

**CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 21, 2012 – 2:00 P.M.
CITY HALL - 1737 MAIN STREET**



The Columbia City Council met for a Work Session on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. 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 2:17 p.m. and The Honorable Belinda F. Gergel joined the meeting at 2:36 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. Green Business Challenge – Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator

Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator announced that the Midlands Green Business Challenge in conjunction with Richland and Lexington counties will kick-off on March 15, 2012 for all workplaces in the Midlands. Participating businesses will be given six (6) new goals and will be asked to complete four (4) of those goals by August 15, 2012. All participants will receive a certificate of achievement and be recognized at the 2012 Green is Good for Business Conference.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to endorse the Midlands Green Business Challenge.

2. Employee Mortgage Loan Program – Ms. Deborah Livingston, Director of Community Development

Ms. Deborah Livingston, Director of Community Development reported on consolidation of the employee loan program and the police homeownership loan program into one program that encourages employees to move into the City of Columbia corporate city limits. The new maximum loan amount is \$400,000 and there are no income restrictions.

3. Security Cameras at Riverbanks Zoo – Mr. Steven Gantt, City Manager

Mr. Steven Gantt, City Manager recalled that several months ago, City Council approved a grant program for cameras within the Hospitality Districts to include the Vista, Five Points, North Main and Harbison. There has been a large increase in car break-ins at the Zoo. I would like for Council to add Riverbanks Zoo as a hospitality area, because they are our number one tourist attraction in South Carolina.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to establish the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden as another Hospitality District.

4. National Endowment for the Arts' 2012 Our Town Grant – Mr. Sam Johnson, Mayor's Special Assistant

Mr. Sam Johnson, Mayor's Special Assistant sought Council's endorsement of the 2012 Our Town Grant application in the amount of \$25,000 for the City's Famously Hot New Year's Eve Celebration. He noted that private funds would be sought as the 1-to-1 match of non-federal funds.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to endorse the 2012 Our Town Grant application for the City's Famously Hot New Year's Eve Celebration. Mr. Rickenmann was not present for the vote.

5. Project Funding Discussion – Ms. Melisa Smith Gentry, P.E., Assistant City Manager and Ms. Teresa Wilson, Assistant City Manager

Ms. Melisa Smith Gentry, P.E., Assistant City Manager asked Council to direct \$150,000 for the replacement of the Maxcy Gregg Park Pool along with \$600,000 from CDBG and \$138,000 for the construction of bathroom facilities at Southeast Park. We would capture any remaining funding for Fire Station renovations. A total of \$331,000 is needed for all stations.

▪ **Dr. Gergel arrived at 2:36 p.m.**

Ms. Teresa Wilson, Assistant City Manager explained that they have identified an amount of funding for this project that will allow the Community Development Department to continue with the housing programs. The \$600,000 allocation for the pool at Maxcy Gregg Park will be added to the Action Plan. These funds would become impacted after the program income that we need to get out the door most immediately.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Gergel and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the allocation of \$150,000 from Fund 413 in addition to \$600,000 from the Community Development Block Grant Program Income for the replacement of the Maxcy Gregg Park Pool and \$138,000 from Fund 413 for the construction of bathroom facilities at Southeast Park. Any remaining funding in Fund 413 after the completion of these projects would be used for Fire Station renovations. Mr. Davis was not present for the vote.

6. Utility Tree Trimming Public Meeting – Ms. Sara Hollar, Superintendent of Forestry and Beautification

Ms. Sara Hollar, Superintendent of Forestry and Beautification announced that the City's Forestry and Beautification Division received a \$15,000 grant from Scott's Miracle-Gro® along with \$10,000 in-kind services for the beautification of the I-26 interchange at Riverbanks Zoo. This project will be completed by April 23, 2012. She reported that SCE&G is completing the 2011 schedule for utility line trimming. The schedule for 2012 will begin in April and residents will be notified by postcard two-weeks prior to SCE&G working in their area. A public information session is scheduled for Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the Eau Claire Print Building, 3902 Ensor Avenue.

Dr. Gergel asked that another public information session be scheduled within Council District III.

- 6a. **2012 City of Columbia Business License Renewal Requirements – The Honorable Leona K. Plough

Ms. Brenda Kyzer, Business License Administrator explained that businesses received their renewal packets along with an insert asking for a copy of tax returns. That is not completely true. We are looking to get an excerpt from their tax documents that pertain to the businesses' gross income. Letters will be sent as early as Friday of this week to businesses clarifying the changes to the business license renewal process. We will focus on the online payment system and we will be more specific about what we're looking for.

