



CITY OF COLUMBIA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2008  
9:00 A.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
1737 MAIN STREET

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The Columbia City Council conducted a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, October 1, 2008 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. The following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III and The Honorable Belinda F. Gergel. The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II joined the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Also present were Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of May 28, 2008 – *Approved*

Upon motion by Ms. Devine, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of May 28, 2008 as presented.

\*\*Councilor Devine announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence on Saturday, October 11, 2008 at Finlay Park at 9:00 a.m.

\*\*Mayor Coble announced the Annual Mayor's Campaign Against Breast Cancer Breakfast on Friday, October 3, 2008 and Walk on Saturday, October 4, 2008.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

2. Introduction of the September 2008 Employee of the Month (Mr. Neco Green, Recycling Truck Driver III, Solid Waste Division) – Mr. Robert Anderson, Deputy Director of Public Works / Superintendent of Solid Waste

Mr. Robert Anderson, Deputy Director of Public Works / Superintendent of Solid Waste introduced Mr. Neco Green, Recycling Truck Driver III for the Solid Waste Division as the September 2008 Employee of the Month. Mr. Green has been with the City of Columbia since 1998 and he goes the extra mile to ensure that we are providing great service to our customers.

Mayor Coble presented Mr. Green with a plaque for being selected as the September 2008 Employee of the Month.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager presented Mr. Green with a token of appreciation for being selected as the September 2008 Employee of the Month.

3. Presentation of the Regional Minority Business Advocate of the Year Award to Mr. Tony Lawton – Ms. Patricia Hanes, Atlanta Regional Director of the Minority Business Development Agency

Ms. Patricia Hanes, Atlanta Regional Director of the Minority Business Development Agency presented the Regional Minority Business Advocate of the Year Award to Mr. Tony Lawton, Director of Community Development. Ms. Hanes stated that without the support of the City and the efforts of Mr. Lawton they would not be able to say that 42% or \$2.9 million dollars of the loans were given to minority owned companies. She noted that Mr. Lawton competed against other regions in the Southeast to win this award and it's a great accomplishment. She also recognized Mr. John Dooley for his connection with the program as the Director of Utilities and Engineering.

- 3a. \*\*Presentation of the Essential Piece Award to Mr. John Dooley – The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann

Councilor Rickenmann asked Ms. Diane Sumpter as the Founder of DESA, Inc. to say a few words about how important the essential piece (Mr. John Dooley) was to the program.

Ms. Diane E. Sumpter, President and Chief Executive Office of DESA Inc. thanked the Council and the City Manager for their diligence and support. Ms. Sumpter stated that one of the things that were outright phenomenal is the way Mr. Dooley stepped up to the plate, embraced it and said "we can do this". Ms. Sumpter said that she is extremely proud and honored to have worked with Mr. Dooley.

Councilor Devine stated that this is an opportunity to celebrate where we have come from and if we stick together everyone benefits. Councilor Devine also stated that we should not become complacent with what we have done, because we still have a lot to do as part of the recommendations that were given to us. We should be happy with our accomplishments and let this help us to move the benchmark further and move forward.

Councilor Davis stated that we all have brought experiences to the table to make this initiative a reality. It's an initiative to keep Columbia ahead of any other city that's comparable in size. When it comes to sharing of the wealth, everybody has a role to play in growing the city and the economy. It would be an honor to congratulate the companies that have stepped forward to be partners. It's indicative of the fact that they understand and accept that there is a lot to be shared in this City. When you look at Columbia there is a lot going on and a lot of opportunities in the construction area that we all need to take advantage of. It would be a shame if all of this growth takes place and small, women and minority businesses in this immediate area are not some of the recipients of that and don't receive the opportunity to display their skills and talents.

Councilor Finlay stated that he personally wants to thank Mr. John Dooley for his demonstration of personal integrity, his service to the city and his leadership.

Councilor Rickenmann presented the Essential Piece Award to Mr. John Dooley, Director of Utilities and Engineering.

### **CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION**

4. Community Promotions Funding Recommendations for September 2008 – The Honorable Judge Mildred McDuffie, Chair of the Community Promotions Advisory Committee

The Honorable Judge Mildred McDuffie, Chair of the Community Promotions Advisory Committee reported that the Eau Claire Community Council requested \$2,820 for the North Columbia Holiday Display and they were funded \$1,410.

Councilor Devine asked if the money was for the tree.

Councilor Davis asked if the organization could get \$2,000.

The Honorable Judge Mildred McDuffie, Chair of the Community Promotions Advisory Committee stated that the committee told the organization that they could come back if they needed additional funding. The committee provided a portion of funding for the things that they could reuse year after year, but if they feel that they need to come back they can. She added that the committee doesn't have much money and they are trying to spread it around.

Councilor Devine agreed that the committee doesn't have much money in their pot. Oftentimes this tree is characterized as Columbia's tree, because we don't have a tree that we do ourselves. There are requests that should be considered by the Council instead of the committee.

Upon motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve funding for the North Columbia Community Council's Annual Holiday Display in the amount of \$1,410.

The Honorable Judge Mildred McDuffie, Chair of the Community Promotions Advisory Committee further reported that Chief Cornerstone World Vision requested \$900,000. Judge McDuffie stated that the committee does not fund religious activities and noted that the organization was referred elsewhere for assistance. She stated that the committee will not fund the request at all.

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve the committee's recommendation to deny funding for the Chief Cornerstone World Vision as outlined below.

#### Community Promotions Monthly Funding 2008-2009

Organization	Project Name	Request	Amount Funded
<b>September</b>			
Eau Claire Community Council *Not the role of the committee, refer to City Council	North Columbia Holiday Display	2,820	1,410
Chief Cornerstone Worldvision *Religious Organization, Duplication		900,000	0

**Totals    \$902,820    \$1,410**

5. Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) – Mr. Ike McLeese, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Ike McLeese, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce stated that it is his understanding that Council wanted to have a conversation concerning the \$35,000 the City has shared with them to keep the Washington based military consultants during the post-BRAC era. There are three reasons they want to continue to do that and the number one reason is to protect Fort Jackson during the post-BRAC disruption. The second reason is that the army will soon undergo major restructuring, because of BRAC 2005 and the returning of 70,000 troops from overseas stationing; there will be new growth in the structure and also there will be a re-evaluation of the census command. The third reason would

be the need to prepare for the next round of BRAC. The Department of Defense has declared that there is 15% remaining excessive infrastructure that will necessitate another round of BRAC, which was originally recommended to happen in 2015. It is anticipated that In 2011 or 2012 the Congress will be asked to authorize a 2015 round of BRAC in order to eliminate the other 15% and it's not just protecting what you have, it is seeking aggressively to pick up new missions as we did in this past round of BRAC. He provided a list of projects and the military construction budget for Fort Jackson for the next five (5) years in the amount of \$715 million. He noted that the projects had been authorized, but no funding has been appropriated. He added that Richland County matches the City's funding at \$35,000 and the Chamber of Commerce provides additional funding making this a true public private partnership to protect our military.

Councilor Rickenmann asked how this folds into the Good to Great initiative. With the funding we have available today, is it possible to reduce the amount and make it a part of the Good to Great initiative. He agreed that we don't want to lose Fort Jackson, but he also realizes that the Fort is about to spend a ton of money and that significant funding has already been appropriated for the projects at Fort Jackson.

Mr. Ike McLeese, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce stated the City would have to reduce the Good to Great commitment to \$65,000, because it's a separate foundation, with separate governance and Chamber operating funds. Mr. McLeese said that it's the City's money and if that's what they chose to do then yes they can do that. Mr. McLeese stated that the City can go back to the Good to Great 501(C) 3 Foundation and say that the commitment from the City is \$65,000 not \$100,000.

Councilor Rickenmann made it clear that his question was not answered. He asked again if this is included in the Good to Great program and is there a way to reduce the amount. He doesn't know what the contract is for the Rhodes Group and he is not saying that we don't want to fund it, but we want to understand how this is in the plan and is there a way to reduce it. In today's environment that's what we have to do.

Mr. Ike McLeese, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce stated that the annual retainer is \$70,000 and pre-BRAC they spent \$250,000 per year on consultants.

Councilor Rickenmann asked if the City and the County are paying this contract.

