

**CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2012 – 2:00 P.M.
CITY HALL - 1737 MAIN STREET**



The Columbia City Council met for a Work Session on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, The Honorable Belinda F. Gergel, The Honorable Leona K. Plough and The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman. The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine arrived at 4:00 p.m. Also present were Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore, City Clerk. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. 2012 Legislative Delegation Reception/Dinner and Cities Mean Business Month – Ms. Teresa Wilson, Assistant City Manager

The Legislative Delegation Dinner is scheduled for February 15, 2012 at Tapp's from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in conjunction with Richland County and the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

2. Fiscal Year 2011 / 2012 Hospitality Tax Contingency Final Round Funding – Ms. Libby Gober, Assistant to City Council

Ms. Libby Gober, Assistant to City Council distributed copies of the proposed spreadsheet with a recommendation from the Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee with the final round of funding. We are looking for any approval or adjustments. With this \$44,500 being out of our contingency, it leaves a balance of \$10,362.50.

Councilor Plough asked Ms. Gober to explain the requests that were “revisited”.

Ms. Libby Gober, Assistant to City Council explained that applications were revisited, because the Columbia Classical Ballet submitted an additional application. Originally, the committee said no because they were funded a substantial amount of money in the beginning of the year. At the end of the year there was money left over and the committee decided to revisit the application and decided to give them \$5,000. They wanted to keep both professional ballet companies equal, so they gave the Columbia City Ballet an additional \$5,000. In line with the ballet companies, they gave Anne Brodie's Carolina Ballet \$2,000.

Councilor Rickenmann stated that these folks didn't ask for anything out of the contingency and they gave it to them.

Ms. Libby Gober, Assistant to City Council said that the committee revisited their original applications. The committee wanted to keep the professional ballet companies equal; if they gave one \$5,000 more, they wanted to give the other \$5,000 more.

Councilor Newman asked if they looked at any other organizations, because there are disparities between other groups. Do we have to vote on this today?

Councilor Gergel asked for clarification on the request from the other ballet companies.

Ms. Libby Gober, Assistant to City Council said that they did not officially ask for money. The City Center Partnership was also revisited to make up a deficit there.

Councilor Davis asked if the attempt was to keep the groups equal in terms of funding amount or quality.

Ms. Libby Gober, Assistant to City Council said it was to keep them equal in terms of the funding amount.

Mayor Benjamin noted that the committee decided not to fund the One Columbia Arts and History. I think they are doing exactly what we want and need them to do. We talked in the past about an Office of Cultural Affairs and it is going to be a part of the debate this year. It will take the angle of becoming more of an Office of Cultural Economy recognizing the economic development benefits of having a well run strategic approach to delivering cultural activities to the people of this city. The New Years event is a great example where the return on investment extends well past the event. The One Columbia Arts and History is an example of how we can do this right. He presented a board with all the different events that are happening around this city from various organizations during the month of April. The proposal takes a very strategic approach to highlighting all of the events related to multicultural, dance, films and movies, historic preservation, literature and writing, music and concerts, theater and visual arts. The proposal takes an organized and strategic approach to promoting these events to external and internal audiences. I am requesting \$10,000 to support this initiative in addition to the \$40,000 they raised from the outside. This is an effort to show what we can do if we aggressively promote what's happening in this city.

Councilor Rickenmann said that the Office of Cultural Affairs should not be a city function. It should be an application done in conjunction with One Columbia and it should be a stand alone 501 (c) (3) that represents the whole area.

Councilor Gergel said that she would like to see One Columbia's focus as the lead promoter of arts and culture. Marketing would be a big piece of it and my understanding is that they are moving as we speak to engage various elements of the arts community in round table discussions. I hope that we can fund what we can today for this April event. I hope the Council can make a decision about their funding for next year. I would like to see this group become a line item in the budget.

Councilor Davis said that we have organizations that may not have strength in terms of voice, but I think the quality of their presentations is just as good as anybody else. They don't get the opportunity and if we allow folks to revisit applications, then that takes away dollars that were in the pot that some of those smaller organizations could receive. We need to all agree on what the policy is from top to bottom. The current practice is inconsistent with the policy. We expect some weaning off, but there are folks that have been receiving dollars since day one.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Gergel and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to allocate funding from the Fiscal Year 2011/2012 Hospitality Tax Contingency Fund to the McKissick Museum \$5,000, One Columbia Arts and History \$10,000, Palmetto Conservation Foundation \$5,000, Columbia Classical Ballet \$5,000 and City Center Partnership \$17,500.

Councilor Plaugh voiced approval of the concept of establishing a non-profit structure for the arts.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to assign the drafting of a proposal for the Hospitality Tax funds to the Arts and Historic Preservation Committee. This proposal will include a policy for the allocation of funds and the creation of a 501 (c) (3) for the arts.

3. Contract Extension for the Management of the City's Online Calendar of Community Events. Award to Leisure Fun in the amount of \$4,500.00. **Note:** *The contract is due to expire on February 29, 2012. Funding Source: 2011/2012 Hospitality Tax Contingency Fund*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to approve contract extension for the Management of the City's Online Calendar of Community Events through June 30, 2012. Award to Leisure Fun in the amount of \$4,500.00. *Funding Source: Hospitality Tax Contingency Fund*

4. One Columbia Funding Request – *Please refer to **Item 2**.*
5. EnduringFX, LLC / Technology at Riverfront Park and the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center – Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager said that many people go to Riverfront Park and the Wellness Center to exercise. He introduced Mr. Jim Stritzinger who presented a technology based idea to the City that would allow users of those facilities to track their fitness progress. We are asking City Council to endorse the concept and allow us to develop a contract with him for this service.

Mr. Jim Stritzinger, President of Enduring FX, LLC presented a video to the members of City Council. Enduring FX is an online mobile application that captures your outdoor activity. It allows you to set fitness goals, build training plans and it connects you with your friends and family while you are using the park. It starts with an RF enabled digital chip.

When you arrive at the park all you have to do is cross the start line with the chip attached to your shoelaces, bike or even a stroller. As you pass each timing location, Enduring FX utilizes the world class timing technology of My Laps to calculate your current speed and distance. At appropriate locations, Enduring FX automatically takes your picture, captures the current weather conditions and displays your total time and average pace on a nearby digital scoreboard.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager explained that this technology could also be applied to the swimming pool and indoor and outdoor tracks at the Wellness Center.

