

**CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 7, 2006
6:00 PM – CITY HALL– 3RD FLOOR
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**



The City of Columbia City Council conducted a Special Called Meeting on Wednesday, June 7, 2006 in the Council Chambers located at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. Mayor Robert D. Coble called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The following members of City Council were present: The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II, The Honorable Anne M. Sinclair, The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine and The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann. Also present were Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

PUBLIC HEARING

- **Council opened the Public Hearing at 6:04 p.m.**

ORDINANCE - FIRST READING

- A. Ordinance No.: 2006-043 - To Override the Statutory Millage Rate Limitation and to Establish Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2007

Mr. Bob Amundson of the Rosewood Community appeared before the members of Council in support of the proposed millage rate increase. He said that the budget has been cut where possible. He stated that the cost of running the City of Columbia will continue to increase and it will increase the cost of basic services. He suggested that the City of Columbia consolidate services with Richland County. He noted that there are unincorporated areas on Rosewood Drive that cause a lot of confusion when trying to determine service providers. He said that there should be a strong effort to co-locate prior to another tax increase.

- **Council closed the Public Hearing at 6:08 p.m.**

Councilor Daniel Rickenmann stated that he does not support such a high tax increase in addition to the past two reassessments. He said that it is too high and that his taxes have already increased by 45%.

Councilor Tameika Isaac Devine stated that she would support the tax increase as long as the resources are placed in the areas of Police Protection, Fire Protection and Code Enforcement. She said that we have done a disservice by not incrementally increasing taxes.

Councilor Anne M. Sinclair stated that she would support the tax increase, since it is a basic services budget. She said that it is an effort to continue to provide high quality services to the citizens of Columbia.

Councilor E.W. Cromartie, II stated that as a taxpayer of multiple properties and businesses, he is concerned about the increase. He noted that he would reluctantly support the proposed increase as long as the Development Corporations are funded.

Councilor Sam Davis stated that his constituency wants to know what is in it for them. He stated that he will support this as long as services such as Code Enforcement become more proactive instead of reactive within District One.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted five (5) to one (1) to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2006-043 - To Override the Statutory Millage Rate Limitation and to Establish Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2007. Voting aye were Mr. Cromartie, Ms. Sinclair, Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine and Mayor Coble. Voting nay was Mr. Rickenmann.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Council adjourned the Special Called Meeting at 6:27 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley
City Clerk