Mr. Ike McLeese, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce stated that they use the money the City gives them to keep the Rhodes Group under contract and the Chamber spends approximately \$40,000 on direct relationships. He noted that he spends eight (8) weeks out of the year in Washington, D.C. advocating for Fort Jackson and McEntire Air National Guard Station.

Councilor Rickenmann asked if Sumter County or any other municipality were included.

Mr. Ike McLeese, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce reported that Sumter County has their own program with Shaw Airforce Base although they have talked about working together.

Councilor Devine asked if the \$70,000 retainer is for the next five (5) years.

Mr. Ike McLeese, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce replied yes.

Councilor Devine asked Mr. McLeese if he gets a report from the Rhodes Group as far as what contacts they have been making and who they are talking to. What's substantiating what they are doing on an annual basis for us?

Mr. Ike McLeese, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce stated that he gets a report and he can share that with the City.

Councilor Devine isn't opposed to having the Rhodes Group on retainer, but asked if some of the efforts are duplicative with what we do with our lobbyists and if they could work together to find some efficiencies there.

Mayor Coble stated that Barbara McCall (the City's Federal Lobbyist) does an excellent job with BRAC; she did a super job with that. He realizes that the Rhodes Group works with the Pentagon and the five year budget and they work very well with Barbara McCall since she does the Congressional things. We work very well together with BRAC and I make sure we are coordinating. He added that Congressman Clyburn is a major player as is Senator Joe Wilson.

Mr. Ike McLeese, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce reiterated the fact that the expertise on the military side comes from the Rhodes Group.

Councilor Davis understands Councilor Rickenmann's point and admitted that the Council is not in a position to say that we have a clear picture of Good to Great versus the BRAC and whether there is some duplication. He also wants to know exactly what the Rhodes Group is doing during the interim. It would be to our advantage and maybe the taxpayers if we get some sort of report on the contacts and efforts. This is the first breakout he's seen as to what the military is doing to potentially add to the local economy. He requested a bi-annual report from the Rhodes Group.

Mr. Ike McLeese, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce stated he would be in Washington on Monday and they will update the reports at that time.

Council Davis stated that this is routine and we are asking this of everybody.

Councilor Finlay stated that after they met last year he was told that they were going to have some more communication and dialog and that has been fairly remiss. He thinks that some communication with the City on these issues is important. Today, the city is appropriating Hospitality Tax surplus funds to hire additional Police Officers so everybody needs to realize that this Council is focused on some priorities that are related to how we protect our citizens and if there isn't communication to everyone about what's happening and the deliverables, it's going to be very tough for us in the future to be here. Councilor Finlay also noted that the City is looking for good people on Boards and Commissions, because we need people involved in that too. He looks forward to receiving recommendations from the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations as in the past.

Mr. Ike McLeese, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce said that they could bring the Rhodes Group to Columbia or the Council can go to Washington with them.

Councilor Finlay said that they don't need to spend money going back and forth when a two-page written report will do.

Mr. Ike McLeese, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce assured the Council of his commitment to make this happen.

Councilor Rickenmann suggested that the report be sent to Teresa Wilson Florence as the Director of Governmental Affairs for disbursement to the Council. Receiving a report on an ongoing basis helps us to understand what they've been doing and the progress being made. It's also an opportunity for the City to assist the Rhodes Group when needed.

Councilor Gergel stated that she is blown away by the return on investment as outlined by Mr. McLeese at an estimated \$600 million.

Mr. Ike McLeese, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce stated that some of the projects listed are not BRAC related. As it relates to the activities at Fort Jackson, the Congress has authorized an increase in strength. He noted that Fort Jackson trains 51% of all soldiers in the Army, so when they come here they have to have barracks. They just finished the building that was dedicated earlier this year to house the army reserve command for the southeast. That's not on the document. It's a combination of BRAC gains and two (2) of the missions are not here yet. He announced that a Chaplain school will be constructed soon and they will train all Chaplains for all branches of the military.

Councilor Devine requested that balance of the Council Contingency Account.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager stated that he would provide that information.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve funding for Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) in the amount of \$35,000 from the Council Contingency Account.

6. Engenuity SC and The Fuel Cell Collaborative – Mr. Neil McLean, Executive Director of Engenuity SC

Mr. Neil McLean, Executive Director of Engenuity SC explained that Engenuity is a public private partnership and in their first year they started out with a \$90,000 investment from City Council. They are now in year five (5) and the city's investment will be matched with \$750,000 in federal, state, county, higher education and private sector dollars. The City's investment in Engenuity this year will attract a match that will benefit the citizens of this City. Mr. McLean provided the Council with a list of programs, accomplishments and other things they have done in the past year. They are working to attract and retain talent for the Knowledge Economy.

Councilor Devine suggested that a financial statement be sent to Mr. Jim Gambrell, Director of Economy Development for disbursement to Council so they will know where the funding comes from and where it is going. She stated that there are groups of everyday neighborhood folks who don't understand the Knowledge Economy and what we are trying to accomplish. It would help us if more people were in attendance and could get this information. One idea might be to work with Ms. Utsey to get some additional programming on Channel 2 and maybe do a Science Café where people who watch Channel 2 can get the information and understand what we are trying to accomplish by targeting the Knowledge Economy and Fuel Cells and why the city is supporting it.

Mr. Neil McLean, Executive Director of Engenuity SC said they would provide the budget. He added that the Science Café and Fast Trac are great ways to get residents involved.

Councilor Rickenmann stated that it would be helpful to get more understanding of the businesses they are creating, how many we are affecting and also how we are making sure that they stay here. He wants to have some assurance that these businesses will grow in this region as we are making investments and buying equipment from companies. How are we ensuring this? He fears that people could take advantage of the City's investment. If they are not growing here then we are not harvesting the talent that we keep talking about losing.

Mr. Neil McLean, Executive Director of Engenuity SC said that the reason these companies start here is because of their connection to the University. We use performance based contracts so in many cases they don't get tax credits unless they meet certain goals.

Councilor Davis asked how many local business representatives have ideas, but is not under the Engenuity umbrella. It's good to bring people here, but if we continue to lose the ones that are already here, we are still at a loss.

Mr. Neil McLean, Executive Director of Engenuity SC stated that any person in Columbia has an opportunity and the resources to start a new business. Many of the contacts come through the Office of Business Opportunities. He added that Trulite is going to hire eight (8) people for their operation. We have a pipeline to develop companies and we have to put more people into that pipeline.

Councilor Finlay asked if the professor at USC leaves will Trulite leave.

Mr. Neil McLean Executive Director of Engenuity SC answered yes; that could happen.

Councilor Finlay said that we just need to understand where the risks exist. He suggested that Mr. McLean get the financial packets to them so that everybody has a good opportunity to understand what's going on because next year is going to be a difficult financial year for the City and the competition will be tougher.

Councilor Rickenmann stated that it would be good to know who the companies are working with locally, because sometimes we forget that they are buying office supplies and equipment and it's important to know that. We need to ensure that they are reaching out to the small businesses in our community in keeping with the trickle down effect.

Councilor Gergel stated that she wants to ensure that we have a good idea of how we are positioned against other cities that are trying to put together incentive programs in this area. She wants to ensure that we are where we need to be to continue to attract great talent.

Councilor Devine stated that it would be good if Council heard what the Talent Magnet Project is doing, the purpose and how it's meeting those goals. It would be good to see the partners and to have a presentation to help us understand how big this is and how you are working everyday to retain those students and young business leaders.

Mr. Neil McLean, Executive Director of Engenuity SC stated that Engenuity is not trying to recreate the wheel; Engenuity is all about collaborations. We want to work with the entities that are already working on this issue to create a very direct program for retaining talent. They don't want students to go to any of these colleges in Columbia and not know that there are resources available if they want to start up a business here. You have to connect the business resources; you have to connect the social fabric of the community; and we have to create internship programs.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve funding in the amount of \$100,000 for Engenuity SC and \$150,000 for Hydrogen Projects from the Economic Development Special Projects Account. *Please note that half of the \$150,000 allocation will go to the Fuel Cell Collaborative and the other half will go towards the agreed upon purchase of items.*

7. The Challenge Day Initiative – The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann and Mr. Steve Skardon, Executive Director of the Palmetto Project

Councilor Rickenmann reminded the Council that at the last meeting he asked that they take a look at a request for \$26,000 as a matching grant for Challenge Day, which has been proven throughout the country to be a great resource for our schools. One of the things we wanted to do was push the Challenge Day program toward our A Plus schools as part of our "Together We Can" initiative. He asked Mr. Skardon to come forward to answer any questions.