Mr. Jim Stritzinger, President of Enduring FX, LLC explained that My Laps is a world class company and it's the same technology used to time the Olympics and 50 of the worlds top 100 marathons. You have a chance in Columbia to be the first public park in North America that has ever done this. These chips also work in the swimming pool environment. We have three locations where the chip can be used: Riverfront Park, Wellness Center swimming lanes and the Wellness Center outdoor track. We are building the software components to go on top of the timing technology. Those will be designed in built on Gervais Street and we are very proud of that. We are also working with Microsoft. We are asking for a green light and interest from the City. We are not asking for any money. We proposed a revenue sharing plan. We proposed a 20% gross revenue share of any recurring revenues we get at the park. Gross revenues will come from advertising potential on the signs and digital photos will be revenue potential for us. Once it's installed, every non-profit in town can take advantage of the timing system being in place; they can hold runs and events. The chips would be made available to the non-profits. They have a \$95 retail price and we would have a rental pool of chips available to organizations. I am also counting on the fact that local employers will sponsor their employees and purchase the chip as part of wellness initiatives. The only recurring cost that the City would participate in is the electricity. We would tap in to the existing electrical circuit. There will be minor installation inconvenience. We would need to do some asphalt cuts to install the antenna underneath the paved surface. It's a single saw slit that's filled in with silicone.

Councilor Gergel noted that a number of people walk at Finlay Park and Maxcy Gregg Park.

Councilor Rickenmann suggested that instead of taking revenue, we should bank that revenue to make a capital account that they could expand the system to other parks.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager stated that Riverfront Park is a rental facility for a lot of events and it generates revenue. The Wellness Center has a need to generate revenue. This concept will bring more people to those facilities. Regardless of who manages the Wellness Center, it will remain a city facility and there will be a need to reduce any operating deficit.

Councilor Newman requested information on statistics for the program once it is implemented.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to endorse the concept and to authorize contract negotiations with EnduringFX.

- **Council recessed at 2:58 p.m.**
 - **Council reconvened at 3:20 p.m. Mayor Benjamin was not present and Mayor Pro-Tem Plaugh is presiding.**
6. Fiscal Year 2011/2012 413 Capital Project Funding – Ms. Melissa Gentry, Assistant City Manager

Ms. Melissa Gentry, Assistant City Manager distributed a list of capital projects approved in August 2011 for funding. There is a remaining balance is \$588,392.28. Of that amount, \$300,000 either needs to remain with Burton Pack School or it needs to be reallocated.

Councilor Newman explained that the School District is on board with our plan to raise a portion of the building to create a park and a community center. The School Board wanted to ensure that the neighborhood was 100% supportive. They held a series of community meetings and drafted a letter in support of the project. I met with their committee yesterday and earlier today and they will vote on Tuesday. The land will be free or there will be a 99-year lease at \$1.00. The community is interested in the front office being retained if possible. The majority of the building would need to be demolished. The \$300,000 is enough for the demolition. The building has asbestos.

Councilor Gergel inquired about the remaining balance for the Rosewood Park parking area and rain garden.

Ms. Dana Higgins, City Engineer explained that the work is being done in-house and will not cost as much.

Councilor Davis inquired about the master plan for Hyatt Park.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager said that no funding has been set aside. A request has been made for Community Development Block Grant funding. We are aggressively searching for grants.

Councilor Plaugh inquired about a new facility at Hampton Park and a bathroom facility at Southeast Park. She said that these two projects were waiting in line for funding should any funds be available. She also inquired about the additional funding needed for the new pool at Maxcy Gregg Park.

Ms. Melissa Gentry, Assistant City Manager said that these projects have been identified for funding consideration.

Councilor Newman inquired about the bump outs on Gervais Street.

Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager said that the project has been moved over to DOT. They will bid the work when they bid the repaving of Gervais Street. We allocated the \$30,000 back to DOT and that should start in March.

- **Mayor Benjamin returned to the meeting at 3:35 p.m.**

Ms. Melissa Gentry, Assistant City Manager reviewed the list of projects identified for consideration of funding.

Councilor Rickenmann said that they have tough decisions to discuss. We have to figure out how we tackle all of this. We need to look at what's being done with all of the parks. Are we going to consider shutting down parks? He suggested that they schedule a Work Session to discuss options and the real needs of today.

Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager explained that an air handling unit failed at the Police Department Headquarters and now there is a problem with mold that must be addressed. Some of our Fire Department buildings are in deplorable condition and need immediate renovations to include new carpet, bathroom facilities, windows and other basic needs. My hope is that there will be some opportunity in the annual appropriations for the General Obligation Bonds for us to start working on some of these big ticket items. We are developing an inventory and a schedule for when equipment should be replaced and improvements should be made. This is an update. We wanted to give you an opportunity to review this and we will come back with recommendations. We can separate the bricks and mortar projects from the other projects.

7. ****Fiscal Year 2012 / 2013 Budget Goals and 2011 Audit Update**

Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager reported that the Budget Committee met this morning for the first time to set the schedule. The Budget Committee will be meeting on March 7-9, 2012 to review departmental budget. In the interim, the Assistant City Managers, Budget Director, the Finance Department and I will be meeting with departments to review their budgets and make recommendations and adjustments. There will be a comparison to previous years and a discussion on how their budget affects the goals that we've set for the city.

Councilor Plough said that this Council does need to talk about goals as the Budget Committee picks up and charges ahead with their work. There has been great discussion about salary increases. I requested salary information for employees earning \$50,000 and above and for those below, I've asked for information on salary ranges. I asked for information on salary growth for employees earning \$50,000 and above. Also, let's not forget about the whole idea of business-friendly as we look at the budget for the upcoming year. As it relates to ethics, there may be some small training and hotline expenditures. With the corridor studies there is an opportunity to guide growth and add to our tax base.

Councilor Gergel asked for information on the number of employees at different levels in the pay scale.

Councilor Newman said that he agrees with discussing the Fire Agreement in open session. He asked everyone to keep in mind that the County did discuss their contractual negotiations with the County Attorney in a private setting and then submitted that to us. I am assuming that they would expect us to discuss this in Executive Session prior to opening it up for public comment. All of us see the importance of the public being involved in this and the

reality is that our City of Columbia residents will be protected and either way we will have a dynamic Fire Department. This is something that more so affects the County residents. As we discuss this, please keep in mind that there has not been a formal response from them to this point yet. Be mindful of that and cater your comments accordingly.

Councilor Rickenmann said that the purpose is to show folks that our Fire Department, senior staff and others have done a lot of work and put a lot of thought into putting something together that's sustainable and provides the protection for the entire County. My whole focus about having this public discussion is to endorse the fact that we want to send it over; we would like for them to have an opportunity to review what has been proposed; and that we have a meeting at a neutral site along with the County's Emergency Services, their representatives and ours all sit around the table and have a discussion based on folks who live and breathe this service.

