



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2013
6:00 P.M.
EAU CLAIRE PRINT BUILDING
3907 ENSOR AVENUE

The Columbia City Council conducted a Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 2013 at the Eau Claire Print Building, 3907 Ensor Avenue, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Leona K. Plaugh, The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman, The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan and The Honorable Moe Baddourah. Also present were Ms. Teresa B. 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

INVOCATION

Chaplain Billie Bright, Columbia Fire Department offered the invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager asked Council to defer consideration of **Items 1** and **30** and to remove **Item 25** from the Consent Agenda.

Councilor Plaugh said that **Item 17** is a two year contract with a three year extension and there is an increase in the contract without anybody else having the opportunity to bid on it. After further review of the item, she clarified that it is a continuation of a contract for a two-year period with an additional one year extension and a 5% increase per set.

Ms. Sandra Wright, Purchasing Director explained that they allowed for the option to renew for years three through five and up to the 5% increase. She added that the item was initially bid and two or three responses were received.

Mayor Benjamin asked if the increase is within the 5%.

Mr. Aubrey Jenkins, Fire Chief said yes. He stated that this is time sensitive, because the gear is needed in October for a new recruit class.

Councilor Plaugh noted that this is not a local firm and then she withdrew her objection.

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

- Defer consideration of **Items 1** and **30**
- Remove **Item 25** from the Consent Agenda

PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Bill Manley, 4000 Abingdon Road expressed concerns about **Items 24** and **25**. He provided a list of all general obligation bonds since 2007. He said there is a total of \$52,105,000 in initial issues; however, \$45,265,000 is outstanding. He said of the \$40,355,000 from prior years, \$33,515,000 is outstanding. He asked why the older bonds had not been processed. In reference to Ordinance 2013-097, he said the total after tonight will be \$462,180,000. He said that \$6,765,000 has been expended in the waterworks and sewer system. He said it appears that there are a lot of projects that have not been paid for, but we could certainly use that money in other places. – [Click here to read Bill Manley's comments](#)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Meeting Minutes of April [23](#), April [30](#), May [7](#), May [21](#), June [4](#) and June [18](#), 2013 – *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

PRESENTATIONS

2. [Introduction of the August 2013 Employee of the Month \(Mr. Rodney T. Wingard, Enforcement Supervisor\)](#) – Mr. John Spade, Director of Parking Services

Ms. Sandy Smith, Operations Administrator for Parking Services introduced Rodney Wingard as the August 2013 Employee of the Month. She described him as an open-minded, dedicated, professional and hardworking employee.

Mayor Benjamin presented Mr. Wingard with a certificate and Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager presented Mr. Wingard with a token of appreciation for being selected as the August 2013 Employee of the Month.

3. [2013 International Basketball Federation Under 19 Championship for Women Gold Medalist “A’ja Wilson”](#) – The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin

Mayor Benjamin and the members of City Council proclaimed Tuesday, September 3, 2013 as A’ja Wilson Day in the City of Columbia. Ms. A’ja Wilson is the number one high school female basketball player in the country and she exemplifies our highest traditions of dedication, leadership and service.

4. [Zonta Club of Columbia “50 Years of Service” Proclamation](#) – The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin

Mayor Benjamin and the members of City Council proclaimed Tuesday, September 10, 2013 as Zonta Club of Columbia Day in the City of Columbia.

Ms. Ellie Dagle, Vice President and Membership Chair of the Zonta Club of Columbia thanked Council for recognizing the organization. She said they were chartered on September 10, 1963 and their mission is to advance the status of women through service and advocacy. She reported that the organization has given more than \$100,000 to this community and they provide annual scholarships to one high school senior and one college student.

**Mayor Benjamin recognized Richland County Councilman Greg Pearce.

5. [Community Action Framework for Education](#) – Ms. Shannon Ashford, Board Member and Education Council Chair / United Way of the Midlands

Ms. Shannon Ashford, Board Member and Education Council Chair for United Way of the Midlands reported that the United Way works to improve the quality of life for Midlands’ citizens by focusing on education, financial stability and health. The United Way has invested a total of \$17 million in the Midlands to include a \$2.7 million investment in education. She reported that there is a 30 million word gap between children living in poverty and those living in homes with professional parents. Ms. Ashford described the goals, core strategies and next steps that are being implemented to increase student success. She invited the members of Council to the Literacy Live Event on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at EdVenture Children’s Museum.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

6. Safety and Security Plan for Downtown – Interim Police Chief Ruben Santiago

Mr. Ruben Santiago, Interim Police Chief presented the downtown safety plan that has been in effect for over two (2) months. He said it was derived through communications and partnerships with the downtown business associations and concerned citizens. The downtown area is the Metro Region and it is bounded by the river to the west, Calhoun Street to the north, Rosewood Drive to the south and Beltline and Forest Drive to the east. He stated that the Metro Region is also a hospitality zone and is manned with 51 uniformed officers, the Proactive Community Enforcement (PACE) Team, Hospitality Safety Team and foot patrols. He reported that less than 25% of crime committed in the city occurs in our downtown area and the Metro Region has seen a 34% decrease in violent crime and an 8% reduction in property crimes. He said that the camera system has been instrumental in preventing and solving crimes. To date, there is an 85% clearance rate for solving crimes. He suggested that the current plan remain in place. He explained that they have taken a strategic look at ways to maintain existing

resources and as there is growth, they will determine how that will affect resources. He further explained that they are finding out what crimes are happening in order to better serve the City of Columbia. He noted that public health and welfare are the other aspects to law enforcement.

Councilor Plough asked if there are things that will be done to compliment the plans for the 24/7 shelter for the homeless while continuing to provide a safe and secure environment.

Mr. Ruben Santiago, Interim Police Chief said they want to know what it will take to make people feel safe. He said they will consistently patrol the surrounding area and they will determine how many officers are needed based on the crime patterns.

Councilor Plough asked how the security collaboration within the confines of the location of the shelter with Christ Central Ministries red shirt program would work.

Mr. Ruben Santiago, Interim Police Chief said the collaboration with the red shirt program was fantastic last year and if continued, it will be positive. He said those individuals were not professionally trained security personnel, but they cared enough to take direction from the Police Department as to what the safety parameters should be. He said that Pastor Jones was very receptive to allowing the Police Department to come in and help. He said they conducted special property checks on a regular basis.

Councilor Devine asked what resources will be deployed and in what areas.

Mr. Ruben Santiago, Interim Police Chief said there are four (4) officers patrolling the Bull Street, Elmwood, Main and Calhoun Street area; there are officers on foot patrol; and the Hospitality Team consists of three members that walk in that general area as well. He said at any given time there are seven (7) to twelve (12) officers patrolling that area and that is being done within the existing budget.

Councilor Devine sought to clarify that officers aren't being taken from other areas. She said some people are concerned that there will be a migration of crime from one area to another.

Mr. Ruben Santiago, Interim Police Chief said there is a core set of officers in each region and there are special teams with officers that are not dedicated to specific patrols; based on weekly statistics, those officers are moved to areas affected by crime without taking officers from another region.

Councilor Plough wanted the people in the audience to understand the new technology that has been put into place.

Mr. Ruben Santiago, Interim Police Chief said resources are being maximized to get rid of crime quickly. He noted that crime moves around and we must be fluid and consistent with patrols.

7. Recommendations for Operating the Emergency Shelter from September 2013 through April 2014

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager reported that staff worked with Christ Central Ministries to address logistical items to include building cooling, building power, food services, transportation, laundry services, security, security cameras and case management.

