

**CITY OF COLUMBIA WORK SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 21, 2006
9:00 AM – CITY HALL– 3RD FLOOR
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**



The Columbia City Council conducted a Work Session on Wednesday, June 21, 2006 in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. Mayor Robert D. Coble called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The following members of City Council were present: The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II, The Honorable Anne M. Sinclair and The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine. The Honorable Sam Davis and The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann were absent. Also present were Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

****Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr.,** City Manager led us in a moment of silent meditation in recognition of the passing of Mrs. Louise Olive. She was the widow of the former City Manager, Mr. Gray Olive.

****Councilor E.W. Cromartie** briefed the members of Council on the action taken by the Richland County Council relating to the transit system. He said that the Richland County Council unanimously consented to put a referendum on the ballot to fund the Regional Transit Authority. The following three (3) proposals were presented in response to the proposed 85% reduction in services: **1)** Draft an Ordinance Imposing a one cent sales tax with a portion going to transportation and related items; **2)** Impose a \$30 automobile transportation assessment on every automobile in Richland County; and **3)** Impose a dedicated county-wide millage rate. They will also consider hiring a Transportation Consultant to assist in developing the best process for moving forward. He suggested that the City of Columbia remain intricately involved, since 100% of the buses are in Columbia. He asked the City Manager to contact the County Administrator to follow up on the meeting and to determine how the City of Columbia would be involved in the process of coming up with a joint solution to the economic problems of the bus system.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mayor Coble, Council voted unanimously to authorize Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager to contact the Richland County Administrator as a follow up to the County's discussion on identifying a solution to address the economic problems related to the bus system.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Request from Allen University to Close Pine Street

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager recommended that City Council approve the request to include that there should not be any permanent barriers established; that the street be closed on an as needed basis; and that the City of Columbia be notified of the times that the street will be closed so that we can notify the public.

Councilor E.W. Cromartie, II explained that he met with the neighborhood in 1999 to discuss the closing of Pine Street and the neighborhood agreed to support the closing. He thought Council approved the request at that time. Mr. Cromartie supports the recommendation provided by staff. He noted that the request is similar in nature to the request made by Benedict College to close Oak Street, except that Pine Street is not a through street and that it comes to a dead end at Taylor Street.

Dr. Charles E. Young, President of Allen University said that they considered using a gate like the University of South Carolina and asked for clarification on the type of barriers that can be used. He requested closure during the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Councilor Anne M. Sinclair noted that this is not a permanent closure. She said that she has opposed neighborhoods closing streets, but she is supportive of the City Manager's recommendation.

Ms. Sylvie Dessau, 1221 Pine Street, said that she was surprised to see this item on the agenda today, because the neighborhood was not informed of the proposal. She noted that it is a through street used daily by visitors and residents. She urged the members of Council to seek input from the residents and neighboring institutions.

Ms. Catherine Fleming Bruce, 2214 Hampton Street, stated that in 2003 the neighborhood association had discussions about parking and increased traffic. She noted that Waverly Street is a 9-block area with twenty-five institutions located within that area. She admitted that there are unique challenges, but they want to make sure there is livability for all. She expressed concerns about continuous traffic violations and cut through traffic. She asked that a comprehensive parking and traffic study be completed for the entire area.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve a request from Allen University to close Pine Street on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. with the caveat that Allen University may not install any permanent barriers at the location; the street should be closed on an as needed basis only; and the City should be informed of all closings so that we may notify the general public. Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manger will meet with the Waverly Neighborhood Association to discuss this matter. The City will assist Allen University with the selection of temporary barriers. The Legal Department will draft an Ordinance authorizing the closure of Pine Street to include the stipulations as outlined.

A1. **Update on the Operational Hours of City Parks – Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services

Staff was directed to continue meeting with the neighborhoods to inform them of the proposed operational hours of City Parks. The proposed hours should be posted as well. This matter will be discussed again on July 12, 2006.

APPOINTMENTS

B. Charles R. Drew Wellness Center Scholarship / Advisory Committee

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Gilbert Walker, Ms. Rhonda O'Banion, Mr. Vince Ford, Ms. Gardenia Ruff, Mr. Bobby Brown, Mr. Thomas Barr, and Ms. Marjorie Stands as agency representatives and the appointment of Councilor E.W. Cromartie, II and the General Manager of the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center as Ex-Officio, Ms. Elise Martin and Ms. Mary Skinner Jones as At-Large Appointees and the appointment of Ms. Tina Wilder, Ms. Thelma Thomas and Ms. Jan Merling pending confirmation to the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center Scholarship and Advisory Committee.

C. Commission on Homelessness – The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Bob Hill, Mrs. Caroline Brailsford and Mr. Bud Tibshranjy to the Commission on Homelessness.

- **Council adjourned the Work Session at 9:51 a.m. to break prior to convening the Public Hearing.**
- **Council reconvened the Work Session at 12:00 p.m.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 12:00 p.m. for the discussion of **Items D.** through **F.** as amended.

- D. Discussion of the Employment of an Employee
This matter was withdrawn.
- E. *Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements
This matter was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.
- F. *Receipt of legal advice, which relates to matters covered by attorney-client privilege
- University of South Carolina Encroachment
This matter was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.
- **Council adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley
City Clerk