



CITY OF COLUMBIA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2008  
9:00 A.M.  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1737 MAIN STREET

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The Columbia City Council conducted a Meeting on Wednesday, January 9, 2008 in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. The following members of Council were present: The Honorable Anne M. Sinclair, The Honorable Sam Davis and The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann. The Honorable E.W. Cromartie arrived at 9:17 a.m. and The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine arrived at 9:18 a.m. The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III was absent. Also present were Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of October 3, 11 and 17, 2007 and November 7, 2007

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of October 3, 11 and 17, 2007 and November 7, 2007 on a single motion and as presented.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

2. Introduction of the December 2007 Employee of the Month – Mr. John Dooley, Director of Utilities and Engineering

Mr. Bud Summers, Water Plant Operations Superintendent introduced Mr. Alveno R. Hairston, Maintenance Technician for the Canal Water Plant as the City of Columbia December 2007 Employee of the Month. He described Mr. Hairston as a constant and solid performer that's seldom out of work. He always has a smile on his face and a positive attitude that's contagious.

Mayor Coble presented Mr. Hairston with a plaque and Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager presented him with tokens of appreciation for being selected as the December 2007 Employee of the Month.

3. Columbia Green Big Check Presentation – Ms. Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification Superintendent

Ms. Sara Hollar, Superintendent for Forestry and Beautification, announced payment of the city's fall annuals by Columbia Green, which is a non-profit volunteer organization that promotes horticulture and conservation in the Columbia metropolitan area. The funding provided today will cover 16 sponsored sites for a total of 150,000 square feet. Approximately 14,000 bulbs and flowers were planted last fall. She thanked Columbia Green for their continued support.

Ms. Susan Hamilton, President of the Columbia Green Board of Directors, said they are pleased with this partnership and would like to continue working with the City. She recognized the board members that were present. Ms. Hamilton presented a big check to the City of Columbia in the amount of \$5,266 for the 2007 fall annuals and bulbs planted by the Forestry and Beautification Horticulture staff.

4. South Carolina Swim Masters Meet at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center – Dr. Richard McCain and Mr. Barry Clark, South Carolina Masters Association

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services, told the members of Council that the City of Columbia has a lot to be proud of including the investment in the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center. There have been a number of noteworthy events at the Wellness Center including the South Carolina Swim Masters Meet.

Dr. Richard McCain of the South Carolina Swim Masters Association thanked the members of Council for the city's partnership with the Association at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center. His family became members of the Wellness Center in January 2006, primarily for the Aquatics Program. He said that this is one of the finest facilities in the region and the staff is always considerate, friendly, helpful and capable. The Columbia Swim Masters Team meets at 5:30 a.m. each weekday. He reported that 120 swimmers attended the 2007 meet at the Wellness Center. He thanked the city for the vision, stamina and perseverance in bringing this facility on line.

Mr. Barry Clark of the South Carolina Swim Masters Association stated that the Short Course Meters Championship was hosted at the Wellness Center with 108 swimmers participating in 23 events. A number of records were set during this event to include state records, one US Masters record and three Masters World Records. There was also a developmental age group meet with 57 youth participants for a total of 165 swimmers ranging in ages of 8 to 86 years old. He expressed his sincere appreciation to the members of Council.

Mr. Nathaniel Stevenson, Aquatics Coordinator at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, thanked the members of Council for the city's Aquatic Program and for reducing the drowning rate among youth. He thanked Council for funding the program at Greenview Park and Maxcy Gregg Park. He added that 1,600 students have participated in the swim program at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center through a partnership with Richland School District One.

5. Martin Luther King Day Celebration – Mr. Durham Carter, Martin Luther King Memorial Foundation Chair

Mr. Durham Carter, Chair of the Martin Luther King Memorial Foundation invited all members of Council, city staff and city residents to participate in the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration at Martin Luther King Park on Monday, January 21, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. The speaker for the occasion is the Superintendent of Education. To carry out the works of Dr. King, they will be hosting a food drive to assist the Harvest Hope Food Bank. Participants are asked to bring food for the hungry to the King Day Celebration.