Councilor Devine said there has been a lot of discussion about what Council approved at the last meeting. She said we have a contract in front of us today that deals with the shelter. She said there needs to be clarity on what Council approved and how we are moving forward after today.

Councilor Runyan said he is prepared to reconsider the motion from last week and to put forth a new motion that provides more clarity; one that he worked on with the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center to ensure that everyone is comfortable with what's being done and that people understand that we are here to bring help and a hope to people; we are not looking to hurt anyone.

Councilor Plough asked staff to outline the City's financial commitment under this contract.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager stated that the city's commitment remains at \$500,000 for operations even for an expanded period of time.

Mr. David Knoche, General Services Director reported that last year's operations were approximately \$31,000 for electrical, propane, maintenance, and fire monitoring and pest control during a five month period in the evenings. He estimated that it will increase slightly for the extra six weeks and running 24/7.

Ms. Melisa Caughman, Budget Director said that the electricity was estimated to cost \$20,000 with the use of air conditioning, but that's no longer a part of it.

Mr. David Knoche, General Services Director said the cost of leasing six (6) to eight (8) air conditioning units would be \$100,000 so they discussed ventilating the building with fans and adding smaller electrical upgrades, which will be funded by Christ Central.

Ms. Melisa Caughman, Budget Director said that our costs will not change and Rev. Jones will cover any additional up-fitting.

Mr. David Knoche, General Services Director estimated that it will cost \$40,000 and Christ Central committed to doing anything above that.

Councilor Baddourah asked if anyone turned on the fans and determined how they will cool off the building. He asked what will happen if the temperatures are unbearable and if Pastor Jones will pick up the tab to ensure that the building is cool enough and the conditions are sufficient enough for people to stay there.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said we have to meet federal and state health regulations. She clearly stated that this management would not put us or the City in the position of having any inhumane conditions for anybody. She said that it would cost \$100,000 to up fit the facility and we must take into account the time it would take to do that. She said the portable units will cost just as much and it would not be smart to do that.

Mr. David Knoche, General Services Director said no; the fans haven't been purchased. He said that he went down there and it was the same temperature inside as it was outside.

Councilor Baddourah asked if Pastor Jones will ensure that the temperature of the building is suitable for individuals to be there.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said she would not put us in the position to have any inhumane situation for anybody. She said Council can consider the \$100,000 expense of replacing the units. She said that the cost of renting is almost as much of the cost to replace the units.

Mr. David Knoche, General Services Director added that it takes six (6) weeks to build and deliver the air conditioners for installation.

Councilor Plough inquired about food preparations.

Mr. David Knoche, General Services Director said there is not a kitchen at the shelter.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said they are working out of a DHEC approved kitchen and will transport the food to the shelter, because the existing kitchen is a warming kitchen. He said it will cost \$72,000 to lease a portable kitchen. He said the fans will move the air every 3 minutes; they are readily available; and they reduce the air temperature by 10 to 15 degrees.

Councilor Devine asked about the nondiscrimination language in the agreement. She asked if everybody that presents themselves for service will be served.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said yes, anybody will be served, but all that are served must abide by the same rules; there is no discrimination.

Councilor Devine asked Rev. Jones how someone is walked through the system for service.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said they will walk into a central location that is yet to be identified and we may be able to help them without providing emergency services. He said they can designate a route that would include those service providers that are interested in being involved in solving this situation with homelessness.

Councilor Devine sought to understand the cost for service.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said there is a way to help each individual and there is a way for them to pay up to \$15 per day through the benefits they receive.

Councilor Devine asked if this is a current model at a government run facility.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said it may not be applicable in this case, but there has to be a method for a path forward.

Councilor Devine said she has questions about this and the legality of individuals assigning their benefits.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said it's not assigning benefits. He acknowledged that it won't work for everybody, but something has to be considered. He said we have no entry level housing; it has to be a part of a long range plan.

Councilor Devine said we need to distinguish the emergency shelter from the long term solution. She asked that they add language to require monthly reports and if a fee is charged, that is to be a part of the monthly report, also.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said they talked about assigning a liaison from the City to work with Pastor Jones.

Councilor Devine asked if the activities at Hope Plaza will continue.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said that it is a social circle and not everyone there is homeless. He said there are five layers that need to be addressed. He said the shelter will provide a starting point to help those that want to get into housing and everyone that remains will need to be handled on a case by case basis.

Councilor Davis said the ultimate goal is self-sufficiency, employment skills and employment placement, but those are the programs you don't do directly. He said we've had good input from Rev. Jones, advocates for Rev. Jones and the Homeless Advisory Committee. He wants to see where Rev. Jones' plan embraces the committee's recommendations so that we reach the final outcome.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said if there was a way to provide a circle of care, the routing to those programs would come from a centralized location. He said that Christ Central is serving as a catalyst to start the process.

Councilor Davis asked if he is willing to bring us all to that point.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said they were asked to help with the Winter Shelter last year and they did that. He had never run a Winter Shelter before, but he reached out to others who could. He said he was asked to come alongside the City to move this problem along and to pick up the difference. He said that the amount being funded by the city continues to decrease. He insisted that this is not Christ Central's problem.

Councilor Davis said what is being proposed is necessary, but we need to agree on what the roles will be. He said entry-level housing is essential and there has to be connectivity with Housing First, because they have a track record of success. He asked if Rev. Jones is committed to that.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said that he won't do this by himself, but he will do it with Council.

Councilor Davis said there are some folks that have a desire to return to other communities, but there is a lack of resources to do so. He said we have to make sure we get the best bang for the buck without the total weight being on any one entity.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said he looks forward to the next meeting where the general public and service providers are involved.

Councilor Newman said this initiative was wrongly positioned as something to replace existing services, when it was meant to supplement those services. He encouraged continued collaboration. He sought clarification on the process undergone to certify case workers.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said Transitions did the case management last year, but they are not best at the winter shelter; the induction center is a great place for case management to start. He said Christ Central's case managers have degrees. He said that they do ask individuals to identify their need, emergency and goals. He agreed that it will take all of our providers to make any significant impact on the problem and we are in the best position to provide a path forward. He said that some people have many needs and the needs are different.

Councilor Newman said there are very important aspects to the process and he looks forward to continuing the discussion on case management. He noted that collaboration is needed.

Councilor Baddourah said there are short term and long term issues. He asked if medical services or nurses will be on site at the shelter.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said no; we will call 911 for emergencies.

Councilor Baddourah asked how the homeless will be motivated to come to the shelter.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said the contract will have to start with a planning team to meet the goals set by the City.

Councilor Baddourah asked if Rev. Jones started the planning team.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries insisted that he has no right to start that. He said he suggested the things that needed to be considered to help move homeless people toward help.

Councilor Baddourah reiterated his question.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said the homeless population has a much better news system than he does and those that want help will seek it.

Councilor Plough asked about families and children.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries agreed that there is more need today for families. He said we have many issues that must be addressed by the city to include zoning and where a family center can go. He said there are several neighborhoods with fathers and mothers needing places to stay with their children. He said this needs to be a priority for the plan, but the Winter Shelter would not be a good place for a child.

