

# City of West Columbia, SC

Regular Council Meeting

January 6, 2015 at 6 p.m.

## Members Present:

Joe Owens, Mayor  
Casey Jordan Hallman, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Eric L. Fowler  
L. Dale Harley  
Boyd J. Jones  
Temus C. Miles, Jr.  
Tommy Parler  
Teddy Wingard  
B.J. Unthank

## Members Absent:

None

## Others Present:

Jenny Cunningham, City Administrator	Wyatt Coleman, Fire Chief
Myron Corley, Deputy City Administrator	Ken Ebener, Municipal Judge
Brian Carter, Assistant City Administrator	Justin Black, City Treasurer
Dennis Tyndall, Police Chief	Stuart Jones, Building Official
Jamie Hook, Sanitation/Streets/Parks Superintendent	Shane Phillips, Police Department
Mardi Valentino, Human Resources Director	Scott Morrison, Police Department/PIO
Anna Huffman, IT Systems Administrator	Marquis Solomon, Fire Battalion Chief
Kelli Brazell, City Clerk	Members of the Public and Press
<u>Sid Varn, Director of Planning &amp; Engineering</u>	

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## Agenda Item I – Call to Order

Chairperson Unthank called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and noted a quorum was present. *The State, Free Times, Lexington County Chronicle, Cayce-West Columbia News, The Columbia Star* and radio and television stations were notified of the meeting by e-mail on January 2, 2015.

## Agenda Item II – Determination of Quorum

Chairperson Unthank noted a quorum was present to conduct business.

## Agenda Item III – Invocation

Council Member Miles gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Agenda Item IV – Pledge of Allegiance

All attendees at the meeting recited the Pledge of Allegiance before the flag of the United States of America.

## Agenda Item V – Announcements/Communications by Mayor

Chairperson Unthank recognized Mayor Owens. Mayor Owens wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated he hoped 2015 would bring Council a very constructive year.

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Agenda Item VI – Presentations and Recognitions

- A. Chairperson Unthank recognized Mayor Joe Owens who presented Mr. Gus Manos with a Resolution for his outstanding contributions to South Carolina's hospitality industry. Mr. Manos stated it was an honor and privilege to accept the award and it has been a privilege working with the city over the years. Mr. Manos and his wife established Zesto restaurant in 1949. This year marks the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the restaurant.

Agenda Item VII – Citizens' Requests for Appearance

- A. Chairperson Unthank recognized Ms. Karen Maranelli, Executive Director, Ronald McDonald House located at 2955 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC. Ms. Maranelli is requesting an extension of the noise ordinance until 10 p.m. Thursday, April 23, 2015. She will be hosting an event at Stone River event facility titled Wine, Women and Shoes. The event is a fashion show and will have a microphone in the gazebo and music piped in. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to vote to extend the noise ordinance until 10 p.m. Mayor Owens so moved and Council Member Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Chairperson Unthank acknowledged Mr. Ed Young of 1309 Saluda River Drive was not present for the council meeting.
- C. Chairperson Unthank recognized Mr. Kenny Sito of C. Ray Miles Construction Company. Mr. Sito wanted to apprise Council of the public safety issues concerning wall construction beside Terra Restaurant on Meeting Street. C. Ray Miles Construction Company has been contracted by South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) to perform the work from 6 p.m. on Friday to 7 a.m. on Monday, starting within two weeks. A lane closure will be in place the entire time. Mr. Sito's concerns are public safety and the possibility of severing an unknown utility. Mr. Sito has recommended to SCDOT, to no avail, that the work be performed during daylight hours. The concern of interrupting business in the area during their peak times, alcohol being served from bars on State Street, as well as, lane closures, cause additional threats to public safety. Mayor Owens offered to speak with the highway commissioner and give Mr. Sito an update. Council Member Miles made a motion for the Mayor to contact the highway commissioner on behalf of the city and request that SCDOT alter the contracted days to Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Mayor Owens seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item VIII – Approval of Minutes for Previous Meetings

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to approve minutes for the regular council meeting held December 2, 2014 and the special council meeting held December 15, 2014. Mayor Owens so moved and Council Member Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item IX – Adjourn to Executive Session to Discuss a Legal and Contractual Matter – Margaret Pope, Lawrence Flynn

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to adjourn to executive session. Council Member Parler so moved and Mayor Owens seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned to executive session at 6:29 p.m.

