

**CITY OF COLUMBIA
WORK SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2009 9:00 A.M.
CITY HALL - 1737 MAIN STREET**



The Columbia City Council met for a Work Session on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. The following members of Council were present: The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II, The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III and The Honorable Belinda F. Gergel. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann was absent. Also present were Mr. Steven A. Gantt, Interim City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. Selection of a Firm to Conduct an Efficiency Study

The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine stated that we are at a time that we have to look at the way we do business and how to change the way we do business. I've done research on how other governmental agencies do so and one of the successful mechanisms is looking at bringing in a firm to conduct an efficiency study and an audit of our operations and processes. She clarified the consensus of Council that was made on September 16, 2009 to authorize Councilwoman Devine and Interim Assistant City Manager Baker to negotiate the amount for an efficiency study and to explore alternative funding sources.

This matter will be considered on October 7, 2009.

2. Council is asked to approve Project #SD8325, #WM412201, #WM412202, #SS7075, and #R46; Village at River's Edge Development, as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to McClam & Associates, the lowest bidder in the amount of \$1,923,884.92. This vendor is located in Little Mountain, SC. *Funding Source: WM412201 – This is a Mentor Protégé Program – Approved – Mr. Finlay and Mayor Coble abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.*
3. Resolution No.: R-2009-075 - Authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute a First Amendment to Agreement between the City of Columbia and Village at Rivers Edge, LLC – *Approved – Mr. Finlay and Mayor Coble abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.*
4. Resolution No.: R-2009-076 - Authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute an Agreement between the City of Columbia and Village at Rivers Edge, LLC for price differential to be paid by the Village at Rivers Edge, LLC for infrastructure construction – *Approved - Mr. Finlay and Mayor Coble abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.*

Upon a motion by Mr. Cromartie and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve **Item 2.** Project #SD8325, #WM412201, #WM412202, #SS7075, and #R46; Village at River's Edge Development, as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to McClam & Associates, the lowest bidder in the amount of \$1,923,884.92; **Item 3.** Resolution No.: R-2009-075 - Authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute a First Amendment to Agreement between the City of Columbia and Village at Rivers Edge, LLC and **item 4.** Resolution No.: R-2009-076 - Authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute

an Agreement between the City of Columbia and Village at Rivers Edge, LLC for price differential to be paid by the Village at Rivers Edge, LLC for infrastructure construction with a single motion. Mr. Finlay and Mayor Coble abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.

5. Resolution No.: R-2009-071 – Providing for Notice of Public Hearing Regarding the Columbia Renaissance Redevelopment Plan; Providing for Notice to All Taxing District included in the Redevelopment Project Area described therein; and other matters relating thereto - *Approved*
6. Resolution No.: R-2009-077 - Providing for Notice of Public Hearing Regarding the Innovista Redevelopment Plan; Providing for Notice to All Taxing Districts included in the Redevelopment Project Area described therein; and other matters relating thereto - *Approved*

Councilor Devine explained that the initial Renaissance Redevelopment Plan included North Main, Farrow Road, Two Notch Road to Millwood Avenue and portions of the North Columbia Master Plan and the East Central Plan. In discussions with the Waterfront Steering Committee, there was an idea that there would be a request coming forward to consider a redevelopment plan that would help implement the InnoVista Master Plan. We began discussions and engaged the Council of Governments to put these plans together as one. After discussing this with City Council, we decided that it would be best to move forward on a concurrent path, but to separate the two (2) plans; therefore, we have two (2) Resolutions before us today.

Upon a motion by Mr. Cromartie and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted five (5) to one (1) to approve **Item 5**. Resolution No.: R-2009-071 – Providing for Notice of Public Hearing Regarding the Columbia Renaissance Redevelopment Plan; Providing for Notice to All Taxing District included in the Redevelopment Project Area described therein; and other matters relating thereto and **Item 6**. Resolution No.: R-2009-077 - Providing for Notice of Public Hearing Regarding the Innovista Redevelopment Plan; Providing for Notice to All Taxing Districts included in the Redevelopment Project Area described therein; and other matters relating thereto with a single motion. Voting aye were Mr. Cromartie, Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine, Dr. Gergel and Mayor Coble. Mr. Finlay voted no.

APPOINTMENTS

7. Municipal Court Judges - *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

Councilor Devine stated that the law has changed such that when we make appointments it has to be for a finite period and not less than two (2) years. Does the law prohibit us from phasing out a judge's position for budgetary reasons?

Mr. Ken E. Gaines, City Attorney said that he will look at the statute, noting that you can't remove a Judge for budgetary reasons if you appoint him/her for two (2) years.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Finlay and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 10:38 a.m. for the discussion of **Items 8**. through **10**. as outlined.

8. ****Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements - *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.***

9. ****Discussion of employment of employee - *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.***
10. ****Receipt of legal advice as it relates to matters covered by attorney-client privilege - *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.***
 - **Mayor Coble left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.**
 - **Mr. Finlay left the meeting at 11:53 a.m.**
 - **Dr. Gergel left the meeting at 12:11 p.m. and there was no longer a quorum.**
 - **The remaining members of Council adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley
City Clerk