Councilor Plough asked if the bathroom facilities will be opened at the emergency shelter for anybody that might take the van there.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said that bathrooms are a momentary convenience and few people will wait on the bus to get to the bathroom at the shelter. He said the shelter will not solve the downtown restroom situation. He said Charleston, Savannah and Asheville are addressing this much better than we are. He would love to see restrooms throughout the core of downtown along with information stations for the tourism and business districts. He offered Hope Plaza as a location for a tourism information center including restrooms.

Councilor Plough asked who would qualify to come to the shelter for food only.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said that it is best to get that individual to a site that provides meals and to provide three meals a day for those at the shelter. He said they want to allow those that want to serve meals to pick a day to host a meal at the shelter and transportation will be provided. He insisted that there will be inclusiveness.

Councilor Plough expressed concerns about combining ex-offenders with the homeless.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said that the best thing you can do is provide humanity with care and ex-offenders are still citizens. He said there has to be some reasoning about what we are trying to accomplish. He said we are much more at risk by leaving ex-offenders on the streets. He added that a respite place is needed for the intoxicated.

Councilor Plough asked where the homeless are picked up.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said the idea is to move true homelessness to shelter so that we don't have homeless, but instead housed humanity. He said the route is inclusive and will include circuits to create a pick-up and drop-off system. He said instead of releasing them on the streets in the middle of the night they can be brought to the shelter until they reach a family member.

Councilor Devine clarified that they did not say that ex-offenders are not welcome at the shelter. She asked Rev. Jones about the red shirts that offer security.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said the security officers used last year were not badged and did not carry weapons; they conducted checks. He said there were no incidents and red shirts were a key part.

Councilor Devine asked about the seven day stay.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said there was a courtesy stay of seven (7) days while they worked to find help for the individual; our goal is to provide the help needed within seven (7) days.

Councilor Devine said it has always been the intention to bring everyone together, but this was developed with a select group of people.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said no one group can do this; it's going to take the great team that's in place today and others that will join the team. He wants the shelter to be a part of the plan to move forward.

Mayor Benjamin said that was a perfect segue to having more public participation and dialog before Council deliberates further. He reminded everyone that it's not us versus them; it's we and we are committed to working together to try and address issues of homelessness, poverty and despair in the City and there are long-term solutions that we must collectively work on.

Mr. Tim Lizewski said that the Mayor and some of the current members of Council spoke truth to power during Occupy Columbia, but when it came time to speak truth to Council, they were shunned off to a discussion that started at 1:00 a.m. He said nowhere in those discussions, press conferences and interviews have we focused on the causes of homelessness. He asked about the plan to provide affordable housing in Columbia, to help those in need and to work with service providers.

Mayor Benjamin asked that we publicize our Community Development Plan, the establishment of the Midlands Housing Trust Fund, Work It Up Program, Housing Loan Fund, and other things being done to address the issues of poverty and affordable housing.

Ms. Elaine Cooper said she uses a fan in an effort to conserve energy and there is no way she could survive without air conditioning. She thanked Ms. Devine for raising concerns about the legality of the assigned benefits. She said that USC students have been involved in the idea of treating the homeless with a humane sense. She said they need medical staff and could ask USC students to volunteer and it is inexcusable to not consider having any medical staff. She stated that Chicago is an incredible city that danced with the homeless during the festival she attended. She said the homeless sell a magazine called *Street Wise* and all businesses place ads in this magazine. She suggested that the City could hire homeless and shelter them in abandoned buildings. She expressed concerns about the seven (7) day stay.

Councilor Runyan clarified that 7-days is the goal for providing an individual with the help needed.

Mr. Tom Clements said he worked at Transitions and the Winter Shelter, mostly serving food. He was waiting to hear about the role of volunteers. He said that the homeless have been respectful towards him and he never felt threatened or intimidated. He asked if the shelter needs volunteers, how many, where will they come from, what kind of outreach will there be, what happens if volunteers don't sign up, has an assessment been made of the volunteer pool; how will food be provided and who will pay for food. He asked if volunteers are expected to pay for food 24/7. He asked if volunteers will be trained or have any legal responsibility. He asked if volunteers will be required to transport individuals. – [Click here to read Tom Clements' comments](#)

Ms. Carla Damron, Executive Director of the South Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and a 30-year veteran of the Department of Mental Health said that a third of the homeless population is mentally ill and there is a need for comprehensive services. She asked where the resources are to provide these comprehensive services. She said that case managers need to be highly skilled professionals. She said people with mental illnesses are much more sensitive to the heat and more likely to have heat strokes. She said the only way this will happen is if we provide the resources that are needed. She said there are only two clinicians at the Department of Mental Health to work with the homeless in Columbia.

Mr. Paul Palmer said compulsory treatment and compulsory confinement concern him. He said that a lot of people want to provide services. He said that wanting to confine people for 24 hours violates the baptismal covenant. He said City Council has good intentions to provide the homeless with shelter, food and hope, but this plan is a form of tough love. He said when you confine people it changes how they behave.

Mayor Benjamin said the intention is not to confine anyone.

Councilor Runyan addressed the issue of forced confinement. He took responsibility for that getting into public discourse and stated that no one will be forcibly confined or forced to do something against their will.

Ms. Sue Berkowitz, South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center said they contacted a law firm about some of the issues that were raised in the review of the plans. She provided a copy of a legal memorandum outlining the things they felt would raise constitutional problems. She is glad that there will be no confinement of people. She hopes that the fact that we will not be targeting and arresting individuals will be included in the plan. She expressed concerns about assigning benefits, because it should not be a condition of staying in any shelter. She said that asking for cash payment is a separate issue. She is glad there will be a discussion among service providers; many service providers can provide counseling other interactive services. – [Click here to read the legal memorandum](#)

Mayor Benjamin asked Ms. Berkowitz if we have ever gotten his deep into this discussion.

Ms. Sue Berkowitz, South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center said there have never been actions to get us to this point. She agreed that the shelter is not the end of the discussion; it is the beginning.

Ms. Beth Brink said she serves at USC as the interim community service coach and she provides community service opportunities for students. She said it is key to bring students to the table as a resource and to make sure as a community that we are providing living wages.

Mr. Terry Williams said unless you live or work in the Calhoun Street corridor it is difficult to understand what goes on there. He doesn't understand how we have homeless people and people are fighting a homeless shelter. He said there isn't air conditioning on the streets. He learned at the last meeting that the homeless were against the emergency shelter because they couldn't drink and do drugs; they didn't like Transitions because it was like a prison; and they don't like the Oliver Gospel Mission because it was religious. He said there must be rules. He said that Council has to start with something and this is a blueprint that can be improved upon. He said the problem has become more pronounced in the past three years. He said the business people give, but they want their rights protected. He said other people will move if we don't get something done. He urged Council to pass this.

Ms. Judy Malone said she has three homeless men working for her: two of them work on her farm with her son and one is helping at her house. She said she isn't paying them, because she doesn't have the money to. She said she will probably lose her farm and while she won't be homeless, her living status will change. She said these men are talented and proud of the work they do; they want to help others. She hopes that a hand up and not a handout will be a part of the plan.

Mr. Bryant King said he helps Mrs. Malone and he wants a job. He asked Council for refugee status under humanitarian assistance. He is willing to learn and he can build anything. He doesn't drink or do drugs and while he has a criminal past he doesn't want to live in his past, he wants to live for tomorrow. He said that he has a personality disorder and he uses animals as his therapy to become a better person and all he's asking for is a hand up.

