payers' dollars into business loans; I support using federal dollars designated for that purpose.

Councilor Devine said she too had initial heartburn over this because of the shortage of time. She has more of a comfort level when we are getting collateral that is double the loan and the tax payers will get interest on this money when it's repaid.

Councilor Plaugh acknowledged that at one point she suggested a source to be set aside for this purpose, but she also suggested that it go to the committee.

Councilor Devine said in a short period of time, staff has done a diligent job of protecting more than 80% of the loan value at a 4.25% interest rate that we will collect back; although this is not a position we want to be put in as a Council, we have talked a lot about establishing our own fund to help citizens with water bills and the services these monies will go to will be useful.

The motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Ms. Plaugh, to have this loan for Wateree Community Actions, Inc. considered by the Office of Business Opportunities' loan committee failed by a vote of two (2) to three (3). Voting aye were Ms. Plaugh and Mr. Baddourah. Voting nay were Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine and Mr. Newman. Mayor Benjamin and Mr. Runyan were not present for the vote.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Davis called for the original motion to be approved as amended.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted three (3) to two (2) to approve Resolution No.: R-2015-022 – Authorizing the City Manager to direct the Office of Business Opportunities to issue a collateral loan to Wateree Community Actions, Inc. Voting aye were Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine and Mr. Newman. Voting nay were Ms. Plaugh and Mr. Baddourah. Mayor Benjamin and Mr. Runyan were not present for the vote.

- **Mayor Benjamin returned to the meeting at 7:15 p.m.**

30. [Resolution No.: R-2015-004](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Agreement between the City of Columbia and Passport Parking – **Note:** *The approval of this convenience fee is contingent upon a public hearing to be held on March 3, 2015. – Consideration of this item was deferred.*

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS/REFERRALS

No committee reports/referrals were made at this time.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

Dr. Germon Miller thanked the Police Department for helping an individual in the RICH program. She introduced the newest mentors of the RICH program.

- Mr. R.p. Favor, RPF Production
- Mr. Dontae Martin, Grace Youth Foundation
- Ms. Jasmine Galler, The House of Harley Talk Radio
- Mr. Kenneth Brown, Co-Host for The House of Harley Talk Radio
- Mr. Shae Harley, Host/Creator for The House of Harley Talk Radio

Ms. Shaquita Davis said she started a non-profit organization called Voices Unheard in 2011 and she has sponsored several events for the youth at Greenview Park and various schools. She will be sponsoring an Anti-Bullying Rally at Finlay Park on May 16, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. She asked for funding support for the rally at Finlay Park.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager clarified that some information is coming for the next round of community promotions funding, but it will be after Ms. Davis' event.

Councilor Devine said we completed our budget a year in advance. She asked that Mr. Caton review Ms. Davis' logistics for Finlay Park. She offered for Ms. Davis to help with the upcoming National Youth Violence Prevention Week if she would like to participate.

Mr. Tom Powell provided Council with information on how to generate electricity through the flow of water from gravity fed pipes.

Councilor Baddourah offered to contribute personal funds to Wateree Community Actions, Inc.

- **Mr. Runyan returned back to the meeting at 7:31 p.m.**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Niki Daniels
City Clerk Assistant