Staff will continue to explore other options for the verification of gross income of businesses and to include information in the letter on the privacy policy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 3:27 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 7 and 8**.

7. Receipt of legal advice which relates to matter covered by attorney-client privilege – *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
 8. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangement– *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
- **Council adjourned the Executive Session at 4:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012
6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1737 MAIN STREET

The Columbia City Council conducted a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:11 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

Mayor Benjamin recognized Joshua Plank of Boy Scout Troop #8 of the Incarnation Lutheran Church. His Eagle Scout project was recognized by the Indian Awards Council as the Eagle Project of the Year. He and his fellow scouts prepared care packages for our troops in Iraq. The care packages were sent to a unit from McEntire Air National Guard.

Boy Scout Troop #8 of the Incarnation Lutheran Church led the pledge of allegiance. They're working on their citizenship and community merit badge.

INVOCATION

Chaplain Jim Reese, Columbia Fire Department offered the Invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve the adoption of the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one appeared at this time.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Introduction of the February 2012 Employee of the Month – Mr. David Brewer, Traffic Engineer

Mr. David Brewer, Traffic Engineer introduced Mr. Bill Langley, Electronics Technician I as the February 2012 Employee of the Month. He described Mr. Langley as a 10-year employee that is meticulous and pursues excellence at every level.

Mayor Benjamin presented Mr. Langley with a plaque and Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager presented Mr. Langley with a token of appreciation for being selected as the City of Columbia February 2012 Employee of the Month.

2. 2011 National Night Out Award – Mr. Randy Scott, Police Chief

Chief Randy Scott, Columbia Police Department announced that the City of Columbia placed 22nd nationally, in the 2011 National Night Out. He presented Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager with an award in recognition of outstanding participation in National Night Out Against Crime. He represented awards to Mary Baskins-Waters, President of the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods, Deborah Livingston, Director of Community Development and Chief William Harrell on behalf of the Columbia Fire Department. He also recognized Officer Ronald Felder for his efforts in making the 2011 National Night Out a great success.

3. 2nd Annual Columbia Lifesavers Blood Drive – Mr. Reggie Belcher, Chair of the Board of Directors for the American Red Cross, SC Blood Services

Mr. Reggie Belcher, Chair of the Board of Directors for the American Red Cross, SC Blood Services said that the SC Red Cross services more than 50 hospitals in South Carolina. Earlier this month, the 2nd Annual Columbia Lifesavers Blood drive was held and 320 units of blood were collected. That was the most blood ever collected by the Red Cross in a single-day collection drive in South Carolina. They presented tokens of appreciation to Pamela Benjamin, Human Resources Director and Kimerly Roof of the City Engineer's Office. They also presented a plaque to Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager. Sam Johnson, Special Assistant to the Mayor was recognized for his assistance with marketing the drive.

- **Mr. Davis left the meeting at 6:28 p.m.**

OTHER MATTER

4. Revocation / Suspension Hearing – Ms. Brenda Kyzer, Business License Administrator

Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin

I call to order the hearing by the City Council on the Business License Revocation for Cola Entertainment Group, LLC dba Metro Live. This hearing is part of the procedure for suspension and revocation of a business license under Section 11-45 of the City's Business License Ordinance. Section 11-45 provides for suspension of a business license by the "license inspector" based on one or more of five listed grounds. The ground involved here is listed as number five in section 15: "A licensee has engaged in an unlawful activity or nuisance related to the business". Under section 11-45, a written notice is served on the licensee informing the licensee that the business license is suspended pending a hearing before the city council for the purpose of determining whether the license should be revoked. Under Section 11-46 of the Business License Ordinance, all parties have the right to be represented by counsel, to present testimony and evidence, and to cross-examine witnesses. The proceedings shall be recorded and transcribed at the expense of the party so requesting. The rules of evidence and procedure prescribed by the city council shall govern the hearing. The city council shall, by majority vote of the members present, render a written decision based on findings of fact and the application of the standards in this article, which shall be served upon all parties or their representatives and shall be final unless a party appeals to a court of competent jurisdiction within ten days after service. No person shall be subject to prosecution for doing business without a license until the expiration of ten days after notice of denial or revocation which is not appealed or until the final judgment of a court upholding denial or revocation. Each party should identify himself or herself for purposes of the record. Ms. Kyzer, please present the case of the Business License Inspector.