Mr. Brandon Lazarus, Interim Pastor at Trenholm Road United Methodist Church said if we continue making decisions without input from the homeless, we will only come up with something that is patronizing. He said until we break down the barriers and talk to the homeless, we won't get anywhere. He said this will take time. He stated that the causes are diverse and we must listen to the voices of those that have been homeless. He asked Council to invite homeless people to be on the committee.

Ms. Pamela Greenlaw said she is encouraged because we are looking at a collaborative process. She asked if Council is planning a trip to a city similar to our size that is employing best practices. She asked Council if they will post any planned meetings on the website so that interested groups will be aware. She said that Family Promise was at the last meeting and it is a new non-profit that is organizing with the intent of using empty buildings for shelter in collaboration with the churches. She said they are looking for 14 host churches. She asked Council to include the homeless in the dialog.

Ms. Elaine Frick asked for action on the Homeless Advisory Committee recommendation on a meal service summit to gather input from the community and work to gain a consensus on this goal. She said there are over 40 different sites where meals are served. She said it is a very basic thing to provide meal service to people. She asked Council to take action soon.

Mr. Oscar Gadsden, Pastor of Keep it Real Ministry said they provide food and clothing for the homeless. He asked where the rest of the homeless will go if there are only 240 beds at the shelter. He told Council to talk to the homeless. He said they are trying to help Council make a rational decision on how to help people. He said it is not a crime to be homeless. He said there are people who love the homeless. He said he was homeless for eight years and watched money being poured in to help, but nothing has happened. He said people are losing their jobs and the homeless are going to come here because this is the capital. He said you must be a part of these places in order to eat. He said he would like to see Council members live in a shelter for a few days.

Mr. Tom Turnipseed said he got to know poor and mentally ill people at an early age. He said that Homeless Helping Homeless is a great organization and Food Not Bombs serves the best meals by the fountain at Finlay Park. He said they leave the park cleaner than it was. He insisted that the homeless are just as good as the ones that live in the condos. He said people are afraid of poor people. He said that homeless people work downtown. He asked about the press conferences being held behind closed doors. He insisted that we do better. He asked Council to take it easy with poor people. He noted that some of the poor people might even vote.

Mayor Benjamin said the constant theme is that it is we and maintaining that dialog refers to all members of our community. He said he hasn't received one complaint from residents in Governors Hill or Arsenal Hill about the meals being served in Finlay Park. He insisted that neither he nor his colleagues have received a contribution from Bob Hughes; nor would he accept a contribution. He said it is important to not suggest those things. He said the actions they take every day are in the interest of the people of this entire city; whether it's to make sure that people have access to public transportation, providing affordable housing or supporting the Columbia Housing Authority.

Mr. Jaja Akair said he has been homeless in Columbia for five years (5) and he sees Columbia as a place of change. He said that everybody needs to get together. He said they are citizens without homes, because they don't have jobs and nobody in downtown Columbia is hiring them. He said he asked the Mayor for a job, but employers are afraid to deal with people who made mistakes; afraid that God can't change them. He said that his purpose is to help his people. He said he proposed a camp to the Mayor, but now it's a camp that won't allow people to come and go as they please. He said he hasn't received a response to his request to meet with the City Manager. He asked for jobs for the homeless.

Mayor Benjamin said that he has talked to Jaja and Mr. King who spoke earlier. He said the City of Columbia is one of the few entities in SC that hire people regardless of their past. He said it is important to us to give people second chances.

Ms. Diane Wiley said we are a free country and we should never have homeless people without food. She said there are abandoned buildings, but the buildings on Beltline need to be torn down and fixed back up. She said the homeless are people. She asked if there is a big building that can be set up with small apartments and until people find jobs let them work around the building. She insisted that City Council is doing its best; you have to go to your governor. She wants to be on this committee.

Mayor Benjamin said we've had very little dialog about the complete disappearance of resources coming from the state and federal governments and having only two clinicians at the MARC dedicated to meeting the mental health needs of the homeless in this region is deplorable. He noted that the resources from the sale of Bull Street go back to the Department of Mental Health.

Mr. Jason Peteja said he and his wife have been homeless for two years; they decided to live in an abandoned house; and were arrested for burglary. He said they didn't have a place to stay as a couple and there is no place for families. He said everything they try brings them back to the same circles which lead them back to jail. He said they have no place to go tonight. He said everybody needs a long term goal in order to build a foundation for themselves. He said the children are 5, 7, and 8 and they are with their grandparents.

Mr. Brian Huskey, Executive Director for the Midlands Housing Trust Fund said the organization was created by the United Way to preserve the housing stock for those at and below the 80% area median income. They focus on those with little to no income. He said that affordable housing serves the most emergent need that a homeless person has. He reported that it cost more to leave someone on the street than it does to provide safe and affordable housing. He invited Council to a breakfast on September 11, 2013 to hear what the Midlands Housing Trust Fund plan is to address the need for affordable housing.

Ms. Kate Webb said for years there has been a discussion about facilities for the homeless. She asked what steps have been taken to address that problem.

Mayor Benjamin said that restrooms were one of the immediate actionable recommendations from the Homeless Advisory Committee.

**Mayor Benjamin recognized General Larry Knightner from HUD and Richland County Councilman Paul Livingston.

Mayor Benjamin made the following motion and it was seconded by Mr. Runyan.

- That City Council, in its efforts to address homelessness, poverty and despair in our city, approve opening the Emergency Homeless Shelter beginning September 15, 2013 through April 15, 2014 or for a total of seven months from the beginning date. The Emergency Homeless Shelter will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week during this seven month period.
- That City Council provides funding in the same amount as last year's contract with Christ Central Ministries to provide all operational services at the Emergency Homeless Shelter.
- That as part of the service for the Emergency Homeless Shelter that Christ Central Ministries will provide for the operation of vans and buses to transport residents of the shelter to and from external service providers, services, work and downtown as requested.
- That Christ Central Ministries strive to move clients out of the Emergency Homeless Shelter and into participating service provider's programs within seven (7) days of intake at the Emergency Shelter.

- That the City of Columbia, Christ Central Ministries and service providers recognize that meeting the challenge of homelessness and poverty requires a community response and that this is a “we” challenge, not a “them” challenge and never an effort to deprive any individuals of civil liberties or to criminalize poverty
- That the City of Columbia encourages participation by nonprofit, faith based organizations and others that provide meals and services to the homeless in Columbia to participate in coordination of services, including providing meals and services for residents at the Emergency Homeless Shelter.
- That Christ Central Ministries and the City of Columbia will deliver to City Council detailed monthly financials and quantitative and qualitative measurements regarding the Emergency Shelter operation after the mid-point and ending point of the program.
- That the city manager develop a budget recommendation and implementation plan to retain the current level of community foot patrol of police in the downtown area of Columbia. In addition these resources should include training of CPD officers to identify when individuals are in crisis and require medical assistance for both healthcare and mental health problems. Both items should be presented to City Council at its next meeting.
- That Columbia City Council adopts the six homeless response goals presented to this body by the people of Columbia. Namely to:
 1. Coordinate the response to poverty
 2. Bring humanity to the response to poverty
 3. Leverage the power of the community in responding to poverty
 4. Institutionalize accountability for providers
 5. Meet the unique needs of the individual in need
 6. Address downtown impacts
- That the City of Columbia receive proposals to address the long-term response to homelessness and poverty through January 2, 2014 and to encourage all who want to participate in the RFP process to engage in:
 - Orientation Session – Broad brush explanation of the challenge and goals
 - Planning Session(s) – Participatory dialogue a couple of weeks following initial orientation

