



CITY OF COLUMBIA
 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2009
 9:00 A.M.
 CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
 1737 MAIN STREET

The Columbia City Council conducted a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2009 in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. The following members of Council were present: The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II, The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III and The Honorable Belinda F. Gergel. The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine was absent. Also present were Mr. Steven A. Gantt, Interim City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Community Promotions Monthly Funding Recommendations for March 2009 –The Honorable Judge Mildred McDuffie, Chair of the Community Promotions Advisory Committee

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Dr. Gergel Council voted unanimously to approve the committee’s recommendation to deny funding as requested by three (3) organizations. (*Please see chart below.*)

Community Promotions Monthly Funding 2008-2009

Organization	Project Name	Request	Amount Funded
March			
City Center Partnership *Eligible for Hospitality funding	Urban Tour	13,850	0
Greenview Dolphins Swim Team *No funding for locally held school events	Black Heritage Swim Meet	12,847	0
SCALE, Inc. *Duplication and not enough funds available in Community Promotions	Education Enhancement	5,000 (a month)	0

2. Employee Benefits (Active and Retiree) – Mr. Jacques Gilliam, Human Resources Director

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the following healthcare benefit plan changes for active employees as outlined below. A Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at City Hall at 5:00 p.m. to discuss changes in retiree benefits. Individuals with special circumstances can schedule appointments between 9 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on this date through Mr. Jacques Gilliam, Director of Human Resources.

- Employees will pay a portion of the cost for single coverage
- The deductible is higher under option A (\$500) and option B (\$250)
- Coinsurance Maximum will increase from \$800/1600 to \$2,000/4,000 for option A and \$800/\$1,600 to \$1,000/\$2,000 in option B
- The lifetime maximum will increase from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000
- In-patient \$150 co-pay, then 95% has decrease to 80% option A and 90% option B

- The office visit co-pay will increase from \$15 to \$20/\$30 for option A to \$15/\$25 for option B
- The percentage paid after the deductible will decrease from 95% to 80% in option A and 95 to 90% in option B
- Emergency Room co-pay increase from \$50 (95%) to \$150.00 (80%) for option A and from \$50 to \$150 (90%) for option B
- Prescription for option A and B \$5/\$25/\$40 (Retail)
- Mail Order for option A and B \$12.50/\$62.50/100

PRESENTATIONS

3. Introduction of the April 2009 Employee of the Month (Mr. Joseph Martin, Automotive Technician III) – Mr. Edgar Heustess, Superintendent of Fleet Services

Mr. David Knoche, Director of General Services introduced Mr. Joseph Martin, Automotive Technician III as the April 2009 Employee of the Month.

Mayor Coble presented Mr. Martin with a plaque and Mr. Steven A. Gantt, Interim City Manager presented Mr. Martin with a token of appreciation for being selected as the April 2009 Employee of the Month.

4. 2nd Quarter 2009 Business Spotlight Program Honoree (J. Thomas Salon and Color Studio) – Mr. Ryan Coleman, Small Business Liaison

Mr. Ryan Coleman, Small Business Liaison introduced the J. Thomas Salon and Color Studio as the Second Quarter 2009 Business Spotlight Program Honoree.

5. City Census Day Proclamation – Ms. Doris Green, Census Bureau Coordinator

Ms. Doris Green, Census Bureau Coordinator briefed the Council on the need to educate our citizens on the importance of reporting for Census 2010.

The members of City Council presented a proclamation declaring April 1, 2009 as City Census Day in the City of Columbia.

6. National Fair Housing Month Proclamation – Ms. Deborah Livingston, Deputy Director of Community Development

The members of Council presented a proclamation to Mr. Preston Winkler, Executive Director of the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council declaring April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Columbia.

7. Introduction of Green Business Members – Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator

Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator introduced the following businesses as new Green Business Members:

Argand Energy
Brighter Solutions
CDA Architects
Colonial Life Arena
EDS
Free Times
Girl Scouts of South Carolina
Harriet Hancock

Hughes Contracting
Jabber & Isaac, P.A.
Lucero and Watkins
Maintenance Engineering
Mid-Carolina Steel
Ranger Graphix
SC Methodist Advocate

Safety-Kleen of SC
Sloan Construction
Sowell Gray Law Firm
Tomato Palms
Quackenbush Architects
Watersmart of SC
Wilson-Kibler

8. March of Dimes Walk America Fundraiser Event – Ms. LaRonda S. Scott, Executive Director for the March of Dimes, Midlands Division

Ms. LaRonda S. Scott, Executive Director for the March of Dimes, Midlands Division invited everyone to join the City of Columbia team in the March of Dimes Walk America Fundraiser Event on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at the State Fairgrounds. Please note that registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the walk begins at 9:00 a.m.

9. North Main Bark Park Proposal – Ms. Rebecca Spratlin, NOMA Bark Park Committee Chair

Mr. Fred Monk asked the members of Council to consider accepting the concept of a dog park in North Columbia. He reported that for some time now a grassroots dog park has formed at the entrance of Earlewood Park. He noted that the ball field is not an appropriate place for the dog park. He suggested the development of a specialized park in the existing green space between River Drive and Anthony Avenue. This idea was presented to the surrounding neighborhoods to include the Downtown Coalition and they all responded favorably.

Ms. Rebecca Spratlin, NOMA Bark Park Committee Chair reported that they have 300 names on a petition in support of this proposal. We have potential bacteria problems in our bodies of water and we can move the dogs further away from the streams to better handle the fecal waste and we can educate dog owners on how to better dispose of pet waste. She asked the Council to give Parks and Recreation the allowance to start the planning process.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Community and Neighborhood Services reported that staff is to develop a proposal to bring back to Council that will address concerns that have been raised and the specific layout and location. It's 11 acres of property on that side; there is some flexibility. We have a very successful doggie park on Shop Road next to Animal Services, but we haven't worked out the details on how to run this one. There are liability issues and we need to mirror the operating procedures that are already in place. We haven't had any reported incidents at our existing park that has been in place for 5-6 years. I am pleased with how the committee worked independently and with staff.

Upon motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to authorize the Parks and Recreation Department to develop a proposal for the concept of a 2-acre dog park at the site located between North Main Street and River Drive. This proposal will be considered by Council at a later date.

- **Council recessed at 10:37 a.m.**
- **Council reconvened at 10:43 a.m.**

10. Project Unity USA – Mr. Bruce A. Trezevant, Founder of Project Unity USA

Mr. Bruce A. Trezevant, Founder of Project Unity USA presented the County Wide Surveillance System to the members of Council.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to direct staff to coordinate with regional partners to determine if funding is available through the stimulus application that is being prepared by the Columbia Police Department or other resources.

PUBLIC HEARING

11. 2009 / 2010 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Department – Mr. Tony Lawton, Director of Community Development

Mr. Tony Lawton, Director of Community Development presented the 2009/2010 Action Plan for the Community Development Department. A second public hearing is scheduled for May 6, 2009 at City Hall.

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

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to the 2009/2010 Action Plan.

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

NOTICE TO CITY COUNCIL OF HOME FOR HANDICAP PERSONS

12. In accordance with §6-29-770 (E) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, United Cerebral Palsy of South Carolina, Inc. sends notice of its intent to occupy 1672 Shady Lane with four persons.

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to object to the selected site at 1672 Shady Lane and to appoint Mr. Michael Quinn, Jr. as a representative for the City of Columbia in this matter. This is being done to allow for additional time to notify and receive input from the residents. Mr. Davis abstained from discussing and voting on this matter due to a conflict of interest.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS, AGREEMENTS and CHANGE ORDERS

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items 13.** through **19.** with a single motion.

13. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Watch Guard In-Car Video Systems and Accessories, as requested by the Police Department. Award to Watch Guard, as a Sole Source in the amount of \$10,557.58. This vendor is located in Plano, TX. *Funding Source: 2659999-6574000; Enhance Traffic Safety 2H09012 US Justice Grant 9210006003-6574000 - Approved*
14. Council is asked to approve Change Order #2 for SS7071; Sanitary Sewer Repairs at the Intersection of Blanding Street and Barnwell Street. Award to Trussell Brothers Construction, in the amount of \$12,701.20. This vendor is located in Columbia SC. *Funding Source: Sewer Improvement Fund SS707101851600 – This change order is necessary to compensate the contractor for additional work required to complete the repairs necessary at this location. - Approved*
15. Council is asked to approve Project #SS6823; Replacement of an 8” Sanitary Sewer Line at Ashridge Court, as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Shady Grove Construction, the lowest bidder in the amount of \$54,781.87. This vendor is located in White Rock, SC. *Funding Source: Sanitary Sewer Funding Project #SS6822301-851600 - Approved*

16. Council is asked to approve Project #SS7056(24); Purchase of two (2) Flight Attachment Brackets and Bottom Sigma plus Flights for the Repair of two (2) Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) Top Flights at the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to Siemens Water Technologies, as a Sole Source in the amount of \$78,568.00. This vendor is located in Charlotte NC. *Funding Source: Sewer Improvement Fund 5529999-SS705624-851200 - Dissolved air flotation (DAF) is a water treatment process that clarifies wastewaters by the removal of suspended matter such as oil or solids. -Approved*
17. Council is asked to approve Project #WM4164; Agreement for Miscellaneous Remote Site Improvements, as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Black & Veatch in the amount of \$96,800.00. This vendor is located in Greenville and Charleston, SC. *Funding Source: FY 2008 / 2009 Capital Improvements Program Budget - Approved*
18. Council is asked to approve Project #SD8279; Martin Luther King Jr. Park Rehabilitation, as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Trussell Brothers Construction in the amount of \$995,890.40. This vendor is located in Columbia SC. *Funding Source: Storm Drain Funding Project #SD827903-656200 – This is a Mentor Protégé Program – Corley Construction is the Protégé - Approved*
19. Council is asked to approve Project #WM4180; Agreement for Professional Services for Providing Renovation, Painting and Preventive Maintenance Services for the City's Rimer Pond, Ballentine, Summit Avenue, Genstar, Village at Sandhill, Fort Jackson North, Fort Jackson South and Melrose Heights Water Storage Facilities, as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to Utility Service Company (USC) in the amount of \$1,245,991.00. *Funding Source: FY 2008 / 2009 Capital Improvements Program Budget. - Approved*

MAP AMENDMENTS (REZONINGS) – SECOND READING

20. **3907 Ridgewood Avenue**, TMS# 09210-11-05; rezone from RG-2 (General Residential) to PUD-R (Residential Planned Unit Development). – *First reading approval was given on March 4, 2009. Second reading consideration of this item was deferred on March 25, 2009. - Approved on second reading.*

Mr. Marc Mylott, Director of Planning and Development Services reminded the Council that on March 25th Mr. Connelly requested more time to evaluate the proposed conditions that are to run with the PUD. He stated that there is now consensus on those conditions.

Councilor Davis asked if the conditions are enforceable.

Mr. Marc Mylott, Director of Planning and Development Services said yes; it is required to be recorded with the property.

Upon motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to the *Map Amendment (Rezoning)* of 3907 Ridgewood Avenue, TMS# 09210-11-05; rezone from RG-2 (General Residential) to PUD-R (Residential Planned Unit Development).

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to **Items 21.** through **23.** with a single motion.

