



CITY OF COLUMBIA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2006  
10:00 A.M.  
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1737 MAIN STREET  
THIRD FLOOR

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The Columbia City Council conducted a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, August 23, 2006 in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. Mayor Robert D. Coble called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The following members of City Council were present: The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II, The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann and The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III. The Honorable Anne M. Sinclair arrived at 10:05 a.m. Also present were Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes for August 2 and 9, 2006

Upon motion by Ms. Devine, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of August 2 and 9, 2006 on a single motion and as presented.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

2. Black Expo 2006 Final Report - Mr. Darrin Thomas, Black Pages USA

Mr. Darrin Thomas, Vice President of Black Pages USA, provided a final report on the 2006 Black Expo. He thanked the members of Council for supporting this event as the title sponsor. He noted that this was the most successful event in its nine-year history. The 2006 Black Expo was held on May 18 – 20, 2006 and attracted over 150 business owners. Over \$9,000 was donated to local charities, approximately \$138,000 was spent with small businesses and over 1,000 room nights were booked in the City of Columbia. The economic impact is conservatively estimated at \$2.1 million to include hotel and restaurant utilization.

Mayor Robert D. Coble stated that this is an economic development event that has proven itself worthy of sponsorship funding over the years. He stated that we will continue to be a sponsor and should consider funding the Black Expo as a line item. He added that regardless of the funding source this should be a line item in the City's annual budget.

There was a consensus of Council to direct staff to meet with representatives of the Black Expo to determine how to structure future funding for the Black Expo. They should also consider alternative in kind services as a means of reducing the amount of cash funding needed from the City.

3. Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports and Tourism Update – Mr. Bill Dukes, Chairman of the Board of Directors

Mr. Bill Dukes, Chairman, presented an update on the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports and Tourism. He noted that the Vista did recognize the fiscal impact created by the Black Expo. He said that a newsletters goes out to 5,750 visitors that have registered on their website; 192 qualified meeting planners receive a monthly newsletter; and 330 newsletters go out in the local community. The information contained in the newsletters covers a wide variety of attractions and venues. This information can also be at [www.columbiacvb.com](http://www.columbiacvb.com), which is translated in eight (8) different languages and book travel accommodations through [www.Travelocity.com](http://www.Travelocity.com).

They initiated meetings with area restaurants and non-profits to assist them in enhancing their visibility by supplying a website with menus and photographs. Additional meetings will be conducted. Mr. Dukes said that he did as City Council requested and developed a directory of restaurateurs and restaurants in this community along with whom they serve and what they serve. The next Certified Friendly Course will be held at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport. He stated that they would be more proactive.

- 3a. \*\*Muscular Dystrophy Association Boot Drive – Fire Chief Bradley Anderson and Captain Eddie Baughman

Chief Bradley Anderson, Columbia Fire Department, announced two fundraisers that the Columbia Fire Department is involved in this week. The 2006 Muscular Dystrophy Association Boot Drive began today and lasts for three days and the Calendar Competition begins on Friday night for the summer burn camp for children.

Captain Eddie Baughman, Columbia Fire Department, announced that the Fire Department Personnel would be collecting funds at sixteen (16) intersections throughout the City of Columbia, Richland County and Forest Acres. He thanked the members of Council for their support, noting that the funds collected go a long way to help a lot of people in the Midlands.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 4.** through **7.** as presented.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF BIDS AND AGREEMENTS**

4. Council is asked to approve Project SS6761; Mill Creek Sewer Lift Station, as requested by Engineering Administration. Award to Charles R. Underwood in the total amount of \$27,209.83. This firm is located in Sanford, NC. *Funding Source: Sewer Improvement Fund - Approved*

#### **ORDINANCES – SECOND READING**

5. Ordinance No.: 2006-062 - Annexing State parcels bounded by I-20; Hwy 21 (North Main Street / Wilson Boulevard); Pisgah Church Road; Parkland Road and Farrow Road, Richland County Tax Map # 14400-01-01; 14403-03-01; 17101-01-02 and 17102-01-01; LESS AND EXCEPTING property known or formerly known as Meadowlake Park (being portion of the southwestern corner of Richland County Tax Map Sheet 14400, Block 01, Lot 01) and a ten (10') foot wide buffer *First reading approval was given on August 9, 2006. Approved on second reading.*
6. Ordinance No.: 2006-066 - Ordinance Granting Consent to Application for Franchise for Cable Service and Setting Franchise Fee *First reading approval was given on August 9, 2006. – Approved on second reading.*
7. Ordinance No.: 2006-068 - Annexing Lots 1 and 2, Wilson Boulevard, Meadow Lake Drive and Beckham Drive, Portion of Richland County TMS #14400-01-01 *First reading approval was given on August 9, 2006. – Approved on second reading.*

## **CONSIDERATION OF BIDS, AGREEMENTS AND CHANGE ORDERS**

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items 8.** through **10.** on a single motion and as presented.

