



CITY OF COLUMBIA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2007  
9:00 A.M.  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1737 MAIN STREET

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The Columbia City Council conducted a Meeting on Wednesday, March 21, 2007 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 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, The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann and The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III. Also present were Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager, Mr. Steven A. Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of March 7, 2007

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of March 7, 2007 as presented.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

2. Introduction of the March 2007 Employee of the Month (Ms. Doris M. Harris) – Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager introduced Ms. Doris McGorder Harris as the March 2007 Employee of the Month. He described her as a twenty six-year employee who always wears a smile and always offers a pleasant greeting to others. He also described Ms. Harris as a front line ambassador for the City of Columbia.

3. Central Midlands Council of Governments Update – Mr. Norman Whitaker, Executive Director

Mr. Norman Whitaker, Executive Director, provided an update on the activities of the Central Midlands Council of Governments. In 2006, the Council Of Governments staff won two (2) national awards in workforce development and aging and a state award in transportation planning. They are in the process of implementing a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and a Commuter Rail Plan, which were adopted by the Council Of Governments last year. They will be updating their thirty-year long-range transportation plan that sets the major federal funding priorities for this region; the comprehensive economic development strategy as required by the US Department of Commerce; and a regional open space plan. The Council of Governments will be working on a Congestion Management Plan, a Freight Movement Plan, and a Land Use Transportation Study for the Lower Richland area to include Garners Ferry Road and Interstate 77. The work plan for fiscal year 2007/2008 will be complete in May 2007. He thanked the members of Council for their continued support as founding members of the Central Midlands Council of Governments.

4. Martin Luther King Food Drive – Ms. Cathleen Cleary, Chair of the MLK Food Drive Committee

Ms. Cathleen Cleary, Chair of the Martin Luther King Food Drive Committee, presented awards to three (3) Richland School District One Schools and three (3) Parks and Recreation facilities that collected more than 4,200 pounds of food for the Harvest Hope Food Bank. This is the fourth year that the committee has partnered with Richland School District One, City Year and the City of Columbia. The top three (3) schools were: Hyatt Park Elementary School, Carver Lyon Elementary School and Arden Elementary School. The top three (3) Parks and Recreation facilities were: Katheryn M. Bellfield / Booker Washington Heights Cultural Arts Center, Woodland Park and the First Tee of Columbia Golf Center.

5. National Youth Violence Prevention Week – The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine

Councilor Devine announced that the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual National Youth Violence Prevention Week is scheduled for April 1-7, 2007, noting that each year the momentum and participation gets better. Representative Chris Hart will be the guest speaker at the kick off rally on Sunday, April 1, 2007 at the State House. The Columbia Stingers will be a part of the wrap up event on Saturday, April 7, 2007.

Mr. Eugene White, Deputy Director for Parks and Recreation presented the schedule of events for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual National Youth Violence Prevention Week during April 1-7, 2007. There will be an array of great activities taking place. The participating youth will be asked to pledge to stay positive.

6. Columbia Wetlands Project – The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble

Reverend James. P. Neal, Jr. explained that one year ago he read a notice in the newspaper about constructed wetlands and immediately took an interest in how this would better serve the community. He decided to go forward and gather information on the first phase of the development and what it would mean for the Lower Richland area. A group of community leaders traveled to see a real live constructed wetlands and that's where they met Mr. Mark Sees from Orlando, Florida. Mr. Neal asked the City of Columbia to consider testing the concept.

Mr. Mark Sees, Wetlands Program Manager for the City of Orlando Wastewater Division, presented an overview of the Orlando Wetlands Project and how the City of Columbia could benefit from the development of constructed wetlands. He said that constructed wetlands are water quality purifiers; they help to clean up wild life habitats; and are cost effective. He noted that constructed wetlands could be found all over the world and can be managed to work in every climate. A survey of 300 constructed wetlands sites showed that daily pollutants were significantly reduced. The City of Orlando built the worlds first large scale constructed wetlands in 1986 to accommodate future growth. They planted over 2 million aquatic plants on farmland and then began to flood the land with wastewater effluent. It takes forty days for the water to move through the wetlands and it naturally flows down hill into a canal and then into the river. It is now a park that is visited by 15,000 – 20,000 people each year.