- To adopt several of the immediately actionable items of the Homeless Advisory Committee including:
 - Developing a “Homeless Central” website within the City of Columbia webpages providing comprehensive and current information about service providers, their offerings and contact information.
 - Increasing “No Panhandling” and “No Loitering” signage and posters on Calhoun, Main and Sumter Streets and increase the number of trash cans on Calhoun, Main and Sumter Streets.
 - Utilizing the City Center Partnership “Yellow Shirts” and all other options available in order to further educate the homeless community and the public at large with regard to the City of Columbia’s Loitering and Panhandling ordinances and guidelines.
 - Reduce and/or eliminate stores selling single serving alcohol containers within the Business Improvement District (BID).
 - Offering three meals a day at the Emergency Homeless Shelter and to invite homeless meal providers to a “Feeding Summit” or “Meal Services Summit” in order to discuss consolidation of meal services and explore options for providers to assist with the Emergency Homeless Shelter’s meal service rather than providing their own.
 - Enforcing all ordinances and requirements related to public gathering and food distribution.
 - Moving towards providing permanent self-operating and self-cleaning restrooms on a 24-hour basis.
- And to explore all available options to address the specific needs of veterans in our community.

Councilor Devine said that reducing or limiting stores selling single serve alcohol should not be limited to the BID. She expressed concerns about there being a legal challenge if it is just limited to certain areas.

Mayor Benjamin amended the motion to eliminate single serve alcohol in the Business Improvement District and surrounding neighborhoods. He agreed to address this in other areas of the City at the appropriate time.

Councilor Davis said he understands the intent of the motion. He said it was important to be all inclusive of the Homeless Advisory Committee recommendations. He said it is important to consider how to assist disabled veterans that are homeless. He said there are housing units on the VA campus and suggested that they take a look at those

units. He said that the highest concentration may be considered in the City Center, but some folks are embedded in neighborhoods. He concurred with Ms. Devine's suggestion to develop a strategy for those not accessing the resources we are trying to put in place.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager asked Council to consider September 24, 2013 for opening the shelter and that will give staff to bring back the contractual arrangements in its finality on September 17, 2013.

Mayor Benjamin said that September 24th is fine; the goal is to recognize the 15th or seven (7) months from whatever date the shelter opens.

Mr. Kenneth E. Gaines, Esq., City Attorney said there are issues with pre-emption that must be discussed in Executive Session.

Mayor Benjamin said that he is against every single serving alcohol container sale in and around the entire city. He agreed to remove that portion from the motion and to address that at another time.

Councilor Plough asked the City Manager to come back with a funding source for the additional \$40,000. She said nothing in the motion deals with children and families.

Mayor Benjamin said this is the emergency measure for today that deals with the emergency issue. He said we can follow the lead of our service providers, but we must determine how to meet the needs of veterans, children and families. He said that is part of the longer term response to be included in the RFP. He said we need to lead thoughtful, comprehensive and collaborative solutions to these challenges. He asked for a community that has addressed these challenges very effectively. He said Ms. Plough raised a major issue.

Councilor Plough sought to add families and children to the motion.

Mayor Benjamin accepted the friendly amendment.

Ms. Michelle Logan asked if this is a non-walk up shelter.

Councilor Devine said it is a non-walk up shelter. She is fearful that there are unfair expectations that there will not be visible homelessness in downtown. She said we cannot target people because they are homeless. She agreed that this is an ongoing process. She said they can't make anybody go to the shelter.

Ms. Michelle Logan said she is not clear on what happens. She said there used to pick-up areas. She sought clarification on whether or not someone can walk up to the shelter.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said they cannot have a multiplicity of understandings. He said last year they ran consistent routes and they only had four (4) walk offs. He said the routes will take people away from the shelter, but it has to be a comprehensive plan.

Councilor Devine said the concern is the walk through traffic in the neighborhoods.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said the shelter will not clear the streets of the homeless. He said the induction center will help reduce the numbers, but it's a long process and it takes time.

Mr. Bob Wynn, Arsenal Hill Neighborhood President said that it comes down to the plan being a workable beginning. He asked to be a part of a working committee to address problems. He said that cameras should be in the gateway areas to provide the ability to monitor foot traffic.

Ms. Michelle Logan said foot traffic is an issue, but they see fewer problems when the winter shelter is open.

Councilor Baddourah said the motion is a bundle of the two plans. He said he's not sure about the six (6) goals; there were issues with that. He said that housing is the solution and we have to come up with more ideas to make housing more available. He said there is not a problem with opening the shelter early and with bringing everybody together. He sought to ensure that there will not be a retreat.

Councilor Plough clarified that the motion calls for intake to be at the emergency shelter. She expressed concerns about the induction location and how that might further complicate what we are trying to achieve if it remains in our inner core.

Councilor Devine said that a location for the induction center is yet to be determined based on the previous presentation.

Mayor Benjamin said that intake and induction are different. He recalled that previous conversations with Rev. Jones indicated that the shelter would not be the ideal center for an induction facility; it should be someplace separate; therefore, it was not intended to be addressed by the motion.

Councilor Plough asked that when they consider the contract that they also talk about the induction/intake center.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager clarified that the prisoner drop-off location has not been relocated to the emergency shelter.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to approve the following:

- That City Council, in its efforts to address homelessness, poverty and despair in our city, approve opening the Emergency Homeless Shelter beginning September 24, 2013 through April 15, 2014 or for a total of seven months from the beginning date. The Emergency Homeless Shelter will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week during this seven month period.
- That City Council provides funding in the same amount as last year's contract with Christ Central Ministries to provide all operational services at the Emergency Homeless Shelter.
- That as part of the service for the Emergency Homeless Shelter that Christ Central Ministries will provide for the operation of vans and buses to transport residents of the shelter to and from external service providers, services, work and downtown as requested.
- That Christ Central Ministries strive to move clients out of the Emergency Homeless Shelter and into participating service provider's programs within seven (7) days of intake at the Emergency Shelter.
- That the City of Columbia, Christ Central Ministries and service providers recognize that meeting the challenge of homelessness and poverty requires a community response and that this is a "we" challenge, not a "them" challenge and never an effort to deprive any individuals of civil liberties or to criminalize poverty
- That the City of Columbia encourages participation by nonprofit, faith based organizations and others that provide meals and services to the homeless in Columbia to participate in coordination of services, including providing meals and services for residents at the Emergency Homeless Shelter.
- That Christ Central Ministries and the City of Columbia will deliver to City Council detailed monthly financials and quantitative and qualitative measurements regarding the Emergency Shelter operation after the mid-point and ending point of the program.
- That the city manager develop a budget recommendation and implementation plan to retain the current level of community foot patrol of police in the downtown area of Columbia. In addition these resources should include training of CPD officers to identify when individuals are in crisis and require medical assistance for both healthcare and mental health problems. Both items should be presented to City Council at its next meeting.

- That Columbia City Council adopts the six homeless response goals presented to this body by the people of Columbia. Namely to:
 1. Coordinate the response to poverty
 2. Bring humanity to the response to poverty
 3. Leverage the power of the community in responding to poverty
 4. Institutionalize accountability for providers
 5. Meet the unique needs of the individual in need
 6. Address downtown impacts.

- That the City of Columbia receive proposals to address the long-term response to homeless poverty through January 2, 2014 and to encourage all who want to participate in the RFP process to engage in:
 - Orientation Session – Broad brush explanation of the challenge and goals
 - Planning Session(s) – Participatory dialogue a couple of weeks following initial orientation.

