

**CITY OF COLUMBIA WORK SESSION MINTUES**  
**MAY 17, 2006**  
**9:00 AM – CITY HALL– 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

---



The Columbia City Council met for a Work Session on Wednesday, May 17, 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 9:05 a.m. The following City Council members were present: The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II, The Honorable Anne M. Sinclair, The Honorable Sam Davis and The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine. The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann was absent. Also present were Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Collaboration between the Columbia Museum of Art and the Drew Wellness Center – Ms. Karen Brosius, Executive Director of the Columbia Museum of Art and Mr. Steve Hewitt, Cultural Arts Supervisor for the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department

Mr. Steve Hewitt, Cultural Arts Supervisor for the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, introduced Ms. Karen Brosius of the Columbia Museum of Art to discuss collaboration between the Museum and the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department. The collaboration is a result of a research project done with Councilor Cromartie during the development of the concept of the Wellness Center.

Ms. Karen Brosius, Executive Director of the Columbia Museum of Art thanked the members of Council especially Councilor Cromartie for inviting the Columbia Museum of Art to provide artwork for the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center. She announced the opening of a second community gallery. Ms. Brosius thanked Mr. S. Allison Baker and Mr. Steve Hewitt for their assistance in making it a smooth process. There will be six exhibitions during the first year. The Columbia Museum of Art will organize four exhibitions and the City's Parks and Recreation Department will organize two exhibitions. The first Congressional High School Art Exhibition is being done in partnership with Congressman Jim Clyburn's Office along with another exhibition. The Museum will also host a Mural Project that will decorate wall space at the Wellness Center and About Face will sketch portraits of participants involved in wellness and fitness at the Wellness Center. She said that she is grateful for the opportunity. She introduced Mr. Darien McCloud as the Lead Educator for Richland School District One for the Columbia Museum of Art.

Mr. Darien McLeod, Columbia Museum of Art Outreach Coordinator for Richland School District One, said that he was very excited about working at the Museum and that he is open to ideas.

## **CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION**

- B. Schedule for Public Hearings for the Fiscal Year 2006/2007 General Fund Budget and Fiscal Year 2006/2007 Proposed Water and Sewer Operating Fund Budget– Ms. Melisa Caughman, Budget Administrator

Ms. Melisa Caughman, Budget Administrator, explained that today was the last day for Council to decide on what to advertise in terms of the fiscal year 2006/2007 General Fund and Water and Sewer Operating Fund Budgets. She said that Council would have to decide today in order to advertise a Public Hearing for June 7, 2006.

Mayor Robert D. Coble suggested that Council advertise a 15-mil tax increase and a 5% water and sewer rate increase. He said that the general cost of government and basic services warrant the increases. He stated that it was essential for this budget to include funding for the implementation of a security camera program.

Councilor E.W. Cromartie, II stated that he supports the motion. He added that the cameras should be able to rotate, swing and zoom. He said that the cameras should be the best compatible system the City can find.

Councilor Tameika Isaac Devine said that she supports the motion, because we have to be able to pay for the services provided. She noted that twenty additional officers cost \$1 million and if taxes are raised, officers should be hired, trained and put in the field.

Councilor-Elect Kirkman Finlay III explained that by cutting the proposed 20-mil increase to 15-mil would cause the City Manager and the budget to be \$1,750,000 short. He suggested that Council tell the City Manager what to cut in order to adjust the budget. He further suggested that they discontinue the direct and indirect transfers from the Water and Sewer Fund. He said that they needed to look at areas to cut.

Councilor Sam Davis concurred with Mr. Finlay's comments. He said that he still doesn't support the increase. He said that his constituency is not in favor of it, because they don't get the services being paid for now.

Councilor Anne M. Sinclair said that she would vote for the increase. She commended staff on their efforts to pull together the budget. She stated that the information has been clear and that there is no alternative. She said that she would continue to work with staff to make the 15-mil increase a reality. She requested that staff show the public how Performance Based Budgeting will make a difference in the City's budget and the quality of life.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager explained that the millage increase must be tied to the expenditures listed in the budget.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted four (4) to one (1) to authorize staff to advertise a Budgetary Public Hearing for Wednesday, June 7, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. and to include in that advertisement a proposed 15 mil tax increase and a 5% water and sewer rate increase. This ad should be drafted in accordance with State law. Voting aye were Mr. Cromartie, Ms. Sinclair, Ms. Devine and Mayor Coble. Voting nay was Mr. Davis.

C. City Council's June Meeting Schedule – Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the following meeting schedule for June 2006:

June 7, 2006	Work Session	9:00 a.m.
	Public Hearing	10:00 a.m.
	Budget Public Hearing	6:00 p.m.
June 14, 2006	Work Session	9:00 a.m.
June 21, 2006	Work Session	9:00 a.m.
	Council Meeting	10:00 a.m.
June 28, 2006	Work Session	9:00 a.m.

D. \*\*Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission Request for Funding

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager presented a request for funding in the amount of \$35,000 from Mr. Ike McLeese on behalf of the BRAC Commission.

Mayor Robert D. Coble explained that the BRAC Commission needed funding to continue the efforts to keep Fort Jackson and McIntyre Air Force Base off the BRAC list. The same consultant will work to ensure that the needs of these military installations are communicated to our elected officials.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve a request for funding from the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in the amount of \$35,000.00 from the year-end surplus as part of an Intergovernmental Plan. Council asked that Mr. Ike McLeese report back on the progress of the Commission and any funding disproportion.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

E. Affordable Housing Taskforce – Ms. Dana D. Turner, Assistant City Manager for Commerce and Development

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of the following individuals to the Affordable Housing Taskforce noting that additional At-large representatives will be appointed: Ms. Karen Stone, Ms. Emily Cooper, Ms. Bessie Watson, Mr. Brian Boyer, Mr. Jamie Devine, Ms. Clanitra Stewart, Dr. Jabari Simama, Mr. Marc Cox, Ms. Tandra Ingram, Ms. Nancy Fairley, Ms. Gloria Bowden, Mr. Earl McLeod and Mr. Gilbert Walker or designee.

F. Jazz Under the Stars – Mr. Skipp Pearson, Founder and CEO of the Skipp Pearson Foundation and Mr. Robert Gardiner of the Robert Gardiner Band

Mr. Skipp Pearson, Founder and CEO of the Skipp Pearson Foundation introduced Jazz Under the Stars, a series of musical events to begin on Friday, May 19, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. on the north lawn of the State House grounds. There will be three musical concerts for the benefit and enjoyment of each citizen of this city. He introduced Mr. Robert Gardener as a wonderful, young and accomplished musician. They will perform along with Mr. Dick Goodwin during the first evening of Jazz Under the Stars. He said that he chose to present this project know because he is concerned about the need to preserve jazz music.

- **Council adjourned the Work Session at 9:50 a.m. to break prior to convening the regular meeting.**
- **Council reconvened the Work Session at 11:00 a.m.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 11:01 a.m. as amended.

- G. Receipt of legal advice, which relates to pending, threatened or potential claims  
*Matters were discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
- H. \*\*Receipt of legal advice, which relates to matters covered by attorney-client privilege  
*Matters were discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
- I. \*\*Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements  
*Matters were discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
- **Council adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley  
City Clerk