



CITY OF COLUMBIA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2007  
9:00 A.M.  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1737 MAIN STREET

---

The City of Columbia City Council conducted a Meeting on Wednesday, October 17, 2007 in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. Mayor Pro-Tempore Tameika Isaac Devine called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The following members of Council were present: The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II, The Honorable Anne M. Sinclair, The Honorable Sam Davis and The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann. The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III arrived at 9:32 a.m. The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble was absent. Also present were Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of September 5, 2007 - *This item was withdrawn from the agenda.*

### **PRESENTATIONS**

\*\*Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager, introduced Ms. Vivian Krigline, former City Clerk for the City of Columbia.

Councilor Anne M. Sinclair said that she worked with Ms. Krigline while she was here. She described her as a master of all trades. We were fortunate to have her as a great ambassador of this city.

2. Update on the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports & Tourism – Mr. Ric Luber, President/CEO

Mr. Ric Luber, President and CEO of the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports & Tourism greeted the members of Council and informed them that they would receive reports from the Authority on a monthly basis. He looks forward to meeting one-on-one with the members of Council. The four (4) departments of the Midlands Authority for Conventions Sports and Tourism have transitioned to ensure we are out there doing the job we are supposed to do and marketing this community beyond its borders.

Councilor Sinclair added that the Climate Protection Action Committee hosted a conference at the Convention Center and the staff and food were wonderful. She thanked Mr. Luber for all he and his staff did to make it a great day.

Councilor Devine said that the report submitted to Council was excellent and provided information they had never received before.

Councilor Cromartie said that the Central Midlands Council of Governments will be hosting a reception in honor of Mayor Coble at the Convention Center on November 6, 2007.

3. Public Safety Recruitment and Retention Plan – Interim Police Chief Harold Reaves, Captain Rick Hines and Fire Chief Bradley Anderson

Mr. Harold Reaves, Interim Police Chief, presented an overview of the City's Public Safety Recruitment and Retention Plan for the Columbia Police Department. Currently, there are 346 sworn personnel; 325 employees; 2 pending new hires; 6 available promotion positions; 22 available entry-level vacancies; 21 deployed/injured personnel; 17 in training; 285 total working officers; 28 staffed patrol areas; 256 officers needed for 24/7 patrol functions; 207 officers available for patrol functions; and an additional 49 officers are needed for minimum patrol functions. He said that staff has done a great job of refocusing and realigning their philosophy of getting back to community policing. Factors affecting recruitment and retention include changes in organizational leadership and the organizational philosophy. Challenges with recruitment include finding qualified candidates, limited and competitive employment market and the paradigm shift of entry level / generational values towards working and careers. There are a limited number of opportunities to get officers certified by the Criminal Justice Academy for training since they provide training for all agencies in South Carolina. We want to make sure we are offering the best salary and benefits packages. We also want to make sure we are training our officers to become good, solid supervisors and managers. There is a concern about officers leaving once they have been trained by the City of Columbia. He recommended that they address the salary compression by raising the entry-level sworn officer salary to \$34,396 and then adjust the ranks to align with starting sworn police officer pay. He further recommended that the proposed salaries be implemented on December 31, 2007. An additional \$662,000 is needed to implement the new salaries mid-year, but an additional \$1,324,000 is needed to continue this program in fiscal year 2008/2009.

Councilor Rickenmann asked how the salary increases affect the people already in the system.

Mr. Harold Reaves, Interim Police Chief, admitted that this is a problem, but the patrol officers through sergeants will see the most increase. It will be fair and equitable.

Mr. Bradley Anderson, Fire Chief, presented an overview of the City's Public Safety Recruitment and Retention Plan for the Columbia Fire Department. Currently, there are 481 budgeted positions; 275 positions are funded by the City of Columbia; 196 positions are funded by Richland County; 10 positions for fire hydrant maintenance are paid from the water and sewer fund; 63 positions added over the past three budget years; 260 volunteer positions available; 90 active volunteers; 35 vacant positions including 15 to promote and 20 entry level; 446 total employees; 21 in recruit class; 12 injured; 413 employees providing services; 31 fire stations; 12 funded and fully staffed by the city; 19 funded by the county with 5 fully staffed, 12 partially staffed and 2 not staffed; 3-24 hour shifts; 112 positions staffed continuously; and 119 positions will be staffed continuously in December 2007. They are adding career positions to offset the need for volunteers. He recommended that they match the Police Department's proposal and increase the entry-level pay from \$28,352 to \$34,396. All positions would be adjusted upward to avoid compression. An additional \$1,451,278 would be needed from the city and \$1,187,790 from the county. Due to staffing, he recommended that the pay adjustment be phased in over a two year period beginning July 2008.

Councilor Devine asked why the volunteer recruitment is down and if there are immediate plans to address that.

Mr. Bradley Anderson, Fire Chief, replied that they hired a Volunteer Coordinator to help address this problem, but the numbers were not increased. They have been successful in ensuring a better quality of services from existing volunteers. He said this is a national problem, because of the economy.

Councilor Sinclair expressed concerns about the city training people and then they leave in a short period of time. She said that in the private sector you can sign an agreement binding the employee to stay for one year after training. There are lots of law enforcement opportunities in the Columbia area. She encouraged staff to look into this, because it has been an on-going concern.

Councilor Rickenmann said that legislation has taken the ability to do that from us. This should be a priority with our lobbyists in the future.

Mr. Harold Reaves, Interim Police Chief, said that we cannot seek reimbursement from the officer or the hiring agency. We are looking at opportunities to see where we can capitalize on our investments.

Councilor Davis agrees that we should pursue the contractual arrangement, because we have a right to get the commitment we need.

- **The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III joined the meeting at 9:32 a.m.**

4. Recognition of a City Employee – The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III

Councilor Finlay extended his thanks to Mr. Michael McQueen for going out of his way to do to something on the weekend that was not done, as requested, during the regular work week. He had a great attitude and we need to recognize all employees that approach their jobs with a great attitude. He presented Mr. McQueen with a gift certificate.

Mr. Robert Anderson, Superintendent / Solid Waste Division, thanked Mr. McQueen for his efforts and his willingness to assist the city in any way that he can. He noted that over the past few months they have received numerous letters of appreciation from citizens. He announced that the Ellen DeGeneres show will be featuring a 6-year old from Columbia to recognize his recycling efforts. He wants to recognize the recycling truck driver, Mr. Vince Gallman, who slows his truck down to recycle with this kid each week.

5. Business Retention and Expansion Program – Ms. Dana Turner, Assistant City Manager of Commerce and Development

Ms. Dana Turner, Assistant City Manager of Commerce and Development presented the Business Retention and Expansion Program (BREP), which will help Columbia retain businesses and jobs in our community. This is a focused and proactive effort to support the local economy and to keep and expand existing businesses and to develop and incubate new businesses. The most important jobs are the jobs we already have in our community. Approximately 80% of the jobs are created by the existing businesses. We need to do a better job of assisting our local businesses. The city's Offices of Economic Development and Business Opportunities will lead this effort in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and SCANA. We will be sharing information, resources and manpower. They are asking citizens to serve as good ambassadors of the city by making calls to businesses in our community. By way of a Request for Proposals (RFP), a consultant has been selected to implement the necessary software and to train participants of the dos and don'ts of BREP visits (*see Item 24b.*). Executive Pulse will work to develop a survey, to identify the key businesses in the community and to identify key targets. This will work in conjunction with the Business Spotlight Program.

Councilor Cromartie asked for the diversification of the company being hired, because we need to make sure diversity is reflected as they move from business to business.

Ms. Dana Turner, Assistant City Manager of Commerce and Development, stated that she did not know the diversity of the firm, but the make up of the folks calling on the businesses will be diversified.

Councilman Davis requested a meeting with representatives of Executive Pulse as they go into the Northeast Columbia area, because folks don't trust the government. It is important that we understand the culture/nature of some of these areas. This needs to be successful, but the firm needs to understand the history of some areas.

Ms. Dana Turner, Assistant City Manager of Commerce and Development, stated that they will be on site for a two-day training session and Council will have the opportunity to meet with firm representatives.

Councilor Sinclair said that it is important for us to have these items beforehand so we can understand what's going on and what's going to happen.

Councilor Devine said that all programs within the city need to work together. She is glad to see this on the agenda and urged staff to continue to move the program forward in an effective manner.

Councilor Rickenmann said that we should add the Commercial Loan Program.

Councilor Cromartie requested a listing of businesses that will be contacted.

Ms. Dana Turner, Assistant City Manager of Commerce and Development stated that the members of Council will be involved in developing the list. The company was selected through the RFP process and two responses were received.

5a.     \*\*Homeless Shelter Update - Ms. Dana Turner, Assistant City Manager of Commerce and Development

Ms. Dana Turner, Assistant City Manager of Commerce and Development, reported that the Winter Shelter is 70% complete and is expected to open by November 12, 2007. Patrons of the shelter will be transported by the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) to the site by 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. daily. Patrons will be transported to specific locations throughout the city. She noted that city parks will be utilized if we experience inclement weather prior to opening the shelter. There are no plans to operate a day center at this time due to budgetary constraints. Up to 206 patrons can be accommodated at the shelter.

Mr. Jonathan Artz, Homeless Program Coordinator, explained that there are 206 beds, but mats can be laid down for additional patrons.

Councilor Devine asked about the plans previously discussed to provide day services. She urged staff to pursue partners to provide day services and a safe place for patrons to be during the day.

Ms. Dana Turner, Assistant City Manager of Commerce and Development, explained that the budget won't allow for day services, but we are looking for partners that may provide those services.

Councilor Cromartie asked about the status of the proposed Housing First Program and if it would be operational in a timely fashion. He asked if staff looked at the housing units on Waites Road.

Ms. Dana Turner, Assistant City Manager of Commerce and Development, further explained that an RFP was published and two (2) responses are being considered by a committee. All recommendations will be presented to Council and a contract will be negotiated. We should begin housing individuals in February 2008. The selected candidate will identify the housing that will be provided. Funding for Housing First will come from the Community Development Block Grant Fund, but we will bring forward future funding requests to continue the program.

Councilor Sinclair concurred with Ms. Devine and recommended that staff continue to think through this and possibly come up with solutions for services that may not be available every day.

There was a consensus of Council to urge staff to find partners that will assist with providing day services and the Housing First Program.

6. InnoVista Master Plan Summary – Mr. Richard F. Galehouse, AIA AICP Principal, Sasaki Associates, Inc.

Mr. Bill Boyd, Chairman of the Waterfront Steering Committee, explained that this master plan was announced in April 2005 and it is a long-term 50-year visionary plan. The planners for Sasaki Associates Inc. have met with city planners to modify the original plan and since that time the Waterfront Steering Committee has conducted over 50 presentations to many groups ranging from Columbia Green to the River Alliance, which unanimously endorsed the plan. There have been continuous meetings with SCE&G to relocate power lines; two trips to Washington, DC to meet with each member of our delegation; three meetings with private property / business owners; two appearances before the Planning Commission; and one appearance before the Design Development Review Commission. The attendance was good and responses were positive, because this is a big bang economically, with a huge impact on Columbia. Mr. Boyd asked the City Council to approve the concept of the plan and direct staff to continue working to develop an implementation plan. He noted that it was incredible how the young people of this city are extraordinarily interested in seeing this happen.

Mr. Richard F. Galehouse, AIA AICP Principal, Sasaki Associates, Inc. said that there are attributes about the plan that are very important to the entire Columbia community. The area is bounded by the Congaree River, Gervais Street, Assembly Street and Catawba Street. The University of South Carolina asked Sasaki to look at their holdings closest to the University for sites where they can begin to take the initiative and their technology transfer in areas in biotechnology, engineering, environmental science and robotics. Then the property owners along the waterfront asked us to help them examine the potential of their waterfront property. The two formed a partnership and began a community planning effort and hence the Waterfront Steering Committee. The InnoVista Masterplan provides the city an opportunity to complete the redevelopment of the water front that was started with the Vista.

Councilor Cromartie said that the Mill Village neighborhood and all neighborhoods should be upgraded as well as the surrounding area. He wants to see the entire community rise during this process. He said that affordable housing can be developed seamlessly.

Mr. Richard F. Galehouse, AIA AICP Principal, Sasaki Associates, Inc. explained that the first strategic move would be the land around the Colonial Center, which is mostly controlled by the University and where they are beginning to develop their research buildings. The second strategic move is the idea to extend Williams Street along the top of the bluff overlooking the river as a parkway that provides visibility and public access to a future waterfront park in this area. The third strategic move is to connect the east/west streets to that parkway, bridge the railroad tracks on Greene Street and in a couple of places bring the public right down to the waterfront where there is public access. This is intended to be an urban design with parking structures where needed. The major piece of the idea is a world class waterfront park stretching from Gervais Street to Catawba, leading back along Greene Street into the heart of the city to the State Office Complex and the University. The plan focuses on green infrastructure. There is no land taking envisioned in this plan at all. It is all about great streets, great parks, new open spaces and a great greening of this city. Some streets will be more pedestrian friendly, but Blossom Street, Gervais, Street, Huger Street and Assembly Street will carry vehicular traffic.

Councilor Finlay said that it is a beautiful plan and he is happy to endorse it. He would like to see any and all documentation, relating to the numbers and financing plans and then we can discuss how to implement it. He said that we need to understand how to get there and how to afford this.

Mr. Richard F. Galehouse, AIA AICP Principal, Sasaki Associates, Inc. said that supplemental information will be provided.

Councilor Davis agreed with Mr. Finlay to some extent, noting that he won't be here twenty years from now and is concerned about the price tag that would be left behind. He said that infrastructure is needed and asked how much would be public versus private investment.

Councilor Sinclair stated that money is always a challenge. She believes that with a committed Council and a committed community and with the support of the University and property owners, we can make it happen, but it's going to take time, effort and support from other elected bodies. She commended the Guignard family and Mr. Charlie Thompson for their foresight to preserve this property until the right time. She recognized Mr. Lewis Caswell, a property owner that has shared his personal commitment to this city.

Councilor Devine said that we must be cognizant of funding this project, but noted that anything worth having is worth figuring out a way to get this done. The regional impact is important as well and we must be creative in getting this done.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to endorse the concept of the InnoVista Master Plan and to direct staff and the Planning Commission to incorporate this plan in their current efforts to update the City's Comprehensive Plan and to direct staff to implement the plan, focusing first, on the land use elements that are necessary to make the plan effective.

\*\*Councilor Cromartie introduced Master Jeremy Jackson a junior at the Richland One Middle College. Master Jackson is shadowing Mr. Cromartie for the day.

6a. \*\*Boards and Commissions

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to formally reopen the application process for all City Boards and Commissions until October 31, 2007. The Council intends to consider all appointments on November 7, 2007.

Councilor Devine said that we have several boards and commissions that are critically important to the future of this city, noting that the land use boards are not the only boards and commissions that we need qualified people to serve on. She encouraged people to apply for those as well. She suggested that the information be sent to neighborhoods as well.

Councilor Finlay asked for the record and in the presence of reporters that misconceptions clearly stated in the paper be cleared up. He noted that the Council discussed appointments to boards and commissions and the handbook 11-times in 2007. It is unfortunate that fact has left the room in this discussion and that two (2) of his colleagues submitted an editorial to The State Newspaper over two weeks ago, but it was never published. It is important that both sides be heard in such divisive situations.

Councilor Rickenmann said that based on the number of applications received, people know and understand what's going on. He takes offense that the story was not clearly defined in the newspaper. We spent a great deal of time responding to inquiries about this.

Councilor Cromartie asked the City Manager to direct staff to publish these vacancies on Channel 2, to advertise in traditional newspapers as well as the African American press, such as Black News.

- **Council recessed at 11:05 a.m.**
- **Council reconvened at 11:17 a.m. The Honorable Sam Davis was not present at this time.**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve on a single motion the **Consent Agenda Items 7.** through **25., 28.** and **29.** as amended. **Items 26.** and **27.** were withdrawn from the agenda. **Item 30.** was approved by a separate motion.

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

7. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Hydraulic Fluid, as requested by the Fleet Services Division. Award to Dilmar Oil Company, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$10,978.20. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 6308970-673200 - Approved*
8. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Seven (7) Mobile Radio Units and Accessories, as requested by the Water Distribution Department. Award to Motorola Communications & Electronics, Inc, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$12,053.66. This vendor is located in Atlanta, GA. *Funding Source: 5516203-657600 - Approved*
9. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Traffic Cones and Signs, as requested by the Fire Department. Award to Alert Safety Services, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$22,439.40. This vendor is located in Kernersville, N.C. *Funding Source as follows: 1012303-627100 (\$10,883.40) and 2082306-627100 (\$11,556.00) - Approved*
10. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of 2,200 Turkeys for the Employees Christmas, as requested by the Employees Special Activities Committee. Award to US Food Service (PYA), the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$27,875.88. This vendor is located in Lexington, SC. *Funding Source: 1011125-639900 – This item was withdrawn from the agenda.*
11. Council is asked to approve a Contract for Design Development Services for Drew Park, as requested by the Parks and Recreation Department. Award to Grimball-Cotterill and Associates in the amount of \$37,000 plus reimbursable expenses up to \$5,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Columbia Housing Authority-Hope VI - Approved*
12. Council is asked to approve the Office Renovations for 1225 Lady Street, as requested by Support Services. Award to Preferred Construction Co, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$44,834.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 6208956-639900 - Approved*
13. Council is asked to approve SS6875; Spare Rotating Assembly, as requested by Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to Charles R. Underwood, Inc., the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$65,553.89. This vendor is located in Sanford, NC. *Funding Source: Sewer Improvement Fund - Approved*

14. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of 2,200 - \$35.00 value gift cards for the Employees Christmas, as requested by the Employees Special Activities Committee. Award to Piggly Wiggly, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$74,151.00. This vendor is located in Charleston, SC. *Funding Source 1011125-639900 – This item was withdrawn from the agenda.*
15. Council is asked to approve Project SS639501; Major Maintenance at Saluda River Pump Station, as requested by Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to Blanchard Power Systems, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$89,456.27. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Sewer Improvement Fund - Approved*
16. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of one (1) Wheel Loader with Tink Bucket, as requested by Fleet Services. Award to Interstate Equipment Company, the lowest bidder in the amount of \$120,026.18. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 6308972-658500 - Approved*
17. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Vehicles, as requested by Various Departments. Award to Burns Automotive (\$25,131.00), located in Rock Hill, SC, Vic Bailey Ford, Inc. (\$137,047.00), located in Spartanburg, SC and Love Chevrolet (\$21,385.00), located in Columbia, SC, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$183,553.00. *Funding Sources are as follows. - Approved*

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1	Ford F-250	Water Distribution	5516203-658500	\$25,131.00
5	Ford Ranger	Water Customer Service	5516202-658500	\$48,190.00
3	Ford F-150	Water Distribution	5516203-658500	\$38,571.00
1	Trail Blazer	Water Distribution	5516203-658500	\$21,385.00
4	Ford F-150	Development Services	1014101-658500	\$50,276.00

18. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of a San Server, Maintenance and Racks for Additional Disk Storage and Disaster Recovery Data Repository, as requested by the Information Technology Department. Award to HP Direct, using the SC State Contract, in the amount of \$216,211.35. This vendor is located in Roseville, CA. *Funding Source: 5511121-658600 - Approved*
19. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of two (2) Rear Loader Garbage Trucks, as requested by Fleet Services. Award to Amick Equipment Company, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$229,000.00. This vendor is located in Lexington, SC. *Funding Source: 6308972-658500 - Approved*
20. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Police Uniforms on a Two (2) year contract, as requested by the Police Department. Award to Wright Johnson Uniforms, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$568,680.93. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 1012402-624100 - Approved*

21. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Vehicles, as requested by the various Departments. Award to Vic Bailey Ford, Inc., located in Spartanburg, SC; Herndon Chevrolet, Inc., located in Lexington, SC; Dick Smith Ford, Inc., located in Columbia, SC; and Love Chevrolet, Inc., located in Columbia, SC, in the amount of \$595,933.25. *Funding Sources are as follows: - Approved*

Quantity	Type	Department	Funding Source	Amount
19	Ford Crown Vic	Police Department	1012403-658500	\$392,882.00
4	Ford F-250	Water Distribution	5516203-658500	\$64,216.00
3	Chevy Tahoe	Fire Department	1012303-658500	\$27,786.33
			1012304-658500	\$27,786.33
			2082306-658500	\$28,628.34
1	Ford F-150	Development Services	1014101-658500	\$12,569.00
1	Ford F-250	Wastewater Maintenance	5516205-658500	\$20,680.25
1	Chevy Trailblazer	Construction Management:		
		Water Improvement	5516223-658500	\$10,692.50
		Wastewater Improvement	5516224-658500	\$10,692.50

22. Council is asked to approve the Agreement between the SCDOT and City of Columbia for North Harden Street, as requested by Engineering Administration in the amount of \$4,266,300. *Funding Source reflects the total amount that the SCDOT anticipates receiving over the life of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for users (SAFETEA-LU) Earmark Program to include the FY 2008 and FY 2009 amounts that Congress will release over the next two (2) years. The City is responsible for providing a 20% match. - Approved*

23. Council is asked to approve Project #WM3873; Construction of 2.0 MG Elevated Water Storage Tank Rimer Pond Road, as requested by Engineering Administration. Award to CBI Constructors, the lowest bidder, in the amount \$4,291,000.00. This firm is located in Alpharetta, GA. *Funding Source: (GL) 5529999-851500 & (JL) WM387301-851500 - Approved*

24. Council is asked to approve the Construction Project for the Lincoln Street Parking Garage. Award to M.B. Kahn Construction, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$10,990,385.68. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 2005 Parking Facilities Revenue Bond Issue - Approved*

- 24a. **\*\***Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Twenty (20) Mobile Radios, as requested by the Police Department. Award to Motorola C & E, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$72,558.84. This firm is located in Sumter, SC. *Funding Source: 1012401-57800 - Approved*

- 24b. **\*\***Council is asked to approve a Contract for Professional Services to assist in the Creation of a Business Retention and Expansion Program (BREP), as requested by the Commerce and Development Group. Award to Executive Pulse, Inc. in the amount of 13,850.00. *Funding Source: Special Projects Account - Approved*

#### ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

25. Ordinance No.: 2007-076 – Annexing 7232 Broad River Road, Richland County TMS# 05004-02-11 *First reading approval was given on October 3, 2007. – Approved on second reading.*
26. Ordinance No.: 2007-077 – Annexing 410 Harbison Boulevard, Richland County TMS# 04908-01-10 *First reading approval was given on October 3, 2007. - Second reading consideration was deferred until November 7, 2007.*

27. Ordinance No.: 2007-083 – To Grant to Verizon, its Successors and Assigns the Right, Power and Authority to Construct, Install, Maintain and Operate In, Over, upon and Under the Streets and Public Places of the City of Columbia, its Lines, Poles, Wires, Cables and other Telecommunications Facilities to Render Telecommunications Service to its Customers in the Limits of the City of Columbia for Such Period as Provided Herein; and to its Customers in the Limits of the City of Columbia for Such Period as Provided Herein; and to Provide for the Payment of Compensation for the Use of the Streets and Public Places - *Second reading consideration was deferred until staff reports back on the questions asked by Mr. Cromartie during the October 3, 2007 meeting.*

#### ANNEXATIONS WITH REZONING – SECOND READING

28. 1325 Dunston Street, TMS# 16309-05-02, rezone from Richland County RS-2 (Single Family Residential) to M-1 (Light Industrial). *This property is currently being considered for annexation and a part of the larger project titled 7600 Richard Street; please see information below. – Approved on second reading.*

Vacant lot south of 1325 Dunston Street, TMS# 16309-05-04(p), rezone from Richland County RS-2 (Single Family Residential) to M-1 (Light Industrial). *This property is currently being considered for annexation and a part of the larger project titled 7600 Richard Street; please see information below. – Approved on second reading.*

Vacant lot, within the 1300 Block of Blaine Street, west of 1325 Dunston Street, TMS# 16305-03-01, rezone from Richland County RS-2 (Single Family Residential) to M-1 (Light Industrial). *This property is currently being considered for annexation and a part of the larger project titled 7600 Richard Street; please see information below. – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2007-059 – Annexing 1325 Dunston Road, 1316 Blaine Street and unnumbered parcels on Blaine Street and Dunston Road; Richland County TMS# 16305-03-01; 16309-05-02; 1630905-01; 16309-05-03 and 16309-05-04 *The Zoning Public Hearing was conducted on September 19, 2007. – Approved on second reading.*

#### MAP AMENDMENTS / REZONINGS – SECOND READING

7600 Richard Street, TMS# 16305-02-04; rezone from M-2 to M-1. *This project those items titled 1325 Dunston Street, vacant lot south of 1325 Dunston Street, and vacant lot within 1300 block of Blaine Street, west of 1325 Dunston Street. The Zoning Public Hearing was conducted on September 19, 2007. – Approved on second reading.*

29. 156 Preserve Lane, TMS# 13715-01-26; rezone from PUD-R to amended PUD-R. - *The Public Hearing and first reading consideration were rescheduled on July 18, 2007 for September 5, 2007. The Public Hearing and first reading consideration were deferred on September 5, 2007 until October 3, 2007. First reading approval was given on October 3, 2007, provided (1) The property owners comply with the landscape plan prepared by staff titled, “PLANTING PLAN FOR BUFFERYARD” with a 3-year time restriction on the plantings; (2) The property owners take care of the replanted area for 3 years; and (3) The property owners are required to sign the document presented by Mr. Mullins [document titled “AGREEMENT” dated June 4, 2007, an unsigned copy of which is provided within the City Council packet] and accept the Agreement dated September 25, 2007. – Approved on second reading with the same stipulations as outlined on October 3, 2007.*

30. 1312, 1318, 1320 thru 1324 Brennen Road, TMS# 13913-08-21, -22 and -23; rezone from RG-1 to PUD-R *First reading consideration was given on September 19, 2007. The Zoning Public Hearing was conducted on September 19, 2007. – Approved on second reading.*

Councilor Finlay said that he is glad to approve this, but there needs to be no bait and switch.

Mr. Marc Mylott, Director of Development Services, explained that the PUD binds the applicant and any drastic changes would have to come back for approval.

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to the *Map Amendment / Rezoning* of 1312, 1318, 1320 thru 1324 Brennen Road, TMS# 13913-08-21, -22 and -23; rezone from RG-1 to PUD-R, provided: The applicant comply with items 1 and 4-8 of the 7/9/07 letter from Brook Moore; **(1)** The applicant provides porches on all units and wrap-around porches along the Brennan Road units; **(2)** The City will not enforce any claims within the PUD regarding the up fits on interiors; **(3)** Where the PUD is silent, RG-1 zoning shall apply; and **(4)** Major and minor changes shall be in accordance with Section 17-305 (10) that may be amended from time to time.

### **ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

31. Ordinance No.: 2007-086 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinance of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 11, Licenses, Permits and Miscellaneous Business Regulations, Article II, Business and Professional Licenses, 11-49, Classification Rate Schedules Code 078, SIC Code 1500, CONTRACTORS 5 and 8 – *Approved on first reading.*

Ms. Krista Hampton, Development Center Coordinator, stated that this Ordinance contains a redundant requirement by the city, because it is already required by the State. It also refers to the Southern Building Code, which we no longer adhere to, because we adhere to the International Building Code.

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2007-086 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinance of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 11, Licenses, Permits and Miscellaneous Business Regulations, Article II, Business and Professional Licenses, 11-49, Classification Rate Schedules Code 078, SIC Code 1500, CONTRACTORS 5 and 8.

- A. Ordinance No.: 2007-087 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinance of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 5, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article IV, Demolition of Structures, Sec. 5-235, Penalty bond – *First reading consideration was deferred.*

### **RESOLUTION**

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to approve on a single motion **Resolution Items B. and C.**

- B. Resolution No.: R-2007-060 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine at Vista Lights - *Approved*
- C. Resolution No.: R-2007-061 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine at Urban Tour, Food Drive and Awareness Campaign of Main Street - *Approved*

## **OTHER MATTERS**

D. Allen Benedict Court Hope VI Project – Ms. Julia Prater, Deputy for Affordable Housing

Mr. Gilbert Walker, Executive Director for Columbia Housing Authority, explained that the Council approved funding last year for a Hope VI application for infrastructure, but the grant was not successful. The funding from last year is still with the City. We are requesting \$4.5 million for infrastructure to go with the HOPE VI grant application, noting that money will not be needed until late 2008 or early 2009. This is the same thing done for Celia Saxon and Rosewood Hills. He added that 91 homes have been sold in Celia Saxon out of the 93 homes that were built. These units are now yielding taxes back to the city. Another letter of commitment is needed. The increase in the request is a result of problems with ground water and other issues experienced while constructing Celia Saxon.

- **The Honorable Sam Davis returned to the meeting at 11:46 a.m.**
- **Mr. Rickenmann left the meeting at 11:47 a.m.**

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to commit up to \$4.5 million to the Allen Benedict Court Hope VI Project for infrastructure cost. This request includes the \$3.5 million committed to in June 2006 and an additional \$1 million as requested today. The 2006 grant was not awarded and an application will be resubmitted in November 2007. No portion of the \$3.5 million has been disbursed to the Columbia Housing Authority. The City Manager was asked to provide a letter of commitment to accompany the 2007 application and to earmark funding within the fiscal year 2008/2009 budget. It is noted for the record that while Councilor Finlay is supportive of the entire city, he is concerned about the lack of projects brought forward for Council District Four. Mr. Rickenmann was not present for the vote.

E. Columbia Housing Authority Board of Commissioners – Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Sinclair, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. James Robertson as a replacement for Mr. Raymond Taylor. The Department of Housing and Urban Development requires the seat to be filled by a resident of the Authority. This partial term expires on March 8, 2011.

F. Accommodations Tax Funding - Ms. Libby Gober, Ombudsman

Ms. Libby Gober, Ombudsman, presented the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee's recommendations for funding from the fiscal year 2005/2006 Accommodations Tax unallocated surplus funds. She stated that several organizations appeared before Council to request funding and some requested funding assistance in writing. The Council asked the Accommodations Tax Committee to come together and look at all of the applications and make recommendations for funding. She explained that the committee is hesitant about funding football games; therefore, the Pioneer Bowl wasn't fully funded.

Councilor Cromartie stated that the Pioneer Bowl is a championship game at an African American College and could bring 100,000 people into the City of Columbia. He suggested that representatives of the Pioneer Bowl appear before Council so the Council can better understand the impact of this game.

Councilor Sinclair suggested that they approve what's here and then ask the committee to review the request again based on the numbers from previous Pioneer Bowls.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager agreed to contact Coach Willie Washington and the Commissioner of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) to get additional information, to determine if their plans are contingent upon this contribution and what other amount would they be receptive to. He prefers to go through the committee process, but suggested that as an alternative they could take \$10,000 from the Accommodations Tax Contingency Fund.

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee's recommendations for funding from the fiscal year 2005/2006 surplus funds. (*See chart below*) The committee is asked to review the request for the Pioneer Bowl again once the organizers have submitted additional information for further consideration.

### Accommodations Tax Funding (Surplus 2005-2006)

Organization	Project Name	Request	Amount Funded
<b>October 2007</b>			
Celebrate Freedom	Thunder at Fort Jackson	\$25,000	\$25,000
Capital City Lake Murray Country	Forrest L. Woods Cup- Fishing Tournament	\$50,000	\$50,000
701 Contemporary Art Center	Development and Implementation	\$30,000	\$20,000
Benedict College	2007 Pioneer Bowl	\$25,000	\$15,000
The Burns Foundation	Soulful Noel	\$25,000	\$10,000
The South Carolina National Guard	Tribute to Fallen Guardsman of Iraq	\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$130,000</b>

#### G. Township Auditorium / Request for Hospitality Taxes - Ms. Libby Gober, Ombudsman

Ms. Libby Gober, Ombudsman requested clarification on the intent of Council regarding a request from The Township Auditorium to have the accommodations taxes generated by The Township returned to them from the City of Columbia. The request is to retro the return on taxes to fiscal year 2003/2004. Staff believes that the intent of Council's motion made in March 2007 was to return the taxes generated in the future.

Councilor Devine recalled that the motion was not to require The Township to pay the taxes they collected going forward, but not to reimburse them retroactively.

There was a consensus of Council to direct staff to research the minutes and report back to them.

#### H. Community Promotions Monthly Funding Recommendations (September 2007) - Ms. Libby Gober, Ombudsman

Upon motion by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to approve the committee's recommendation to deny funding as outlined in the chart below.

### Community Promotions Monthly Funding 2007-2008

Organization	Project Name	Request	Amount Funded
<b>September 2007</b>			
Eau Claire Ministerial Alliance	Crime Prevention	7,000	0
*Committee and staff agree that this was a religious organization and that crime prevention is the responsibility of our police department.			

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

Mr. Arthur F. Jones thanked the City of Columbia, University of South Carolina and businesses within the Innovista corridor. He stated that New Samaritan Baptist Church is the only African American entity that sits about 500 measuring rods from the Congaree River. He thanked the Council for unanimously supporting the project and asked them to remember the church.

Mr. Willie Hampton appeared before the members of Council to discuss the homeless issue in the City of Columbia. He said that more money should go to crime prevention. He has been robbed twice for money. He stated that more crimes are committed in the black community and people are choosing to be out here, because of drug use. The homeless population should be disbursed. He said that it's a headache to sit at the transit station due to harassment.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 12:24 p.m. for the discussion of **Items I.** through **J.** as amended.

- I.      \*\*Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements
  - Time Warner Cable
  - Civic Partners, LLC Town Homes

*Items were discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
  
- J.      \*\*Discussion of employment of an employee  
*Items were discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
  
- **The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III left the meeting at 1:57 p.m.**
  
- **Council adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley  
City Clerk