▪ **Ms. Devine joined the meeting at 3:58 p.m.**

**Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to discuss the Unified Fire Service Agreement in open session.

8. Charles R. Drew Wellness Center Update – The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine

Councilor Devine explained that the Drew Advisory Committee was reappointed earlier last year; I was appointed as Chair; and Mr. Baker is the staff liaison. They met four (4) times in the last year. We have talked about where we are with Drew and some concerns have been raised about where we are going. I want to focus the discussion on the overall picture. Mr. Baker has hired a new Marketing Director at the Wellness Center. Ms. Tezra Williams has revamped the marketing plan that was originally adopted when Drew first opened. She has been on television and radio over the last several months trying to promote Drew's programs and other things that are going on. She is putting the final touches on the corporate membership program, which launches in May. This was a recommendation from the Advisory Committee. During the month of February we will host Wellness Wednesday there as part of the City's recognition of Heart Month. The membership numbers haven't increased; however, the Employee Wellness Program has moved to the Wellness Center and all employees that participate will be asked to buy a membership at Drew. Richland County and the Columbia Housing Authority have been talked to about having a similar program for its employees. We will also implement the clinic that we discussed last week. The wellness program and the clinic don't help to decrease the deficit; however, it will hit the City's overall budget and that will be a plus for us. It also helps to distinguish Drew as a wellness center, which is what it was designed to do. We have also looked at other partnerships. When Brian Madden came to talk to Council a few months ago about the soccer program, he had previously expressed an interest to the Mayor about trying to help us with the deficit at Drew. I asked him about that and Mr. Baker and I met with him in October and he expressed that interest again. He would like to give some suggestions, but he needed information. At that time we provided him with the operating budget, organizational chart and current programs. He looked at those things and sent a letter to the Mayor stating that clearly he could address the deficit at Drew, which has decreased over the last two years due to changes made by Mr. Baker and staff. His letter was not specific. There is no proposal on the table right now; however, he gave an idea of some things he could do. He could do as little as

working as a management consultant. There is not a Director at Drew. He suggested that he could work with the new Director in looking at the budget and making organizational and programmatic changes. He's happy to do that at no cost to the City, but he suggested that he could also look at partnering with the City and Drew through a cooperative agreement to purchase supplies or utilize their pool personnel or leases for equipment. Lastly, he suggested a management contract, but it would be up to us as a Council. He currently has a management contract with Orangeburg County to run the aquatic center. He suggested that he could do any of those or a variation of those three (3) things. He wanted me to find out if there is a willingness of City Council to pursue this. I invited Mr. Madden to the January 26th Advisory Committee meeting, because they only meet quarterly. He made the presentation to them and they voted unanimously for Council to look at this. I wanted everyone to know that there isn't a formal proposal; it's whatever we choose for it to be, if we choose to do that. In addition to the committee voting to explore the options with the YMCA, they also asked that we look at getting specifics on Council's charge for the committee. There are some people on the committee who feel like they were appointed to wipe out the deficit and there are others who want to be in the advisory role. They also asked that Council give the committee more directions as far as what they would like to see the committee doing. In that same vane, we have met four (4) times and a few members haven't made any meetings. There was some concern as to whether or not there was adequate representation of the surrounding neighborhoods. If Council wanted to evaluate the appointees that haven't been active, then we may want to change some of those appointments and adding a position that isn't specific to a person, but maybe specific to an organization in order for the neighborhood to make an appointment, if they so desired.

Councilor Newman asked if there was an initially advisory committee that worked on programming prior to the construction of the Wellness Center.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager said that there was a large committee from the community that was led by the late Mrs. Myrtle Gordon. They started a visioning process in 1999 to first determine how we could build a recreation center. It grew from a simple recreation center to a \$2.5 million recreation center to a recreation center with an indoor pool. Ms. Plough was the City Manager at the time and she sent me on a reconnaissance trip to Atlanta. We came back and recommended that in order to get funding support to build a facility and to address the health disparities throughout the community, it really needed to be a wellness center. That committee consisted of a neighborhood coalition and it stayed in place until after the facility was built. Then we developed a formal scholarship and program advisory committee to assist with raising money for scholarship for those that are not able to afford a membership. At the time, paying a fee to enter a city facility was a new and different concept.

Councilor Newman asked if any of the individuals that were a part of the visioning committee a part of the current advisory committee.

Mayor Benjamin said that Mrs. Elise Martin serves as one of his appointees.

Councilor Newman added that the common theme outside of people being concerned about this turning into a YMCA; there has been a conversation about what the vision is for Drew. Is it providing the same services that were initially thought to be the needs that the community desired to be addressed? What is it going to do in the future? Will it continue to honor those same needs if there is a contract with the YMCA? Maybe there needs to be a meeting with the committee and some of the original founders.

Councilor Devine said that she has discussed the mission with Mr. Baker. We as a Council need to reaffirm the mission and vision. Mr. Baker reminded me that they knew this would not be a money making facility; not necessarily that it would be running a huge deficit, but there was never an expectation for it to be profit making. Mr. Madden has never offered for it to become a YMCA, to change its name or to dissolve the committee. He would like to see a larger advisory committee, because his board at the YMCA is very engaged in new programming and other things. We can decide whether to move forward or not.

Councilor Rickenmann thanked Ms. Devine. He said that it makes sense to hear what people are nervous about and some of the things that are standards that meet the needs of the community. Another equation is that it is a pay to use facility and you have to balance both aspects. It has to be affordable and we must be able to afford to change the equipment, fill the pumps and keep the locker rooms and everything else.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager said that the manager's position has been vacant for over one (1) year. The primary reason was because we were having discussions with Doctors Wellness Center and we wanted to determine what the best direction and fit for a manager would be. We have worked to bring the clinic and the wellness center concepts together and it would be appropriate to have an individual that is well versed in both areas. Due to the vacancies, we were able to upgrade the mechanical system. Based on our budget discussions last year, we are at a point where we need to look at and retool the mission of the entire Department of Parks and Recreation. It would be helpful to staff and the City Manager if we have a discussion and reaffirm where we are and what public recreation is to mean for the citizens of Columbia.

Mayor Benjamin said that the discussion of health and wellness and moving forward with us being a healthier city evolves and becomes much more progressive every year. I credit Tameika and Daniel for pushing that card early. The vision of all of you in this room and Mr. Cromartie and others was on the cutting edge with getting the Drew Wellness Center open. I am curious if are any conditions attached to the funding that allowed us to open the Drew Wellness Center.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager said that some of the foundational things were water and sewer that were attached to the development of Celia Saxon.

**Mayor Benjamin called for a point of personal privilege and introduced Mr. Robert Staten, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior. He is in Columbia today for a historic marker unveiling at Benedict College.

Mayor Benjamin invited members of the community to weigh in on the discussion. As Ms. Devine has stated, this is very preliminary, but as we continue to look at how we can run the most efficient and effective facility without taking our eye off of the community needs.