- To adopt several of the immediately actionable items of the Homeless Advisory Committee including:
 - Developing a “Homeless Central” website within the City of Columbia webpages providing comprehensive and current information about service providers, their offerings and contact information.
 - Increasing “No Panhandling” and “No Loitering” signage and posters on Calhoun, Main and Sumter Streets and increase the number of trash cans on Calhoun, Main and Sumter Streets.
 - Utilizing the City Center Partnership “Yellow Shirts” and all other options available in order to further educate the homeless community and the public at large with regard to the City of Columbia’s Loitering and Panhandling ordinances and guidelines.
 - Offering three meals a day at the Emergency Homeless Shelter and to invite homeless meal providers to a “Feeding Summit” or “Meal Services Summit” in order to discuss consolidation of meal services and explore options for providers to assist with the Emergency Homeless Shelter’s meal service rather than providing their own.
 - Enforcing all ordinances and requirements related to public gathering and food distribution.

- Moving towards providing permanent self-operating and self-cleaning restrooms on a 24-hour basis.
- And to explore all available options to address the specific needs of veterans and families and children in our community.

Ms. Pamela Greenlaw requested a list of committees.

Councilor Devine said that hasn't been decided.

Mayor Benjamin said as we move forward it will be necessary to have a committee made up many of you. He said there is no committee.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to direct staff to work with Judge Turner to bring back recommendations on the implementation of a Homeless Court; and pull the Affordable Housing Taskforce Report and provide an update on the implementation of those recommendations to City Council on September 17, 2013.

8. Resolution No.: R-2013-088 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Services Agreement between the City of Columbia and Christ Central Ministries – *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

**Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager presented a 15-year service pin to Ms. Libby Gober.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to rescind the August 13, 2013 motion regarding the emergency homeless response plan. *Mayor Benjamin was not present for the vote.*

OTHER MATTERS

9. [Speed Hump Request](#) - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to approve the installation of two (2) Speed Humps on East Buchanan Drive in the Heathwood Neighborhood. *Mr. Davis and Mayor Benjamin were not present for the vote.*

CONSENT AGENDA

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS, AGREEMENTS and CHANGE ORDERS

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Ms. Plaugh, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 10** through **23**. *Mr. Davis was not present for the vote.*

10. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of One \(1\) Ford F450 Dump Truck](#), as requested by the Wastewater Maintenance Division. Award to Dick Smith Ford, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$51,881.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Utilities Wastewater Maintenance-Autos, Truck, Heavy Equip. Capital; 5516205-658500 - Approved*
11. Council is asked to approve an [Agreement for Engineering Services for Miscellaneous On-call Sanitary Services](#), as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to M.R. Systems, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$53,000.00. This vendor is located in Norcross, GA. *Funding Source: Wastewater Division Operating Budget; 5516221-SS7238-14-636600 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount for this project is \$75,000.00 - Approved*
12. Council is asked to approve [Capital Improvement Project WM4302](#); Paving Repairs for Colleton Street and Holmes Avenue, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to CBG, Inc., the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder in the amount of \$67,480.00. This vendor is located in Gaston, SC. *Funding Source: Special Contracts; 5516210-638300 – **Note:** The original budgeted amount for this project is \$104,600.00 - Approved*
13. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Body Armor Vests and Accompanying Equipment](#), as requested by the Police Department. Award to Lawmen’s Safety Supply, Inc., using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$80,555.04. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Police Administrative Services/Uniforms and Clothing; 1012402-624100 - Approved*
14. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of One \(1\) Backhoe Loader](#), as requested by the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to Blanchard Machinery Company, using the National Joint Powers Alliance Contract in the amount of \$82,864.00. This vendor is located in West Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Utilities Waste Water Maintenance/Auto, Truck, Heavy Equipment-Capital; 5516205-658500 - Approved*

15. Council is asked to approve [Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Annual Maintenance Agreement Software for the Records Management System and Field Based Reporting](#), as requested by the Police Department. Award to Trittech Software System in the amount of \$146,812.91. This vendor is located in Castle Hayne, NC. *Funding Source: Police Administrative Services/Maintenance and Service Contract; 1012402-638200 - Approved*
16. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of Two \(2\) Backhoe Loaders](#), as requested by the Water Distribution Division. Award to Blanchard Machinery Company, using the National Joint Powers Alliance Contract in the amount of \$165,728.00. This vendor is located in West Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Utilities Water Distribution & Maintenance/Auto, Truck, Heavy Equipment-Capital; 5516203-658500 – Approved*
17. Council is asked to approve a [Contract Renewal for Morning Pride Matrix Bunker Gear](#), as requested by the Fire Department. Award to Newton’s Fire and Safety Equipment in the amount of \$94,392.00. This vendor is located in Swepsonville, NC. *Funding Source: Fire Administration-County-Safety Clothing & Supplies; 2082301-625900 - Approved*
18. Council is asked to approve [Capital Improvement Project SS7197; Replacement Parts for the Train II Diffused Air Thickener](#), as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to Siemens Industry, as a Sole Source in the amount of \$283,014.00. This vendor is located in Waukesha, WI. *Funding Source: Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Fund; 5516212-638300 – **Note:** The replacement parts assist with a wide range of solid removals to include wastewater sludge thickening - Approved*
19. Council is asked to approve the [Purchase of One \(1\) Vacuum Jet Rodding Machine Truck and Accessories](#), as requested by the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to Public Works Equipment and Supply, Inc., using the National Joint Powers Alliance Contract in the amount of \$350,832.00. This vendor is located in Monroe, NC. *Funding Source: Utilities Metro Waste Water Plant/Auto, Truck, Heavy Equipment-Capital; 5516208-658500 - Approved*
20. Council is asked to approve the [Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Annual Chemical Bid for the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant](#), as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to Polydyne, Inc. in the amount of \$634,965.75. This vendor is located in Riceboro, GA. *Funding Source: Utilities Metro Wastewater Plant/Chemicals; 5516208-624800; \$403,920.00 and Wastewater Treatment Plant, Operations, Testing and Maintenance; 5516208-638500; \$231,045.75 - Approved*

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

21. [Ordinance No.: 2013-068](#) – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 10, Law Enforcement, Article II, Police Department, Sec. 10-34 Resisting arrest; interfering with police officer to repeal (b) – *First reading approval was given on August 13, 2013 – Approved on second reading.*
22. [Ordinance No.: 2013-069](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Consent Decree in the matter of The United States of America and State of South Carolina by and through the Department of Health and Environmental Control v. The City of Columbia to resolve alleged violations of the Federal Clean Water Act ("CWA"), 33 U.S. C. § 1251 et seq., the South Carolina Pollution Control Act ("PCA"), S.C. Code Ann. §§ 48-1-10 et seq., and the terms and conditions of the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit authorizing discharge of treated wastewater from its Waste Water Treatment Plant located at 1200 Simon Tree Lane ("NPDES Permit") – *First reading approval was given on August 13, 2013- Approved on second reading.*
23. [Ordinance No.: 2013-079](#) – Granting encroachment to the Columbia Urban League for installation and maintenance of landscaping and an irrigation system within the right of way areas of the 1400 block of Barnwell Street and 1800 block of Washington adjacent to its building at 1400 Barnwell Street, Richland County TMS #11406-01-12 – *First reading approval was given on August 13, 2013- Approved on second reading.*
24. [Ordinance No.: 2013-096 \(Revised\)](#) – Authorizing the Issuance and Sale by the City of Columbia, South Carolina, of its not exceeding \$7,400,000 General Obligation Bonds, In One or More Series, or One or More Bond Anticipation Notes issued in anticipation thereof, for the purpose of Funding certain Capital Projects; Fixing the form and details of the Bonds or Notes; Authorizing the Mayor, the City Manager and the Chief Financial Officer, or any two of them acting together, to determine certain matters relating to the Bonds or Notes; providing for the payment of the Bonds or Notes and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto – *First reading approval was given on August 13, 2013. - Approved on second reading.*

Mr. Bill Manley said that \$9,085,000 was the original bond issued in 2007 with a present outstanding balance of \$8,250,000. He provided an outstanding balance for all bonds issued since 2007. He asked Council if the \$90 million in 2013/2014 included funds for the Bull Street development.

Councilor Plough said yes, it can fund any of our water and sewer projects.

Mr. Bill Manley requested a list of water and sewer projects by fiscal year. He said this led him into asking other questions about the finances of this city. He recalled that City Council established an Audit Committee, but it hasn't been operating. He asked what the surplus or deficit was for fiscal year 2012/2013.

Councilor Devine said the auditor was here today, but Council didn't get to it. She said the audit is part of the Budget Committee.

Mr. Bill Manley asked that the 2012/2013 audit be posted to the website along with profit and loss statements.

Mr. Jeff Palen, Chief Financial Officer said that entries for the June 30, 2013 year ended last Friday and the audit is expected to be completed before the end of December. He explained that the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee met until the end of June; they meet almost weekly from February to June; and they will meet again in the next several months. He said that financial reports have been presented to the full Council.

Councilor Plough said it is important to have something more concise on the website on a monthly basis.

Mr. Bill Manley asked that City Council present the city's financial status on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Michael Seezen, Esq., said that the outstanding amount is the principal balance of the bond that we owe. He explained that the 2007 bond has a long maturity, but the other bonds are for rolling stock and will be repaid over 10 to 15 years.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager said they've talked about doing things in the spirit of transparency and putting information in a format this is easier to understand.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2013-096 – Authorizing the Issuance and Sale by the City of Columbia, South Carolina, of its not exceeding \$7,400,000 General Obligation Bonds, In One or More Series, or One or More Bond Anticipation Notes issued in anticipation thereof, for the purpose of Funding certain Capital Projects; Fixing the form and details of the Bonds or Notes; Authorizing the Mayor, the City Manager and the Chief Financial Officer, or any two of them acting together, to determine certain matters relating to the Bonds or Notes; providing for the payment of the Bonds or Notes and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto. Mayor Benjamin was not present for the vote.

25. [Ordinance No.: 2013-097 \(Revised\)](#) – A Tenth Supplemental Ordinance providing for the Issuance and Sale of City of Columbia, South Carolina, Waterworks and Sewer System Revenue Bonds, In One or More series, In the Aggregate Principal amount of not exceeding \$90,000,000, consisting of not exceeding \$80,000,000 principal amount of such bonds issued to finance certain improvements to the system and not exceeding \$10,000,000 principal amount of bonds issued to finance any necessary debt service reserves and issuance costs; Authorizing the Mayor, the City Manager and the Chief Financial Officer, or any two of them acting together, to determine certain matters with respect to the bonds; prescribing the form and details of such bonds; and other matters relating thereto – *First reading approval was given on August 13, 2013 - Approved on second reading. Mayor Benjamin abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.*

Councilor Plaugh asked staff to clarify why the Mayor has a conflict of interest.

Mr. Kenneth E. Gaines, Esq., City Attorney explained that the Mayor has a financial interest in this, because he works for Parker Poe and they are the underwriters counsel.

Councilor Plaugh noted that Parker Poe was selected as underwriters counsel before Mayor Benjamin was elected.

Councilor Devine concurred.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2013-097 – A Tenth Supplemental Ordinance providing for the Issuance and Sale of City of Columbia, South Carolina, Waterworks and Sewer System Revenue Bonds, In One or More series, In the Aggregate Principal amount of not exceeding \$90,000,000, consisting of not exceeding \$80,000,000 principal amount of such bonds issued to finance certain improvements to the system and not exceeding \$10,000,000 principal amount of bonds issued to finance any necessary debt service reserves and issuance costs; Authorizing the Mayor, the City Manager and the Chief Financial Officer, or any two of them acting together, to determine certain matters with respect to the bonds; prescribing the form and details of such bonds; and other matters relating thereto.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

26. [Ordinance No.: 2013-102](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Corrective Limited Warranty Deed for the transfer of Parcel B-2, Columbia Industrial Park, 1.29 acre portion of Richland County TMS #13511-02-02 from the City of Columbia to Blue Rock Investments, LLC – **Note:** *This is a correction to the plat reference in the deed. – Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2013-102 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Corrective Limited Warranty Deed for the transfer of Parcel B-2, Columbia Industrial Park, 1.29 acre portion of Richland County TMS #13511-02-02 from the City of Columbia to Blue Rock Investments, LLC.

RESOLUTIONS

27. [Resolution No.: R-2013-037](#) – Amending Resolution R-2013-018 to approve use of the rear bay area of the first floor of the City Center Parking Garage as a permanent alternate site for Soda City and authorize City staff to require vendors to remove items City staff deems not to be in compliance with Resolution R-2013-018 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2013-037 – Amending Resolution R-2013-018 to approve use of the rear bay area of the first floor of the City Center Parking Garage as a permanent alternate site for Soda City and authorize City staff to require vendors to remove items City staff deems not to be in compliance with Resolution R-2013-018.

28. [Resolution No.: R-2013-071](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Columbia, Richland County, City of Forest Acres, Lexington County and the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2013-071 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Columbia, Richland County, City of Forest Acres, Lexington County and the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority.

**[Mr. Sam Johnson](#) introduced Chelsea Evans as a Mayor’s Fellow. Miss Evans is a senior at the University of South Carolina and she is studying Public Health.

29. [Resolution No.: R-2013-079](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Transit Facilities Lease Agreement between the City of Columbia and the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2013-079 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Transit Facilities Lease Agreement between the City of Columbia and the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority.

30. [Resolution No.: R-2013-080](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Refund Agreement between the City of Columbia and the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority– *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Ms. Plaugh, Council voted unanimously to approve **Item 31.** Resolution No.: R-2013-083 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only within Boyd Plaza adjacent to the Columbia Museum of Art for the Contemporaries Oktoberfest; **Item 32.** Resolution No.: R-2013-084 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only within Boyd Plaza adjacent to the Columbia Museum of Art for the Public Programming Food Series; **Item 33.** Resolution No.: R-2013-087 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only within Boyd Plaza adjacent to the Columbia Museum of Art for Arts and Draughts; and **Item 34.** Resolution No.: R-2013-082 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only and Chili Cook Off in Five Points.

31. [Resolution No.: R-2013-083](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine **only** within Boyd Plaza adjacent to the Columbia Museum of Art for the Contemporaries Oktoberfest – *Event date is September 26, 2013 – Approved*
32. [Resolution No.: R-2013-084](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine **only** within Boyd Plaza adjacent to the Columbia Museum of Art for the Public Programming Food Series – *Event date is September 29, 2013 – Approved*
33. [Resolution No.: R-2013-087](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine **only** within Boyd Plaza adjacent to the Columbia Museum of Art for Arts and Draughts – *Event date is November 1, 2013 – Approved*
34. [Resolution No.: R-2013-082](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages **only** and Chili Cook Off in Five Points – *Event date is November 9, 2013 – Approved*
35. [Resolution No.: R-2013-085](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Agreement with Richland County School District One to provide School Resource Officers from the Columbia Police Department to various schools for school year 2013-2014 – *Approved*

Councilor Plaugh asked why the Sheriff provides School Resource Officers at Brennan.