Ms. Brenda Kyzer, Business License Administrator

I am Brenda Kyzer of the City of Columbia Business License Office. I am the Administrator. I would also like to introduce Holly Beeson, Esq. from the Legal Department, who is assisting with this case and also members of the Hospitality Safety Team that were involved with this as well. In my capacity as the business license administrator, I have suspended the business license of Cola Entertainment Group, LLC DBA: Metro Live, located at 1800 Blanding Street, pursuant to Section 11-45 of the City Ordinances on the basis that it has engaged in an unlawful activity or nuisance related to the business. I am placing into the record a certified copy of City Code Ordinance Section 11-45. It states that: "When the license inspector determines that (number 5) a licensee has engaged in an unlawful activity or nuisance related to the business; the license inspector shall give written notice to the licensee or the person in control of the business within the city by personal service or registered mail that the license is suspended pending a hearing before the city council for the purpose of determining whether the license should be revoked." I am also placing into the record certified copies of the Smoking Ordinance, Sections 8-215 through 8-221 of the City Ordinances. The relevant sections are Section 8-216 which defines "Workplace" to include indoor areas, structures, and buildings at which one or more employees perform services for their employer including restaurants and bars; Section 8-217 which prohibits smoking in any workplace; and Section 8-220 (a) which deems a violation of this division to be a public nuisance. Section 8-220(d) (2) further deems three or more infractions that occur within a six-month period at a workplace to be a nuisance related to the business. Next, I am placing into the record certified copies of the three convictions Metro Live received within a six month period for smoking in the workplace. The dates of those convictions are August 13, 2011, November 5, 2011 and January 16, 2012. Finally, I am handing up for the record evidence that Metro Live was served with notice of this hearing within the thirty-day period following issuance of the notice of suspension. Following your consideration of this evidence, we ask that you revoke the business license of Cola Entertainment Group, LLC dba Metro Live.

Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin

The representatives of Metro Live may now present its case. Let the record reflect that no one is here representing Metro Live or Cola Entertainment Group, LLC. The Council may now deliberate and discuss this matter, unless you have something else to add.

Councilor Rickenmann

Did we hand deliver this or send it only by mail, because I don't see a return receipt on this.

Ms. Brenda Kyzer, Business License Administrator

The certified mail has not been returned, but we did a process server to serve here locally to the person here.

Councilor Devine

The affidavit of service is attached.

Councilor Rickenmann

Are there any other violations at this location?

Ms. Brenda Kyzer, Business License Administrator

Are you talking about smoking violations? There have been a few more.

Councilor Rickenmann

Are those the only ones we've written up; the ones presented.

Ms. Brenda Kyzer, Business License Administrator

The three that we have are the ones that we have the certified copies for you that we could get. We had another one since then and we had another one. The courts couldn't produce either one, the convictions or the summons. We went with what we had for certified copies. In total, I believe there has been five now.

Councilor Devine

From the information from the court I can't tell whether or not Mr. Johnson showed up or was it a trial in absence.

Ms. Brenda Kyzer, Business License Administrator

They have never showed up for court. He was tried in absence for all of them.

Councilor Devine

Just for the record, I see the affidavit of service and it was served on Anna Johnson. There's no notation that she was over the age 18. You might need to say that for the record.

Ms. Holly Beeson, Esq., Assistant City Attorney

We will have to ask the process server. He does the process service for the City and I believe he would understand the rules and know that she is supposed to be of age. We can certainly verify that.

Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin

Any other discussion; is there a motion?

Upon a motion made by Dr. Gergel and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to uphold the suspension and revoke the business license for Cola Entertainment Group, LLC doing business as Metro Live.

Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin

There was a vote of Council to uphold the suspension of the business license for Cola Entertainment Group, LLC doing business as Metro Live and revoke the business license based on the evidence presented in the record. Counsel for the prevailing party shall draft a written decision and forward the same to the Council within ten days of today's decision. I hereby declare that this hearing is ended subject to reconvening to review and approve the written decision prepared by counsel for the prevailing party.

5. Speed Hump Request - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve the Installation of a Speed Hump on Kathwood Drive.

6. Council is asked to approve the Destruction of One Hundred Forty-Two (142) Firearms and One Hundred Nineteen (119) Weapons for Sale / Trade, as requested by the Police Department's Evidence and Property Unit. - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Plough and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve the Destruction of One Hundred Forty-Two (142) Firearms and One Hundred Nineteen (119) Weapons for Sale / Trade, as requested by the Police Department's Evidence and Property Unit.