8. Council is asked to approve a Contract for the Design of the Esplanade, as requested by the Special Projects Administrator. Award to LS3P Associates in the amount of \$145,750.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Tax Increment Financing - Approved*
9. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of a Side Loader Garbage Truck, as requested by the Solid Waste Division. Award to Heil Environment, the lowest bidder meeting specifications, in the amount of \$187,875.00. This vendor is located in Chattanooga, TN. *Funding Source: 6308972-658500 - Approved*
10. Council is asked to approve a Contract Renewal for Project WM3950; Water Main Rehabilitation Cleaning and Lining, as requested by Engineering Administration. Award to Carolina Tap and Bore, Inc., the original low bidder, in the amount of \$2,493,890.00. This firm is located in West Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Water Improvement Fund - Approved*

## **ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Mr. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items 11.** through **12a.** as amended.

11. Ordinance No.: 2006-069 – Annexing 130 Fontaine Center Drive, Richland County TMS# 14205-10-01- *Approved on first reading.*
12. Ordinance No.: 2006-070 – Annexing 411 Commerce Drive, Richland County TMS# 14202-01-59 – *Approved on first reading.*
- 12a. **\*\*Ordinance No.: 2006-041 – Granting encroachment to Lofts at Printers Square for installation and maintenance of balconies and landscaping at 530 Lady Street – *Approved on first reading.***

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items 13.** and **13a.**

13. Resolution No.: 2006-033 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine at Main Street Latin Festival - *Approved*
- 13a. **\*\*Resolution No.: 2006-034 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine at Music on Main Street - *Approved***

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### 13b. \*\*Residency Requirement for City Boards and Commissions – The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine

Councilor Devine explained that they needed to decide if they wanted to have a policy as to whether or not persons appointed to boards or commissions resided in the City. She said that this needed to be finalized before the appointments were made. She said that they should always strive to appoint City residents to particular boards, especially land use boards. Ms. Devine stated that it's a bad precedence to appoint non-City residents over City residents.

Councilor Sinclair explained that historically appointees that moved outside of the City resigned from boards because they were no longer City residents. She believes that there are many City residents that want to be a part of the boards and commissions and is particularly concerned about the land use boards. She noted that this is not in writing, but we should appoint people that live in the City.

Councilor Rickenmann stated that he disagrees with the comments made. He said that historically City residents were not made a priority when the appointments were made. He said that the functions of the board should be considered. He said that he would not restrict someone that has a vested interest within the City of Columbia. He did agree that they needed to review the structure and requirements of the Design Development Review Commission and the Planning Commission. He suggested that this matter be discussed at the next Planning Session.

Councilor Finlay said that hundreds of thousands of people are served by our sewer and water systems that are not residents and areas that we are contemplating annexing. He said that this should be scheduled for discussion during the Planning Session, clearly define the rules and finalized in writing.

Councilor Cromartie requested that the name and address of applicants be placed on the agenda along with the board or commission being considered. He explained that they have always made sure appointees were City residents with the exception of the original Convention Center Board and it no longer exists.

Councilor Finlay suggested that the committees be batched, so they are reviewed in groups and in incremental timeframes, so that it is less work for staff and so that the Council members can be more familiar with the boards and commissions and who serve on them.

There was a consensus of Council to defer this discussion to the August 30, 2006 Planning Session. The City Clerk was asked to provide a complete listing of boards and commissions.

### 14. Affordable Housing Taskforce

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Anita Floyd to the Affordable Housing Taskforce as a replacement for Ms. Gloria Bowden.

#### 14a. Blue Ribbon Panel on Business Utilization

Mayor Coble asked that the members of Council consider the appointments to the Blue Ribbon Panel on Business Utilization as recommended by Mr. Franklin Lee. He said that it is important to do this right.

Councilor Sinclair asked if the appointees would have to be City residents.

Councilor Daniel J. Rickenmann said that he does not believe that a Blue Ribbon Committee is needed. He said that we paid two (2) competent groups a substantial amount of money to put plans together and that we should not spend another six (6) months studying this.

Council voted six (6) to one (1) to direct staff to proceed with the implementation of recommendations related to the Business Utilization Causation Study. Staff is to determine if a Blue Ribbon Panel is needed. Staff is directed to present a timeline for implementation and review to Council for consideration on August 30, 2006.

Mayor Coble said that there is no use in appointing a Blue Ribbon Committee if there is not support for it. He suggested that staff identify which aspects can and should be adopted or implemented now.

Councilor Davis stated that we should do what we can to get the process moving. He noted that some of the recommendations are solid enough and we should move forward without a committee.

Councilor Finlay asked how we get community buy in and input without the committee process. He said that he is interested in knowing what community representatives think.

Councilor Cromartie concurred with the suggestion to move forward. He said that surveys have been conducted and many of the stakeholders were interviewed. He said that we are in a position to move forward immediately and implement the Mentoring Protégé Program.

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Mayor Coble, Council voted six (6) to one (1) to direct Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager to review the recommendations submitted by Mr. Franklin Lee, Esquire; determine what aspects can be implemented now; determine which matters should be reviewed by a Blue Ribbon Panel if any; and provide a timeline by August 30, 2006. Voting aye were Mr. Cromartie, Ms. Sinclair, Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine, Mr. Rickenmann and Mayor Coble. Voting nay was Mr. Finlay.

#### 15. Central Midlands Council of Governments Transportation Planning Subcommittee

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Cathy Novinger to the Central Midlands Council of Governments Transportation Subcommittee as a replacement for Mr. E.W. Cromartie, II.

#### 16. Code Enforcement Taskforce

Mayor Coble said that these appointees should be City residents. He nominated Reverend Wiley Cooper.

Councilor Rickenmann nominated Mr. Harvey Ackermann.

Councilor Cromartie nominated Mr. Durham Carter.

Councilor Sinclair nominated Ms. Katherine Fenner.

Councilor Finaly nominated Mr. Earl McLeod or a representative of the Homebuilders Association.

Councilor Devine nominated Ms. Virginia Bedford.

There was a consensus of Council to nominate representatives from four (4) commercial corridors that are dealing with code enforcement issues. All appointments will be finalized on September 6, 2006 with the appointment of a chairman.

17. Columbia Action Council

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve the reappointment of Mr. Earl Brown and Mr. Michael McMullen for a final term to expire June 30, 2008. All new appointments will be finalized on September 6, 2006.

18. Midlands Authority for Conventions Sports and Tourism

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. John Durst to the Midlands Authority for Conventions Sports and Tourism Board of Directors to replace Mr. Charles Coles, Jr. Mr. Cromartie was not present for the vote.

19. Richland County Board of Assessment Control

Upon motion by Ms. Devine, seconded by M. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve the reappointment of Mr. Ben Arnold to the Richland County Board of Assessment Control for a final term to expire June 31, 2009. Mr. Cromartie was not present for the vote.

**TRAFFIC CONTROL MATTERS**

20. Pinehurst Neighborhood Traffic Control – Mr. Dave Brewer, Traffic Engineer

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve the installation of multi-way stops at the following locations: Pinehurst Road at Schoolhouse Road; Chestnut Street at Ervin Street; and Edgewood Avenue at Ervin Street. A proposal will be submitted to SCDOT for consideration. Mr. Finlay was not present for the vote.

**CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION**

21. Design Development Review Commission – Mayor Robert D. Coble

Consideration of this matter was deferred until September 6, 2006.

22. Five Points Parking Enforcement - Mr. John Spade, Parking Services Director

Councilor Sinclair explained that a petition she received from merchants in Five Points and the surrounding area precipitated this matter being on the agenda. The petition requested that the City eliminate enforcement of parking on Saturday in Five Points, since it that staff analyzed the area and is prepared to provide a recommendation.

Mr. John Spade, Parking Services Director, explained that recommendations from the 2002 Parking Master Plan found that a major reason for the shortage of parking in Five Points was because of the employees occupying 30-40% of parking. The study recommended that parking be changed to meters and that parking enforcement be increased. He said that surveys were conducted, merchants were contacted and meetings were held to discuss the parking situation in the area, and the industry standard was also considered. He said that long-term parkers discourage turnover in parking, so the best way to deal with this was to install parking meters. He noted that free parking is hard to control.

Councilor Finlay said that he is hearing from business owners who are experiencing a decline in business due to the number of tickets being handed out. He suggested that we wait until construction is complete before we start making grand generalizations. He asked if parking was being enforced in the evenings and at night, because of the potential to raise additional revenue.

He said that it might be good to extend enforcement on Fridays and Saturdays.

Councilor Devine stated that she received complaints about people not knowing about the enforcement. She said that we should make sure that people are aware of enforcement times so they are not caught off guard.

Mr. John Spade, Parking Services Director suggested that they place a decal on each meter noting the days and times of enforcement.

Councilor Rickenmann said that the complaints he receives are about the meters not being able to accept other forms of payment such as credit cards and when they go to get change they are ticketed. He suggested an updated Parking Study be done once the construction is complete.

Councilor Sinclair added that she receives nasty emails and phone calls all the time. She said that the only way to get turnover in parking is by the use of meters. She said that all other municipalities use parking meters for on street parking. She said that until the changes were made people could not find a park in Five Points. She said that the goal of the meters is to generate turnover parking so that customers will have a place to park and it is working. She admitted that Five Points has gone through a challenging time and not to enforce the meters on the busiest day of the week would be a mistake. She guidance from her peers on how to proceed. She urged the reaffirmation of Saturday Parking.

Ms. Merritt McHaffey, Executive Director / Five Points Association, stated that the Five Points Association supports the meters and requested continuous enforcement to include Saturdays.

Councilor Cromartie said that he has always heard that the merchants like the meters and the enforcement. He said that years ago some meters were taken out and the time limit was reduced on some and the Association didn't like that so the meters were put back in.

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to direct staff to continue the enforcement of parking meters on Saturdays; to promote public awareness of parking in Five Points; and to review the parking in Five Points 6-12 months after construction is completed.

23. No Cost Lease of Property Behind State Museum - Mr. John Spade, Parking Services Director

Mr. John Spade, Parking Services Director, presented a request for the City Manager to enter into a No Cost Lease Agreement with the State of South Carolina for the four acres that the State deeded to the City in return for building the garage behind the State Museum. This will be for overflow parking for employees of the State Museum, EdVenture and for the school and tour buses that visit the Museum. He added that a portion of the Museum's bus parking was on property owned by SCANA.

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve a request from the Budget and Control Board to lease property behind the State Museum at no cost for overflow parking. This is a year-to-year renewable lease.

24. Saluda Avenue Fountain – Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services, reported that the estimated cost of the fountain would be \$250,000 to \$300,000 and the estimated cost of routine maintenance would be \$24,000 annually to exclude emergencies, parts and vandalism.

Councilor Cromartie asked for the dollar amount that the Five Points Association would raise to go toward the fountain. He asked if the Five Points Association could maintain the fountain with the hospitality tax funding they receive.

Mr. Jack Van Lon, Five Points Association, noted that the estimated costs are \$250,000 to \$300,000. He said that their challenge is to raise the rest of the money for the fountain to go with the City's contribution in the amount of \$45,000. He said that the fountain is simple yet beautiful. He stated that they would like to have the fountain in place by the end of construction.

Councilor Finlay stated that he is concerned about the reoccurring water problem in Five Points that needs funding. He said that funding needed to be focused on the Rocky Branch problem.

Mayor Coble said that it is great to have fountains in the City and that we should maintain them.

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted six (6) to one (1) to accept maintenance of the Five Points Fountain on Saluda Avenue. The estimated cost is \$24,000. Voting aye was Mr. Cromartie, Ms. Sinclair, Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine, Mr. Rickenmann and Mayor Coble. Mr. Finlay voted no, noting that he would be supportive if hospitality tax funding could be used.

### **APPEARANCE OF PUBLIC HAVING BUSINESS WITH CITY COUNCIL**

No one appeared at this time.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 12:38 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 25.** through **26.** as amended.

25. Discussion of negotiations incident to the proposed sale of property  
*This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*

26. \*\*Discussion of employment of employee  
*This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*

- **Council adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley  
City Clerk