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### Agenda Item X – Reconvene to Regular Session

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to adjourn executive session and reconvene to regular session. Council Member Miles so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council reconvened to regular session at 7:27 p.m. Chairperson Unthank stated that no action was taken in executive session.

### Agenda Item XI – New Business

- A. Chairperson Unthank entertained a consideration to extend the Contract of Sale of city property on Sunset Boulevard. Council Member Parler so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Chairperson Unthank entertained a consideration of a listing renewal agreement with NAI Avant. Mayor Owens so moved and Council Member Miles seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Chairperson Unthank entertained a consideration of a proposal for a West Columbia Community Center. Chairperson Unthank recognized Council Member Miles. Council Member Miles stated that the concept of a Community Center is a great idea but the \$131,450 for the feasibility study is not in the budget. Council Member Parler requested tabling the motion. Chairperson Unthank asked for a vote to table the motion. Council Member Parler so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman seconded. The vote to table the motion passed seven votes to two votes. Mayor Owens, Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman, Chairperson Unthank and Council Members Fowler, Parler, Wingard and Miles voted in favor of tabling the motion. Council Members Jones and Harley voted in opposition.
- D. Chairperson Unthank acknowledged Council voted in favor of extending the noise ordinance for Ronald McDonald House earlier in the meeting. He moved on to the next item of new business.
- E. Chairperson Unthank entertained a consideration to repair a wall on the city right-of-way at 311 Hudson Street. Council Member Miles so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman seconded. Mayor Owens asked Mr. Stuart Jones, Building Official, to come forward. Mr. Jones informed Council he was asked to gather 3 bids for the project. The lowest bid was \$6,300 and it included using concrete block reinforced with steel to rebuild the wall. Mr. Jones indicated the homeowner's son stated that his mother would not want the wall fixed with block, only with brick, which would make the fix considerably more expensive. Council Member Fowler stated that the city could fix the wall for considerably less in house. Council Member Miles stated the wall is the city's property. The wall is a retaining wall and cannot be knocked down due to erosion. The city is responsible for keeping its property up to code. Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman stated the property owner should not determine how the city fixes its property. Chairperson Unthank agreed how the wall is fixed is for the city to decide and called for a vote. Mayor Owens voiced his concern about the vote not including the specific cost and materials to be used to fix the wall. Council Member Miles stated the question was only to determine if the city should repair the wall, the other issues would be determined at a later time. The motion passed eight votes to one vote. Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman, Chairperson Unthank and Council Members Harley, Fowler, Parler, Wingard, and Miles voted in favor of repairing the wall. Mayor Owens voted in opposition.

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Agenda Item XI – New Business continued

F. Chairperson Unthank recognized Justin Black, Treasurer, who presented budget amendments for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Mr. Black explained that the city has been able to appropriate additional revenues in the general fund, which allowed us to reduce the transfer amount from the water and sewer fund by \$400,000. The transfer amount is now down to \$2,801,100 for fiscal year 2014. The city also had instances where grant revenues and expenditures were budgeted, but not performed during fiscal year 2014. The Three Rivers Greenway Project was budgeted in the Administration departmental budget. During the fiscal year 2014 the city did not expend or receive funds in regards to this project; therefore the funds were able to be transferred to other areas. The city has succeeded in reducing the transfer amount for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 and brought each department under budget in their expenditures. Mr. Black asked Council to approve the budget amendments for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Mayor Owens so moved and Council Member Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item XI – Adjournment

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to adjourn. Council Member Jones so moved and Council Member Miles seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Brazell  
City Clerk