

**CITY OF COLUMBIA WORK SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2006
9:00 AM – CITY HALL– 3RD FLOOR
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**



The City of Columbia City Council met for a Work Session on Wednesday, June 14, 2006 in the Council Chambers located at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. Mayor Robert D. Coble called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. The following members of City 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. Also present were Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

PRESENTATIONS

A. University of South Carolina Incubator Program Update – Mr. Joel Stevenson, Director

Mr. Joel Stevenson, Director of the USC Incubator Program, introduced Ms. Angel Ellis the President of Black Tie Innovations and Mr. John Denise the President of Advanced Automation Consulting. Black Tie Innovations started with two employees one year ago and now there are six employees with an average salary of \$35,000 per year. Mr. John Denise is a graduate of the Incubator Program. Advanced Automation Consulting had two employees 3 ½ years ago, but they now have forty employees with an average salary of \$93,000 per year. He said that they have moved to 1225 Laurel Street and plan to construct a conference room on the first floor, which is almost full. There are currently 27 companies in the Incubator Program, 14 firms have graduated, 8-10 companies will be added this calendar year, 407 jobs have been created, 63 minority jobs were created and the City funded \$75,000 or \$184 per job. Elliott Davis will provide the annual audits with the first year being done pro bono. Seven (7) minority-owned businesses have been created and three are pending. The average salary of all incubator companies is \$47,000.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

B. Accommodations Tax Review – Ms. Libby Gober, Ombudsman

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve the Accommodations Tax Guidelines on the definition of a tourist, the advancement of dollars, the location of events, funding of charitable events and the policy for providing seed money as recommended.

B1. **Three Rivers Music Festival Update – The Honorable Anne M. Sinclair and The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine

Councilor Tameika Isaac Devine explained that the Three Rivers Music Festival did not have a profitable year as we had hoped. We have decided not to go forth, but there are some debts that need to be paid.

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to authorize up to \$198,000.00 in Accommodations Tax Funding to cover budgetary shortfalls for the Three Rivers Music Festival with the caveat that the event organizers will continue to seek other funding sources to cover the debt.

APPOINTMENTS

- C. Affordable Housing Taskforce Appointments and Guidelines – Ms. Dana D. Turner, Assistant City Manager

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to endorse the Affordable Housing Taskforce Appointments and Guidelines. Staff was directed to organize the first meeting, which will begin the 6-month review process.

- D. Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority Board of Directors

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Rusha McCall to the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority Board of Directors as a representative of citizens with disabilities.

- E. Charles R. Drew Wellness Center Scholarship / Advisory Committee

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to defer the consideration of appointments until June 21, 2006 to allow the Council members an opportunity to select their nominees.

- F. Columbia Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve the reappointment of Ms. Katheryn Bellefield, Mr. Bobby Gist, Ms. Patrick Noble and Ms. Kathleen Smith for a final five-year term to expire on June 14, 2011. Staff was directed to review the State Statute and the City's Resolution on Boards and Commissions to determine if there is a need for staggered terms. It is duly noted that the next appointees should be District One and Four representatives.

Mr. Bobby Gist, Chairman of the Columbia Housing Authority Board of Directors, advised that there would be a Press Release on tomorrow to announce that the Columbia Housing Authority has been awarded a High Performance Status for the fifth year consecutively and will receive \$1 million in bonus funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He announced that they received a \$3.4 million grant for capital improvements and to improve the housing stock in the City of Columbia.

Ms. Pat Noble, Columbia Housing Authority Board of Director, stated that they are working diligently to obtain a Hope VI Grant in the amount of \$21 million for Allen Benedict Court. She explained that they are primarily developing rentals on the Allen Benedict Court site with the grant with some home ownership options. She encouraged the members of Council to appoint the Allen Benedict Court Resident Association President to the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center Scholarship and Advisory Committee so that they may feel inclusive in the activities of the Center.

- G. Commission on Homelessness – The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble
Consideration of this matter was deferred.

TRAFFIC CONTROL MATTERS

H. Huger Street (100 Block) Neighborhood Traffic Control

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted five (5) to one (1) to approve the Installation of a Speed Hump in the 100 block of Huger Street. Voting aye were Mayor Coble, Mr. Cromartie, Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine and Mr. Rickenmann. Voting nay was Ms. Sinclair.

- **Council adjourned the Work Session at 9:58 a.m. to break prior to convening the Zoning Public Hearing.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted to go into Executive Session at 12:10 p.m. for the discussion of **Items I.** and **J.** as amended.

I. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements
- Shaw Industries

This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.

J. **Receipt of legal advice, which relates to a pending threatened or potential claim
Items were not discussed in Executive Session.

- **Council adjourned the meeting at 12:44 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley
City Clerk