



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL
ZONING PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2006
10:00 A.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1737 MAIN STREET

The City of Columbia City Council conducted a Zoning Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 14, 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 10:05 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of May 10, 2006

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of May 10, 2006 as presented.

ZONING PUBLIC HEARING

TEXT AMENDMENT – FIRST READING

2. Ordinance No.: 2006-047 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 17, Planning, Land Development and Zoning, Article III, Zoning, Division 12, Signs - *First reading consideration of this matter was deferred until June 21, 2006. This matter was discussed in Executive Session.*

Mr. Marc Mylott, Director of Development Services, explained that there is a request from Lamar Outdoor Advertising to consider electronic outdoor advertising billboards with copy changes every six seconds. These signs are permitted under the current Zoning Ordinance, but it only allows the copies to change every 24-hours. We took the request and coupled it with the requests for on premise signs and decided to consider the opportunity for all people to engage in this new technology. This includes provisions that will take care of quality of life issues within the commercial corridors by addressing “skeleton signs”.

- **Council opened the Public Hearing at 10:52 a.m.**

Ms. April Heyward appeared before the members of Council on behalf of the Columbia Small Business Regulatory Review Committee. She cited the many benefits of allowing the use of digital billboards within the City of Columbia. The Columbia Small Business Regulatory Review Committee recommends the endorsement of digital advertising as presented.

Ms. Susan B. Heyward, Planning Commission Member, urged the members of Council to carefully review and consider this matter, particularly in light of recent legislation. She said that the Planning Commission did not consider the new legislation during their deliberations on this matter. She said that the technology and lack of litter would be wonderful. She asked how the City would pay for poles if they needed to be removed for projects or other reasons. She suggested that the matter reviewed from a land use point of view.

Ms. Lucie Eggleston, 147 Edisto Court, appeared before the members of Council as a concerned citizen. She said that she is concerned about safety and aesthetics.

Mr. David Anderson, Vice President of Chernoff Newman, appeared before the members of Council in support of this request. He said that they do a lot of Public Service Announcements for their pro bono clients and everything is sent out electronically except the billboards. He said that this change would bring consistency to the mediums that they use.

Ms. Rosie Craig stated that a group of citizens studied the issue of billboards years ago and they recommended that there be a ban on all billboards. She said that the digital billboards would be kind of cool in the right locations. She asked the members of Council to step back and give the matter a little more time.

Mr. Lanier Jones, President of the Ad Company, presented a picture of a digital board they erected in another state. He said that it is about the technology and moving forward. He said that he ran a digital billboard for the Palmetto Heart Hospital last fall and it brought in thirty new employees, because of the high impact the billboards have.

Mr. Scott Shockley, Applicant, explained that State Statute deals with the relocation of billboards first and provides for an arbitration process with the governing body to identify another site.

Mr. Marc Mylott, Director of Development Services, stated that the legislation also considers the improvements made to the site, the revenue streams and future revenue accrual.

Mr. Van Kornegay stated that this proposal is bringing Time Square advertising to the City of Columbia. He said that the public is not fully aware of what this means. He objected to this, because of traffic safety and aesthetics. He urged the members of Council to study the matter further.

Ms. Sidney Heyward stated that her family operates a commercial construction business and requested that further consideration of this matter be delayed. She noted that Council is primarily responsible to the constituents and not small businesses. She urged the billboard representatives to develop a more limited proposal that won't incur long-term costs to the community.

- **Council closed the Public Hearing at 11:35 a.m.**

ORINANCES – SECOND READING

3. Ordinance No.: 2006-008 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 18, Redevelopment Commissions, to add Article IV, East Central Redevelopment Commission *First reading approval was given on June 7, 2006.*

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2006-008 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 18, Redevelopment Commissions, to add Article IV, East Central Redevelopment Commission.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to **Item 4**. Ordinance No.: 2006-045 - Authorizing transfer of 1.112 acres at Washington and Huger Street, portion of Richland County TMS #008912-13-01 to Kline Huger, LLC **and** to approve **Items 5**. and **6**. on a single motion.

4. Ordinance No.: 2006-045 - Authorizing transfer of 1.112 acres at Washington and Huger Street, portion of Richland County TMS #008912-13-01 to Kline Huger, LLC *First reading approval was given on June 7, 2006. – Approved on second reading.*

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS, AGREEMENTS AND CHANGE ORDERS

5. Council is asked to approve SS7005; Emergency Sanitary Sewer Repair along Glenwood Road from Delano Drive to Gervais Street, as requested by Engineering Administration. Award to McClam & Associates, the low bidder, in the amount of \$166,741.00. This firm is located in Little Mountain, SC. *Funding Source: Sewer Improvement Fund - Approved*
6. Council is asked to approve Project Columbia Northeast Fire and Police Station, as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Penn Contracting, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$1,889,864.00. This firm is located in Irmo, SC. The CIP budgeted amount is \$1,709,022.00. *Funding Source: (GL) 4039999-636600 and (JL) 100701-636600 - Approved*

ORINANCES – SECOND READING

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted five (5) to one (1) to give second reading approval to **Item 7**. Ordinance No.: 2006-043 - To Override the Statutory Millage Rate Limitation and to Establish Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2007 **and** to give first reading approval to **Item 8**. Ordinance No.: 2006-042 - To Raise Revenue and Adopt the Budget for the City of Columbia, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2007 on a single motion. Voting aye were Mr. Cromartie, Ms. Sinclair, Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine and Mayor Coble. Voting nay was Mr. Rickenmann.

7. Ordinance No.: 2006-043 - To Override the Statutory Millage Rate Limitation and to Establish Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2007 *First reading approval was given on June 7, 2006. – Approved on second reading.*

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

8. Ordinance No.: 2006-042 - To Raise Revenue and Adopt the Budget for the City of Columbia, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2007 – *Approved on first reading.*

OTHER MATTERS

9. Council is asked to approve the Destruction of One Hundred Thirty One (131) Firearms, as requested by the Columbia Police Department's Evidence / Property Unit.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve the Destruction of One Hundred Thirty One (131) Firearms, as requested by the Columbia Police Department's Evidence / Property Unit.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC HAVING BUSINESS WITH CITY COUNCIL

Ms. April Heyward sought directions from the members of Council on how the Columbia Small Business Regulatory Review Committee could move forward with additional appointments and the creation of by laws, guidelines and goals in an effort to form a more legitimate committee. She noted that five (5) members remain on the committee.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to direct staff to meet with Ms. Heyward to develop a committee with goals and objectives that we can all agree upon.

Mr. Andrew Witt, Cultural Council of Richland / Lexington Counties, explained that they are seeking additional Accommodations Tax funding to market and promote the Cultural Council. This would free up funding to support direct operating grants for smaller organizations.

Mr. Bill Manley expressed concerns about the presentation of the City's budget. He said that he met with a staff person to get clarification. He urged the members of Council to keep the people informed.

- **Council adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley
City Clerk