7. Council is asked to approve a Loan Agreement between the University of South Carolina Libraries and the City of Columbia for the digitization, cataloging and public access to the City's historic documents and photographs, as recommended by the Arts & Historic Preservation Committee. - *Approved at not cost to the City of Columbia.*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Gergel and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve a Loan Agreement between the University of South Carolina Libraries and the City of Columbia for the digitization, cataloging and public access to the City's historic documents and photographs, as recommended by the Arts & Historic Preservation Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a single motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 8** through **22**. Mr. Rickenmann was not present for the vote.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS, AGREEMENTS and CHANGE ORDERS

8. Council is asked to approve Capital Improvement Project PG001109; An Agreement for Engineering Services for Evaluation, Repair Design and Structural Feasibility Study Services for the Washington Street Parking Garage and the Taylor Street Parking Garage, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to F&ME Consultants in an amount not to exceed \$56,660.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: PG001109 – Note: This is being done to identify leaks in the garages that need to be repaired. The agreement also includes Phase I repairs. - Approved*

9. Council is asked to approve Capital Improvement Project SS7215; An Agreement for General Engineering Services, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to Hazen & Sawyer, PC in the amount of \$75,000.00. This vendor is located in Raleigh, NC. *Funding Source: Sewer Improvement Fund; 5516212-SS7215-636600 - Approved*
10. Council is asked to approve Capital Improvement Project SD8379; An Agreement for Providing a Study on the Urban Development Impact to the Rocky Branch Drainage Basin, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to AMEC Environment & Infrastructure, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00. This vendor is located in Alpharetta, GA. *Funding Source: Stormwater Utility Fund; 5534210-SD8379-636600 – **Note:** A Request for Qualifications was issued on January 19, 2012. – Approved subject to additional questions being sent from members of Council to Mr. Joey Jaco, Director of Utilities and Engineering for consideration in amending the scope of services.*
11. Council is asked to approve a Proposal for the Solicitation of a Five Year Leisure Master Plan, as requested by Community Development. Award to Genesis Consulting Group in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: JL-9100300810 – 636600 - Approved*
12. Council is asked to approve an Agreement for Chief Information Officer Services, as requested by the Information Technology Department. Award to Advanced Automation Consulting in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00. This firm is located in Irmo, SC. *Funding Source: 1011120-636600 **Note:** Advanced Automated Consulting is engaged to provide strategic direction under a Statement of Work for up to an 8-week period. The interim Director of Information Technology Director oversees the day-to-day operations of the department. - Approved*
13. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of a Cues Video Inspection Trailer Unit, as requested by the Fleet Services Division. Award to Southern Municipal Equipment Company, as a Sole Source in the amount of \$167,508.50. This vendor is located in Lexington, SC. *Funding Source: Capital Replacement/Auto, Trucks, Heavy Equip-Capital, 6308972-658500 – **Note:** This is for the Wastewater Maintenance Division. - Approved*
14. Council is asked to approve the Design, Installation, Equipment and Labor to Re-Modernize the Elevator System for City Hall, as requested by the Support Services Division. Award to Oracle Elevator Inc., the lowest bidder in the amount of \$213,800.00. This vendor is located in Charlotte, NC. *Funding Source: General Capital Projects/Professional Service for Capital Projects, 403999-658660 – **Note:** The time of repairs will be from May to August 2012. The original budget amount was \$250,000.00 - Approved*

15. Council is asked to approve Capital Improvement Project SS7199; An Agreement for Services to Rehabilitate the Sanitary Sewer Collection System in the Saluda River Sewer Basins, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to W.K. Dickson & Company, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$683,500.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Sewer Improvement Fund, 5529999-SS7199-636600 – Note: Palmetto Consulting (Chapin, SC) will provide manhole inspection and flow monitoring assistance at 10.25% of the total contract and Redzone Robotics (Lexington, SC) will provide CCTV and cleaning assistance at 11% of the total contract – **Note:** The original budget amount was \$3,700,00.00; \$700,000 has been allotted for professional services and \$3,000,000 has been allotted for contracted major maintenance. - Approved*
16. Council is asked to approve Professional Services to upgrade the City's Utility Billing System, as requested by the Information Technology Department. Award to Ventyx in the amount of \$891,807.55. This vendor is located in Atlanta, GA. *Funding Source: Technology Contingency/Professional Services, 5518408-636600 – Approved*

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

17. 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 – *First reading approval was given on February 7, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*
18. 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 – *First reading approval was given on February 7, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*
19. 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 – *First reading approval was given on February 7, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*
20. 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 – *First reading approval was given on February 7, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*
21. 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 – *First reading approval was given on February 7, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*

22. 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 – *First reading approval was given on February 7, 2012. – Approved on second reading.*

RESOLUTIONS

Upon a single motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items 23** through **27**.