6. Downtown Neighborhood Concerns – Ms. Ellen H. Cooper, Past President / Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District

Ms. Ellen Cooper, Past President of the Cottontown/Bellevue Neighborhood Association appeared before the members of Council as the spokesperson for four (4) downtown neighborhoods that have concerns about the concentration of services for the homeless in the downtown area. Those neighborhoods are: Earlewood Community Citizens Organization, Elmwood Park Neighborhood Association, Arsenal Hill Neighborhood Association and the Cottontown/Bellevue Neighborhood. She stated that the downtown neighborhoods want to be a part of the process and will be working together to address the issues they have as downtown residents. She cited titles of recent positive articles written about downtown Columbia. She presented their first position statement on the homeless.

7. \*\*Funding Request for Trip to Mobile, Alabama – Mayor Robert D. Coble

Mayor Coble briefed the Council on the trip to Mobile, Alabama scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2008 through Thursday, January 17, 2008 in partnership with Richland School District One. The trip to Mobile is an essential component in building support and understanding for what we are trying to do here. He reported that businesses and people would be asked to contribute to the cause. He requested up to \$25,000 for the city's share of expenses and suggested that the City Manager work with staff to identify a source of funding.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to authorize funding in the amount of \$25,000 for the city's portion of the trip to Mobile, Alabama on January 15-17, 2008 in conjunction with Richland School District One. The City Manager was directed to determine and clearly identify a funding source that would not interfere with other projects.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 9:52 a.m. for the discussion of the promotion of an employee and the receipt of legal advice, which relates to a matter covered by attorney-client privilege.

7a. \*\*Discussion of promotion of an employee

*This item was discussed, but no action was taken.*

7b. \*\*Receipt of legal advice which relates to a matter covered by attorney-client privilege

- City's Health Plan

*This item was discussed, but no action was taken.*

- **Council adjourned the Executive Session discussion at 10:21 a.m. to reconvene the meeting.**

### **UPDATES AND REPORTS**

8. City Manager's Report – Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager provided an update on the Finance Department, Columbia Police Department / Nationwide Police Chief Search and Operations at the Winter Shelter. The report was received as information and no action was taken.

9. Staff Reports

- Security Cameras – Ms. Melissa Gentry, Director of Public Works
- Neighborhood Lighting Projects – Ms. Melissa Gentry, Director of Public Works
- \*\*Animal Shelter Expansion – Ms. Melissa Gentry, Director of Public Works
- \*\*Tremont Street - Ms. Melissa Gentry, Director of Public Works
- Retail Study – Ms. Dana D. Turner, Assistant City Manager for Commerce and Development
- Main Street Phase II – Mr. Steve Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations
- North Main Street Project - Mr. Steve Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations

*These reports were received as information. No action was taken.*

- North Main Master Plan – Mr. Mike Manis, Executive Director of the Eau Claire Development Corporation

Upon motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to reaffirm the City Council's commitment to the North Columbia Master Plan and to utilize all opportunities to advertise and put the master plan forth through all resources available to the city to include all media outlets. Staff was further directed to draft a recommendation for the adoption of an overlay for the commercial areas within North Columbia and the Farrow Road corridor. Such recommendation should be presented to Council on February 6, 2008 for consideration.

### **CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION**

10. Lorick Avenue Speed Hump Request - *This item was withdrawn from the agenda until the matter is discussed with the neighborhood association and those that would be impacted by the installation of speed humps on Lorick Avenue.*
11. Parking and Traffic Changes on Santee Avenue and Congaree Avenue – Mr. John Spade – Parking Services Director

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve a request to stagger parking on Congaree Avenue and Santee Avenue between Blossom Street and Waccamaw Avenue and the prohibition of access to these streets from Blossom Street.

### **ZONING PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **MAP AMENDMENTS / REZONINGS – FIRST READING**

12. **6430 Norris Street.** TMS# 16505-02-05; rezone from M-1 (Light Industrial) to RG-2 (General Residential). *The Public Hearing was held on November 28, 2007 and continued until January 9, 2008.*

**1002 Drake Street,** TMS#16408-01-01; rezone from M-1 (Light Industrial) to PUD-R (Residential Planned Unit Development) and RG-2 (General Residential). *The Public Hearing was held on November 28, 2007 and continued until January 9, 2008.*

Upon motion by Ms. Devine, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to defer the Zoning Public Hearing for the *Map Amendment / Rezoning of 6430 Norris Street and 1002 Drake Street until January 23, 2008.*

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 13., 14., 17. through 23., 25. and 26.** on a single motion. **Items 15. and 16.** were approved by a separate motion and **Item 24.** was deferred.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF BIDS AND AGREEMENTS**

13. Council is asked to approve an Independent Contractor Agreement for Consulting Services and Assistance on the Selection of Candidate(s) for the Police Chief Position and Other Police Department Administrative, Personnel or Management Issues, as requested by City Administration. Award to Stewart, Konduros & Associates in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding*

*Source: City Manager's Account - Approved*

14. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Promotional Materials for the Presidential Primaries in an amount not to exceed \$16,332.00. *Funding Source: Economic Development Special Projects Account - Approved*

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items 15.** and **16.** on a single motion.

15. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Two (2) HVAC Units for Pacific Park, as requested by the Parks & Recreation Department. Award to Trouble Shooter, the low bidder, in the amount of \$16,585.00. This firm is located in Lexington, SC. *Funding Source: 1015102-638500 - Approved*
16. Council is asked to approve the Removal and Replacement of Two (2) HVAC Units for 1225 Laurel Street / 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, as requested by Support Services. Award to Piedmont HVAC, the low bidder, in the amount of \$19,379.00. This firm is located in West Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 5511219-659300 - Approved*
17. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Rotork Actuators to Repair Electric Valve Actuators and Control Systems, as requested by the Lake Murray Water Plant. Award to Heyward Services, Inc., as a sole source, in the amount of \$29,862.50. This firm is located in Charlotte, NC. *Funding Source: GL-5516207-631800 / JL-WM3731-851100 - Approved*
18. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Two (2) Storage Servers, as requested by the Information Technology Department. Award to HP Direct using the SC State Contract, in the amount of \$30,515.33. This vendor is located in Omaha, NE. *Funding Source: 1011120-658600 - Approved*
19. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Three (3) United Plastic Fabricating (UPF) Model Defender III Skid Units, as requested by the Fire Department. Award to Jack L. Slagle Fire Equipment and Services, the second low bidder meeting specifications, in the amount of \$37,987.14. This vendor is located in West Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 1012303-658300 (\$12,915.62), 2082322-658300 (\$12,535.76) and 2082325-658300 (\$12,535.76) - Approved*
20. Council is asked to approve an Agreement for Engineering Services for Miscellaneous Civil Engineering Services and Work Order #1 under this Agreement, as requested by Engineering Operations. Award to B.P. Barber and Associates in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Fiscal Year 2007/2008 Capital Improvements Program Budget – Work Order #1 is a study to evaluate the condition of our Saluda River Pump Station for the purpose of determining a recommended scope of work for upgrades. - Approved*
21. Council is asked to approve the Removal, Purchase and Installation of Two (2) Environmental Control Systems, as requested by the Information Technology Department. Award to Pierce and Catoe Mechanical, the low bidder, in the amount of \$78,601.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 1011120-638100 - Approved*
22. Council is asked to approve Contract Modification #5 to Agreement for Construction Engineering and Inspection Services for Improvements along North Main Street, as requested by Engineering Operations. Award to PB Americas, Inc. in the total amount of

\$258,214.11. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Water and Sewer and Stormwater Utility Funds - Approved*

#### ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

23. Ordinance No.: 2007-084 – Granting encroachment to Richard A. Harpootlian for installation and maintenance of landscaping, a brick wall and drive gates within the right of way area adjacent to 228 St. James Street *First reading approval was given on December 12, 2007. Approved on second reading, subject to the following conditions: 1) The Homeowner will be responsible for maintaining landscaping within the wall, but will coordinate with Forestry & Beautification. 2) The wall near the driveway will be brick & wrought iron and not over 4' in height. 3) Minor variations in footing & location of the wall can be approved by Forestry & Beautification, in order to save tree roots.*
24. Ordinance No.: 2007-104 – Authorizing transfer of an unused portion of right of way in the 1900 block of Wayne Street to Townhomes at Arsenal Hill Community Association, Inc. *First reading approval was given on December 12, 2007. – Second reading consideration of this item was deferred and the Legal Department was instructed to review the matter and determine if the same end result could be accomplished by granting an encroachment.*
25. Ordinance No.: 2007-105 - Granting an encroachment to London I, LLC for the Palmetto Building at the northeastern corner Washington Street and Main Street *First reading approval was given on December 12, 2007. – Approved on second reading.*
26. Ordinance No: 2007-106 - Authorizing transfer of Parcel 1 (2.1686 acres) and Parcel 3 (2.2758 acres) and transfer of Parcel 2 (2.1309) acres to Carolina Wrecking, Inc. *First reading approval was given on December 12, 2007. – Approved on second reading.*

#### ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

27. Ordinance No.: 2007-107 - Granting encroachment to the Incarnation Lutheran Church for use of Kirkwood Avenue between Devine Street and Sims Avenue for installation and maintenance of a parking area, landscaping and irrigation system and driveway for use by it and the adjacent property owner at 3101 Devine Street - *This item was withdrawn from the agenda. Please refer to Item 29a.*
28. Ordinance No.: 2007-111 – Authorizing transfer of approximately 1.28 acres (55,757 square feet), more or less, of the Heyward Street right of way located between Assembly Street and the Railroad right of way at Park Street and approximately 0.89 acres (38,768 square feet), more or less of the Park Street right of way located south of Whaley Street to Assembly Station Columbia, LLC – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2007-111 – Authorizing transfer of approximately 1.28 acres (55,757 square feet), more or less, of the Heyward Street right of way located between Assembly Street and the Railroad right of way at Park Street and approximately 0.89 acres (38,768 square feet), more or less of the Park Street right of way located south of Whaley Street to Assembly Station Columbia, LLC.

29. Ordinance No.: 2007-112 – Authorizing transfer of 1929 High Street, Richland County TMS# 11504-05-02 to Palmetto State Base Camp, Inc. – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2007-112 – Authorizing transfer of 1929 High Street, Richland County TMS# 11504-05-02 to Palmetto State Base Camp, Inc.

- 29a. \*\*Ordinance No.: 2008-002 – Authorizing the closing and transfer of a portion of Kirkwood Road adjacent to Richland County TMS No.: 13804-13-02 and 13804-14-10 to Lutheran Church of the Incarnation and Dandy Lion, Inc. – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2008-002 – Authorizing the closing and transfer of a portion of Kirkwood Road adjacent to Richland County TMS No.: 13804-13-02 and 13804-14-10 to Lutheran Church of the Incarnation and Dandy Lion, Inc.

- 29b. \*\*Ordinance No.: 2008-003 – An Ordinance Dissolving the Special Tax Allocation Fund for the Congaree Vista Redevelopment Area and Terminating the Designation of such Redevelopment Area as a Redevelopment Project Area for Purposes of Title 31, Chapter 6 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976 as amended; and other matters relating thereto – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2008-003 – An Ordinance Dissolving the Special Tax Allocation Fund for the Congaree Vista Redevelopment Area and Terminating the Designation of such Redevelopment Area as a Redevelopment Project Area for Purposes of Title 31, Chapter 6 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976 as amended; and other matters relating thereto.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve **Resolution Items 30.** through **C.** on a single motion.

30. Resolution No.: R-2007-066 – Authorizing the Five Points Association to Conduct Street and Sidewalk Sales for the “St. Pat’s in Five Points Festival” - *Approved*
31. Resolution No.: R-2007-067 – Authorizing acceptance and dedication of streets known as Celia Saxon Street, Simpkins Lane and Walker Solomon Way in the Lower Celia Saxon Development to the City of Columbia; Richland County TMS# 11505-01-03; 11505-02-01; 11505-03-01, 02 & 09, 11506-01-15 thru 19, 11506-01-33 thru 38, 11506-01-40 thru 52, 54 & 55 (portion); CF# 233-01B - *Approved*
- A. Resolution No.: R-2007-068 – Authorizing acceptance and dedication of streets known as Springway Drive and Wild Iris Court, East Lake Subdivision, Phase 4B to the City of Columbia; Richland County TMS# 16310-06-02 (portion); CF# 232-11B - *Approved*
- B. Resolution No.: R-2007-069 – Authorizing acceptance and dedication of street known as Cottage Lake Way in the development known as East Lake Cottages to the City of Columbia; Richland County TMS# 16311-03-01 (portion); CF# 232-11D - *Approved*
- C. Resolution No.: R-2007-070 – Authorizing acceptance and dedication of street known as Park Central Drive, located in Park Central Medical Office Complex to the City of Columbia; Richland County TMS# 09115-01-03 (portion); CF# 294-15 - *Approved*

## **CONSIDERATION OF BIDS AND AGREEMENTS**

- C1. \*\*Council is asked to approve a Professional Services Contract for the Housing First Pilot Program, as requested by the Commerce and Development Group. Award to the University of South Carolina / Department of Medicine in an amount not to exceed \$1,197,605.00 for all services required.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve a Professional Services Contract for the Housing First Pilot Program, as requested by the Commerce and Development Group. Award to the University of South Carolina / Department of Medicine in an amount not to exceed \$1,197,605.00 for all required services. The first year of funding would come from Community Development Block Grant funding. Funding for subsequent years has not been identified.

- C2. \*\*Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Ortho Lidar Flights, as requested by the GIS Department. Award to Kucera International in the amount of \$1,039,225.00.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the Purchase of Ortho Lidar Flights, as requested by the GIS Department. Award to Kucera International in the amount of \$1,039,225.00.

## **CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

- D. Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development - *Consideration was deferred until January 23, 2008.*
- E. Columbia Museum of Art

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Steve Morrison as the replacement for Mr. Claude Scarborough for a five (5) year term to expire on January 1, 2013 and Ms. Suzan D. Boyd to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Peter Bristow until January 1, 2009. Please note that Ms. Boyd will be eligible to serve two(2) full terms after January 1, 2009.

- F. Election Commission

Upon motion by Ms. Devine, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Janice Surginer to a six (6) year term to the Election Commission.

- G. Mini Grant Committee - *Consideration was deferred until January 23, 2008.*

## **APPEARANCE OF PUBLIC HAVING BUSINESS WITH CITY COUNCIL**

Mr. Lee Carroll, Save Our Kids member, appeared before the members of Council to express his deep hurt over the denial of speed humps on Lorick Avenue, because kids are dodging cars in that community. He said that the city's Traffic Engineer did conduct a traffic study and it showed that there was a problem.

Councilor Cromartie said that the request needed to go through a deliberate process for all of the surrounding neighborhoods to make a joint decision during an official neighborhood meeting.

Mr. Lee Carroll, Save Our Kids member, continued to express his concerns about the needs of the community. He said that we must care about the kids and he noted that speed humps are on the portion of Lorick Avenue where Councilman Cromartie and other dignitaries reside. He asked what he could do to move the request forward.

Ms. Eleanor Mullins appeared before the members of Council with many issues that negatively impact her family's quality of life. She is concerned about health issues that have caused her to be disabled. She is also concerned about being homeless.

There was a consensus of Council to direct staff to meet with Ms. Mullins immediately, get any relevant information and determine how the city can assist her.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 12:58 p.m. for the discussion of **Items H.** through **K.** as presented.

- H. Discussion of negotiations incident to the proposed purchase of property  
*This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
- I. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements
  - Vision Condominiums*This item was withdrawn from the agenda.*
- J. Receipt of legal advice, which relates to matters covered by attorney-client privilege
  - Rosewood Hills
  - Amendments to City's Health Insurance Plan
  - RL Jordan Co. v. City of Columbia*These items were discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
- K. Discussion of the employment of an employee (3)  
*These items were discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
- **Council adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley  
City Clerk