



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2006
6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1737 MAIN STREET
THIRD FLOOR

The Columbia City Council conducted a Meeting on Wednesday, November 1, 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 6:00 p.m. The following members of Council were present: The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II, The Honorable Anne M. Sinclair, The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine and The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann. The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III was absent. Also present were Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes for September 27, 2006

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of September 27, 2006 as presented.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Special Presentation Commemorating the 10,000th Sign Removed from City Streets – Mr. Marc Mylott, Development Services Director

Mr. Marc Mylott, Director of Development Services presented the members of City Council and the City Manager with a plaque commemorating the 10,000th sign removed from City streets as of October. Since November 2005 Development Services has towed over 400 cars, tagged over 2,000 cars for front yard parking violations and tagged over 3,200 roll carts for being out too late or too early.

3. Fast Forward Update – Ms. Dee Albritton, Executive Director

Ms. Dee Albritton, Executive Director of Fast Forward, announced that Earth Fare would donate ten cents to Fast Forward for every recycled bag used in the store during November. Fast Forward applied for a grant from the Department of Commerce for \$300,000 for a new program to provide back to work training and technology skills for young veterans as they return home from Iraq. The program will start in January 2007 and the Department of Veterans Affairs will make the referrals. She requested the City's support with this endeavor. She also announced that several Fast Forward participants presented a workshop on "How to Create Summer Camps" at a national conference in Washington, DC. It was the first time that youth were asked to conduct a workshop at this conference and they represented the City of Columbia beautifully.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager solicited the members of Council for support of Fast Forwards proposal through a letter of endorsement and any other assistance that may be needed. He noted that Ms. Albritton has not requested any funding for the project.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to authorize the City Manager to provide a letter of endorsement to accompany a grant application being submitted to the State Department of Commerce by Fast Forward. This grant will provide funding for technology training for Veterans as they return home from the War on Iraq. Staff can provide additional assistance, but requests for financial assistance should be presented to Council for consideration.

4. Five Points Parking Meter Enforcement on Saturdays – Mr. John Spade, Parking Services Director

Mr. John Spade, Parking Services Director, stated that Saturdays in Five Points is the busiest day for the shopping district. He met with Mr. Randy Dennis and Mr. Dennis Hiltner to discuss the parking concerns and they agreed to work together to resolve the parking problems. He said that the major construction near College Street and Blossom Street is anticipated to end prior to Thanksgiving. Parking Services has surveyed the area on Saturdays and intend to do the same during weekdays to determine parking occupancy in Five Points. He noted that on Saturday the major streets were filled to parking capacity. Mr. Spade stated that most retail stores open at 10:00 a.m. throughout the City and that people complain about putting money in the meter prior to stores opening and prior to enforcement. He said that there is an escrow feature that will hold money put into the meter until 11:00 a.m. when enforcement begins. This will be done citywide. He suggested that they end enforcement at 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays. He further suggested that they institute free parking in Five Points on Saturdays within areas where there is very little occupancy. This should nudge people out to the peripheral of Five Points. He recommended that they institute the token program by offering merchants a deep discount on the purchase of tokens. Mr. Spade stated that he would continue dialog with the merchants in Five Points.

Mr. Randy Dennis, Five Points Merchant, said that they worked with the Community Mediation Center to develop some recommendations. He suggested that they reinstitute the free 90-minute parking rule as a temporary solution. He said that this would allow them to begin working on a permanent solution.

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to endorse staff recommendations for parking enforcement in Five Points and the recommendation from Mr. Randy Dennis and Mr. Dennis Hiltner of Five Points to allow free 90 minute parking on Saturdays during November and December 2006 and January 2007. The groups were urged to continue discussions and to explore different strategies to include the newer meters. Staff recommendations were as follows:

- A. Utilize the escrow feature on the electronic parking meters to allow visitors to pay the meter an hour or two before the City begins enforcement at 11:00 a.m. The time they buy will not start clocking down until 11:00 a.m.
- B. End the enforcement of meters at 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays only.
- C. Offer free parking on certain underutilized blocks on Saturdays.
- D. Sell tokens to the Five Points merchants and the Merchants Association at less than the face value. A token is good for one hour. This will be done on a trial basis.
- E. Parking Services staff will continue to work with the Five Points businesses on a regular basis to review all the parking needs in the area.

**Councilor Rickenmann directed Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager to determine how the construction in Five Points can be halted during the holiday season so that retailers can conduct business as usual. He suggested that the contractors continue working on items that are not intrusive.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Ms. Devine, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 5.** through **10.** and **12.** through **15.** as presented. **Item 11.** was approved by a separate motion.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS AND AGREEMENTS

5. Council is asked to approve the Annual Relative Accuracy Test Audit for the Incinerators, as requested by the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to General Engineering & Environmental, LLC, as a sole source, in the amount of \$11,500.00. This firm is located in Charleston, SC. *Funding Source: 5516208-638500 - Approved*
6. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of One (1) Lot of Aluminum Sign Blanks, as requested by the Traffic Engineering Division. Award to Custom Products Corp, in the amount of \$13,651.90. This vendor is located in Jackson, MS. *Funding Source: GL-1013204-625400 - Approved*
7. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of a Replacement Bomb Detection Dog, as requested by the Emergency Operations Center. Award to Cross Creek Academy, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$16,175.00. This vendor is located in Edgefield, SC. *Funding Source: 1012201-629900 - Approved*
8. Council is asked to approve a Contract for Professional Services for a Director of Indigent Services, as requested by Administration. Award to Mr. Mike Lee in a bi-weekly amount of \$1,730.77 for a total annual amount of \$45,000.00. This individual is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 1018410-639900 - Approved*
9. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Portable Radios and Batteries, as requested by the Police Department. Award to Motorola, as a sole source, in the amount of \$119,697.85. This vendor is located in Sumter, SC. *Funding Source: GL-2659999-657800 and JL-9200000104-657800 - Approved*
10. Council is asked to approve an Agreement between Owner and Architect Engineer for the Design of the Terrace Building as part of the Columbia Canal Front Project, as requested by the Special Projects Administrator. Award to Studio 2LR in the amount of \$159,575.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Tax Increment Financing and Hospitality Tax Bond Issue (CP102401) - Approved*
11. Council is asked to approve the East Gervais Street Streetscaping Plan

Mr. Chip Land, Annexation Coordinator, stated that staff reviewed the input provided during the public hearing. He recommended that the median cut at House Street be closed off and 250 feet of additional planted median be installed and a new cut would be installed at Liberty Hill Avenue and McDuffie Avenue along with the appropriate cutback median. This would open up Liberty Hill Avenue and McDuffie Avenue. All plantings will meet the traffic and engineering site requirements. This will prohibit left turns onto King Street and Page Street.

Councilor Devine said that she is concerned about access to these streets and how this plan will impact traffic flow. She asked if there were other medians in the City that prevented left hand turns.

Mr. Chip Land, Annexation Coordinator, noted that there are medians that prevent left turn movements on Bull Street and Blossom Street. He said that he drove through the community since the public hearing and that many factors contributed to staff's recommendation.

Councilor Rickenmann said that the plan would double the amount of traffic onto Manning Avenue. He asked if Manning Avenue could be closed.

Mr. Chip Land, Annexation Coordinator, said that they did discuss the closure of Manning Avenue, but their professional recommendation is not to close the street, because it is the only street that provides direct access to both neighborhoods.

Councilor Cromartie stated that he has received a lot of letters and phone calls in support of different things; therefore, he has to be in a position to decide what is best. He supports the closure of House Street, Manning Avenue, Page Street and King Street. He said that this will not make everybody happy, but it will move the project forward. He said that there shouldn't be an obstruction and motorist should be able to turn safely. He stated that he has attended the community meetings, engaged the residents and listened to their concerns.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted five (5) to one (1) to direct staff to draft an Ordinance that prohibits left hand turns onto House Street, Manning Avenue, Page Street and King Street. All other streets should be accessible. This Ordinance should be presented to Council for first reading consideration on November 8, 2006. Councilor Cromartie is scheduled to meet with the impacted neighborhoods to discuss the Ordinance on Monday, November 6, 2006, St. Anna's Park at 6:00 p.m. Voting aye were Mr. Cromartie, Ms. Sinclair, Mr. Davis, Mr. Rickenmann and Mayor Coble. Ms. Devine voted nay.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

12. Ordinance No.: 2006-075 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 17, Planning, Land Development and Zoning, Article III, Zoning, Division 10, Off-Street Parking and Loading Facilities, Sec. 17-344, Design of parking areas and Sec. 17-345, Reduction of parking requirements for certain uses *A Zoning Public Hearing was conducted on September 13, 2006. First reading approval was given on October 25, 2006. – Approved on second reading.*
13. Ordinance No.: 2006-083 – Annexing 1298 Bush River Road, 1310 Bush River Road and 1550 Bush River Road, Richland County TMS# 05916-10-02, Lexington County TMS# 003697-07-025, TMS# 003697-07-043, TMS# 003697-07-045, TMS# 003697-07-046 and TMS# 003697-07-047 *First reading approval was given on October 25, 2006. – Approved on second reading.*
14. Ordinance No.: 2006-088 – Ordinance Granting Consent to Application for Franchise for Cable Service and Setting Franchise Fee *First reading approval was given on October 25, 2006. – Approved on second reading.*

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS, AGREEMENTS AND CHANGE ORDERS

15. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of a Pictometry Licensed Server, Images and Software, as requested by Geographic Information Services (GIS). Award as a sole source, in the amount of \$177,940.08. This firm is located in Rochester, NY. *Funding Source: GL-5511121-638500 - Approved*

TRAFFIC CONTROL

16. Council is asked to approve a request from the Kilbourne Park Neighborhood Association for physical control devices due to their concerns regarding high speeds within the neighborhood.

Mr. Dave Brewer, Traffic Engineer, explained that the Kilbourne Park Neighborhood has experienced a lot of problems with cut through traffic. The South Carolina Department of Transportation owns these roads and has denied the request for a three way stop. He recommended that two speed humps be installed.

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted four (4) to one (1) to approve the installation of two (2) speed humps on Pinemont Drive between Kenilworth Road and Linwood Road and between Sequoia Road and Roundtop Road. Staff will seek approval to proceed from SCDOT. Voting aye were Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine, Mr. Rickenmann and Mayor Coble. Ms. Sinclair voted nay. Mr. Cromartie was not present for this vote.

APPOINTMENTS

17. City of Columbia Green Committee – The Honorable Anne M. Sinclair

Councilor Sinclair stated that some cities use a two-tier approach to form a Green Committee. There would be a citizen committee and an advisory group. She stated that these would be people that have expressed an interest. She suggested that the nominations be accepted at this time.

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Missy Gentry as Chair, Mr. David Knoche, Mr. Robert Anderson, Mr. Jim Gambrell, Ms. Missy Caughman, Ms. Nancy Lee Trihey, Mr. John Boyd (Mayor Coble), Mr. Bob Guild (Councilor Cromartie), Mr. Bob Hallman (Councilor Sinclair), Mr. Robert Smith (Councilor Davis), Ms. Virginia Sanders (Councilor Devine), Ms. Sharon Seinar (Councilor Rickenmann), Mr. Jim Sonefeld (Mayor Coble), Mr. Gene Dinkins (Councilor Sinclair, tentatively), Ms. Trish Jerman, Mr. Lee Newman, Ms. Kristin Dow, Ms. Myra Reece, Mr. John Clark, Ms. Mitzi Javers and Mr. Joe Cronin to the Green Committee for a six (6) month term from the first meeting date.

OTHER MATTERS

18. Council is asked to approve the Destruction of Three Hundred Six (306) Narcotics to Include Drug Paraphernalia, as requested by the Columbia Police Department's Property Room. - *Approved*

Upon motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mayor Coble, Council voted unanimously to approve the Destruction of Three Hundred Six (306) Narcotics to Include Drug Paraphernalia, as requested by the Columbia Police Department's Property Room.

APPEARANCE OF PUBLIC HAVING BUSINESS WITH CITY COUNCIL

Mr. Titus Glover, 2501 Stratford Road / Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Board of Directors – Area A Representative, appeared before the members of Council to request an amendment to the proposed plan to include a median at Gervais Street and Manning Avenue to protect the already overwhelmed street. Manning Avenue is .2 miles long and 24 feet wide and it has one sidewalk. It is a familiar cut through for over 900 cars per day. He said that this traffic situation is dangerous for children. He submitted a petition for the record in opposition to any proposal that increases or leaves Manning Avenue open for nonresidential traffic.

Ms. Lisa Glover, 2501 Stratford Road, appeared before the members of Council on behalf of Ms. Janet Campbell, a new Manning Street resident. She read a letter from Ms. Campbell that addresses the project and her concerns about the safety of residents, the potential for diminished property values and future economic development. Ms. Glover is concerned about the potential for increased traffic. She noted that there is already a constant flow of traffic on Manning Avenue.

Mr. Tom Legare, 1208 Westminster Drive, appeared before the members of Council to discuss his concerns with the East Gervais Street Beautification Plan. He said that changing the turning lanes into tree lanes would only create a bottleneck and make the traffic situation worse.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 7:12 p.m. for the discussion of **Item 19.** as amended.

19. **Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements
 Items were discussed in executive session. No action was taken.

- **Council adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley
City Clerk