23. Resolution No.: R-2012-007 – Authorizing Eau Claire Community Council’s Ribs & Renaissance Arts & Community Festival and consumption of beer and wine at Hyatt Park, Eau Claire Town Hall and the Eau Claire Print Building – *Approved*
24. Resolution No.: R-2012-010 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine at Artista Vista – *Approved*
25. Resolution No.: R-2012-011 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine at Five Points Association’s After 5 Concert Series – *Approved*
26. Resolution No.: R-2012-013 – Permitting the Fire Department to collect money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association – *Approved*
27. Resolution No.: R-2012-015 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine at the Urban Tour and Awareness Campaign of Main Street – *Approved*

APPOINTMENTS

28. Columbia Housing Authority – *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

Mr. Kenneth E. Gaines, City Attorney reported that he spoke with Mr. Rogers of the Columbia Housing Authority and they couldn’t find any historical documentation of how the commissioners were staggered. We will meet tomorrow to resolve that and we should be ready by the next meeting.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

29. Arts and Historic Preservation Committee

Councilor Gergel reported that the Arts and Historic Preservation Committee had a very exciting meeting on April 14, 2011 and the following matters were discussed: One Columbia for Arts & History provided an update. They have a new board consisting of 21 members; filed for 501(c) 3 non-profit status and are now incorporated; their mission is to unify and amplify the thriving arts and history culture of Columbia; they selected the month of April to implement a centralized marketing strategy to bring tourists to this community for over 100 events; and they are sponsoring five (5) forums to review the various components of arts and culture. One Columbia

will come back with recommendations and we will probably see some exciting things that we may want to make policy decisions about and commit funding for this initiative. We talked about public access to city records. Our third agenda item was the Hospitality Tax funding process. We did recommend that we ask Council to establish an ad-hoc committee that would begin to assess what we've done with Hospitality Tax monies in the past, what impact they've had and to help us make recommendations for funding policies. This ad-hoc committee would include the current Hospitality Tax Committee Chair and Libby Gober to look at budget issues and a host of questions about funding. Mr. Whitehead made a presentation and we want that to be a part of this. We want the committee to start in March in order for us to bring back recommendations to Council in April.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Gergel and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve the composition of an ad-hoc committee to include the members of the City Council Arts & Historic Preservation Committee, the Hospitality Tax Committee Chair and Ms. Libby Gober.

30. **Public Safety Committee

Councilor Newman reported that the Public Safety Committee met today at 9:00a.m. and the following matters were discussed: Deputy Chief Santiago provided a thorough review of the Hospitality District Team. It was recommended that staff and the Hospitality District Team review our 2 a.m. bar closing ordinance and look at ways to make it more efficient, speed up the process in which citations are issued and then there's the potential to have licenses revoked. This will be discussed at our next committee meeting. We also requested that Deputy Chief Santiago meet with Solicitor Dan Johnson to look for more ways to efficiently declare a business a nuisance if we have multiple infractions or violations that come from our Team. It was recommended that we tweak our loitering ordinance. The main issue identified by Chief Scott was a loop hole that allows people to sit on a public bench and that's not considered loitering. We had a recommendation for the enactment of a careless driving ordinance. An ordinance to deal with homeless feeding in our public parks was also recommended. We asked Ken Gaines to review those ordinances and bring back recommendations as well as possible repercussions. We reviewed our security cameras. It is an ongoing process. As far as residential cameras are concerned, we are looking for funds for infrastructure. We would start with public parks in our neighborhoods. We asked the Police Chief to prepare a supplemental report and to provide it to the Budget Committee.

31. **Finance Audit and Budget Committee

Councilor Rickenmann reminded the members of Council that the Budget Committee will be meeting on March 7, 8 and 9, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd floor of City Hall to review departmental budgets.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Temple Ligon, Reporter for The Columbia Star invited everyone to the Palmetto Opera on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Koger Center. There will be ten (10) local performers with a professional crew and a fifty (50) piece orchestra in the pit.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk