

**CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL  
EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015 – 6:30 P.M.  
CITY HALL – 1737 MAIN STREET  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR**



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The Columbia City Council conducted an Emergency Meeting on Thursday, July 9, 2015 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Pro-Tempore Sam Davis called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman, The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan and The Honorable Moe Baddourah. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin and The Honorable Leona K. Plaugh were absent. Also present were Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore, City Clerk.

**STAFF BRIEFING**

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager asked Chief Holbrook to discuss the public safety operations and the measures that have been taken since the tragic events in Charleston and with the continued Confederate Flag debate. She said the flag will be taken down during a brief ceremony tomorrow and based off of intelligence and an abundance of caution there are additional measures that we think are appropriate and worthy of your consideration.

1. Discussion of Public Safety Operations – Mr. William “Skip” Holbrook, Police Chief

Mr. William “Skip” Holbrook, Police Chief recalled that over the last three weeks we’ve seen extraordinary, tragic and historic events that have directly impacted the City of Columbia and how the Columbia Police Department responded to help our partner agencies. He said that the rallies and assemblies on State House Grounds have affected pedestrian and vehicular traffic and increased calls for service. He explained that he asked the City Manager to consider an ordinance that would assist the Columbia Police Department with providing protection and safety for those participating in lawful assembly. He outlined the following City streets that will be closed on Friday, July 10, 2015 by 9:00 a.m.: Gervais Street between Sumter Street and Assembly Street and Gervais Street at Main Street to Lady Street with access for local traffic only.

Councilor Devine said a violation of the ordinance would be a misdemeanor punishable by 30 days. She asked if the Columbia Police Department is prepared to accommodate a significant number of arrests.

Mr. William “Skip” Holbrook, Police Chief said collaborative briefings have been held with our partner agencies and a contingency plan is in place. He added that this ordinance focuses on carrying weapons; it’s consistent with the current laws for State House Grounds; and law enforcement will exercise discretion in enforcing the law. He noted that signage will be posted and participants will be educated about this.

Councilor Devine asked if Chief Holbrook has identified the 250' area.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager read the ordinance into the record, noting that the map is attached.

Councilor Runyan asked if this affects the right to lawfully carry on privately held properties or the public spaces only.

Mr. William "Skip" Holbrook, Police Chief said yes, in the public spaces only. He explained that the 250' includes the streets that surround the State House Grounds.

### **EMERGENCY ORDINANCE**

2. [Ordinance No.: 2015-066](#) - Emergency Ordinance for the Temporary Ban of Weapons within a two hundred fifty (250') foot area surrounding the South Carolina State House Grounds - *Approved*

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager explained that the word concealed was removed from the last whereas clause (*existing ban against ~~concealed~~ weapons as enacted by*). She said it needs to be very clear to the public that this pertains to all weapons, concealed or otherwise.

Councilor Baddourah asked how long the streets will be closed, because tomorrow is a workday.

Mr. William "Skip" Holbrook, Police Chief said the roads will remain closed as needed.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance No.: 2015-066 – Emergency Ordinance for the Temporary Ban of Weapons within a two hundred fifty (250') foot area surrounding the South Carolina State House Grounds, as amended.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore  
City Clerk