

**CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 2, 2012 – 2:00 P.M.
EAU CLAIRE TOWN HALL
3905 ENSOR AVENUE**



The Columbia City Council met for a Work Session on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 at the Eau Claire Town Hall located at 3905 Ensor Avenue, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Steven K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. The following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman, The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan and The Honorable Moe Baddourah. The Honorable Leona K. Plaugh was absent. 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. River Alliance Update – Mr. Mike Dawson, Executive Director – *This item was not discussed.*
2. [2013 Retiree Premiums](#) – Ms. Pamela Benjamin, Human Resources Director

Ms. Pamela Benjamin, Human Resources Director explained that GASB 45 is an accounting provision that requires governmental employers to measure and report liabilities associated with Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB). The city offers health insurance as post-employment benefits to pre-65 retirees who have the same benefits as active employees and to post-65 retirees under a fully insured plan with Medicare Part A and B as the primary coverage with a senior supplemental plan and Pharmacy Part D through United Health Care. Since 2005, the city's GASB 45 liability increased and the city contracted with Towers Watson to provide an actuarial study in 2011. The actuarial showed that the city's liability increased to over \$2 million. Towers Watson presented several alternatives to the city that would cap those costs. In January 2012, Council voted to cap the city's contribution to a defined dollar amount and the retirees were notified in May. She asked City Council to adopt the alternative that would cap the city's contribution to \$800 for pre-65 retirees/\$600 for dependents and \$300 for post-65 retirees/\$225 for dependents. Dependent coverage is 75% of retiree coverage. She reviewed the monthly premiums that would be effective on January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. The city splits the premium for both the retiree senior supplemental plan and the retiree Part D pharmacy plan.

Councilor Devine asked if retirees are eligible to go to the new pharmacy.

Ms. Pamela Benjamin, Human Resources Director replied no; pharmacy services are only offered to active employees.

Councilor Runyan inquired about the impact this alternative will have on the GASB liability.

Ms. Pamela Benjamin, Human Resources Director stated that it is \$1.3 million.

Councilor Baddourah asked about the additional expenses the new plan will create for the city.

Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager explained that OPEB wasn't capped previously and there was a cost containment issue.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to approve the plan alternative that would cap the city's contribution as follows:

- \$800 for pre-65 retirees and 75% of the retiree contribution or \$600 for dependents;
- \$300 for post-65 retirees and 75% of the retiree contribution or \$225 for dependents;
- The city will split the premiums for both the retiree senior supplemental plan and the retiree Part D pharmacy plan; and
- Premiums are effective January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager reported that from July 2012 to September 2012 there has been a \$165,000 savings in healthcare costs.

3. Police Department Operational Plan – Mr. Randy Scott, Police Chief

Mr. Leslie G. Wisner, Jr., Assistant Chief of Police presented the Five Points/Vista Operational Plan, noting that it is fluid and will improve as the weekend approaches. He said that the upcoming game is important and a sell-out crowd is anticipated along with a huge crowd in Five Points late into the night. Also, Benedict College will have their fall open house, high school visitation and a football game at 2 p.m. Special duty officers and a fire arms prevention team will be in the vicinity, which will rotate out to Five Points and the Vista, as needed. He insisted that there will be regular patrols in all five (5) regions through the use of overtime in at an estimated amount of \$12,000. He noted that resources won't be drawn out of other regions. Other entities have offered their resources, as well. The Police Chief is requiring that all laws be enforced. The highest priority is to prevent violent crimes and to protect personal and real property. The enhanced operations will begin Friday evening and continue through Sunday morning, as needed. He outlined the resource utilization plan and the coordination of resources.

Ms. Kathryn Fenner, University Hill Neighborhood resident stated that the University of South Carolina Athletics Department is making a lot of money on this and suggested that the city consider a way to recoup funding from them to cover expenses.

Mayor Benjamin stated that the city's concern is making sure we have an equal and fair application of the law and that the city is covered comprehensively and not just in Five Points. He agreed that Five Points is a unique challenge with 20,000 to 30,000 people having a good time all at once in a very small area. We should remain focused on the public safety aspects and make sure that we preserve all of the sanctity that surrounding residents enjoy while making it clear that no other neighborhoods will suffer from a lack of service. While the home games may create a strain on resources, they also provide a significant economic boom for the city. He has been in constant contact with USC's President, Police Chief and student leadership.

Mr. Leslie G. Wisner, Jr., Assistant Chief of Police added that the Richland County Sheriff's Department will be providing resources as well.

4. 2012 City Council Retreat – Ms. Melisa A. Caughman, Budget Director

Ms. Melisa A. Caughman, Budget Director distributed a proposed outline for the 2012 Retreat to include suggested dates, locations, facilitators and topics.

Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager reviewed the suggested topics, noting that the list could change at Council's discretion.

Councilor Devine suggested that Council participate in a team building exercise such as a scavenger hunt.

Mayor Benjamin requested that staff reports be objectively measured against the strategic plan. He suggested that Ms. Devine work with Mr. Gantt to finalize plans for the 2012 City Council Retreat in late October or early November for 1 ½ days.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to enter in Executive Session at 2:52 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 5** through **7** as amended.

5. Receipt of legal advice which relates to a matter covered by attorney-client privilege – *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
 6. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements – *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
 7. **Receipt of legal advice which relates to a pending, threatened or potential claim – *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
- **Council adjourned the Work Session at 4:55 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk