

**CITY OF COLUMBIA  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES  
APRIL 12, 2006  
9:00 AM – CITY HALL– 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**



The City of Columbia City Council met for a Work Session on Wednesday, April 12, 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 9:07 a.m. The following members of City Council were present: The Honorable E. W. Cromartie, II, The Honorable Anne M. Sinclair, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine and The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann. The Honorable Sam Davis was absent due to a business related trip. Also present were Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Memorial Park Tree Replacement Project – Mr. Charles T. Ferillo, Jr., Chairman of the Memorial Park Commission and Ms. Carol Shropshire of Columbia Green

Mr. Charles T. Ferillo, Jr., Chairman of the Memorial Park Commission, stated that the Commission is now three (3) years old and it continues to improve. He said that the Colonel DeLoach Bridge was completed last year and that the USS Columbia Association renovated the patio area around the monument at their expense. He sought Council's blessing of a partnership with the Commission, Columbia Green and the City of Columbia to replace decaying and unsafe trees at Memorial Park. He said that they would add live oak trees to the tree population. Family members of veterans and veteran organizations can purchase trees to be planted as monuments as well.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to endorse a project that would replace decaying and unsafe trees at Memorial Park with live oak trees donated by Columbia Green. The Columbia Parks and Recreation Department would be responsible for removing the old trees and planting the new trees.

**CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION**

- B. Community Promotions Funding Recommendations – Ms. Libby Gober, Ombudsman

Upon motion by Ms. Devine, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve the Community Promotions Advisory Committee recommendations to disburse Community Promotions Funding to two (2) organizations in the total amount of \$14,000. (*See chart below*)

Community Promotions Monthly Funding 2005-2006			
Organization	Project Name	Request	Amount Funded
<b>March</b>			
DIVA - *Duplication/previously funded	Women & Children Empowerment Day Picnic	10,000	0
Lewis Greenview Elementary/Sanders Middle	Odyssey of the Mind World Finals	27,000	5,500
First Book-Columbia *New application	Make A Difference Day	5,000	0
The South Carolina Shakespeare Company	Romeo and Juliet	32,000	8,500
USC Sport and Entertainment Management Club *Other funding received	Spring Splash Tennis Tournament	2,500	0
WG Sanders Middle Band Booster *New application, concern of funding bands, and limited funds	School Band Trip	7,800	0

C. Fiscal Year 2006 / 2007 General Fund Budget Overview – Ms. Melisa Caughman, Budget Administrator

Ms. Melisa Caughman, Budget Administrator presented a preliminary review of the proposed fiscal year 2006/2007 General Fund budget. She stated that the budget reflects the financial resources needed to carry out the departmental goals outlined in their activity work plans.

Councilor Anne M. Sinclair requested additional information on the strategic plans formulated by the departments. She stated that Council needed to be able to articulate the need for a tax increase. She suggested that the process include routine evaluations that should be provided to the members of Council on a quarterly basis starting October 1, 2006.

Mayor Robert D. Coble stated that a lot of people are interested in Performance Based Budgeting; therefore, the follow-up to implementation along with the accountability aspect is important. He said that people must understand how it has made a difference.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager noted that a key component is consistent dialogue between the City Manager and Council.

Councilor Daniel J. Rickenmann suggested that they schedule a day to have an open budget review process. He said that he would not support a tax increase until they look at the budget and determine where reductions can be made. He said that some organizations might not be funded. He noted that revenue funds needed to be reviewed as well.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager explained that the budget was cut during many levels of the review process. He noted that there might be a need to make additional cuts, without sacrificing the highest quality of basic services.

Councilor Tameika Isaac Devine stated that she is concerned about noticing the public about the City's budgetary concerns. She asked Ms. Leshia Utsey, Public Relations Director and Ms. Gina Smith of The State Newspaper to help get the word out to the general public. She suggested that they schedule a time for a budget overview in July at an evening meeting.

Councilor Elect Kirkman Finlay, III further suggested that an informal open house be scheduled for citizens to spend time with City Council members. He said that they could provide an opportunity for the public to go through and fully understand the budget. He asked why the Capital Expenditures Budget wasn't included. He said that while on the campaign trail, he heard that people only wanted the highest quality of services that their money could buy, not what they couldn't afford.

Ms. Melisa Caughman, Budget Administrator explained that the only budget they have reviewed thus far is the General Fund Budget, which includes capital expenditures for capital replacement items, vehicles and things of that nature. She outlined the other program budgets that would be presented in the weeks to come.

Councilor Elect Kirkman Finlay, III stated that if departments place capital expenditures in their own budgets then you would begin to get a more realistic sense of what the operating budget is.

Councilor E.W. Cromartie, II stated that it would be good to have more detailed information on the budget items dealing with projects requiring large expenditures. He said that Council should be able to decide whether to defer projects and cut funds in order to fund what they want funded.

- **Council adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m. to break prior to convening the Special Zoning Public Hearing.**

- **Council reconvened the Work Session at 11:16 a.m.**

Fiscal Year 2006/2007 General Fund Budget Overview – Ms. Melisa Caughman, Budget Administrator - *Continued*

There was a consensus of Council to conduct an Open House for citizens to come to City Hall on May 3, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. for an overview and in-depth discussion of the fiscal year 2006/2007 budget.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

- D. Council is asked to approve a Request for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity, as requested by the Business License Division. Award to Mr. Billie McBride doing business as Express Taxi Service, 1531 Toronto Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29204. - *Approved*

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve a Request for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity, as requested by the Business License Division. Award to Mr. Billie McBride doing business as Express Taxi Service, 1531 Toronto Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29204.

- E. \*\*Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements  
- Intergovernmental Agreement for the Homelessness Commission - *This item was removed from the Executive Session list and discussed in open session.*

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Homelessness Commission and directed Mr. Jim Meggs, City Attorney to meet with Lexington County and Richland County to determine if there are amendments they would like to propose.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Cromartie Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 11:42 a.m. for the discussion of **Item F.** and **G.** as outlined.

- F. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements  
- Phelps Street Conveyance  
This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.
- G. Discussion of negotiations incident to the proposed sale of property  
This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.
- H. \*\*Receipt of legal advice, which relates to a matter covered by attorney-client privilege Guidelines for Rehiring Retirees - *This item was removed from the Executive Session list and discussed during open session. See the Zoning Public Hearing Agenda, Item 23.)*

- **Council adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley  
City Clerk