Councilor Devine asked if they had already picked a date for Challenge Day. She suggested that they pick a day during the City's Annual Youth Violence Prevention week, if that week doesn't fall within Spring Break.

Councilor Rickenmann stated that they have targeted high schools, but they are trying to bring it down to the middle school level.

Councilor Devine asked what would be the cost if they targeted some or all of the five (5) A Plus schools.

Mr. Steve Skardon, Executive Director of the Palmetto Project stated that the \$26,000 represents six (6) different days to include training, the day itself and follow-up. The funding would cover six (6) of those events. The Palmetto Project provides \$26,000, staff and materials to support the program. He said that Columbia High School and Dreher High School wants to do the program again and they are willing to take more than one (1) day.

Mayor Robert Coble asked if Mr. Skardon would briefly explain what the program is about.

Mr. Steve Skardon, Executive Director of the Palmetto Project stated that this program is an intervention to work with students to change the chemistry of their schools. They work with one hundred (100) students that the teachers feel have leadership potential. These students present a cross-section of the school population. They try to empower students to take charge of the social and academic environment of their school campuses and turn leadership potential into something positive. This can be done in high schools and middle schools. He stated that people who are in gangs have other leadership skills that can be turned and focused in a positive way.

Councilor Devine stated that \$26,000 only covers six (6) schools and they don't want to take away from the schools that are already participating. She suggested that they focus on the middle and high schools and make sure they budget enough money to do exactly what they want to do.

Councilor Finlay asked Mr. Skardon to come back with an affirmed number to cover the budget.

Mr. Steve Skardon, Executive Director of the Palmetto Project explained that they work with each school early in the year and in the past some of the schools haven't been able to participate and because of that, they may not be able to get to every school.

Councilor Davis stated that he would like to look at the list of schools that didn't participate last year. Those should be some of the first schools that we approach to help them get a head start.

Councilor Rickenmann stated that he would be glad to help the schools coordinate for the event.

Councilor Devine said that we are in a better position because of the Together We Can partnership and the willingness of the community.

Mayor Coble stated that he is going to the Richland One Retreat in October and that would be the time to present the program to the new Superintendent.

Councilor Gergel asked what the \$26,000 was for and how many schools did the money cover.

Mr. Steve Skardon, Executive Director of the Palmetto Project said that it's for six (6) events. They have to negotiate with the schools. He would like to do one (1) in every high school in Columbia city limits.

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve funding in the amount of \$26,000 to Palmetto Project for six (6) days of events associated with Challenge Day. Mr. Steve Skardon is to advise the Council of additional funding that may be needed to conduct the Challenge Day Program in all Richland School District One A Plus High Schools and possibly the Middle Schools as part of the Together We Can partnership.

Councilor Devine suggested that the City Manager assign Mr. Baker to work with Palmetto Project from a staff perspective and to obtain the details. She suggested that Ms. Florence work with Palmetto Project as it relates to the Together We Can initiative.

Mayor Coble requested that the plan for Challenge Day be included in the information on "Together We Can" that is being prepared by Ms. Florence.

8. Council is asked to approve the Destruction of Three Hundred Ninety Six (396) Drugs and Paraphernalia, as requested by the Columbia Police Departments Evidence and Property Unit. – *Approved*

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the Destruction of Three Hundred Ninety Six (396) Drugs and Paraphernalia, as requested by the Columbia Police Departments Evidence and Property Unit.

Councilor Devine asked the City Manager if there are any cell phones that are ready to be donated to SisterCare. She announced that old cell phones would be collected during the Annual Mayor's Walk Against Domestic Violence and donated to SisterCare.

9. \*\*State Infrastructure Bank – The Honorable Robert D. Coble

Mayor Coble stated that he met with Mr. John Hardee and Mr. Dan Dennis of the Dennis Corporation to discuss the possibility of funding from the State Infrastructure Bank. In discussing the priorities we noted that North Main and Harden Street had to be finished. He said that an application to the State Infrastructure Bank only covers projects that are \$100 million or more, so our North Main Street and Harden Street would not fit that criteria; however, you can file an application for a grant for North Main Street, Harden Street and Assembly Street which altogether exceed \$100,000,000. We can prioritize those projects so nothing jumps ahead of anything. He added that we have never received funding from a State Infrastructure Bank in Columbia so we are probably due one according to how they are distributed. He stated that the bank does not have any money now so it would have to be funded and we would have to put in an application, which is graded on criteria. He explained that the Dennis Corporation has done one for Beaufort County and I made it clear to them that if we have someone to help us with that, it would have to be by Request for Proposal (RFP) or Request for Qualification (RFQ).

Councilor Finlay thinks it's a wonderful venue, but in these tight financial times we need to continue our priorities at the federal and state level and running them parallel. This is not a time when we can change our funding priorities to the federal government. He suggested that they schedule a Work Session so they can have some concept of how the process works and what the cost would be. Anything that we can do that allows us to pursue these goals in tandem without an enormous cost is a win for us.

Mayor Coble added that the money we have spent on the North Main and Harden Street projects could be the match for a grant resulting in a true win-win.

Councilor Davis stated that it makes sense to get additional funding, but he also agrees that it should be parallel to the federal efforts and with the criteria we have already set. North Main and Harden Street are our priorities and the others would be piggybacking. Even as the dollars come in they should not be able to leap frog over those two (2) projects.

Mayor Coble concurred with Mr. Davis.

Councilor Devine asked what projects are eligible for the Infrastructure Bank. Does that include roads and ditches?

Mayor Coble stated that it's for road projects and if we hire anyone to help with the application, they would have to go through a process. He asked that Mr. Dan Dennis and Mr. John Hardee present at a Work Session on how they have completed an application for another governmental entity.

Councilor Finlay reminded them of the correspondence they received from some consultants who can help on GASB, specifically from Mr. Mark Cox of Region Bank. Realizing that they would have to go through a RFP or RFQ process, he would like to have the presentation on October 22, 2008.

There was a consensus of Council to schedule a Work Session discussion with Mr. John Hardee on the State Infrastructure Bank Application process.

## **REPORTS AND UPDATES**

10. Columbia's Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield's Follow Up Grant – Mr. Fred Delk, Columbia Development Corporation

Mr. Fred Delk, Director of the Columbia Development Corporation explained that the Columbia Development Corporation administers the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield's Grant for the City of Columbia. Mr. Delk introduced Gail Rawls Jeter who works for Concurrent Technologies Corporation as the Brownfield's Coordinator for South Carolina. The City contracted with this company to administer our EPA Grant. Mr. Delk requested that the City of Columbia apply for a follow-up grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. Currently they are working through their second grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, which is \$400,000. Half of that money can be used for possible chemical spills or sites where there are chemically environmental issues and the other half for petroleum. This follow-up grant is for money to begin flowing at the end of next year and would be for \$100 million, which is the largest amount that the Environmental Protection Agency has ever offered for the Brownfield's Grant. The EPA is offering a new program this year called the Coalition Grant. The purpose of this is to bring new jurisdictions into the grant process and the City of Columbia would be the lead applicant and would manage this grant and in this particular case, they are proposing that the City of West Columbia be a part of the coalition along with all of the City of Columbia's Development Corporations. They have offered the City of West Columbia \$250,000 of the \$100 million they will apply for. The alternative would be a request for \$400,000 and we would not be as competitive. We would request that the City Council adopt a Resolution or other formal action that would authorize acceptance and full implementation by all staff and departments in the City of Columbia, because that would give a great deal of comfort to the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, we would have to create a Memorandum of Agreement between all parties, which means that the City of Columbia, the City West Columbia and all the Development Corporations would have to sign the Agreement. We are asking Council for permission to have the City Manager sign the Memorandum of Agreement. He added that no match funding is required for any party to the Agreement.

Councilor Rickenmann stated that it would be great to be in collaboration. He asked what West Columbia needs to do to support this.

Mr. Fred Delk, Director of the Columbia Development Corporation stated that West Columbia would not provide a match to this; our consultants would prepare the application; and West Columbia has to adopt a Resolution and sign the Memorandum of Agreement.

Ms. Gail Rawls Jeter, Concurrent Technologies stated that West Columbia would be providing information about possible sites.

Councilor Finlay said that this has been a success and it has dramatically helped Brandon Acres Cedar Terrace. He would like for Council to get a copy of the Memorandum in draft form so they can have an understanding of what's going on. He asked that they make sure this collaboration with the Development Corporations is straight, clean and clear, because we always have legal issues. He feels positive about this; it helps us take sites that no one would touch otherwise.

Mr. Fred Delk, Director of the Columbia Development Corporation explained that this would define the duties of each department (the City of Columbia would be the manager and administrator) and the split of funds.

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to authorize acceptance and full implementation of the grant, if awarded and to authorize the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Agreement along with all coalition partners outlining the project and how the grant funds will be shared among the partners.

11. Security Camera Update – Mr. Charlie Hopkins, Managing Consultant / CH2M Hill, Inc.

Mr. Vincent Simonowicz, Director of Information Technology explained that they were charged back in December 2007 with developing a camera system for the City. They assembled a twenty-two (22) member team from various departments around the City's domain to determine the scope, guidelines, parameters and to set up recommendations for a reliable system. One of the objectives that we had to perform was to make this modular and scalable based on the known limitations that we have from the standpoint of research. The report is in two formats: the executive summary report and the larger report that CH2MHill provided. We drafted a general plan that is divided into three (3) phases. Phase one gave you the engineering concept of can it be done and how it can be done and that is complete along with an outline for a plan to go into the future. Phase two requires some assistance from the Council as it relates to the list of eleven (11) categories. The list includes congregational day & nightlife areas; parks and public areas not on main thoroughfares; public service areas; community areas; major corridors and traffic areas; public utility security areas; parking facilities; mobile and portable services for festivals; citizen funded business applications to tie into other areas through collaboration; private shopping districts; and higher education areas. They have contacted some of the service providers around the City and they know this can be done, but it's not in the scope of the projects that they laid out. The City currently manages seventy one (71) facilities that would be interconnected as hot points for any camera system that would be put into place. We have a deficiency in the infrastructure and that's one of the things that will cost the most. They also found that the City needs to develop policies and procedures on how to use the camera system. He suggested that another committee be composed to address the policies and procedures. The other question is how are we going to use the system, how are we going to monitor it. He added that maintenance cost 5% per year. He explained that there are thirty-nine (39) possible sites that could be considered as representatives of the areas you are trying to place cameras in and the Council needs to make a decision on which ones are priorities.

Councilor Finlay asked if it were possible for the City to tap into the cable network and bring the camera infrastructure in-house via our agreement with Time Warner Cable to significantly reduce the expense.

Mr. Vincent Simonowicz, Director of Information Technology stated that the committee contacted Time Warner Cable, Verizon Wireless and AT&T and we have information to help us determine what we can leverage off of in a cost effective manner once we determine the sites.

Councilor Finlay noted that he recently installed cameras at his business at a cost of \$5,000. He asked why a site would cost \$250,000. He questioned the feasibility of this project when you compare the overall cost at \$8.1 million with \$1.5 million per year for maintenance and new cameras. That is an enormous quantity of money for us right now.

Mr. Vincent Simonowicz, Director of Information Technology said that a business can install a cut break system, but there are additional costs associated with an enterprise system.

Councilor Finlay said that the difference is he can't tax people and he can't adjust the rates to make the camera system viable. He said that the City has to look at the costs and what we can afford. He asked the City Manager if there was \$1.5 million in the budget for ongoing cameras that's he's unaware of.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager replied no.

Councilor Finlay suggested that they think about how to do this without it being an enormous and perhaps unbearable burden.

Mr. Charlie Hopkins, Managing Consultant for CH2M Hill, Inc. stated that the report allows for a scalable approach. He agreed that the system is high end, but it's also very reliable. He said that the project evolved from a camera project to an infrastructure funding project. He noted that out of seventy one (71) city facilities, only 15% are connected to the city's network. The infrastructure costs that are represented in the report go beyond the camera system and will support other city services such as Public Works, Traffic Engineering, 911 Telecommunications and others. The thought process behind that is to treat the telecommunications infrastructure as a true infrastructure component like water, sewer and roadways.

Councilor Finlay stated that the City has a \$20 million unfunded Capital Improvements Program as it relates to basic sidewalks, etcetera. You said that you want us to treat this like our CIP, but instead I think you want us to move this to front of the line.

Mr. Charlie Hopkins, Managing Consultant / CH2M Hill, Inc. explained that he wasn't referring to the cameras as much as the telecommunications.

Mayor Coble asked what type of budget is needed for Phases two and three if we pick the sites and limit them because of cost. What is the price tag to get started on our program?

Mr. Charlie Hopkins, Managing Consultant / CH2M Hill, Inc. suggested that the City pick the sites where there are existing infrastructure components. There are downtown areas where fiber optic cables are in place.

Mayor Coble asked the consultant to assume that we have some cameras in neighborhoods and in common areas and that we want to get started with a program so that people can see how it works.

Mr. Vincent Simonowicz, Director of Information Technology stated that the Council needs to tell staff where they want to target and he can determine the price and preliminary design elements.

Councilor Davis said that he is nervous about the projected cost. He saw a very sophisticated camera system that isn't as expensive. Do we have the capability or relationships to tie into some of the fiber optic infrastructure that is already in place by Time Warner and others?

Mr. Vincent Simonowicz, Director of Information Technology said that this is a worse case scenario. Until we know which site you are talking about, we can't give you a cost. He said that they will also consider reusing existing cameras.

Councilor Davis said that technology and the economy are rapidly changing and we have to be careful about the kind of money we put out there on the front-end, because things become obsolete very quickly.

Councilor Finlay said that the Council would have to spend \$1 million every seven (7) years on new equipment.

Mr. Charlie Hopkins, Managing Consultant / CH2M Hill, Inc. said that the \$8 million is for infrastructure creation and that fiber optic cable lasts anywhere between thirty (30) to fifty (50) years.

Councilor Finlay said that the problem is we don't have enough money to do this, even if we want it, we can't afford it. This is only part of the solution. We also need to rotate our cars more frequently; we need better lock up cages in the cars; and we need money for starting police salaries.

Mayor Coble said that we need to come back with the priorities based on the money that is available. He asked if there's a minimal amount we need before we can have any cameras.

Mr. Charlie Hopkins, Managing Consultant / CH2M Hill, Inc. said that the first investment would be into the data center, because it is the collection point for all of the information.

Councilor Davis was told that there was some type of infrastructure at the Columbia Police Department. I am not hearing that we can tie into that new technology. If that is so obsolete that we have to start over then I don't see us having to do that again in six (6) to eight (8) years.

Councilor Rickenmann asked if any of this can be wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi).

Mr. Vincent Simonowicz, Director of Information Technology said that a lot of this will be wireless and all of the hot points will be where you are collecting your camera feeds.

Councilor Rickenmann asked the City Manager to have Mr. Simonowicz call Philadelphia, because they created a 501 (c) 3 and implemented Wi-Fi for the entire city at no cost to taxpayers. Find out how they set that up and what we can do to simulate that here. He believes this will solve a lot of infrastructure problems.

Mr. Charlie Hopkins, Managing Consultant / CH2M Hill, Inc. stated that there are bandwidth issues with Wi-Fi and real-time feed.

Councilor Finlay said that we also need to know the ongoing maintenance; when the cameras will become obsolete; and how much it will cost the Columbia Police Department to monitor them.

Mayor Coble said that they need to work in a cooperative manner to unanimously look at the issues. We can all agree that we need a surge in the number of Police Officers; we have to do things with customer service; and we need a security camera system. How do we fit all of that in? He recommended that they evaluate the newest technology and plans so that we are not arguing about systems.

Councilor Finlay said that we need a 3-5 year budget snapshot from the City Manager. What are the revenue and ongoing expenses for operations?

Councilor Rickenmann suggested that this be added to the agenda for the Budget Committee.

Mayor Coble suggested that the Council unanimously tell staff what our priorities are within the coming weeks. The City Council knows where the first sites should be and should work together on the four districts to prioritize those sites.

Councilor Finlay suggested that they let the Police Department and staff tell us where the cameras need to be otherwise we are hijacking public safety; that needs to come from staff.

Councilor Davis said that he is driving around tonight to look at lighting issues in a certain neighborhood. We know where the cameras need to be; City Council is capable of making recommendations of where the cameras should go. People want to see the cameras up some time soon and there is not going to be any one system that's going to solve the problem.

Councilor Rickenmann said that his biggest fear is that the sites will be a moving target.

