

# City of West Columbia, SC

Regular Council Meeting  
August 4, 2015 at 6 p.m.

## Members Present:

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

## Members Absent:

Boyd Jones (previous engagement)

## Others Present:

Jenny Cunningham, City Administrator  
Brian Carter, Deputy City Administrator  
Wyatt Coleman, Fire Chief  
Kelli Ricard, City Clerk  
Wayne Shuler, Director of Planning and Zoning  
Jamie Hook, Sanitation/Street/Parks Superintendent  
Donna Smith, Director of Economic Development  
Anna Huffman, IT Systems Administrator  
Mark Waller, Director of Planning and Engineering  
Sid Varn, Consultant to Director of Planning and Engineering

Dennis Tyndall, Police Chief  
Scott Morrison, PIO/West Columbia PD  
Rick Hodge, Financial Consultant  
Kenneth Ebener, Municipal Judge  
Stuart Jones, Building Official  
Justin Black, City Treasurer  
Mardi Valentino, Director of Human Resources

## Members of the Public and Press

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### Agenda Item I – Call to Order

Chairperson Unthank called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted a quorum was present. *The State, Free Times, Lexington County Chronicle, Cayce-West Columbia News, The Columbia Star, COLADaily.com* and radio and television stations were notified of the meeting by e-mail on July 31, 2015.

### Agenda Item II – Determination of Quorum

Chairperson Unthank noted a quorum was present to conduct business.

### Agenda Item III – Invocation

Mayor Owens gave the invocation.

### 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 the Mayor

Chairperson Unthank recognized Mayor Owens who stated the city won the financial award for excellence again for the 24<sup>th</sup> year in a row. He congratulated the financial staff for doing such a great job.

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### Agenda Item V – Announcements/Communications by the Mayor - continued

Mayor Owens informed everyone present about the Before I Die...wall unveiling on August 6, 2015 at 10 a.m. The wall is a global public art project that invites people to reflect on their lives and share their personal aspirations in public space. West Columbia's wall is the first in Lexington County and the fifth in South Carolina, and is the longest wall to date. August 6 will also be the kick-off date for the Beautification Foundation's call for receiving ideas from local artists for an interactive art project in the parking lot on the corner of State and Meeting Streets. The project is funded by a grant from the Central Carolina Community Foundation.

### Agenda Item VI – Requests for Appearances/Citizen Comment Period

- A. Chairperson Unthank recognized Mr. Greg Dahl of 1517 Whippoorwill Drive regarding fireworks zones inside the city limits. His request is for fireworks to only be allowed if hosted by the city in designated areas, and removed from neighborhoods. Mr. Dahl informed Council of the fireworks ordinances Cayce and Batesburg-Leesville have adopted. Cayce's ordinance states there are specific times, two days a year in which fireworks may be discharged. Chairperson Unthank informed Mr. Dahl that Council Member Parler and staff are working to create a firework ordinance, that should be available to review at the September 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- B. Chairperson Unthank recognized Ms. Kim Christ of East Point Academy regarding the selling of alcoholic beverages, and the releasing of sky lanterns, during a mid-autumn festival on September 26, 2015 at the Riverwalk amphitheater. Ms. Christ stated the East Point Academy is a Chinese immersion public charter school. The 2015/2016 school year is their fifth year in operation. They have over 550 students in grades 4k – 6<sup>th</sup> grades and have an extensive wait list. East Point has maintained a positive financial standing and more importantly, federal and state "A" for excellent ratings academically. East Point embraces diversity and encourages acceptance of and the desire to explore other cultures. East Point and their partner Confucius Institute at the University of South Carolina are hosting the mid-autumn festival at the Riverwalk. The school is a 501(c)3 organization and fundraising is vital. The festival will include vendors selling hand made goods, games and activities for children, educational exhibits to learn more about Chinese culture and customs, traditional dragon dances, live music and a lantern release. The sky lanterns are environmentally friendly and safe. Chairperson Unthank stated the sky lanterns needed to be researched by Fire Chief Wyatt Coleman due to possible fire code violations. Chairperson Unthank called for a vote on the selling and consumption of alcohol and informed Ms. Christ that staff would follow up with her about the lanterns. Mayor Owens so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman seconded. Mayor Owens, Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman, Council Members Unthank, Parler, Wingard and Miles voted in favor of allowing alcohol sales and consumption. Council Member Fowler voted in opposition. The motion passed seven votes to one vote.
- C. Chairperson Unthank recognized Mr. Sid Varn, Consultant to Director of Planning and Engineering, to introduce Mr. Mark Waller the new Director of Planning and Engineering. Mr. Waller informed Council he is thrilled to be a part of the city he has lived in since 2004, and is looking forward to working together to make the city a better place.

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### Agenda Item VII – Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held July 7, 2015. Mayor Owens so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### Agenda Item VIII – New Business

- A. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion for a resolution to authorize the consumption of beer and wine at the West Columbia Beautification Foundation's Tribute for Trees Gala held at the City of West Columbia New Brookland Room on August 27, 2015. Council Member Miles so moved and Council Member Wingard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion for first reading consideration of the Planning Commission's recommendation to establish the zoning classification of 12.70 acres at the end of Harvest Glen Lane (TMS# 004599-09-007) as r-2 (medium density) Council Member Miles so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion for first reading consideration of the Planning Commission's recommendation to establish the zoning classification .70 acres in the 2500 block of Sunset Blvd at Chris Drive (TMS# 004597-02-002) as c-2 (general commercial). Council Member Miles so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion for consideration to approve a bid for the replacement of the MIOX storage tank at the Lake Murray Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Sid Varn informed Council the storage tank was in need of immediate replacement and recommended the George Seelke Company's low bid of \$27,764. The company will fabricate the tank and deliver it to the water plant within a couple of months. The city will do all of the piping. Mayor Owens so moved and Council Member Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### Agenda Item IX – Adjourn to Executive Session to Discuss 90 a Day Agreement Concerning Animal Services Provided by Pawmetto Lifeline, 1275 Bower Parkway, Columbia, SC

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss a 90 Day Agreement Concerning Animal Services Provided by Pawmetto Lifeline, 1275 Bower Parkway, Columbia, SC. Council Member Miles so moved and Council Member Wingard seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned to executive session at 6:45 p.m.

### Agenda Item X – Reconvene to Regular Session

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to adjourn executive session and reconvene to regular session. Mayor Owens so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council reconvened to regular session at 7:13 p.m. Chairperson Unthank stated no action was taken in executive session.

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Agenda Item IX – New Business – continued

- E. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to consider possible action on the 90 day agreement concerning animal services through Pawmetto Lifeline as discussed in executive session. Chairperson Unthank recognized Mayor Owens who stated Pawmetto Lifeline has agreed to take the animals the city of West Columbia pick up, for a 90 day trial period, and continue the no kill status of West Columbia. Council Member Miles requested to amend the motion to authorize the city administrator to layout and agree to the terms as discussed during executive session. Chairperson Unthank asked for a vote on the amendment. Council Member Miles so moved and Council Member Harley seconded. The motion to approve the amendment passed unanimously. Chairperson Unthank called for a vote on the motion as amended. Council Member Miles so moved and Council Member Harley seconded. The motion to approve amended motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item XI – Adjournment

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to adjourn. Council Member Harley so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Ricard  
City Clerk