



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2006
10:00 A.M.
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1737 MAIN STREET

The Columbia City Council conducted a meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. The following members of City Council were present: The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II, The Honorable Anne M. Sinclair, The Honorable Hamilton Osborne, Jr., The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine and The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann. Also present were Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

PRESENTATION

1. Update on the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center – Mr. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services presented an update on the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center. He stated the Wellness Center would be treated like a business undertaking and he understands that the customers are the main priority. He announced that there are 264 annual memberships, 351 monthly memberships, and 1051 daily passes for combined revenue of \$106,000.00 within two (2) months of operation. Mr. Baker acknowledged Ms. Ray Borders Gray, Senior Public Information Officer for the Department of Parks and Recreation for her assistance in marketing the Wellness Center. He introduced the following Drew Wellness Center staff members: Mr. Kelly Garvey, General Manager, Ms. Joan Sorensen, Assistant Manager, Mr. Doug Elliot, Operations Coordinator, Ms. Angela Clyburn, Marketing Coordinator, Mr. Nathaniel Stevenson, Aquatics Coordinator, Ms. Tracy Waring, Fitness Coordinator, Mr. Tim Baier, Pool Manager, and Mr. Keith Layton, Maintenance Personnel. He commended Mr. Jeff Rainwater for obtaining the equipment and hiring the staff. Mr. Baker presented a brief video of the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center.

RESOLUTIONS

- 1a. ****Resolution No.: R-2006-004 – Authorizing the Establishment of the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center Scholarship / Advisory Committee**

Councilman E. W. Cromartie, II announced that in an effort to make sure that everybody who may not be in a position to pay a membership fee would have an opportunity to go to the Wellness Center. He said that the Gala was a fundraiser event that helped to raise \$63,000.00 in scholarship money. He stated that a Charles R. Drew Wellness Center Scholarship Committee would consist of partner agencies and eight (8) members appointed by Council with the General Manager serving as an Ex-officio member.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mayor Coble, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2006-004 - Authorizing the Establishment of the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center Scholarship / Advisory Committee.

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine encouraged everyone to participate in a Red Cross Blood Drive being held at the Wellness Center On Thursday, February 23, 2006 in honor of Black History Month.

PRESENTATION

2. "Broadband in Cities and Towns: The Role of New Technology in Supporting Sustainable Economic and Community Development" - Dr. Jabari Simama – Vice President of Community Development at Benedict College

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine introduced Dr. Jabari Simama who has a wide range of experience in developing Wi Fi Systems. She said that he is a former Councilman from Atlanta and while there he helped them to form a Request for Proposals for their Wi-Fi System.

Dr. Jabari Simama, Vice President of Community Development at Benedict College invited the members of Council to participate in the 1st Annual Broadband Conference hosted by Benedict College on February 27 and 28, 2006. He stated that the goal of the conference is to bring people together who do economic and community development with people who do community technology to talk about how technology can spur development in distressed communities. He said that the Request for Proposal written for Atlanta became the template for other municipalities in creating Wi-Fi RFP's. Dr. Simama outlined the following provisions that must be included in any citywide Wi-Fi initiative: The proponents are encouraged to include funding, equipment and technical expertise to increase access and understanding of wireless technology among under served communities and to design and build City Hall first without cost. He asked the members of Council to endorse the 1st Annual Broadband Conference

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to endorse the Broadband Conference and directed staff to partner with Benedict College and Dr. Simama to develop a Request for Proposals for the City of Columbia.

APPOINTMENTS

- 2a. **Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission – Ms. Melissa Smith Gentry, Director of Public Works.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Natalie Kaufman, Mr. Robert Reibold, and Ms. Emily Jones to fill vacancies on the Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission for a term of three (3) years to expire on February 1, 2009. There is one (1) additional vacancy on the Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission. Ms. Sinclair was not present for the vote.

Mayor Coble presented a plaque to Mr. John Stucker for his service on the Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission. Mr. Stucker served as Chairman and has completed two (2) terms of service.

Mr. John Stucker, former Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission Chairman, said that so many men and women have worked hard to improve the quality of life and vitality of this great capital city. He hopes that one day soon the Columbia City Council will fulfill its commitment to provide the resources to ensure that the time and effort was not in vain.

PRESENTATION

3. East Central City Consortium Request - Mr. Fred A. Johnson, II of the FA Johnson Consulting Group, Inc.

Mr. Fred Johnson, II, Managing Principal / FA Johnson Consulting Group, Inc., he acknowledged the Chairman and the board members of the East Central City Consortium. He said that Carolina First has stepped up to the plate and committed \$450,000 to ensure that the operating budget and the technical team are covered. The technical team predevelopment program has a \$414,000 budget and there's an operating budget of \$75,000. Several years ago the City funded the work program and knows that the consortium has \$50,000 in the bank from Wachovia, a \$100,000 commitment from Richland County and a \$20,000 check from Providence Hospital totaling \$170,000 in grant funds. He noted that it is rare for a nonprofit with no assets to cover 41% of its work program without incurring debt. He asked City Council to disburse previously approved funding in the amount of \$335,000.00 in support of the work program. He said that there are certain collateral actions that need to happen. He further requested that City Council take the actions necessary for them to move forward. He insisted that this is a limited time offer. He noted that the bank is extremely comfortable with the resources that are in the bank and those that are forthcoming.

Councilman Daniel J. Rickenmann asked how the \$75,000 operating budget would be spent.

Mr. Fred Johnson, II, Managing Principal / FA Johnson Consulting Group, Inc., replied that it is general accounting and audit processing. He said that they would be able to hand the Council one document that tracks every penny every track of the way. He noted that Attorney Stephen Benjamin has been serving as general counsel without pay. A CPA is needed to monitor draws and to issue checks for the organization. A lot of work has been done, but hasn't been paid for.

Councilman Daniel J. Rickenmann stated that the project has a lot of merit and potential, but no one seems to be accountable. Where does the accountability fall? It will fall back on the City and the elected officials. How do we ensure that the accountability is there and that we're getting this project off the ground?

Mr. Fred A. Johnson, Sr., FA Johnson Consulting Group, Inc. explained that East Central City Consortium decided not to create staff, but instead to get an experienced management team. He said that's why they hired the FA Johnson Consulting Group. He insisted that the buck stops with the management team to provide all aspects of accountability.

Mayor Robert D. Coble agreed that there are risks, but if we do nothing the East Central area will not be developed. He said that if a City Development Corporation did this, there would be no private sector support. He noted that the City is not guaranteeing the loan and that Carolina First understands this. He further noted that Carolina First, Providence Hospital and Wachovia has seen the merit.

Councilman Daniel Rickenmann stated that we all want to see this work, but there needs to be accountability. Money has already been spent and we need to see things coming out of the ground.

Mayor Robert D. Coble noted that ECCC was accountable by the people they hired and Carolina First is accountable through the money they are putting at risk.

Mr. Fred A. Johnson, Sr., FA Johnson Consulting Group, Inc. stated that ECCC has a strong technical board, financial committee, executive committee and management consultants. He stated that the buck stops with the board, its policies and whom they hire. He stated that inflation is another risk factor that troubles the group. He said that they have helped clients to raise \$600 million over the years and always come in under budget. He said that they take full responsibility on a technical standpoint and with accountability.

Councilman Hamilton Osborne, Jr. asked how much more money does ECCC plan to raise and what will be done with those funds.

Mr. Fred A. Johnson, Sr., FA Johnson Consulting Group, Inc. said that the objective is to raise an additional \$225,000 in grants to reduce the borrowing level and to go towards land acquisition.

Councilman Hamilton Osborne, Jr. asked how much are they looking for from the City, where do they plan to get other funds from, what the total will be and how they plan to spend it.

Mr. Fred A. Johnson, Sr., FA Johnson Consulting Group, Inc. stated that they do not know how much the public infrastructure will cost.

Mr. Fred Johnson, II, Managing Principal / FA Johnson Consulting Group, Inc., the preconstruction budget is \$414,000 and the operating budget is \$75,000.

Mr. Fred A. Johnson, Sr., FA Johnson Consulting Group, Inc. stated that Carolina First has agreed to fund up to an additional \$20 million for construction financing. He said that the project would be broken into phases. He noted that the catalyst area has 65% vacant land, but there are serious sewer problems in the area as well.

Councilman E.W. Cromartie, II stated that he is extremely impressed with the fundraising efforts of the firm. He said that he attends all of the ECCC board meetings and the constituents want to see the neighborhoods change.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager, I've had consultations with the management team and the City Attorney. He said that there are technical legal issues that need to be discussed.

This item was approved. Please refer to Item C1. of the Work Session.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve on a single motion the **Consent Agenda Items 4.** through **16.** as presented.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS AND AGREEMENTS

4. Council is asked to approve Annual Maintenance for the Mainframe located at City Hall, as requested by the Information Technology Department. This will be a Sole Source purchase, as Unisys Corporation is the only company that provides this service, in the amount of \$11,262.50. This firm is located in Blue Bell, PA. *Funding Source: GL-1011120 – 638200 - Approved*
5. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of a Radio and Parts to be used by the State Guard, as requested by the Emergency Operations Center. Award to KCOMM, Inc. in the amount of \$11,948.18. This firm is located in San Antonio, TX. *Funding Source: GL-2059999-639900 and JL-9601000102-639900 (Funded by a Grant) - Approved*

6. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of a Compact Sedan, as requested by the Police Department. Award to Love Chevrolet, using the SC State Vehicle Contract, in the amount of \$12,000.00. This firm is located in Cayce, SC. *Funding Source: GL-2059999 and JL-9901000000-658500 - Approved*
7. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of additional playground equipment for Woodland Park, as requested by the Parks and Recreation Department. This will be a Sole Source purchase from Bliss Products, in the amount of \$12,230.30. This firm is located in Douglasville, GA. *Funding Source 1015103 - 658400 - Approved*
8. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of a Bunker Gear Washer and Dryer, as requested by the Fire Department. Award to W.S. Darley Co., the low bidder, in the amount of \$13,032.70. This vendor is located in Melrose Park, IL. *Funding Source: 2082329-657400 - Approved*
9. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of an Intermediate Patrol Car, as requested by the Police Department. Award to Herndon Chevrolet, using the SC State Contract, in the amount of \$17,779.00. This firm is located in Lexington, SC. *Funding Source: 1012407-658500 - Approved*
10. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of an Intermediate Special Patrol Car, as requested by the Police Department. Award to Herndon Chevrolet, using the SC Contract, in the amount of \$18,124.00. This firm is located in Lexington, SC. *Funding Source: 1012405 – 658500 - Approved*
11. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of ESRI Software Maintenance, as requested by Various Departments. Award to Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI), the only vendor that provides the software maintenance, in the amount of \$26,454.97. This firm is located in Redlands, CA. - *Approved*

<u>Department</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
GIS	5511121-638200	\$9,857.99
Engineering	5511706-638200	\$6,042.00
Operations	5534201-638200	\$1,802.00
Administration	5511701-638200	\$1,590.00
Planning	1011601-638200	\$954.00
SC Development Corporation	9048511-638200	\$530.00
Public Works	1011124-638200	\$800.00
Special Projects	4141221-638200	\$318.00
Fire Department	1012303-638200	\$318.00

12. Council is asked to approve Renovations to Capital City Baseball Stadium, as requested by the Parks and Recreation Department. Award to Porterfield Remodleing Co., in the amount of \$76,724.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: GL-4039999-659300 / JL-PK005601-659300 – This item was approved during the Work Session. Please refer to Item C2.*
13. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of 250 Medical Cots, as requested by the Emergency Operations Center. This will be purchased as a Sole Source Procurement from Blu-Med Response Systems in the amount of \$93,070.00. This vendor is located in Kirkland, Washington. *Funding Source: GL-2059999-629900 and JL-9601000104-629900 (Funded by a Grant) - This item was approved. Please refer to Item 16a.*

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

14. Ordinance No.: 2006-006 – Annexing 7736 Garners Ferry Road, Richland County TMS# 19102-02-07 – *First reading approval was given on February 1, 2006. – Approved on second reading.*
15. Ordinance No.: 2006-007 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 18, Redevelopment Commissions to repeal Article III, Columbia Neighborhood Redevelopment Commission, in its entirety – *First reading approval was given on February 1, 2006. – Approved on second reading.*
16. Ordinance No.: 2006-009 – Authorizing land swap with Columbia Development Corporation of 413 Pendleton Street in exchange for 816 and 824 Washington Street- *First reading approval was given on February 1, 2006. – Approved on second reading.*

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS, AGREEMENTS AND CHANGE ORDERS

Upon motion by Ms. Devine, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items 16a.** through **18.** on a single motion.

- 16a. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of 250 Medical Cots, as requested by the Emergency Operations Center. This will be purchased as a Sole Source Procurement from Blu-Med Response Systems in the amount of \$93,070.00. This vendor is located in Kirkland, Washington. *Funding Source: GL-2059999-629900 and JL-9601000104-629900 (Funded by a Grant) - Approved*
17. Council is asked to approve a Contract for Physicals and Health Screenings for Fire Department Personnel, as requested by the Fire Department. Award to Professional Health Services, the low bidder, in the amount of \$117,410.00. This firm is located in Harristown, PA. *Funding Source: 1012303-639600 (47%) and 2082306-63900 (53%) - Approved*
18. Council is asked to execute a lease with Seaboard Station, LLC, for the lease of 15 parking spaces east of the 1200 block of Lincoln Street adjacent to the Blue Marlin Restaurant – Mr. Steve Gantt, Assistant City Manager for Operations - *Approved*

OTHER MATTERS

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items 19.** and **20.** on a single motion.

19. Council is asked to approve a Request for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity, as requested by the Business License Division. Award to Mr. Craig M. Stinson doing business as Traditional Taxi, LLC, 808 Ontario Drive, West Columbia, SC 29169. - *Approved*
20. 1001 Senate Street – Sale of Property – Mr. Steve Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations – *Staff was authorized to advertise the sale of 1001 Senate Street. The best offer will be brought back to City Council for consideration.*

Councilman Hamilton Osborne, Jr. requested that the media give publicity to the fact that the City is placing 1001 Senate Street better known as the old fire station headquarters on the market for sale.

APPEARANCE OF PUBLIC HAVING BUSINESS WITH CITY COUNCIL

No one appeared at this time.

- **Council adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m. to reconvene the Work Session.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley
City Clerk