Councilor Davis thanked Ms. Devine for keeping this before Council as things were moving. I understand what the intended purpose was. There was a tremendous fundraiser during the very first year to create scholarship funds. It was community based and the real focus was health and wellness. I personally believe that's the one thing we need to keep as a main focus. It's separate and different from other park facilities and that is a driving force that has also served as a magnet for people coming from all over this city. We must be creative to keep it operating and at the same time keep our eyes on the bottom line, which is a deficit. We must maintain an effort to keep that at a minimum.

Mr. Carl Frederick, President of the Community Improvement Cooperative Council (CICC) said that they understand that there is a deficit that has to be dealt with. Tough decisions must be made in order to manage the deficit. We are very supportive of that and we understand that. Maybe we should be involved in the process and provide input and ideas to support you in that effort. One thing we as a community to include the community of Columbia from a historical perspective the vision started around 1999 and we have a couple of individuals here who were directly a part of that. We want to emphasize that we want to be apprised and aware of what's happening there. The vision and the mission were for the facility to be affordable and serve the underserved neighborhoods in the area. We don't want to lose sight of that. That is important particularly for the individuals that this vision was born of. We are willing to work with the City; we want to be involved. We feel that we are not at the table at all. We have the community residents here along with the principal of C.A. Johnson High School. I am sure that the public school system has interest in what goes on there, because we have students who participate in activities at the Drew Wellness Center. We just ask that the community and the community at-large be a part of some decision making, because we do have information that we may be able to offer to help support you. I would be interested in serving, but I certainly offer this opportunity to somebody else. I can take that back for discussion at our next meeting on February 20th. The CICC is made up of seven (7) neighborhood associations.

Councilor Devine stated that there are non-appointed committee members and organizations. She suggested that the Community Improvement Cooperative Council be added an organization so that it would remain there and allow them to make a nomination.

Dr. Shirley Geiger, Highland Park resident said that she uses Drew Wellness Center for a variety of things. When I read about this in the paper, I felt like the community had not been consulted. I grew up in that community. I recognize when organizations are not as well run as they could be and that there is a role for input from citizens in those communities and a role for input on proper use of the facility. When I read in the paper that there was more staff than needed, I became curious about how privatization of management of the facility would change that. Those are management decisions. If a Director has not been in place for a year and other positions may not be open and then someone says that there are four (4) people at the desk. Those kinds of things don't reflect well on the city on how things are managed in my opinion. I am encouraged by this conversation, but I echo the voices of the people in this

community who say give us a voice in more than just an advisory committee. I am also interested to know where the neighborhood advisory committee is. Representation should be overly weighted for that particular neighborhood event though it's a facility that serves the community, because it equates something that serves the community that has a real historic value to the people who know what Drew Park was about. It troubles me a little when I see things that are not there that were a part of the old Drew Park, but I am really interested in seeing this Council be concerned that citizens were not given the broad access to decision-making and input about where that goes. When the YMCA person speaks as if it was a done decision, I thought these decisions have been made; this is a done deal. I am happy to hear that it's not a done deal, because that has been my question. If that person can come with great ideas, why haven't those great ideas come from city staff?

Councilor Devine said that she read the article. I clearly saw in the article, except for the headline, that it wasn't a done deal; the discussions were very preliminary and there had been no decisions made. If that was the perception, then I recognize that's why we are having this meeting and we need to make sure that that perception is alleviated. No decisions have been made at all. There is no proposal on the table. There is ample opportunity for discussions and input. There has been two (2) meetings and an advisory committee meeting with Mr. Madden.

Mayor Benjamin said that there is an advisory committee and several people across the community are represented here. I am curious as to how much engagement the committee has with the community. It's important to make sure that the dialog is there to facilitate the decision making in the future. What's the profile of the membership? Are we in fact meeting the initial goals in reaching out the Drew Park community as well as the larger city? If we aren't, then we need to figure out how to get there. What kind of assessments are we doing? There are a number of challenges there; some might even point to management of the center and parks and recreation overall. It doesn't mean that we can take other possible options off the table, but first you drill down to what you have. I think this center can be run very well, very effectively and very efficiently while meeting all the goals that we have stated around this table. We must get our arms around this. I know the power of what an additional half of million dollars can actually do for an organization. If you effectively utilize and invest those dollars, it can be transforming. We must get our arms around that and see that amount reinvested in the Drew or spread to other parks. We will have to make decisions soon to fish or cut bait and it may very well be that we decide to stay in-house.

Councilor Davis stated that Drew replaced something in that community. That is the challenge. The concept of a wellness center as opposed to somewhere kids and other people wanted to go in that neighborhood. It replaced a park. It's worth the city being creative enough to deal with that deficit.

Mayor Benjamin said that if the Wellness Center is not a profit center then let's stop treating it like it is; let's treat it like all the other parks. It doesn't rule out all of the management possibilities, but it takes us off the edge of turning this into a profit center when it's not meant to be a profit center. That also allows us to be much more aggressive in opening the doors up to the people that want to use it.

Mr. Curtis Counts, Community Resident said that we are beginning to recognize that there is no where for our children to go on that side of Taylor Street and Two Notch. There's an increase in crime and there's nothing for the kids to do. I would like for that to be put on the table as well.

Councilor Gergel said that it's never about making money from Drew, but reducing that level between operation costs, what it brings in and closing that gap. Many of us are concerned about the management of Drew. Are we managing it most efficiently? That is an important conversation for us to have about all of our parks. Are we doing what we need to be doing to ensure that it's as streamlined as it can be? Is there any reason why the operating cost has increased by \$100,000?

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager explained that the personnel cost decreased and changed over the last few years. The mechanical system was upgraded over the past fiscal year.

Mayor Benjamin said that we need to articulate our priorities; give them to the City Manager and the Director of Parks and Recreation; and expect that person to deliver. We need to move post-haste with getting someone on board. I would like to add a representative from the CICC to the Advisory Committee. Come back and let us know who that person will be. I will look at my appointees as well. The new director should be involved in the decision making process on how we move forward with the YMCA.

Councilor Plough noted that we talked about being a world-class city and in deference to the staff; we have put them under some adverse conditions with lots of vacancies and trying to make things work with what was to be an innovative and creative wellness center. I think we struggled with that and we tried to make ends meet. This Wellness Center is unique to our park system and we need to figure out how we are able to manage and address the opportunity that this marvelous facility presents to this neighborhood and to the city as a whole.

Councilor Rickenmann said that he is concerned about us not exploring all options and involving everybody in those options. He suggested that we bring everybody together and look at the options. Do not put this on hold for a new director.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager said that Council has not determined whether or not to move forward with the health clinic, but one thought is to develop a job description for the manager at the Wellness Center to connect with the health clinic. Should I hold off on doing that?

There was a consensus of Council to review the proposal for the health clinic.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to resolve to add the Community Improvement Cooperative Council as a non-appointed committee member.

9. **Unified Fire Service Agreement

Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager explained that they received an initial agreement from Richland County. The Fire Chief and command staff has done a very good job of going through the agreement and refining it in areas that clarify the possibilities. Their sole goal in working on the contract was to make sure that we shared the costs of providing fire services throughout the City and the County and it was a seamless operation. We had several meetings with the Legal Department, the Fire Committee, Finance Department and the Fire Department.

Mr. Aubrey Jenkins, Fire Chief said that they want to ensure that we have a seamless, cost sharing and safe operation. We want to provide the best service that we can for both the City and the County.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to authorize the City Manager and the Fire Chief to forward the Unified Fire Service Agreement back to Richland County for review and to schedule a date for a meeting with the Columbia Fire Department personnel and emergency staff at a neutral location within the next 30-days. We will start July 1, 2012 with a seamless fire service.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 5:18 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 10** through **12** as presented.

10. Receipt of legal advice which relates to matter covered by attorney-client privilege – *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
 11. Receipt of legal advice which relates to pending, threatened or potential claim – *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
 12. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements – *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
- **Council adjourned the Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. to convene the Regular Meeting.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012
6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1737 MAIN STREET

The Columbia City Council conducted a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2011 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, The Honorable Belinda F. Gergel, The Honorable Leona K. Plough and The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman. Also present were Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore, City Clerk. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Chaplain Clyde Waters, Columbia Police Department offered the Invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda with the following amendments:

- Defer consideration of **Items 16** and **36**
- Add consideration of Resolution No.: R-2012-012 – Permitting the Police Department to collect money for the American Heart Association

PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one appeared at this time.

RESOLUTION

**Resolution No.: R-2012-012 – Permitting the Police Department to collect money for the American Heart Association - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2012-012 – Permitting the Police Department to collect money for the American Heart Association.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of December 13, 2011 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Gergel and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of December 13, 2011, as presented.

***Amendment of the Agenda*

PRESENTATIONS

2. Introduction of the Youth Commission – The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin

Mayor Benjamin welcomed the 2012 Youth Commission members to City Hall. He described the Youth Commission as an impressive, diverse group from around the Greater Columbia region with an average grade point average of 3.7. This is an opportunity for youth to discuss issues that affect Columbia's young people with City Council. The Youth Commission will hold town hall meetings with its peers. They will provide an opportunity for civic engagement, meet with City Council on a quarterly basis, spearhead community service initiatives and represent the City of Columbia at the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Councilor Devine stated that her introduction to City government was through volunteering with the former Youth Commission. She said that this will also be an opportunity for the Youth Commission to represent the City of Columbia at the National League of Cities. The City of Columbia has long dedicated service to our youth through Kids Day Columbia, programs in the Parks and Recreation Department and the Together We Can Read initiative.

Ms. Maryann Younger, National Director for Jefferson Awards of Public Service stated that the Jefferson Award was established in 1992 as the Nobel Prize for public service. In 2005, we decided to get involved with students, teach them leadership skills and empower them to do the things they want to do. The Youth Service Challenge is to get one million students involved and we want to know what you are doing in your schools. She introduced Anna Richardson as the South Carolina representative.

Mr. Jim Deyling, President of Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina Private Business Division said that they are very pleased to be a part of supporting the Youth Commission. We believe that it is critically important that corporations like ours are engaged in the community and engaged in these types of activities to help improve our community in the future. He congratulated the youths that were present. He applauded them for their GPA's and for taking on this activity.

The members of Youth Commission were sworn in by The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin.

3. 2012 Together We Can Read Initiative – The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine

Councilor Devine announced the 2012 Together We Can Read initiative. The initiative began four (4) years ago as a small part of the Together We Can initiative. The City has supported Richland County School District One's literacy program through the One Book One Columbia initiative. This is an annual project that encourages young people to read. Each year we choose a local author that has written a book about Columbia. We pick one day and readers visit every 3rd grade classroom in Richland County School District One. They read to the students and the students receive a copy of the book. This year's reading day is Thursday, February 23, 2012. This year's book is *All Around Town* by Dinah Johnson. It's a book that celebrates the work of Richard Samuel Roberts. The Columbia Museum of Art is also showcasing the work of Richard Samuel Roberts.

Dr. Percy Mack, Superintendent of Richland County School District One said that he wanted to develop a community of learners; not just in the school system, but an entire community where learning is the key. Literacy has been the key to learning. Students who can read can also do so many other things; therefore, we focus on literacy with the support of our Board of School Commissioners. We look forward to all of you reading to our children and helping them to understand that one day not only will they be able to read; they will be able to be just like you. We are excited because the students have gone to the museum and seen this book come alive.

Ms. Karen Brosius, Executive Director of the Columbia Museum of Art said that 2,000 third graders from Richland One have participated in the program led by Joelle Ryan-Cook, Deputy Director and Kerry Kuhlkin-Hornsby, Director of Education along with the Richland County Public Library. She said that it is a great partnership and education is at the corner of their mission. The Richard Samuel Roberts exhibition was launched on December 13, 2011 and I would like to encourage everyone to see it through the end of April. It was spearheaded by the Friends of African-American Art and Culture, which is a new membership affiliate of the Columbia Museum of Art.

Ms. Melanie Huggins, Executive Director of the Richland County Public Library said that this the first year the library has been involved at this level and we have just scratched the surface of what we can do together with this initiative. Dinah doesn't just greet the children, she presents a 30-minute program where they dance, sing and talk about alliteration and all of the beautiful things that they love about themselves. The museum and the library developed a fabulous curriculum guide and the Richland One teachers are doing their part to prepare the students. The book was out of print and we had to send a letter to the publishing house in order to purchase copies. This is a world-class exhibit and a world-class author and we should be extraordinarily proud.

Ms. Dinah Johnson, Author of *All Around Town* said that it is an honor to do this for the children of Columbia and to collaborate with all these wonderful organizations. I am a professor at the University of South Carolina and I want you all to appreciate the way in which the professors there are contributing always to this city. I am thrilled to meet the kids and hearing how smart they are.

Mayor Benjamin proclaimed Thursday, February 23, 2012 as Together We Can Read Day in the City of Columbia.

Mr. Temple Ligon, Reporter for the Columbia Star said that the first great art movement of the 20th century began in Paris in 1907 by Picasso when he studied African masks. The first great art movement of the 20th century began with African art.

4. PalmettoPride Grant – Ms. Sherryl Jenkins, Grants Program Manager

Ms. Sherryl Jenkins, Grants Program Manager for PalmettoPride said that they provide grants to community groups, municipalities, and organizations that want to keep our state clean and beautiful. This year, we awarded over 140 grants. The City of Columbia submitted a grant application to help sustain the Community Garden Program. She presented a \$4,000 check to the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department.

5. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Honor the Dream Food Drive and Dream Keeper Award Recipients – Mr. Durham Carter, Chair of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation, Mr. Randy Davis, Recreation Superintendent for Parks and Recreation and Ms. Imogene F. Clarke, Director of Student Nutrition Services / Richland School District One

Mr. Durham Carter, Chair of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation provided an update on the January 16th celebration that was held in honor of the late Dr. Martin Luther King. It was a success based on attendance and the young people that were present. He recognized the following Dream Keeper Award winners:

- The \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Rikard and Protopapas Law Firm and the MLK Neighborhood Association was awarded to Jonathan Franklin, Lower Richland High School.
- The \$500 award sponsored by the two Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternities: the Alpha Lambda Chapter and the Omicron Iota Chapter was awarded to Raven Richardson, Richland Northeast High School.
- The \$250 award sponsored by the Cromartie Law Firm was awarded to Richard Black, Ridegeview High School.
- The two \$100 scholarships sponsored by Troubleshooter A/C, Heating and Refrigeration of Lexington County were awarded to Anthony Frederick, Dent Middle School and John David Black, Richland Northeast.
- A one-time gift of \$200 given by Minnie Wilson-Bivins in honor of her mother Donella Brown Wilson was awarded to Taylor Marie Lampkin, Palmetto State E-Academy.
- A \$250 scholarship sponsored by the Columbia Blues Festival was awarded to Brandon Anthony Elkins, AC Flora.
- A \$100 Chairman’s scholarship donated by Durham E. Carter on behalf of his wife Mable was awarded to Wynmark Barton III, Richland Northeast.

Ms. Imogene F. Clarke, Director of Student Nutrition Services / Richland School District One presented the Principals and Park Leaders that collected over 20,000 pounds of non-perishable food items during the month of December and at Richland the Nov. 29-Dec. 2 to support the Harvest Hope Food Bank.

Dr. Marian Crum-Mack, Brennan Elementary School	1st Place
Mr. Goler Collins, Hopkins Middle School	2nd Place
Mrs. Fannie Hutchins-Young, WS Sandel Elementary School	3rd Place
Greenview Park	1st Place
Pinehurst	2nd Place
MLK Park	3rd Place

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

6. Ordinance No.: 2011-102 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinance of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 12, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article IV, Parking Garages and City Owned Parking Facilities, Sec. 12-150, Fees to add (4) City Center Garage – *Approved on first reading.*
- **Council opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 p.m.**

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to Ordinance No.: 2011-102.

- **Council closed the Public Hearing at 7:04 p.m.**

Upon a motion made by Ms. Plough and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2011-102 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinance of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 12, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article IV, Parking Garages and City Owned Parking Facilities, Sec. 12-150, Fees to add (4) City Center Garage.

SIDE WALK VENDING PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

7. Ordinance No.: 2012-009 – Granting a Franchise to Regina Doster and Kylin Doster d/b/a Carolina Dawgs for operation of a stationary sidewalk vending cart within the mid-block pad near 1333 Main Street – *Approved on first reading.*
- **Council opened the Sidewalk Vending Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m.**

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to Ordinance No.: 2012-009.

- **Council closed the Sidewalk Vending Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m.**

Upon a motion made by Ms. Plough and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2012-009 – Granting a Franchise to Regina Doster and Kylin Doster d/b/a Carolina Dawgs for operation of a stationary sidewalk vending cart within the mid-block pad near 1333 Main Street. *This is a renewal.*

OTHER MATTER

8. Council is asked to approve the Disposition of Ten (10) Bicycles for Charity, as requested by the Police Department's Evidence and Property Unit. Award to Ms. Dee Albritton, Executive Director of Fast Forward. - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Gergel and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve the Disposition of Ten (10) Bicycles for Charity, as requested by the Police Department's Evidence and Property Unit. Award to Ms. Dee Albritton, Executive Director of Fast Forward. *These bicycles will be distributed to Veterans in need of transportation.*

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a single motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 9 through 15 and 17 through 26. Item 16** was withdrawn from the agenda.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS, AGREEMENTS and CHANGE ORDERS

9. Council is asked to approve an Amendment of Solicitation/Modification of Contract between the City of Columbia and the Government to Increase the current Water Rates for Fort Jackson by 15% from the period of February 3, 2012 through June 17, 2020, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. - *Approved*
10. Council is asked to approve a Contract for the Installation of Three (3) Digital Equipment Pay-by-Space Devices for the Taylor Street Garage and Two (2) Devices for the City Center Garage. Award to Southern Time Equipment Company, for a cost not to exceed \$59,981.05. This vendor is located in Wilson, N.C. *Funding Source: 2005 Parking Revenue Bond (PG001109 for the units at the Taylor Street Garage and PG001103 and PG001104 for the City Center Garage).* - *Approved*
11. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Two (2) Chevrolet Tahoes, as requested by the Police Department. Award to Love Cheverolet, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$71,564.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Confiscated Funds DEA-Auto Trucks, Heavy Equipment >\$5k; 2042412-658500* - *Approved*
12. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of an Emergency Notification System, as requested by 911 Communications Center. Award to Everbridge in the amount of \$75,500.00. This vendor is located in Glendale, CA. *Funding Source: Emergency Communications 911/Computer/Elect Equip-Capital; 1012701-658600* - *Approved*
13. Council is asked to approve Capital Improvement Project WM4242; An Agreement for Water Main Relocation along the Western Right-of-Way of Interstate 77, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to Harley Investments, LLC, pending legal's approval in an amount not to exceed \$80,107.50. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Water Improvement Fund. – Note: The City of Columbia will pay 50% of the cost of this project.* - *Approved*
14. Council is asked to approve Capital Improvement Project SS7060; An Agreement for Engineering Services for the Metro Wasterwater Treatment Plant Station Maintenance, Rehabilitation and Viability Planning, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to American Engineering Consultants, Inc., in the amount of \$372,000.00. This vendor is located in Cayce, SC. *Funding Source: Sewer Improvement Fund; 5529999-SS7060-636600 – Note: Howard Engineering (Marietta, SC) will provide electrical engineering services at 4% of the total contract and Case Consulting (Columbia, SC) will provide structural engineering services at 1.9 % of the total contract. The original budgeted amount was \$600,000.00.* - *Approved*

15. Council is asked to approve Capital Improvement Project SS7208; An Agreement for Engineering Services for the Saluda River Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study, as requested by Utilities Engineering. Award to Brown & Caldwell in the amount of \$695,700.00. This vendor is located in Walnut Creek, CA. *Funding Source: Sewer Improvements Fund; 5529999-SS7208-658600* **Note:** *Construction Support Services (Columbia, SC) will provide field inspections & mapping grade GPS services for 7% of the total contract and Hydrostructures (Pittsboro, NC) will provide additional assistance with field inspections and flow monitoring for 27% of the total contract. The original budgeted amount was \$900,000.00. - Approved*
16. Council is asked to approve Subcontractor Outreach Program and Local Business Preference Project SS711502; Congaree River Sewer Force Main Improvements, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to D.S Utilities Inc., the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder in accordance with the Local Business Preference Policy in the amount of \$8,885,000.00. This vendor is located in Little Mountain, SC. *Funding and Supplemental Source: Sanitary Sewer Improvement Fund; SS711502-658650* **Note:** *The original budgeted amount was \$8,770,850.00 – Consideration of this item was deferred.*

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

17. Ordinance No.: 2012-007(*Revised*) – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 11, Licenses, Permits and Miscellaneous Business Regulations, Articles III, Business and Professional License, Sec. 11-32 Definitions, Gross Income – *First reading approval was given on January 17, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*

ANNEXATION WITH MAP AMENDMENT – SECOND READING

18. **1011 Clemson Frontage Road**, TMS# 25608-01-33; request to annex and zone the property C-3 (General Commercial). The property is zoned GC (General Commercial) in Richland County. – *First reading approval was given on January 17, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2012-001 – Annexing 1011 Clemson Frontage Road, Richland County TMS #25608-01-33 – *First reading approval was given on January 17, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*

19. **5300 Farrow Road**, TMS: 11611-02-02; request to annex and zone the property M-1 (Light Industrial). The property is zoned M-1 (Light Industrial) in Richland County. – *First reading approval was given on January 17, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2012-002 – Annexing 5300 Farrow Road, Richland County TMS #11611-02-02 – *First reading approval was given on January 17, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*

20. **201 Plumbers Road**; TMS: 14303-02-05; request to annex and zone the property M-1 (Light Industrial). The property is zoned M-1 (Light Industrial) in Richland County. – *First reading approval was given on January 17, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2012-003 – Annexing 201 Plumbers Road, Richland County TMS #14303-02-05 – *First reading approval was given on January 17, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*

21. **1241 Veterans Road;** TMS: 16301-02-13; request to annex and zone the property M-1 (Light Industrial). The property is zoned M-1 (Light Industrial) in Richland County. – *First reading approval was given on January 17, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2012-004 – Annexing 1241 Veterans Road, Richland County TMS #16301-02-13 – *First reading approval was given on January 17, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*

22. **170 Pontiac Business Center Drive;** TMS: 25714-01-04; request to annex and zone the property M-1 (Light Industrial). The property is zoned M-1 (Light Industrial) in Richland County. – *First reading approval was given on January 17, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2012-005 – Annexing 170 Pontiac Business Center Drive, Richland County TMS #25714-01-04 – *First reading approval was given on January 17, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*

CONFIRMATION OF ZONING OF PREVIOUSLY ANNEXED PROPERTY – SECOND READING

23. **14 Coatsdale Circle;** TMS: 16307-08-03; confirm RS-2 zoning for parcel annexed May 24, 2011. – *First reading approval was given on January 17, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*

24. **100 Coopers Nursery Road, 108 Coopers Nursery Road, 112 Coopers Nursery Road, 6 Buckthorn Court, 102 Buckthorn Circle, 103 Buckthorn Circle, 106 Buckthorn Circle, 204 Buckthorn Circle, and 208 Buckthorn Circle;** TMS: 28906-01-09, 28906-01-11, 28905-02-12, 28906-01-07, 28905-02-07, 28905-01-05, 28905-02-09, 28906-01-02, and 28902-01-30; confirm PUD-R zoning for parcels annexed May 24, 2011. – *First reading approval was given on January 17, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*

MAP AMENDMENT – SECOND READING

25. **916 Harden Street;** TMS: 11405-07-12 and 14; request to rezone the property from RG-1 -5P to MX-1 -5P. – *First reading approval was given on January 17, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*

26. **1015 Whaley Street** TMS: 11301-02-06; request to rezone the property from M-2 (Heavy Industrial) to M-1 (Light Industrial). – *First reading approval was given on January 17, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

27. Ordinance No.: 2011-099 – Granting encroachment to Byron Larry Lawson for installation and maintenance of a chain link fence, walk gate and landscaping within the right of way area of the 3700 block of Witherspoon Street adjacent to 3707 MacGregor Drive, Richland County TMS #13907-06-04 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2011-099 – Granting encroachment to Byron Larry Lawson for installation and maintenance of a chain link fence, walk gate and landscaping within the right of way area of the 3700 block of Witherspoon Street adjacent to 3707 MacGregor Drive, Richland County TMS #13907-06-04.

28. Ordinance No.: 2011-104 – Granting an encroachment to Corporation of the Presiding Bishop of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for installation and maintenance of landscaping, an irrigation system, driveways and curb cuts within the right of way areas of the 4400 block of Fort Jackson Boulevard and the 4400 block of Wildcat Road adjacent to 4440 Fort Jackson Boulevard, Richland County TMS #13814-02-05 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2011-104 – Granting an encroachment to Corporation of the Presiding Bishop of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for installation and maintenance of landscaping, an irrigation system, driveways and curb cuts within the right of way areas of the 4400 block of Fort Jackson Boulevard and the 4400 block of Wildcat Road adjacent to 4440 Fort Jackson Boulevard, Richland County TMS #13814-02-05.

29. Ordinance No.: 2012-011 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Lease between the City of Columbia and Old Boy Properties, LLC for property consisting of 100± acres in Richland County, South Carolina being a portion of the property formerly owned by Columbia Venture, LLC and Sunday School, LLC – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2012-011 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Lease between the City of Columbia and Old Boy Properties, LLC for property consisting of 100± acres in Richland County, South Carolina being a portion of the property formerly owned by Columbia Venture, LLC and Sunday School, LLC.

30. Ordinance No.: 2012-014 – A Ninth Supplemental Ordinance Providing for the Issuance and Sale of City of Columbia, South Carolina, Waterworks and Sewer System Refunding Revenue Bonds, in one or more series, in the aggregate principal amount of not exceeding \$72,000,000, In order to Refinance certain outstanding bonds; Authorizing the Mayor, the City Manager, the Finance Director and the Treasurer, or any two of them acting together, to determine certain matters with respect to the bonds; prescribing the form and details of such bonds; and other matters relating thereto – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2012-014 – A Ninth Supplemental Ordinance Providing for the Issuance and Sale of City of Columbia, South Carolina, Waterworks and Sewer System Refunding Revenue Bonds, in one or more series, in the aggregate principal amount of not exceeding \$72,000,000, In order to Refinance certain outstanding bonds; Authorizing the Mayor, the City Manager, the Finance Director and the Treasurer, or any two of them acting together, to determine certain matters with respect to the bonds; prescribing the form and details of such bonds; and other matters relating thereto.