There was a consensus of Council to schedule a time and date for an in-depth discussion on the benefit of constructed wetlands. All information should be a part of City Council's agenda packet to include information on the farming aspect; the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control laws and other rules; budgetary information; and any other pertinent information.

- **Council adjourned the meeting to break at 10:16 a.m.**

- **Council reconvened the meeting at 10:22 a.m.**

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

7. Ordinance No.: 2006 – 108 – (*Revised*) Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 23, Utilities and Engineering, Article V, Water and Sewer Rates, Sec. 23-152, Sewer plant expansion fee – *Approved on first reading.*
8. Ordinance No.: 2006 – 109 – (*Revised*) Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 23, Utilities and Engineering, Article V, Water and Sewer Rates, Sec. 23-145, Installation of water meters and cross connection control devices – *Approved on first reading.*

Mr. Steve Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations, explained that Ordinance 2006-108 deals with the Sewer Plant Expansion Fee. Staff is recommending that upon second reading approval it begins at 50% or \$1,320 for a six-month period and that after six months the full rate would be \$2,640. The fee has been \$500 in the past. Funding would be used to expand the existing system. This only applies to new connections and would not have an impact on existing customers. He said that they did receive additional information from the Homebuilders Association. He further explained that Ordinance No.: 2006-109 is a reduction in the cost of water meters if the developer installs them. All of the meter sizes are not listed in the current Ordinance.

- **Council opened the Public Hearing at 10:28 a.m.**

Mr. Earl McLeod, Executive Director of the Homebuilders Association, stated that they are trying to understand this issue and make constructive recommendations. He said that a study was conducted for Richland County and it said that for every \$1000 increase in the price of a home would prohibit 438 households from purchasing a home in the common market. They understand that there must be improvements to the water and sewer system. He asked that principles be put into place to ensure accountability of how the funds are spent and that the City limit the transfer of funds from revenues generated from the water and sewer system. He urged the Council to review the proposed recommendations and to consider adding them to the current Ordinance.

Mr. Cliff Kinder, Developer, said that they depend on the City for water and sewer and would support the increase in fees. He urged the Council to keep the revenue in the water and sewer fund instead of diverting the funds to many other things.

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted six (6) to one (1) to give first reading approval on a single motion to Ordinance No.: 2006–108 and Ordinance No.: 2006–109, subject to staff continuing to work with the Home Builders Association. Staff was directed to provide a comparison of what other water and sewer systems within Richland and Lexington Counties are charging; information on how they have implemented their increases over the years; and how much money do other comparable systems transfer to their General Fund. Voting aye were Mr. Cromartie, Ms. Sinclair, Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine, Mr. Finlay and Mayor Coble. Voting nay was Mr. Rickenmann.

- **Council adjourned the Public Hearing at 10:50 a.m.**

## ZONING PUBLIC HEARING

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

### CONFIRM ZONING OF PREVIOUSLY ANNEXED PROPERTIES – FIRST READING

9. 247 Plumber Road, TMS#14306-01-04; zoned M-1 within Richland County.

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to Item 9.

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to *Confirm the Zoning of Previously Annexed Property* at 247 Plumber Road, TMS#14306-01-04; zoned M-1 within Richland County.

### ANNEXATIONS WITH MAP AMENDMENTS/REZONINGS – FIRST READING

10. 1943, 1947, and 1951 English Avenue, TMS#11609-10-03; rezone from Richland County RS-3 to C-3.

Ordinance No.: 2007 – 020 – Annexing 1951 English Avenue, Richland County TMS# 11609-10-03

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to Item 10.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval on a single motion to the *Map Amendment / Rezoning* of 1943, 1947, and 1951 English Avenue, TMS#11609-10-03; rezone from Richland County RS-3 to C-3, provided the south and east lot lines retain a 10-foot buffer of RS-3 zoning **and** Ordinance No.: 2007 – 020 – Annexing 1951 English Avenue, Richland County TMS# 11609-10-03.

### MAP AMENDMENTS/REZONINGS – FIRST READING

11. 3401 Lyles Street and 1000 Block of Lancaster Street, TMS#09107-13-09; rezone from RG-2 to PUD-R.

Mr. Chris Barczak, In the House, LLC, stated that he met with the Executive Community Council and they approved the request.

No one appeared in opposition to Item 11.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the *Map Amendment / Rezoning* of 3401 Lyles Street and 1000 Block of Lancaster Street, TMS#09107-13-09; rezone from RG-2 to PUD-R.

12. 1115 and 1117 Woodrow Street, TMS#11414-18-07(p) and 08; rezone from PUD-R, -DP to amended PUD-R, -DP.

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to Item 12.

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the *Map Amendment / Rezoning* of 1115 and 1117 Woodrow Street, TMS#11414-18-07(p) and 08; rezone from PUD-R, -DP to amended PUD-R, -DP, provided: **(1)** The maximum height of 1117 Woodrow Street shall not exceed the height of 1115 Woodrow Street as measured from the street to the peak of the second gable back from Woodrow Street; **(2)** The applicant will reduce the deck and angle it to meet the setbacks required along the north property line. The top landing will be reduced to the minimum size required by the Building Code, then it will drop six feet to a new deck, and the top landing will be screened for privacy (with lattice or the like) along the north side. The privacy screening will be at least 6-feet tall; **(3)** The current encroachment of the chimney within the required setback may remain as is; **(4)** Two parking spaces shall be provided on private property; and **(5)** DDRC shall review and approve the final design, including the design of the two parking spaces.

13. 701 Chester Street and NX 701 Chester Street (SEL Properties, LLC), TMS#09012-01-15 and 16; rezone from M-1 to PUD-R.

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to Item 13.

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the *Map Amendment / Rezoning* of 701 Chester Street and NX 701 Chester Street (SEL Properties, LLC), TMS#09012-01-15 and 16; rezone from M-1 to PUD-R, provided: **(1)** At least one side yard of every lot shall be 8 ft. or greater; **(2)** Applicant must coordinate with Sara Hollar (Forestry) regarding the planting of street trees along Chester Street, and such trees shall be compatible with Elmwood Park; **(3)** Changes to the PUD shall be governed by §17-305(10); **(4)** Must provide 2 off-street parking spaces per lot, which may be in a "T" configuration; **(5)** Where PUD is silent, RS-3 shall apply; and **(6)** Plans, elevations, and materials to be reviewed and approved by the DDRC staff with appeals to the DDRC.

14. 339 Heyward Street (Granby Square Village), TMS# 08816-14-01; rezone from PUD-R, -PD to amended PUD-R, -PD.

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to Item 14.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the *Map Amendment / Rezoning* of 339 Heyward Street (Granby Square Village), TMS# 08816-14-01; rezone from PUD-R, -PD to amended PUD-R, -PD, provided: **(1)** Applicant shall install sidewalk along Heyward and Williams Streets to the end of lot 9 at his expense; **(2)** Changes to the PUD shall be governed by §17-305(10); **(3)** Must provide 2 off-street parking spaces per lot, which may be in a "T" configuration; **(4)** Where PUD is silent, RG-2 shall apply; and **(5)** The front-yard setback for lots 9, 10, and 11 may be reduced to 3 feet.

15. 2 Brayton's Alley, TMS#11406-08-11; rezone from RG-2 to C-1.

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to Item 15.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to the *Map Amendment / Rezoning* of 339 Heyward Street (Granby Square Village), TMS# 08816-14-01; rezone from PUD-R, -PD to amended PUD-R, -PD.

16. 611 Queen Street (Rear Portion), TMS#11312-06-08(p); rezone from RG-1 to C-2. - *The applicant withdrew this item from the agenda.*
  17. 2925 Devine Street and 714 Olive Street, TMS#13804-18-08; rezone rear portion from RS-3 to C-1. - *The applicant withdrew this item from the agenda.*
- **Council adjourned the Zoning Public Hearing at 10:58 a.m.**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 18., 19., 21., 22. and 24.** **Item 20.** was withdrawn from the agenda pending legal review and **Item 23.** was approved by a separate motion.

### **CONSIDERATION OF BIDS AND AGREEMENTS**

18. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of One (1) Lot of Shelby National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) Koala-Tanned Structure Gloves for Various Fire Departments, as requested by the Fire Department. Award to Newton's Fire and Safety Equipment, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$21,741.66. This firm is located in Swepsonville, NC. *Funding Source: 1012303-625900 (Fire Suppression) and 2082306-625900 (County Fire Administration) - Approved*
19. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of One (1) TVI Portable Decontamination System, as requested by the Emergency Operations System. Award to Fisher Scientific as a sole source procurement in the amount of \$28,272.64. This firm is located in Greenville, SC. *Funding Source: GL-2059999-658400 / JL-9601000107-658400 – The City will be reimbursed from MMRS Grant 6MMRS01 - Approved*
20. Council is asked to approve WM4020; Insurance and License Agreement between the City of Columbia and Norfolk Southern Railway Company to Construct a Water Main in the Railroad Right of Way, as requested by Engineering Administration in the amount of \$31,000. *Funding Source: Water Improvement Fund – This item was withdrawn from the agenda pending legal review.*
21. Council is asked to approve Renovations to the Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) Floor of Washington Square, as requested by General Services. Award to Empire Drywall and Construction, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$66,038.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: GL-5329999-636600 / CP105902-636600 - Approved*
22. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of One (1) 35' Command Center Trailer, as requested by the Emergency Operations Center. Award to Surrey Fire Safety House, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$82,004.00. This firm is located in Napoleon, OH. *Funding Source: GL-2059999-658500 / JL-9601000107-658500 – The City will be reimbursed from an MMRS Grant - Approved*

23. Council is asked to approve an Amendment to the Existing Auditing Contract, as requested by the Finance Department. Award to J.W. Hunt and Company, LLP in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for the closure of the books for fiscal year 2006 and an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 for the closure of the books for fiscal year 2007 and staff training. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. - *Approved*

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve an Amendment to the Existing Auditing Contract, as requested by the Finance Department. Award to J.W. Hunt and Company, LLP in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for the closure of the books for fiscal year 2006 and for staff training only.

24. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Vehicles, as requested by Various Departments and Divisions. Award to Vic Bailey Ford Spartanburg, SC; Love Chevrolet of Columbia, SC; and Capitol Chevrolet of Columbia, SC using the State Purchasing Contract in the total amount of \$90,882.95. - *Approved*

<u>Department</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Engineering – Water Sys. Imp.	Chevy Trailblazer	1	5516220-658500	Love Chevrolet	\$21,385.00
Storm Water Engineering	Ford Ranger	1	553402 & 5516221-658500	Vic Bailey Ford	\$9,638.00
Engineering Administration	Ford Ranger	1	5511706-658500	Vic Bailey Ford	\$9,638.00
Engineering - Water Sys. Imp.	Ford F-350	1	5516221-658500	Vic Bailey Ford	\$16,951.00
Police Investigations	Chevy Impala	1	1012407-658500	Love Chevrolet	\$18,101.00
Traffic Engineering	Chevy Impala	1	1013203-658500	Capitol Chevrolet	\$15,169.95

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items 25.** through **27.** on a single motion.

25. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of a Two (2) Ton Bucket Truck, as requested by the Public Works Department. Award to Altec, Industries, Inc., the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$115,186.00. This firm is located in Birmingham, AL. *Funding Source: GL-1013204-658500 - Approved*

26. Council is asked to approve Change Order #1; CIP WM4097 Modification to Filter 1-2 for the Columbia Canal Water Treatment Plant, as requested by Engineering Administration. Award to Kemp, Inc. in the amount of \$162,360.00. This firm is located in Sherrills Ford, NC. *Funding Source: Water Improvement Fund - Approved*

**ORDINANCES – SECOND READING**

27. Ordinance No.: 2007-010 – Authorizing transfer of 164 Springway Drive, Richland County TMS# 16310-05-32, to Tasha L. Watson *First reading approval was given on March 7, 2007. – Approved on second reading.*
28. Ordinance No.: 2007-011 – Authorizing transfer of 1.22 acres (53,143 square feet) more or less at the intersection of SC Highway 6 and Irmo Drive known as Lexington County TMS# 001800-07-02 to Owen Industries, Inc. *First reading approval was given on March 7, 2007. – Approved on second reading.*

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2007-011 – Authorizing transfer of 1.22 acres (53,143 square feet) more or less at the intersection of SC Highway 6 and Irmo Drive known as Lexington County TMS# 001800-07-02 to Owen Industries, Inc. Mr. Rickenmann abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.

## **ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval on a single motion to **Items 29.** and **30.**

29. Ordinance No.: 2007-012 – Request for approval to grant an easement to SCE&G Company for the installation of utilities along a portion of City property for the Woodcreek Farms Fire Station #4; Richland County TMS# 25700-02-15 (portion); CF# 250-225 – *Approved on first reading.*
30. Ordinance No.: 2007-013 – Request for approval to grant an easement to SCE&G Company for the installation of utilities along a portion of City property for the Pendleton Street Parking Garage; Richland County TMS# 08916-10-10 & 12 (portion); CF# 250-226 – *Approved on first reading.*
31. Ordinance No.: 2007-016 – Authorizing execution of a Lease between the City of Columbia and the Columbia Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau for first floor retail space in the Pendleton Street Parking Garage

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2007-016 – Authorizing execution of a Lease between the City of Columbia and the Columbia Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau for first floor retail space in the Pendleton Street Parking Garage, subject to the Visitors Center not being located within the retail space at the Pendleton Street Parking Garage.

- A. Ordinance No.: 2007-022 – Authorizing transfer of 4.02 +/- acres known as a portion of Olympia Railroad Property, Project No. 251-67, and being a portion of Richland County TMS# 11301-19-04 to C. Brent Chintwood & Assigns - *Approved*

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2007-022 – Authorizing transfer of 4.02 +/- acres known as a portion of Olympia Railroad Property, Project No. 251-67, and being a portion of Richland County TMS# 11301-19-04 to C. Brent Chintwood & Assigns.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

- B. Resolution No.: R-2007-011 – Authorizing City Manager to execute a Ground Lease between the City of Columbia and the State Budget and Control Board for construction, maintenance and operation of Canal Front Park

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2007-011 – Authorizing City Manager to execute a Ground Lease between the City of Columbia and the State Budget and Control Board for construction, maintenance and operation of Canal Front Park.

- C. Resolution No.: R-2007-012 – Authorizing condemnation for acquisition of 1922 Wiley Street, Richland County TMS# 11212-16-06 - *This item was moved to Executive Session. No action was taken.*

## **APPOINTMENTS**

- D. Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee, Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee and the Community Promotions Advisory Committee – Ms. Libby Gober, Ombudsman

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Ron Jones to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee; the appointment of Ms. Patricia Durkin and the reappointment of Mr. Chris Brownlee, Mr. Harold White, Ms. Emma Myers, Ms. Candy Waites, Ms. Shelia Clause, Ms. Sarah Walker, Ms. Connie Jenkins and Ms. Mildred McDuffie to the Community Promotions Advisory Committee; and the appointment of Mr. William H. Murphy and the reappointment of Mr. Steve McDougall, Ms. Harriet Green, Mr. Jim Hardy, Mr. Richard Burts, Ms. Susan Douglas, Mr. David Martin, Mr. Bobby Williams and Mr. Chris Brownlee (as a non-voting member) to the Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee.

## **CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION**

- E. Three Cities Sky Way – Ms. Catherine Bruce, Collaborative for Community Trust

Ms. Catherine Bruce, Collaborative for Community Trust, further presented the concept of the Three Cities Sky Way Initiative. It is a tourism corridor that they will work on in partnership with the City Center Partnership, The River Alliance and other organizations. The project will start at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport via the John Hardee Expressway, Platt Springs Road and Wattling Road in Springdale, Augusta Highway and Jarvis Klapman Boulevard in Lexington County and Hampton Street in its entirety in Columbia. They are determining ways to market and promote this corridor; to preserve historic buildings and homes within Historic Waverly; to establish a grant program for the maintenance of historic homes; to partner with accommodations along the corridor to monitor the number of people being attracted by the Sky Way Project; and to partner with transportation agencies to provide services along the route. Ms. Bruce has applied for Hospitality Tax funding for this project and will seek funding from other municipalities and organizations as well.

- F. Express Review Proposal – Ms. Krista Hampton, Development Center Administrator

Ms. Krista Hampton, Development Center Administrator, reported that the Development Center now has informational brochures that guide customers through the overall process; check lists for project review that provides information on what is necessary for the permitting process; Development Coordinators that shepherd customers through the process; internal tracking of projects; online permitting for projects that don't require plan review; and a new customer service survey. She presented the concept of Express Review for residential and commercial projects for a supplementary fee of \$600 per hour for interior uplifts and alterations and \$1,000 per hour for new construction and additions. Several regional governments utilize this tool. All of the required staff would meet after hours at one location to review the project so that existing projects are not impacted. This process will be re-evaluated after a three-month period. The revenue would be utilized to cover overtime costs for staff.

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to endorse the Express Review Process Proposal for the Development Center. This will be a supplementary fee whereby a project is reviewed for compliance codes in a much-reduced timeframe.

- G. City's Efforts to Reduce Energy Use / Clean Air – Ms. Missy Gentry, Public Works Director – *This item was deferred until April 4, 2007.*

## **APPEARANCE OF PUBLIC HAVING BUSINESS WITH CITY COUNCIL**

Mr. Sheldon Chip Rice appeared before the members of Council to discuss the impact of gangs. He cited an article from The State Newspaper. He stated that the City should not pay any entity to assess gangs. He urged law enforcement to shut MySpace.com down so that gangs can't use it as a tool.

Mr. Temple Ligon announced that on Thursday, April 5, 2007, he would be escorting a group of students from Sanders and Gibbes Middle Schools from EdVenture to Atlanta, Georgia. They will tour the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia to view work from Louvre in Paris. They will have lunch on the 70<sup>th</sup> floor of the Westin Peachtree Plaza, the largest hotel within the western hemisphere and then they will go to the Georgia Aquarium in Centennial Park, one of the largest aquariums in the world. He noted that the City's funding of EdVenture is money well spent.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 11:46 a.m. for the discussion of **Items H.** and **I.** as amended.

- H. Receipt of legal advice, which relates to matters covered by attorney-client privilege
- \*\*Resolution No.: R-2007-012 – Authorizing condemnation for acquisition of 1922 Wiley Street, Richland County TMS# 11212-16-06
  - \*\*Pending Zoning Matter
  - \*\*Richland / Lexington Airport District Commission
  - \*\*Enhanced User Fees
  - \*\*Audit Services

*These items were discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*

- I. \*\*Receipt of legal advice, which relates to a pending, threatened or potential claim

*These Items were discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*

- **Council adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley  
City Clerk