Mayor Coble suggested that Council prioritize these sites over the next two (2) weeks; come back with our priorities; and then determine how much we want to spend on this.

Councilor Davis said that criminals are mobile and asked if the system is mobile.

Mr. Charlie Hopkins, Managing Consultant / CH2M Hill, Inc. said that the system is intended to be flexible and dynamic.

Councilor Rickenmann requested copies of the Information Technology (IT) assessment that was done a few years ago.

Mr. Vincent Simonowicz, Director of Information Technology said that it is his job to make sure we are not building anything that's obsolete. We do have a master plan for infrastructure redesign. He said that the infrastructure has to be there in order to communicate.

▪ **Mr. Cromartie arrived at 11:30 a.m.**

Councilor Davis requested a report on the existing infrastructure and where we are now in comparison to where we want to be.

Mr. Vincent Simonowicz, Director of Information Technology said that the \$8.1 million is to cover everything that is included in the report and it covers over a 100 square mile area representing 493 cameras. We will have the capability to expand our services once we upgrade the infrastructure.

Councilor Finlay stated that the Council will have to do some serious soul searching, because that is a big number.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager urged the Council not to turn the upcoming Work Session into a Public Hearing. He wants staff to hear the Council's priorities and directives.

Councilor Cromartie stated that the Colony Apartments have cameras on site. He asked if the City would be able to tie into their cameras, because they are willing to allow us to go into their system and see what's going on.

Mr. Charlie Hopkins, Managing Consultant / CH2M Hill, Inc. said absolutely; we can see them as long as we have a communications link to the site and if the camera was purchased within the last 8-10 years. He noted that the bandwidth of the link is a concern.

Councilor Devine urged her peers to focus on the big picture. We need to hear from law enforcement and 911 on how the cameras impact them. We need to build a system that we can expand in the future.

Mr. Charlie Hopkins, Managing Consultant / CH2M Hill, Inc. stated that the City needs to be able to build incrementally and they need to be able to make changes. He noted that the Phase two component establishes a set of standards.

Councilor Cromartie asked if the electrical infrastructure is being installed as they complete the North Main and Harden Street projects. He said that we need fiber optic and electrical components for cameras as we complete street improvements now.

Mayor Coble directed staff to get information on and evaluate the unity system that Mr. Davis saw on yesterday and the Wi-Fi system in Philadelphia.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager stated that he will meet with the Director of Information Technology and the consultant to look at those systems.

Councilor Davis asked if the Shot Spotter is a part of this. He asked if the system is being custom designed for the City of Columbia.

Mr. Charlie Hopkins, Managing Consultant / CH2M Hill, Inc. said that it can be linked to the system.

Councilor Rickenmann urged Mr. Davis to be careful with the use of the term “customize”, because the equipment quickly becomes obsolete and we end up paying the vendor for many years.

Councilor Cromartie asked if the system would come with all of the bells and whistles, such as being able to pan, swing, zoom and rotate.

Mr. Charlie Hopkins, Managing Consultant / CH2M Hill, Inc. said yes and added that the system would have night vision capabilities and high resolution recording.

There was a consensus of Council to schedule a Work Session discussion on Public Safety with Police Officers and cameras being the subjects of the discussion. This Work Session should be scheduled during October and the Council will prioritize the list of sites provided by staff.

**\*\*Miss Yasmeen L. Wingo** of Benedict College explained that they are completing service learning hours with the Save Our Kids Program. She reported that there are many children at Lorick Park, but few staff members and a lack of supervision. She said that the staff can be found within the recreation center while 25 children are outside; the equipment is old and damaged; there is not enough activities for the children or the young females; and there are no stop signs. She said that they are very concerned and would like to provide activities for the youth at Lorick Park.

Councilor Cromartie introduced himself as the District Council member for that area. He explained that the City of Columbia just installed speed humps out there. He commended the young adults from Benedict College for being concerned and said that he is willing to meet with the group and walk through the area together.

Councilor Rickenmann suggested that the group put a plan together and present it to all of Council.

Councilor Devine added that the Council would love to hear a proposal from the group. She asked them to get with Mr. Baker to see what areas we need to support.

- **Council recessed at 11:50 a.m.**
- **Council reconvened at 12:01 p.m.**

**\*\***Councilor Devine asked when we will be getting security for City Hall.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager said that we have a plan that is currently being reviewed to determine which parts we are able to implement.

Councilor Devine requested that the matter be placed on the next meeting agenda in light of the shooting in Chicago.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilor Finlay reminded the City Manger of his request to have the line items verified. He asked if they could confirm that funds are available for **Items 12.** through **19.**

Councilor Devine asked if the City is still responsible for repairs at 1225 Laurel Street.

Mr. Steve Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations explained that this is a pre-existing condition; we are doing some testing to determine what exactly has to be done; and we are going to take care of this, but after that it will be the responsibility of the client.

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 12.** through **28.** and **30.** through **E.** on a single motion and as presented. The consideration of **Item 29.** has been deferred.

### **CONSIDERATION OF BIDS, AGREEMENTS and CHANGE ORDERS**

12. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Mold Remediation Services at 1225 Laurel Street, as requested by the Support Services Division. Award to Mold Solutions, Inc., as the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$12,100.00. This firm is located in Lexington, SC. *Funding Source: 5511219-638500 – Approved*
13. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Alcohol Resistant - Aqueous Fire Fighting Foam (AR-AFFF) for fiscal year 2008-2009, as requested by the Columbia Fire Department. Award to Wally's Fire and Safety Equipment as the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$12,904.20. This vendor is located in Mullins, SC. *Funding Source: 1012303-624800 - Approved*
14. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of MSA Supplies, as requested by the Columbia Fire Department. Award to Newton's Fire & Safety, as the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$13,161.00. This vendor is located in Swepsonville, NC. *Funding Source: 1012303-631800 and 2082306-631800 / \$6,580.50 each - Approved*
15. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of a Topcon GR-3 Virtual Reference Station Rover, as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Hayes Instruments, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$33,442.85. This vendor is located in Shelby, TN. *Funding Source: 5534201-625900 – Approved*
16. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Water Distribution Repair Materials, as requested by the Water Distribution Division. Award to HD Supply Waterworks, the lowest bidder in the amount of \$35,132.03. This vendor is located in West Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 5516203-625700 - Approved*

17. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Two (2) Ford F-250's, as requested by the Wastewater Maintenance Division. Award to Vic Bailey Ford, Inc., using the SC State Contract, in the amount of \$45,735.00. This vendor is located in Spartanburg, SC. Funding Source: 5516205-658500 – *Please note that these are work trucks that will carry supplies and or pull trailers with equipment. They will be as fuel efficient as we can get for this type of use. - Approved*
18. Council is asked to approve Project SS7074; the Purchase and Installation of Replacement Air Release Valves for Sanitary Sewer Force Mains System Wide, as requested by Engineering Administration. The total estimated annual material cost is approximately \$100,000.00 and installation will be completed by City Forces. - *Approved*
19. Council is asked to approve an Addendum to the Original Scope of Work for CIP Project SS7044; the Rehabilitation of Two (2) Grit Chambers and Associated Parts, as requested by the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to WSG Solutions in the amount of \$129,710.40. This firm is located in Montgomeryville, PA. *Funding Source: 5529999-SS704401-851200 Sewer Improvement Fund - Approved*
20. Council is asked to approve Project SR8045; Atlas Road Sidewalk, as requested by the Department of Utilities and Engineering. Award to C.B.D., Inc. the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$262,225.00. This firm is located in Eastover, SC. *Funding Source: SR804501-656200 – The CIP budgeted amount was \$272,570.00. - Approved*
21. Council is asked to approve Project WM4169; 16" Water Main along Taylor Street and Wayne Street to Main Street and 8" Water Main along Hampton Street and Lincoln Street to Park Street, as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to D.S. Utilities as the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$664,245.85. This firm is located in Little Mountain, SC. *Funding Source: WM416901-851500 – The CIP budgeted amount for this project is \$777,090.00. - Approved*
22. Council is asked to approve Project WM3805; Shandon Fire Protection and Water Upgrade, as requested by the Department of Utilities and Engineering. Award to Trussell Brothers Construction, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$1,288,290.20. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: WM380501-851500 – The CIP budgeted amount is \$1,265,203.00. - Approved*

#### ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

23. Ordinance No.: 2008-053 – Authorizing City Manager to execute a First Amendment to Lease with Branch Banking and Trust Company (BB&T) for 3905 Ensor Avenue (Lutheran Survey Building) – *This item was given first reading approval on September 17, 2008. – Approved on second reading.*
24. Ordinance No.: 2008-081 – Granting an encroachment to Stuart Massey and Mary Massey for installation and maintenance of landscaping within the right of way area of Queen Street and Blossom Street adjacent to 2430 Blossom Street – *This item was given first reading approval on September 17, 2008. – Approved on second reading.*

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – SECOND READING

25. **The Columbia Plan 2018**

Ordinance No.: 2008-085 – Adopting the City of Columbia Comprehensive Plan 2018 – *This item was given first reading approval on September 17, 2008. – Approved on second reading, provided the natural resources element of the plan is amended to (1) provide an inventory of water quality within the City with reference to the DHEC list of impaired waters and any other easily available basin and water quality studies for the City and (2) commit to the legal requirement making all water bodies swimmable and fishable.*

CONFIRM ZONING OF PREVIOUSLY ANNEXED PROPERTIES – SECOND READING

26. **1.5 Acres, SW/S Spears Creek Church Road**, TMS# 28802-01-02; confirm M-1 zoning. – *This item was given first reading approval on September 17, 2008. – Approved on second reading.*
27. **131 Pontiac Business Park**, TMS 25715-02-01; confirm M-1 zoning. – *This item was given first reading approval on September 17, 2008. – Approved on second reading.*
28. **Blaine Street**, TMS 16305-04-01; confirm RS-2 zoning. – *This item was given first reading approval on September 17, 2008. – Approved on second reading.*
29. **101 Powell Road (Midlands Technical College)**, TMS #14500-02-24: confirm C-1 zoning. – *This item was given first reading approval on September 17, 2008. – Second reading consideration was deferred.*

Councilor Rickenmann asked why **Item 29.** was withdrawn.

Mr. Marc Mylott, Director of Planning and Development Services stated that the item has not been withdrawn; they were carrying it over to allow staff and the City Manager to meet with Ms. Susanne Cecere of 8412 Wilson Boulevard.

Councilor Rickenmann asked if there is a date for that meeting.

Mr. Marc Mylott, Director of Planning and Development Services said that the meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2008 at 2:30 p.m.

MAJOR AMENDMENT TO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT – SECOND READING

30. **Harbison Development**, Amend Planned Unit Development requirements concerning the following uses: drive-through facilities, body piercing and tattoo parlors, used merchandise, wireless communication facilities, and non-depository personal credit institutions, the property is zoned PUD-LS and PUD-C. – *This item was given first reading approval on September 17, 2008. – Approved on second reading.*

## TEXT AMENDMENTS – SECOND READING

31. **Amend Chapter 17, Article III, Division 8, §17-258 Table of Permitted Uses** to create new text and to amend text of Zoning Ordinance concerning municipal active and passive recreation uses.

Ordinance No: 2008-069 – Amending the 1998 Code Of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 17, Planning, Land Development and Zoning, Article III, Zoning, Division 7, General Regulations, is amended to add Sec. 17-289, Active recreation and Sec. 17-258, Table of permitted uses, SIC 795, Civic sports and recreation – *This item was given first reading approval on September 17, 2008. – Approved on second reading.*

- A. **Amend Chapter 17, Article III, Division 8, §17-258 Table of Permitted Uses** to add Police protection to use code 9224 Fire protection of Zoning Ordinance.

Ordinance No.: 2008-066 – Amending 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 17, Planning, Land Development and Zoning, Article III, Zoning, Sec. 17-258, Table of permitted uses, SIC 9224 Fire protection – *This item was given first reading approval on September 17, 2008. – Approved on second reading.*

## MAP AMENDMENTS (REZONINGS) – SECOND READING

- B. **Atlas Road**, TMS# 16311-02-05, rezone from PUD-R (Residential Planned Unit Development) to C-1 (Office and Institutional). – *This item was given first reading approval on September 17, 2008. – Approved on second reading.*
- C. **Next to 1205 House Street**, TMS# 11411-19-12, rezone from PUD-R to RG-2. – *This item was given first reading approval on September 17, 2008. – Approved on second reading.*
- D. **700 Saluda Avenue**, TMS# 11308-08-02, -03, -08, -09; rezone from PUD-C to MX-1, -5P. – *This item was given first reading approval on September 17, 2008. – Approved on second reading.*
- E. **411 Senate Street**, TMS# 08912-11-02, -04; rezone from M-1, –DD and M-2, -DD to PUD-C, -DD. – *This item was given first reading approval on September 17, 2008. – Approved on second reading, subject to 1) Conformance with Descriptive Statement revised in accordance with Zoning Division revisions dated July 28, 2008; 2) Reducing encroachment into right-of-way so that curb is aligned with adjacent development. Break-up front retaining wall into stepped terrace to decrease height along sidewalk. Re-work roof on active space in garage to be more substantial and allow for tenant signage; 3) Approval of tree species in right-of-way by Forestry and Beautification prior to planting, 8-0 (08/04/08).*

## CONSIDERATION OF BIDS, AGREEMENTS and CHANGE ORDERS

Councilor Finlay asked if they could hold these contracts and schedule a briefing on how it all works. After discussions about BRAC, he would like to understand what our comprehensive lobbying plan is. He said it would be nice to see the pieces that everybody is responsible for and what we expect.

Mr. Charles Austin, Sr., City Manager stated that Ms. Florence is out of town today, but he can put it on another agenda.

Councilor Devine stated that the lobbyists are requesting a Work Session with them to talk about priorities. She requested that the City of Columbia host a breakfast or lunch for our legislative delegation. She suggested that they have a discussion on annexations with the lobbyists to fully understand the Donut Hole Legislation.

Councilor Cromartie stated that it is his understanding that they were able to approve the joint venture between the minority and the majority contractors as it relates to the mentoring program. He asked staff to identify the Mentor-Protégé projects on today's agenda.

Mr. Tony Lawton, Director of Community Development stated that **Items 21.** and **22.** are under the Mentor-Protégé Program.

Councilor Cromartie said that from Council's perspective, it is a momentous occasion for that to occur. He said that he was on the Council 20 years ago when they first tried to do this. He commended the Council for their support of the Mentor-Protégé Program.

- F. Council is asked to approve a Professional Services Contract for Lobbying Services, as requested by the Office of Governmental Affairs and Community Relations. Award to McLeod Butler Communications, LLC in the monthly amount of \$2,475.08 for a total amount of \$29,700.96. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 011103-638300 Administration-City Manager-Special Projects – Consideration of this item was deferred.*
- G. Council is asked to approve a Professional Services Contract for Lobbying Services, as requested by the Office of Governmental Affairs and Community Relations. Award to The Grant Group in the monthly amount of \$2,475.08 for a total annual amount of \$29,700.96. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 011103-638300 Administration-City Manager-Special Projects – Consideration of this item was deferred.*
- H. Council is asked to approve a Professional Services Contract for Lobbying Services, as requested by the Office of Governmental Affairs and Community Relations. Award to State Capitol Group, LLC in the monthly amount of \$4,950.16 for a total annual amount of \$59,401.92. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 011103-638300 Administration-City Manager-Special Projects – Consideration of this item was deferred.*
- I. Council is asked to approve a Professional Services Contract for Lobbying Services, as requested by the Office of Governmental Affairs and Community Relations. Award to Barbara T. McCall, Inc. in the annual amount of \$64,000. plus reimbursable expenses not to exceed \$5,000.00. This firm is located in Washington, DC. *Funding Source: 011103-638300 Administration-City Manager-Special Projects – Consideration of this item was deferred.*
- J. Council is asked to approve the Use of Professional Recruitment Firms for the Search of a Chief Financial Officer, as requested by Administration. The following firms have agreed to a rate of up to 25% of the starting annual salary, upon successful placement of a candidate from the respective firm. The fee is not to exceed \$32,000.00. *Funding Source: Finance Department Budget – 1011402 – This item was discussed in Executive Session on September 17, 2008. - Approved*
- MBI Financial Staffing Inc. is a national firm with an office in Columbia, SC
  - Robert Half International, Inc. is a national firm with an office in Columbia, SC
  - John Shell and Associates is a local firm in Columbia, SC

Councilor Finlay stated that if the Chief Financial Officer does not work out, the contract calls for a replacement; we are protected on that.

Upon motion by Ms. Devine, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the Use of Professional Recruitment Firms for the Search of a Chief Financial Officer, as requested by Administration. The following firms have agreed to a rate of up to 25% of the starting annual salary, upon successful placement of a candidate from the respective firm. The fee is not to exceed \$32,000.00.

- K. Council is asked to approve an Agreement for the Management of the Columbia Canal Rehabilitation Project; CIP WM4167, as requested by Engineering Operations. Award to SCE&G in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 2008/2009 Capital Improvements Program Budget - This item was removed from the September 3, 2008 agenda and discussed in Executive Session. This item was withdrawn from the September 17, 2008 agenda. – Approved*

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager explained that time is of the essence and this needs to move forward.

Councilor Finlay hasn't received the report that he asked for twice, but he understands that the matter is time sensitive. He requested a review of where we are with SCE&G and the Hydroelectric plant. He asked that this be a priority.

Mr. Steve Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations stated the Hydroelectric plant and the Canal are within the permitted area. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission conducts an annual review of all FERC permitted facilities within the United States and prior to the review of the Canal we were rated as a low hazard, which meant that everything was pretty much safe at the Canal. After the review, they are moving toward changing our designation to a significant hazard, which means that the potential of breaches in the Canal could cause us to lose all of the water from the Canal and leave residents without water service.

Councilor Rickenmann stated that he has set up a meeting to discuss the Hydroelectric plant in totality.

Councilor Davis asked if anyone knows specifically where the breaches are.

Mr. Steve Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations explained that there are breaches on the river side of the Canal and water is leaking through that embankment.

Councilor Davis asked if that was in writing and if so he would like to see a copy of it.

Mr. Steve Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations said yes we have documentation.

Councilor Finlay asked if the money was budgeted.

Mr. Steve Gantt, Interim City Manager said he doesn't believe it was, but it will come out of the water sewer contingency funds.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve an Agreement for the Management of the Columbia Canal Rehabilitation Project; CIP WM4167, as requested by Engineering Operations. Award to SCE&G in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC.

- L. Council is asked to approve an Indefinite Delivery Contract for Architectural and Engineering Services for Various Parking Garages, as requested by Parking Services. Award to LS3P Associates LTD. This is a no cost contract and requests to expend funding in excess of \$9,999.99 will be presented to Council as the tasks are developed. *Funding Source: 2005 Bond Issue – Capital Improvement Program – Approved for a period of two (2) years.*

Mayor Coble asked if these are the two (2) downtown garages.

Mr. Steve Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations stated that it was for all the parking garages. They did an RFQ; interviewed design and architectural firms; and made a selection. They are under contract with us for a two (2) year period.

Mayor Coble stated that we are working with those who are representing the Palmetto Center and they will obviously need more parking than is currently available.

Mr. Steve Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations said that the RFP is on the streets and they will be doing interviews to bring back recommendations on a design firm.

Councilor Cromartie asked how much money we are talking about.

Mr. Steve Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations said that it is set up on an hourly basis; they give us a cost for each person working on the project and if it's more than \$10,000 we will bring it back to Council for approval.

Councilor Cromartie asked if we have any minority vendors involved in this.

Mr. Steve Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations stated that he would have to check.

Councilor Devine asked Mr. Gantt to identify the locations for the downtown garages.

Mr. Steve Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations hesitated to disclose that information in public since the information is still being evaluated.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to approve an Indefinite Delivery Contract for Architectural and Engineering Services for Various Parking Garages, as requested by Parking Services. Award to LS3P Associates LTD. This is a no cost contract and requests to expend funding in excess of \$9,999.99 will be presented to Council as the tasks are developed.

### **ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to **Items M., N. and O.** on a single motion.

M. Ordinance No.: 2008-077 – Granting an encroachment to Gretchen Roepke for installation and maintenance of landscaping within the right of way area adjacent to her property at 1500 Holmes Avenue – *Approved on first reading.*

N. Ordinance No.: 2008-078 – Granting an encroachment to Henry Bracey for installation and maintenance of landscaping and a walkway within the right of way area adjacent to 5012 Colonial Drive – *Approved on first reading.*

- O. Ordinance No.: 2008-079 – Granting an encroachment to First Calvary Baptist Church for installation and maintenance of steps within the right of way area adjacent to 1401 Pine Street – *Approved on first reading.*
- P. Ordinance No.: 2008-086 – Granting encroachment to 1523 Huger Street Partners, LLC for installation and maintenance of landscaping and an irrigation system within the right of way of Taylor Street adjacent to its property at 1523 Huger Street – *This item was withdrawn from the agenda.*
- Q. Ordinance No.: 2008-087 – Granting an encroachment to Preston Green Homeowner’s Association, LLC for installation and maintenance of front walks within the rights of way areas of Preston Green Drive, Preston Green Court, Addleston Court, Charnock Way, Brooksby Court, Castile Cary Court and Chesman Court – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2008-087 – Granting an encroachment to Preston Green Homeowner’s Association, LLC for installation and maintenance of front walks within the rights of way areas of Preston Green Drive, Preston Green Court, Addleston Court, Charnock Way, Brooksby Court, Castile Cary Court and Chesman Court.

- R. Ordinance No.: 2008-089 – Granting an Easement to South Carolina Electric and Gas Company (SCE&G) for the installation of utilities along a portion of City property for the Rimer Pond Road Water Tank; Richland County TMS# 15100-07-13 (portion); CF# 250-262 – *Approved on first reading. This item was discussed in Executive Session.*

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2008-089 – Granting an Easement to South Carolina Electric and Gas Company (SCE&G) for the installation of utilities along a portion of City property for the Rimer Pond Road Water Tank; Richland County TMS# 15100-07-13 (portion); CF# 250-262.

- R1. **\*\*Ordinance No.: 2008-074 – Amending Ordinance 2006-042 to Adopt the Budget for The City of Columbia, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year ending June 30,2007 – *Approved on first reading with the caveat that an in-depth discussion is scheduled for October 8, 2008.***

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2008-074 – Amending Ordinance 2006-042 to Adopt the Budget for the City of Columbia, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2007.

### **ORDINANCES – SECOND READING**

- S. Ordinance No.: 2006-067 – Amending 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 22, Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article III, Obstructions, to add Division 1, Generally, and Division 2, Publication Dispensing Devices in Downtown Business Improvement District

Mayor Coble suggested that they defer second reading consideration today and schedule a Public Hearing on November 5, 2008. He noted that in other communities, such as Charleston there is one rack for publications. This Ordinance may not be the perfect one, but it certainly will address the matter of publications being in the street.

Councilor Gergel requested that we provide the pictures from today and photos of the news racks in Charleston during the Public Hearing.

Councilor Cromartie requested photos of unified news racks being used by other cities.

Councilor Rickenmann requested that recycling bins be placed near all news racks so that publications are not thrown on the ground.

There was a consensus of Council to schedule a Public Hearing for Ordinance No.: 2006-067 – Amending 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 22, Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article III, Obstructions, to add Division 1, Generally, and Division 2, Publication Dispensing Devices in Downtown Business Improvement District on November 5, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, 1737 Main Street.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items T.** and **U.** on a single motion.

- T. Resolution No.: R-2008-048 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine at Columbia's Annual Blues Festival in Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park - *Approved*
- U. Resolution No.: R-2008-049 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine and Group Therapy's Annual Chili Cookoff - *Approved*

## **REPORTS AND UPDATES**

U1. City Manager's Report – Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager reported that we are operating with a short supply of fuel; we have enough fuel to last for ten (10) days. The plan that we have in place calls for limiting unnecessary trips; driving at reduced speeds; and checking the weight on our trucks to ensure that we are carrying as light of a load as possible. We will continue to evaluate the fuel availability. The plan also calls for emergency and essential vehicles to have first priority for fueling purposes and the others are permitted to refuel on an as needed basis. To date, we have not had to adjust any department's budget, but we are continuing to monitor them so that as prices fluctuate we can make the necessary adjustments. Mr. Knoche has completed the vehicle replacement policy and we've made some changes so that we would be in compliance with the Climate Protection Action Plan, which means we will purchase hybrids as it is feasible to do that and we will purchase alternative fuel sources as that might be appropriate. We have received quotes to replace the microphones and we set October 29, 2008 as the timeline for that change to occur. We have received the bronze level award for being designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community and the Council will receive an update when Ms. Gerry Lynn Hall returns to work.

Councilor Cromartie requested that Ms. Hall also provide an update on Carver Lyon Elementary School's application for a Safe Routes to School grant.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager continued with an introduction of Ms. Ivy Chestnut as the Homeless Program Coordinator and Ms. Myra Brown, Winter Shelter Operations Manager. He discussed quality of life concerns such as crime, safety, homelessness and leisure services, which have all been the topic of recent conversations. There is a collaborative effort underway between Homeless Services, Homeland Security, the Police Department and Parks and Recreation to develop a comprehensive plan to provide client services; to ensure compliance with Shelter rules; to provide transportation services to and from shelters; and access to other services. He said that Ms. Chestnut will be working with service providers to ensure accessibility to employment services, medical care and other services as needed. Mr. Baker is currently reviewing the range of services offered throughout Parks and Recreation with an eye toward making program adjustments as it relates to leisure services. We continue our on-going

dialogue with Richland County officials as we talk about the suitable locations for prisoner drop-offs. That has been a very serious concern for all of us and we recognize that we need to find a place that reduces the perception of threat to the public safety of our citizens. We will come back with a more definitive proposal, but in the meantime we will continue to monitor those locations being used. There has been recent information on gang related activity in the Five Points area and about the reduction of manpower in the Five Points area. The Police Department reported that we are still working to determine the validity of those reports. We have a team of eight (8) Officers who are working in the Five Points area and when there is a USC football game, that number rises to fourteen (14) Officers. They are working diligently to monitor activities in that area. We have a Resolution on the agenda to designate a hospitality zone. We have already defined the boundaries for the downtown and Vista areas, but we would like to request that we establish Hospitality Zones A for downtown and the Vista areas and Hospitality Zone B for Five Points and Devine Street. I would also like to take some time and further define those boundaries, because we need to ensure that we cover Blossom Street. I respectfully ask that you give us the opportunity to establish the boundaries for Hospitality Zone B. Finally, as we have received a number of concerns about constituent services, particularly customer service and follow-up, we are working to bring our 311 Customer Service Representatives into the mix so they can assist with receiving and following up on complaints. A case jacket will be opened until the task has been completed. Chief Carter is in the process of implementing customer service training in the Police Department's Basic Candidates School as part of the recertification process.

Councilor Devine suggested that someone go into the departments and see how staff handles questions, complaints and how they respond to citizens. Councilor Devine also suggested that we start with upper level management to ensure that they are conveying to staff that our citizens are our customers.

Councilor Gergel stated that there are serious safety issues in Five Points at night. She asked to meet with members of the Five Points community to talk about how we are handling patrols and safety issues.

Councilor Finlay stated that the City has crime issues and we need to be part of the solution. He is in favor of the downtown, Vista and Five Points Hospitality Tax Plan. Councilor Finlay suggested at the next council meeting that we have a defined plan. What will the implications be on the budget in the future and how quickly can the Chief of Police move to hire new Officers?

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager said that there are a couple of agencies in the area that might have a waiting list and are willing to share the excess applications they have in their pool of applicants that can interview with us. Mr. Austin also stated that we will have to become more assertive in our recruitment process.

Councilor Rickenmann stated that there is a perception that we have a lot of sworn officers that are doing administrative duties that can be done by non-sworn officers or other personnel. He would like to get a report on that.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager stated that everybody that puts on a uniform and is a sworn Police Officer is available to be put on the streets.

Councilor Cromartie said that the shootings continue in the Colony Apartments. As the economy gets worse, crime is going to go up.

Councilor Davis said that he is disappointed with the perception in the paper about the providing some response to the City Center area. The people on the northern side of the City are saying that the decision was made to provide additional police protection for that section of town while they have been asking; we need to correct that.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager said that the idea of using the Hospitality Tax money represented a creative way to address the concerns in the Hospitality Zones and also free-up Officers who were already committed to that area. It would allow the Chief some flexibility to move some additional people into the neighborhoods as well as our recruiting efforts to bring on the fourteen (14) other positions where several of them were allocated for next FY budget and we have since moved them into this FY budget so that we are now looking to hire twenty (20) new officers versus the initial seven (7).

Councilor Devine stated that she is in favor of utilizing the Hospitality tax to place officers in those areas but she is concern about giving false impressions to citizens that we are about to add new officers when we know we have vacancies.

Mr. Charles Austin, City Manager stated that we are going to utilize a program we have that offers incentive to officers already in the department where they would help recruit others.

Councilor Finlay said that as we bring new officers on there are going to be equipment issues that we need to get in the budget, and he would like to see how the retention money is going to be spent because we don't seem to be good at retaining midlevel and entry level positions.

Councilor Cromartie stated that on Beltline Boulevard the streets lights have been shot out and the streets are very dark. We need to make sure that the lights are on.

Councilor Gergel stated that from her understanding we are creating two new hospitality districts which will free up officers for deployment in other areas and we are looking at hiring twenty (20) new officers. We are looking at certified officers and at opportunities to collaborate with other law enforcement agencies in this community and we are looking at how we respond to complaints and concerns and looking at strengthening that through a 311 system. Councilor Gergel asked that we do everything we can with our Public Information system immediately to get information out on protecting property, elements of neighborhood safety, and look at using Channel 2 and other venues that we have.

Councilor Finlay stated that he was under the impression that the Hospitality tax money was going to be used to create addition positions for those areas but now he understands that H tax will be use to fund existing level of officers in those areas and also the Hospitality tax money will be used to deploy officers in other parts of the city.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager stated that those funds will be used for new positions but keep in mind that each report position they have takes about 4.5 police officers so they are new positions.

Councilor Davis stated that the city doesn't get reports back to the victims of a crime quickly and people have been told that they have to come downtown to get a report.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager stated yes that is the policy.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

U2. \*\*Resolution No.: R-2008-055 – Designation of a Hospitality Zone - *Approved*

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2008-055 – Designation of a Hospitality Zone.

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

Mr. Pat MacFarland, Vice President of Circulation / The State Newspaper and Mr. Eric Hancock, Publisher for the Free Times reported that they came to the City Council Meeting in August 2007 where the Council asked the City Manager to put together a group of community folks to talk to publishers about the Ordinance, but we never came to any resolution. The Ordinance is very restrictive and there was not much give and take.

Councilor Devine asked if the system in Charleston would work for them.

Councilor Finlay said that they are worried about how the system distributes papers not about how it looks.

Mayor Coble said that we have to come up with something that doesn't look this way; there are issues. If you can come up with something that meets our objective of having it look better then we will consider that. The goal is for you to sell as many papers in the world, but you have to come up with something we can all live with.

Mr. Pat MacFarland Vice President of Circulation / The State Newspaper stated that they sent letters to the City of Columbia and the City Center Partnership with their suggestions, but we did not hear back from anyone.

Mayor Coble asked that they resend the proposal.

Councilor Cromartie said that all parties should sit down and come up with a collective proposal.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager asked Marc Mylott as the Director of Planning and Development Services to serve as the liaison with the publishers.

Mayor Coble added Matt Kennell to the process as the Director of the City Center Partnership.

Councilor Rickenmann said that there is a mix of mediums and we have to decide what we are going to work with. There needs to be some parameters. The current look is unacceptable.

Mayor Coble asked if they could do a system like they have in Charleston, South Carolina where we don't restrict anything.

Ms. Mamie Jackson stated that the repetition on the same things is questionable. She wanted to voice her displeasure with the City spending \$45,000 on a junket to Miami, Florida. She visits with residents in Bethel Bishop and realized that the City closed Lester Drive at Bailey Street and she requested that the City reopen that street so that they don't have to endanger their lives while traveling through the Colony Apartments. You should not have to travel through the Colony Apartments to get to Bethel Bishop Apartments. She said that the City would be liable if anyone were injured. Also, she would like to know from all members of City Council since they have been on Council, what trips they have taken, how much the trips cost and who paid for it. Her mailing address is Post Office Box 30324, Columbia, South Carolina 29230.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 1:40 p.m. for the discussion of **Items V.** through **Y.** as amended.

- V. Discussion regarding development of security devices  
*This item was not discussed in Executive Session.*
  - W. Receipt of legal advice which relates to matters covered by attorney-client privilege  
*This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
  - X. Discussion of employment of employee  
*This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
  - Y. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements  
*This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
- **Council adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley  
City Clerk