Mr. Ruben Santiago, Interim Police Chief explained that Richland School District One approached the city, but there were budgetary issues and the school district asked the Sheriff to service those schools to ensure that an officer is at every school in the city and the county. She said that the Sheriff's Office will be reimbursed for the first year and then they will need to negotiate the second and third years.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2013-085 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Agreement with Richland County School District One to provide School Resource Officers for the Columbia Police Department to various schools for school year 2013-2014.

36. [Resolution No.: R-2013-086](#) – Amending Resolution R-2005-012 Provisions for Council Agenda Items – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2013-086 – Amending Resolution R-2005-012 Provisions for Council Agenda Items as amended to clarify that this is for regular scheduled meetings and that the information be made available to the public within that time period unless there is an exemption under the Public Records Act.

APPOINTMENTS

37. [Greater Columbia Community Relations Council](#) - *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

38. [Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee](#)

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of the following individuals and to stagger the terms as follows: Appointees from Districts 1 and 3 will serve 2-year terms; appointees from Districts 2 and 4 will serve 3-year terms; Ms. Devine and Mayor Benjamin's appointees will serve 3-year terms; and Mr. Runyan's appointees will serve 2-year terms. Mr. Davis' appointments will be made on September 17, 2013.

Mayor Benjamin's Appointees:

Ms. Natalie Britt to a second and final term of three (3) years ending August 2016

Mr. Michael Juras to a term of three (3) years ending September 2016

Mr. Brian Curran to a second and final term of three (3) years ending September 2016

Mr. Newman's Appointees:

Mr. James Morris to a term of three (3) years ending September 2016

Ms. Theresa Clement to a second and final term of three (3) years ending August 2016

Mr. Baddourah's Appointees:

Ms. Valerie Marcil to a second and final term of two (2) years ending August 2015

Ms. Mary Roe to a second and final term of two (2) years ending August 2015

Ms. Plough's Appointees:

Mr. Will Haltiwanger to a second final term of three (3) years ending August 2016

Mr. Brian Binette to a term of three (3) years ending September 2016

Mr. Runyan's Appointees:

Mr. John Beach to serve a term of two (2) years ending September 2015

Mr. Keith Gosselin to serve a term of two (2) years ending September 2015

Ms. Devine's Appointees:

Ms. Tammy Rutherford to a term of three (3) years ending September 2016

Mr. Gene Bell to a term of three (3) years ending September 2016

39. [Building Board of Adjustment and Appeals](#)

Upon a motion made by Ms. Plaugh and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Lasenta Lewis-Ellis as an alternate to the Building Board of Adjustment and Appeals for a three (3) year term.

40. [River Alliance](#)

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Betty Ellen Mandell to the River Alliance Board of Directors for a two year term ending September 30, 2015.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS/REFERRALS

41. Council is asked to refer an update on the Five Points Mulch Project and the Best Management Practices to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Ms. Plaugh, Council voted unanimously to refer an update on the Five Points Mulch Project and the Best Management Practices to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee.

42. Arts & Historic Preservation Committee July 16, 2013 [Report](#)

Councilor Runyan reported that the Arts & Historic Preservation Committee met on July 16, 2013 to discuss a proposal from Block by Block also known as the "Yellow Shirts" to provide services in the Vista. The committee also discussed the Demolition Delay Ordinance and staff has questions to bring back at the next meeting.

43. Public Safety Committee July [16](#) and August [27](#), 2013 Reports

Councilor Baddourah reported that the Public Safety Committee met on July 16, 2013 to talk about operations of the Columbia-Richland 911 Communications Center. He reported that they serve over 1 million callers per year and they provide a service for residents with health issues and disabilities to register with the 911 center so that a record is on file when calls are made for that address.

Mayor Benjamin asked for recommendations on ways to use the water bill inserts effectively to advertise programs offered by our various departments year round.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to ask the City Manager to promote the Columbia-Richland 911 Special Care Flagged Location service to residents.

Councilor Baddourah reported that they also met on August 27, 2013 to receive a report from the Hospitality Taskforce and there were five (5) recommendations he would like to adopt.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to adopt the following recommendations from the Hospitality Zone Task Force:

- I. More and better signage, especially around the perimeter of Five Points, putting anyone on notice that the area has video surveillance, monitored closely by law enforcement.
- II. Formalize a multi-disciplinary Hospitality Zone Public Safety Team, headed by the CPD's Chief of Police, and including the Richland County Sheriff's Department (especially its gang task force), SLED, plus the USC, Allen and Benedict Public Safety Departments. The primary responsibility of these officers would be to have a visible presence in all areas outside of the business establishments, focusing primarily on suspected gang members and others who are unlawfully carrying concealed weapons, loitering and/or creating a nuisance. Other members of the Hospitality Public Safety Team would be zoning inspectors (to ensure compliance with parking and encroachment requirements), fire marshals and business license personnel with community representatives, most of whom would be focusing primarily on non-law enforcement related concerns inside (preferably not during the busiest business hours) -and in immediate proximity to-business establishments.
- III. Increase the number of officers patrolling in the neighborhoods adjacent to Five Points, especially in the late hours on weekends.
- IV. Ensure that law enforcement has a culture that stresses the importance of getting gangs and guns off the streets as its top priority and enforcing open container violations, for example, as being secondary to that priority.
- V. Have regular meetings between Law enforcement, representatives of the Five Points Association, and the leadership of adjacent neighborhood associations and representative(s) of this committee and the HZTF to evaluate the status of public safety in that area and ensure ongoing open lines of communication.

44. Economic and Community Development Committee July 30, 2013 [Report](#)

Councilor Davis reported that the Economic and Community Development Committee received a report from IT-ology on what they are doing and their relationship with the City. He said that the report reminded them that IT touches every industry. The committee suggested that the City and IT-ology look at ways to strengthen that relationship and to take advantage of training they offer at no cost. The committee also reviewed the revisions to the Commercial Revolving Loan Fund and will complete that review at the next meeting.

45. Environment and Infrastructure Committee July 30, 2013 [Report](#)

Councilor Devine reported that the committee received an update on the Pavement Management Study that Council received today. She reported that after the breach at the Department of Revenue, we canceled the Request for Proposals for the sewer line warranty program. The committee thinks it is important to offer the warranty program to our citizens and staff will be issuing a new RFP and bringing it forward for review. She said there was an update on sewer line services for WG Sanders Middle School and staff was asked to submit sewer/water bill estimates to the School District to determine if they want to be serviced by the City or remain with East Richland. She said the committee received an update on the Parking Study RFP today; two (2) submissions were received; and staff is moving forward with the committee to look at those responses to select a consultant for the parking master plan. She added that staff will be putting out an RFP for the credit card meters, soon. The committee received an update on Christmas lighting; staff will be moving forward with additional lighting for Gervais Street; and we will add a hospitality district annually so that we can have lighting throughout the city. She said they will look at Harbison next year and Five Points is providing matching funds for additional lighting.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

No one appeared at this time.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk