

**CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 6, 2011 – 2:00 P.M.
CITY HALL - 1737 MAIN STREET**



The City of Columbia City Council conducted a Work Session on Tuesday, September 06, 2011 in the City Council Conference Room located on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann and The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman. The Honorable Leona K. Plough joined the meeting at 3:06 p.m. and The Honorable Belinda F. Gergel was absent. Also present were Mr. Stephen A. Gantt, City Manager and Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. Baseline Emissions Report – Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator and Ms. Amanda Brennan, Public Works Sustainability Intern

Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator reported that on Friday, President Obama announced that he has asked Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson to withdraw the draft of the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards Plan. The new standards, which would've likely put the Midlands in non-attainment for ground-level ozone, will be scrapped, but revisited in 2013. We still need to talk about it and educate citizens, but we have until 2013 to get our air cleaner.

Ms. Amanda Brennan, Public Works Sustainability Intern / University of South Carolina School of Earth, Ocean and Environment presented information on the City's internal Baseline Emissions Report, which she recently completed. The report indicated that Water and Wastewater operations were the largest contributors to the City's emissions, not necessarily because they are inefficient, but because they use the most energy.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to authorize staff to take advantage of the programs available through the City's membership with the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI) to help model a program and establish a goal for reducing our emissions using today's report as the baseline.

2. Temporary Vendors Ordinance

Ms. Krista Hampton, Director of Planning and Development Services explained that the Temporary Vendor Ordinance does cover food trucks; they are considered a temporary vendor. The provisions that we put into place with regard to temporary vendors would cover them. The sticking point seems to be parking; the vendor can't occupy a spot required for the business. One direction would be to define and then exempt mobile food trucks. We currently limit them to ten (10) hours. The DHEC license is already required as part of the business license, which also requires them to have a basic operation and we are covered from a safety standpoint. They also indicated to me that there is a problem with a getting a permit for each location. From our side, you can obtain a permit on the same day.

Councilor Rickenmann suggested that we consider an annual permit for the food truck and make it a separate category. I am hoping that we identify a city owned lot or a park where we can hold Food Truck Fridays like they are doing in Atlanta.

Ms. Krista Hampton, Director of Planning and Development Services said that private property has always been the best solution, because public parking elicits more opposition from businesses. If we use public parking, we should involve more stakeholders to ensure that we alleviate any concerns they may have. It is far more cut-and-dry with private property. I would prefer to keep it paired down and simple and then address other issues as they arise.

Councilor Devine said that this is an unintended consequence of the vendor ordinance that we passed.

Mayor Benjamin said that he doesn't see the bricks and mortar and food trucks as mutually exclusive, at all, if we set up the parameters and allow them to operate under guidelines that respect their business models.

There was a consensus of Council to direct Ms. Krista Hampton, Director of Planning and Development Services to prepare recommendations to address permitting and parking concerns with food trucks while being sensitive to their business model and restaurants alike. The recommendations will be shared with Council, presented to the Planning Commission in October and presented to City Council in November.

3. Economic Development Budget
 - Contingency
 - Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) Funding Request

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve the City's contribution to our continued BRAC efforts in Washington, DC by supporting the expenditure of \$48,500.00 through the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce. A quarterly report should be submitted to the City of Columbia by the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

The remainder of the Economic Development Budget will be discussed on September 13, 2011.

4. Police Department Plan for Security Cameras – Mr. Randy Scott, Chief of the Columbia Police Department

Mr. Randy Scott, Chief of the Columbia Police Department presented an update on the Security Camera initiative. He outlined two complementary paths: security camera coverage for the City's Hospitality Districts and security camera coverage and other concepts for the City's most at-risk areas based upon the Police Department's analysis. The overall costs are dependant upon the system that is chosen; annual service and maintenance fees; staffing; and the use of alternative technologies. He added that there is a consent clause in the application that requires the owner to release the videos to the City of Columbia upon request, if they receive funding through this program.

There was a consensus of Council to request specific recommendations as it relates to the Police Department's preferences. The North Columbia Business Association is to be added to the list of Hospitality Districts and should receive the Hospitality District Security Camera Application Process and Pre-approval Checklist.

5. 9/11 Memorial Update

Ms. Libby Gober, Assistant to City Council announced the upcoming unveiling ceremony for the 9/11 Memorial at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center on Sunday, September 11, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. and the South Carolina Philharmonic 9/11 10th Anniversary Concert at Finlay Park from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public.

▪ **Ms. Plough arrived at 3:06 p.m.**

5a. **Honorary Renaming of Read Street from Harden Street to Two Notch Road

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to authorize the honorary renaming of Read Street as a tribute to The Honorable Bishop C.M. Bailey, Leader of the United House of Prayer for All People. This is being done at the request of the United House of Prayer located at 2426 Read Street and with the support of the Community Improvement Cooperative Council. All costs associated with this request will be born by the United House of Prayer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 3:09 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 6** through **9** as presented. Ms. Devine was not present from 3:20 p.m. until 3:45 p.m.

6. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements – *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
7. Discussion of negotiations incident to settlement of legal claims – *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
8. Receipt of legal advice which relates to a matter covered by attorney-client privilege – *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
9. Evaluation of an Employee – *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken*

▪ **Council adjourned the Work Session at 5:49 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley
City Clerk