RESOLUTIONS

31. Resolution No.: R-2011-079 – Authorizing the Community Development Director and Executive Director of the Office of Business Opportunities to Commence Collection Actions on Loans – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2011-079 – Authorizing the Community Development Director and Executive Director of the Office of Business Opportunities to Commence Collection Actions on Loans. Mr. Newman was not present for the vote.

32. Resolution No.: R-2012-006 – Release and Abandonment a portion of the City’s Existing Water Main Easement along Lexington County TMS #002763-01-017 & 018 (Portion); 326 Harbison Boulevard (McDonald’s Restaurant) & 310 Harbison Boulevard; CF #131-03B & CF#320-09 – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2012-006 – Release and Abandonment a portion of the City’s Existing Water Main Easement along Lexington County TMS #002763-01-017 & 018 (Portion); 326 Harbison Boulevard (McDonald’s Restaurant) & 310 Harbison Boulevard; CF #131-03B & CF#320-09. Mr. Newman was not present for the vote.

33. Resolution R-2012-008 – Authorizing the filing of a civil action in the Court of Common Pleas against Metro Live, 1800 Blanding Street, seeking (i) a mandatory injunction requiring compliance with City Code Chapter 8, Environmental Health and Sanitation, Article IV, Pollution Control, Division 5, Regulations and Requirements Relating to Smoking of Tobacco Products, (ii) a declaration that the infraction of said Division is a public nuisance and for an order requiring abatement of the public nuisance, and/or (iii) for any other remedy permitted by law – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution R-2012-008 – Authorizing the filing of a civil action in the Court of Common Pleas against Metro Live, 1800 Blanding Street, seeking (i) a mandatory injunction requiring compliance with City Code Chapter 8, Environmental Health and Sanitation, Article IV, Pollution Control, Division 5, Regulations and Requirements Relating to Smoking of Tobacco Products, (ii) a declaration that the infraction of said Division is a public nuisance and for an order requiring abatement of the public nuisance, and/or (iii) for any other remedy permitted by law.

34. Resolution No.: R-2012-009 – Authorizing the City Manager and Chief of Police to execute Mutual Aid Agreements and Narcotics Enforcement Agreements between the City of Columbia and the City of Columbia Police Department and thirty-five (35) South Carolina Law Enforcement Agencies – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: 2012-009 – Authorizing the City Manager and Chief of Police to execute Mutual Aid Agreements and Narcotics Enforcement Agreements between the City of Columbia and the City of Columbia Police Department and thirty-five (35) South Carolina Law Enforcement Agencies.

35. Resolution No.: R-2012-003 – Adopting the All Natural Hazards Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan for the Central Midlands Region of South Carolina Update – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2012-003 – Adopting the All Natural Hazards Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan for the Central Midlands Region of South Carolina Update

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING

36. Ordinance No.: 2011-039 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinance of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 19, Solid Waste Management, Article II, Collection and Disposal, Sec. 19-41 Restrictions on collection (h) Bulk containers for commercial and industrial users – *First reading approval was given on December 20, 2011. – Consideration of this item was deferred.*

APPOINTMENTS

37. Building Board of Adjustments and Appeals

Upon a single motion made by Ms. Plaugh and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve the following reappointments for a final two year term and appointments for a two year term:

Reappointments

Deborah Anne Snow
Thomas Carlisle
Zach McGhee Jr.
Joel McCreary (Alternate)

New Appointments

Kirk Christopher
Christopher Corbett
Fadi Shatnawi (Alternate)

38. Climate Protection Action Committee

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to approve the reappointment of Ryan Nevius by Dr. Gergel and the appointment of Cory Lorick by Ms. Devine.

39. Columbia Housing Authority – *Consideration of this item was deferred for clarification of the board composition.*

40. Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee

Upon a motion made by Dr. Gergel and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted four (4) to three (3) to defer the appointment of Ms. Rosie Craig until another vacancy arises.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. William Green and Mr. Willard Holley, III for a two (2) year term. It is noted that at least five (5) vacancies will be filled prior to April 2013.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

41. Administrative Policy Committee – *No report was given at this time.*

42. Arts & Historic Preservation Committee

Councilor Gergel reported that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

43. Environment and Infrastructure Committee

Councilor Devine provided the following report from the Environment and Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, January 31, 2012: ACM Gentry presented an aerial map of the City's greenways, trails and sidewalks. They are working to develop a connectivity plan. There was a consensus of the committee to endorse the concept. Staff will draft a plan for progression by identifying the connection points and other opportunities. Fred Delk was asked to submit the Urban Land Institute's proposal in writing and City Council will be asked to identify \$40,000 for the Urban Land Institute to conduct a plan. The committee reviewed several water and sewer line warranty programs and a Request for Qualifications will be drafted. The committee suggested that the City Manager consider privatizing all water and sewer repairs and allow workers to focus on maintenance. The committee will receive monthly updates on services that can be considered for privatization. Staff is currently reviewing responses to the Request for Proposals for automated meter reading. Responses to the Request for Qualifications for a firm to evaluate Rocky Branch and Bright Meyers' proposed solutions have been received. All of the City's information on the Rocky Branch to include previous studies conducted by other entities, recommendations from the Rocky Branch Watershed Alliance and the letter from Dr. Venkat Lakshmi will be shared with the selected firm.

44. Finance, Audit and Budget Committee

Councilor Rickenmann reported that the budget process is underway. We will begin meeting with departments on March 7-9. We will schedule the public hearings in May and the public vote in June. In between those dates, we will also have an Audit Committee meeting to discuss the audit and the management letter upon completion.

APPEARANCE OF PUBLIC

Dr. German Miller, Akeru Legacy Council thanked Mr. S. Allison Baker, Senior Assistant City Manager for his continued support. She presented an original artifact from the Sovereign Knights to City Council. This art is now on display at the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department's Backman Gallery on Calhoun Street. This is in recognition of Black History Month.

Mr. Jake Williams, III and Mr. James D. Conway, Jr. of the Sovereign Knights thanked Council for the opportunity to get to know the City and to present their artwork. We've worked hard putting our degrees to work and being a positive role model to the youth.

Councilor Gergel invited everyone to attend a meeting being hosted by the Rocky Branch Watershed Alliance on Thursday, February 9th.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to reconvene Executive Session at 8:16 p.m.

- **Council adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk