



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2007
9:00 A.M.
CITY HALL / COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1737 MAIN STREET

The Columbia City Council conducted a Meeting and a Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 2, 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 9:04 a.m. and the Public Hearing at 10:01 a.m. The following members of Council were present: The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II, The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann and The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III. The Honorable Anne M. Sinclair arrived at 9:06 a.m. Also present were Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Introduction of the April 2007 Employee of the Month – Mr. Kenneth Wiggins, Director of Procurement

Mr. Kenneth Wiggins, Director of Procurement introduced Ms. Charlene V. Pelzer, Buyer for the Purchasing Department as the April 2007 Employee of the Month. He described her as a 22-year employee with excellent knowledge of the purchasing system. She has an excellent relationship with her peers and is always willing to accept additional responsibilities to keep the purchasing program on track. She is truly an asset to the City of Columbia.

Mayor Coble and Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager presented Ms. Pelzer with a plaque and tokens of appreciation for being selected as the City of Columbia April 2007 Employee of the Month.

2. Introduction to Engineering Program – Ms. Lisa Muzekari, P.E., Senior Project Manager for B.P. Barber and Associates

Ms. Lisa Muzekari, P.E., Senior Project Manager for B.P. Barber and Associates, thanked the members of Council for their on-going support of the Introduction to Engineering Program in partnership with Richland School District One and B.P. Barber and Associates. This program has been conducted for over 15 years. She recognized the University of South Carolina for allowing their American Society of Student Engineers to participate in the program.

Miss Lauren Simons, 8th Grade Student / W.G. Sanders Middle School, thanked the members of Council for their support of the program and for allowing the students at her school to be a part of it.

Ms. Alexandria Williams, 8th Grade Teacher at W.G. Sanders Middle School, introduced the 20-8th grade students that completed the Introduction to Engineering Program.

3. Columbia Museum of Art Update – Ms. Karen Brosius, Executive Director of the Columbia Museum of Art

Ms. Karen Brosius, Executive Director of the Columbia Museum of Art, provided an update with special emphasis on their annual economic and educational impact in the City of Columbia. The Columbia Museum of Art hosted the exhibition “The House Beautiful” by Frank Lloyd Wright from November 1, 2006 to February 4, 2007. This was the best-attended exhibition with more than 26,000 visitors and an unmistakable economical impact within downtown Columbia. She reported that education outreach numbers were up by 82% from July 2006 to January 2007. She presented a video of downtown merchants and other partners expressing their gratitude for the Columbia Museum of Art. The Museum has a \$10 million annual economic impact in the City of Columbia. Membership has been raised by 20%; sponsorships have gone up 50%; and tuition is expected to increase by 10%. They are working to grow and diversify their funding.

4. 26th Annual Tour of Homes “Celebrating 100 Years of City Living” – Ms. Deborah Livingston, President of the Elmwood Park Neighborhood Association

Ms. Denise Dickerson, Secretary, thanked the City of Columbia for their support. She invited the members of Council to the 26th Annual Tour of Homes scheduled for Saturday, May 5, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. They had a wide reaching marketing plan and the tickets turned in for prizes will be used to count the number of visitors.

Ms. Deborah Livingston, President of the Elmwood Park Neighborhood Association, presented the members of Council with a framed poster in recognition of the 26th Annual Tour of Homes.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

- 4a. **Gang Assessment Memorandum of Understanding – The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble

Mayor Coble explained that the assessment was recommended by the United States Justice Department as a comprehensive first step approach to fighting gangs and youth violence. The assessment is not to determine if there is a gang problem, but rather the dimensions of the problem. The contribution of the University is reflected in a reduced amount of the total costs. He believes that there will be a diverse and large group of financial partners. It is the first necessary step in moving forward.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve a Research Agreement between the City of Columbia and the University of South Carolina’s Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice Center for the Management of Risk Behaviors in the amount of \$119,900.00 for the purpose of a Gang Assessment.

- **Council recessed at 9:52 a.m.**
- **Council reconvened the meeting at 10:01 a.m.**

PUBLIC HEARING

- **Council opened the Public Hearing at 10:04 a.m.**
- 5. Fiscal Year 2007 / 2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) / Home Funds / Housing Opportunities for Persons With Aids (HOPWA) Funding Recommendations and Proposed Community Development Block Grant Amendments - Mr. Rick Semon, Community Development Director - *Approved*

Mr. Rick Semon, Director of Community Development, explained that this is the last public hearing being held for public comments and suggestions on the City's community development needs. He applauded the Citizen's Advisory Committee for their efforts.

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to the funding recommendations.

- **Council closed the Public Hearing at 10:04 a.m.**

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve the Fiscal Year 2007 / 2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) / Home Funds / Housing Opportunities for Persons With Aids (HOPWA) Funding Recommendations and the Proposed Community Development Block Grant Amendments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 6. through 15., 17., 19. and 21.** on a single motion. **Items 16. and 18.** were approved by separate motions. The consideration of **Item 20.** was deferred.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS AND AGREEMENTS

6. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of a Gravely Turn Mower, as requested by the Parks and Recreation Department. Award to Catoe's Inc., using the State Purchasing Contract, in the amount of \$10,549.95. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: GL-1015103-658400 - Approved*
7. Council is asked to approve the Rental of IronPort Equipment, as requested by the Information Technology Department. Award to Solarcom, LLC, as a sole source purchase, in the amount of \$11,636.00. This vendor is located in Norcross, GA. *Funding Source: GL-1011120-657600 -Approved*
8. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of a Groom Master II Grounds Maintenance Vehicle and Accessories, as requested by the Parks and Recreation Department. Award to Jacobsen Turf Direct, using the State Purchasing Contract, in the amount of \$13,077.45. This vendor is located in Charlotte, NC. *Funding Source: GL-1015103-658400 Approved*
9. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Two (2) Club Cadet 4x2 Trail Utility Vehicles, as requested by the Parks and Recreation Department. Award to Hilton's Power Equipment, using the State Purchasing Contract, in the amount of \$13,898.30. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: GL-1015103-658400 and GL-1015112-658400 - Approved*

10. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of One (1) Lot of Mock Turtleneck T-Shirts for Various Fire Stations, as requested by the Fire Department. Award to Design Lab, the lowest bidder meeting specifications, in the amount of \$14,626.41. This vendor is located in Greenville, SC. *Funding Source: 1012303-624100 Fire Suppression \$7,313.21 and 2082306-624100 County Fire Administration \$7,313.20 - Approved*
11. Council is asked to approve the Replacement of Three (3) Dell Servers for IFAS, as requested by the Information Technology Department. Award to Dell, Inc., using the State Purchasing Contract, in the amount of \$15,120.75. This firm is located in Round Rock, TX. *Funding Source: GL-1011120-658600 - Approved*
12. Council is asked to approve an ArcGIS Server Enterprise Advanced Upgrade, as requested by the GIS Division. Award to Bradshaw Consulting Service, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$19,610.00. This firm is located in Aiken, SC. *Funding Source: 5511121-638500 - Approved*
13. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of a New Holland Boomer Compact Tractor, as requested by the Parks and Recreation Department. Award to Fairfield Tractor Co., using the State Purchasing Contract, in the amount of \$19,642.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: GL-1015103-658400 - Approved*
14. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Two (2) Zodiac Mark III Grand Raid Boats (red only), as requested by the Fire Department. Award to Ozark Rescue Suppliers, the lowest bidder meeting specifications, in the amount of \$20,288.40. This vendor is located in Rogers, AR. *Funding Source: 2032301-658500 - Approved*
15. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of One (1) Lot of Propper BDU Pants for various Fire Stations, as requested by the Fire Department. Award to Design Lab, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$21,725.76. This vendor is located in Greenville, SC. *Funding Source: 1012303-624100 Fire Suppression \$10,862.88 and 2082306-624100 County Fire Administration \$10,862.88 - Approved*
16. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Two (2) Kawasaki Mule ATV's, as requested by the Fire Department. Award to Kawasaki, the low bidder meeting specifications, in the amount of \$24,689.31. This vendor is located in Orangeburg, SC. *Funding Source: 1012303-658500 Fire Suppression \$4,663.99 and 2032301-658500 Accommodations Tax Fund \$20,025.32 - Approved*

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve the Purchase of Two (2) Kawasaki Mule ATV's, as requested by the Fire Department. Award to Kawasaki, the low bidder meeting specifications, in the amount of \$24,689.31.

17. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of an OCE TCS500 Printer, as requested by the GIS Division. Award to Imaging Technologies, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$38,654.22. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 5511121-658600 - Approved*

18. Council is asked to approve a Support Agreement, as requested by the Columbia Police Department. Award to the William Jennings Bryan Dorn Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Hospital. *VA Police Officers are highly trained and experienced with capabilities of meeting most disturbances and related police functions without the need for civil assistance; however, they may encounter certain situations, which would require assistance from the Columbia Police Department. There shall be no right or action by one party against the other for the failure to provide the requested assistance. - Approved*

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve a Support Agreement between the Columbia Police Department and the William Jennings Bryan Dorn Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Hospital as outlined.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

19. Ordinance No.: 2007-025 – Authorizing transfer of 920 Vernon Court, Richland County TMS# 11706-06-15 to Palmetto State Base Camp, Inc. *First reading approval was given on April 18, 2007. – Approved on second reading.*
20. Ordinance No.: 2007-026 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 21, Stormwater Management and Sedimentation Control, Article III, Flood Damage Prevention, Division 1, Generally, Sec. 21-125, Definitions *First reading approval was given on April 18, 2007. - Second reading consideration of this item was deferred.*
21. Ordinance No.: 2007-028 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 2, Administration, Article IV, Departments, Sec. 12-151, Departments created; department heads; administrative regulations and procedures *First reading approval was given on April 18, 2007. – Approved on second reading.*

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS, AGREEMENTS AND CHANGE ORDERS

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items 22.** through **26.** and **29.** on a single motion. **Items 27.** and **28.** were approved by a separate motion.

22. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of One (1) Lot of Propper Uniform Shirts for various Fire Stations, as requested by the Fire Department. Award to US Patriot, LLC, the third low bidder meeting specifications, in the amount of \$88,439.19. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 1012303-624100 Fire Suppression \$44,219.60 and 2082306-624100 County Fire Administration \$44,219.59. - Approved*
23. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of a Front Loader Refuse Collection Truck, as requested by Fleet Services. Award to Heil Environmental, the lowest bidder meeting specifications, in the amount of \$187,446.00. This vendor is located in Chattanooga, TN. *Funding Source: GL-6308972-658500 - Approved*
24. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of an Automated Side Loader Garbage Truck, as requested by Fleet Services. Award to Heil Environmental, the lowest bidder meeting specifications, in the amount of \$198,558.00. This vendor is located in Chattanooga, TN. *Funding Source: GL-6308972-658500 - Approved*

25. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Four (4) Trash Trucks, as requested by Fleet Services. Award to Burns Automotive, the lowest bidder meeting specifications, in the amount of \$209,400.00. This firm is located in Rock Hill, SC. *Funding Source: GL-6308972-658500 Approved*
26. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Two (2) Crawler Mounted Excavators, as requested by the Water Distribution and Wastewater Maintenance Divisions. Award to Stafford, the lowest bidder meeting specifications, in the amount of \$232,508.20. This vendor is located in West Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: GL-5516203-658500 \$113,885.00 Excavator and GL-5516205-658500 \$118,623.20 Excavator with 30" Bucket - Approved*

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items 27. and 28.** on a single motion.

27. Council is asked to approve Project #SS6786 Manhole Rehabilitation Annual Maintenance Contract, as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Mechanical Jobbers, the lowest responsive bidder, in the amount of \$332,575.00. This firm is located in Stone Mountain, GA. *Funding Source: GL-5529999-851500 and JL-SS678602-851500 - Approved*
28. Council is asked to approve a Contract for Professional Services to Administer all Aspects of the United States Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield's Assessment Grant, as requested by the Commerce and Development Group. Award to Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) in an amount not to exceed \$372,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Brownfield's Assessment Grant - Approved*
29. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of MSA Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and Accessories, as requested by the Fire Department. Award to Newton's Fire & Safety, the lowest bidder meeting specifications, in the amount of \$441,357.00. This vendor is located in Swepsonville, NC. *Funding Source: 1012303-657400 Fire Suppression \$103,880.00; 2082306-657400 County Fire Administration \$103,880.00; 1012303-631800 Fire Suppression \$10,335.00; 2082306-631800 County Fire Administration \$10,335.00; 1012303-631800 Fire Suppression \$2,585.75; and 2082306-631800 County Fire Administration \$2,585.75 for a total amount of \$233,597.50 – The balance of \$207,760.00 will be paid from the fiscal year 2007-2008 budget. - Approved*

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

30. Ordinance No.: 2007-017 – Granting encroachment to Gill Creek Baptist Church for placement and maintenance of two directional signs - *Consideration of this item was deferred to allow staff an opportunity to contact adjacent property owners.*
31. Ordinance No.: 2007-023 – Granting encroachment to Good Times Unit 3, Inc. for placement of ten (10) bistro tables, thirty-six (36) chairs, three (3) 2-person benches, six (6) umbrellas with a removable picket fence enclosure for outdoor dining at 805 Harden Street - *Consideration of this item was deferred to allow staff an opportunity to contact adjacent property owners. Staff was further directed to ensure that all encroachments have a 36" sidewalk clearance and that the space is adequate for wheelchair maneuverability.*

- A. Ordinance No.: 2007-029 – Authorizing execution of a Lease Agreement between the City of Columbia and State of South Carolina for 3.98 acres near the State Museum for parking – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2007-029 – Authorizing execution of a Lease Agreement between the City of Columbia and State of South Carolina for 3.98 acres near the State Museum for parking.

- B. Ordinance No.: 2007-030 – Authorizing transfer of a 0.009 (3,939.70 square feet) portion of Richland County TMS# 11306-03-10 on Catawba Street to James S. Bowie – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2007-030 – Authorizing transfer of a 0.009 (3,939.70 square feet) portion of Richland County TMS# 11306-03-10 on Catawba Street to James S. Bowie.

RESOLUTIONS

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items C., E. and F.** on a single motion. **Item D.** was approved by a separate motion. Mr. Finlay was not present for the vote.

- C. Resolution No.: R-2007-004 – Amending Composition of the Citizens Advisory Committee – *Approved*
- D. Resolution No.: R-2007-016 – Authorizing City Manager to execute an Office Lease Agreement with First Citizens Bank and Trust Company, Inc. for the lease of 1225 Lady Street - *Approved*

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted four (4) to three (3) to approve Resolution No.: R-2007-016 – Authorizing City Manager to execute an Office Lease Agreement with First Citizens Bank and Trust Company, Inc. for the lease of 1225 Lady Street. Voting aye were Mr. Cromartie, Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine and Mayor Coble. Voting nay was Ms. Sinclair, Mr. Rickenmann and Mr. Finlay.

- E. Resolution No.: R-2007-018 – Authorizing Acceptance and Dedication of Streets Known as Hamlet Park Drive, Lexington Lane and Windsor Trace Drive, Hamlet Park Subdivision to the City of Columbia; Richland County TMS# 016307-05-05 (Portion); CF# 291-19 - *Approved*
- F. Resolution No.: R-2007-022 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine in the 1000 block of Washington Street for outdoor concerts at Kelly's Deli and Pub on Saturday, June 2, 2007 - *Approved*

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

G. City Wide Police Camera System – Mr. Bruce Trezevant, Strategic Integrated Technology

Mr. Bruce Trezevant of Strategic Integrated Technology did not appear.

Councilor Devine explained that council members met with Mr. Trezevant on April 18, 2007 to better understand his concerns. They did discuss looking further into our needs and striving to obtain them. It may take a multi-year funding commitment and process to put this into place. Mr. Trezevant offered his expertise in getting us there.

Councilor Cromartie said that he supports the idea of cameras as part of an additional security process. He said that the state of the art cameras around the Wellness Center have been wonderful and can be used to view activities outside the center and in the surrounding community.

Councilor Rickenmann said that there was some confusion about the different camera systems, but the meeting was very beneficial and they learned a lot as a group.

Councilor Davis stated that he was asked about cameras at a neighborhood meeting last night and he promised the residents that the City would put cameras up in their area. He requested that cameras be installed where the capabilities already exist.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager, requested that Council allow the current camera selection process to work, as it was intended to. He was disturbed when the process was interrupted in the manner that it was. He said that some points of clarification needed to be made, especially those in reference to the inadequacy of staff.

H. Proposed Water Feature and Other Park Amenities at Drew Park – The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II

Councilor Cromartie explained that the proposal was presented at a residential meeting and that 99.9% of the attendees were in favor of the proposed project. He noted that the project wouldn't cost the City of Columbia anything.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services, recommended that Parks and Recreation be allowed to continue the partnership with the Columbia Housing Authority to develop the Drew Park located adjacent to the Wellness Center. This would be the second phase of development in addition to the existing great turf lawn, the ¼ mile walking trail, gazebo and playground equipment. The Columbia Housing Authority would fund this phase. He further requested that the educational component of Phase II be dedicated in honor of Senator Kay Patterson who is a former resident of the area and an educator.

Mr. Morgan Grimball, Landscape Architect / Grimball Cotterill & Associates, explained that the trail system, the playground equipment and large oak trees are already in. The next phase will include a spray pool, lighting, Patterson Place, a large mural wall for residents to paint on, an amphitheater, picnic tables, chairs, benches and educational elements. The water feature will be a simple, but exciting play area for children.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to authorize the Parks and Recreation Department along with the Columbia Housing Authority to proceed with the installation of a water feature and an educational center at no direct or indirect costs to the City of Columbia. Upon completion of the educational center, it will be dedicated to The Honorable Senator Kay Patterson.

Mr. Bobby Brown, President of the Celia Saxon Residential Association, thanked the members of Council for what is being done within the Celia Saxon Community. He said that it is pleasing for the City of Columbia, Parks and Recreation and the Columbia Housing Authority to work together to have such a unique place.

I. Unitech Property in South Edisto Court – The Honorable Anne M. Sinclair

Councilor Sinclair invited the residents of the South Edisto Court Neighborhood to introduce them to the City Council.

Ms. Bessie Watson, President of the South Edisto Court Neighborhood Association, explained that they are in the process of working on a community center. The community has experienced a major redevelopment with the rejuvenation of the former Henley Homes site and the demolition of the Unitech site. The former Nuclear Laundry site is the proposed site of a community recreation center. This proposed center would provide a recreational outlet for youth, promote incorporating and maintaining enhancements to the community for its residents, provide a senior citizens program, a community meeting facility, location for community events and an emergency shelter, if needed.

Councilor Sinclair explained that the South Edisto Court Neighborhood Association has discussed this proposal for years and the neighborhood has waited patiently to get to the point where we can move forward and ask the Parks and Recreation Department to proceed with the design build process for a neighborhood park. They currently have a Tot Lot between South Edisto Avenue and Howe Street that will be sold once the new facility is operational. The existing equipment would be moved as well. The park is one piece of this, but there are a lot of dreams for this area. Agencies are ready to partner with the community to provide programs. This will become the neighborhood hub. We will look at the remainder of the property owned by the City of Columbia and it is important for the Planning staff to work with the residents to determine what should be done with it.

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to authorize Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager and the Parks and Recreation Department to move forward with the design/build process for the neighborhood park and to come back with the final plans, requests for proposals and the different procurement issues. Planning Staff in conjunction with the residents, were directed to analyze the remaining property not occupied by the park facility and determine the best use of the site along with the appropriate zoning classification for that use.

J. Climate Protection Action Committee Report – The Honorable Anne M. Sinclair and Ms. Missy Gentry, Director of Public Works

Councilor Sinclair explained that this presentation was made to the Climate Protection Action Committee and that it is important to remember that our staff has been ahead of the curve.

Ms. Missy Gentry, Director of Public Works outlined the City's ongoing Green initiatives dating back to when the City of Columbia became a Tree City in 1979. The City's curbside recycling program began in 1991 in advance of any laws requiring that this be done. We currently recycle 3,300 tons of material per month. The compost operation has been in place since the 1970's and in 1990 we expanded the types of material that would be accepted. The City adopted a Tree and Landscape Ordinance in 2002 and there are now better provisions to preserve and protect trees and to provide enhanced landscaping in areas. The City reduced its take home fleet by two-thirds after Hurricane Katrina and has been very involved in fuel conservation and energy savings. We encourage carpooling to meetings, using alternative fuels, replacing thermostats with digital thermostats, developing monthly maintenance schedules, replacing lighting in addition to many other efforts. A Green Summit is scheduled for September 24, 2007 at the

Convention Center to educate and encourage the public regarding actions that will help us towards reducing emissions.

J1. **KOBAN Columbia Request for Funding – Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager, explained that we received several letters from KOBAN Columbia requesting funding, because anticipated funding from the Eisenhower Foundation hadn't been received.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve a request for funding from KOBAN Columbia, Inc. in the amount of \$30,000 from the City Manager's Contingency Account.

J2. **Black Pages USA Request for Funding – Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager, explained that there is a funding request from Black Pages USA in the amount of \$19,000.

Councilor Devine explained that the initial request was more than \$19,000, but after discussions with staff, the requestor reduced the request based upon the funding available. She further explained that he has scheduled Bishop T.D. Jakes and other major speakers and artists for the 2007 Black Expo.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted six (6) to one (1) to approve a request for funding from Black Pages USA in the amount of \$19,000 from the Accommodations Tax Fund. If there is not sufficient funding within the Accommodations Tax Fund, the balance will come from the City Manager's Contingency Account. Voting aye were Mr. Cromartie, Ms. Sinclair, Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine, Mr. Rickenmann and Mayor Coble. Mr. Finlay voted nay.

J3. **Fiscal Year 2007/2008 Proposed General Fund Budget and Water and Sewer Operating Fund Projections – Ms. Missy Caughman, Budget Director

Councilor Finlay suggested that the discussion be held until the May 9, 2007 budget work session due to the loaded Executive Session schedule.

There was a consensus of Council to defer discussions until the Budget Session scheduled for May 9, 2007.

APPEARANCE OF PUBLIC HAVING BUSINESS WITH CITY COUNCIL

No one appeared at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 12:26 p.m. for the discussion of **Items K.** through **O.** as amended.

K. Discussion of Employment of an Employee
This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.

- L. Receipt of legal advice, which relates to a matter covered by attorney-client privilege
- Audit Request for Proposals
 - Wrecker Services
 - **Declaratory Judgment Action
 - **Freedom of Information Act Procedures

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

- M. Receipt of legal advice, which relates to a pending, threatened or potential claim
This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.

- N. Discussion of negotiations incident to the proposed sale of property
This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.

- O. **Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements
This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.

- **Council adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley
City Clerk