21. Ordinance No.: 2009-026 – Granting an encroachment to Linda Hiltner for installation and maintenance of a brick wall, brick pavers, two brick columns, two brick steps and landscaping within the right of way area adjacent to 517 Congaree Avenue (*Mr. Chip Land, Long Range Planner: Recommends approval*) – *First reading approval was given on April 1, 2009. – Approved on second reading.*
22. Ordinance No.: 2009-029 – Granting encroachment to UCI Medical for installation and maintenance of an irrigation system and landscaping at 1818 Henderson Street (*Mr. Chip Land, Long Range Planner: Recommends approval*) – *First reading approval was given on April 1, 2009. – Approved on second reading.*
23. Ordinance No.: 2009-033 - Granting an easement to South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (“SCE&G”) for the installation of utilities along a portion of City property for the Hydrogen Fueling Station; Richland County TMS #09006-08-03 (portion); CF #310-22A *First reading approval was given on April 1, 2009. – Approved on second reading.*

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to **Items 24.** and **25.** with a single motion.

24. Ordinance No.: 2009-028 - Granting an encroachment to Zion Baptist Church for installation and maintenance of landscaping and an “L” shaped handicap ramp / walkway with guardrail and landings within the right of way area adjacent to 1324 Gadsden Street (*Mr. Chip Land, Long Range Planner: Recommends approval*) – *Approved on first reading.*
25. Ordinance No.: 2009-031 – Granting encroachment to The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc. for a directional sign on the southwest corner of Miller Avenue and Main Street (*Mr. Chip Land, Long Range Planner: Recommends approval*) – *Approved on first reading.*

RESOLUTIONS

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items 26.** and **27.** with a single motion.

26. Resolution No.: R-2009-017 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine at the Italian Festival at Finlay Park - *Approved*
27. Resolution No.: R-2009-021 – Authorizing consumption of alcoholic beverages at The Crawfish Festival - *Approved*

APPOINTMENTS

28. Animal Services Advisory Committee

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Melissa Gentry, Director of Public Works as the City Manager’s designee. Council will consider the two (2) remaining appointments on May 6, 2009.

29. Complete Count Committee / Census 2010

There was a consensus of Council to consider the additional appointments to the Complete Count Committee on May 6, 2009.

30. Greater Columbia Community Relations Council

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to approve the reappointment of Ms. Willie Mae Kennedy to the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council through June 30, 2010. The new appointments will be given consideration on May 6, 2009.

31. Richland County Board of Assessment Appeals

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mr. Stephen Porter for a three (3) year term to expire on June 30, 2012.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

- A. Council is asked to approve the Disposition of Twenty (20) Bicycles for Charity, as requested by the Police Department's Evidence and Property Unit. Award to the Parks and Recreation Department for use at Riverfront Park and the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center. - *Approved*

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to approve the Disposition of Twenty (20) Bicycles for Charity, as requested by the Police Department's Evidence and Property Unit. Award to the Parks and Recreation Department for use at Riverfront Park and the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center.

- B. National League of Cities Prescription Discount Card Program – The Honorable E.W. Cromartie II

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to join the National League of Cities Prescription Discount Card Program in collaboration with CVS Caremark.

APPEARANCE OF PUBLIC HAVING BUSINESS WITH CITY COUNCIL

No one appeared at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 12:20 p.m. for the discussion of **Items C.** through **E.** as amended.

- C. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements
- LRADAC
 - Anti-Gang Initiative / Benedict College
- These items were not discussed in Executive Session.*
- **Jackie Breland & Associates
- This item was discussed in Executive Session. Please refer to Item F.*

D. Receipt of legal advice which relate to matters covered by attorney-client privilege

- Sprinkler Ordinance
- Columbia Action Council

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

- Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority Intergovernmental Agreement

This item was withdrawn from Executive Session.

- Legal Issues Related to Employee Compensation and Benefits

This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.

E. Discussion of negotiations incident to the settlement of legal claims

This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.

- **Council adjourned the Executive Session at 1:10 p.m.**

F. **Council is asked to approve a Contract for Professional Financial Consulting Services. Award to Jackie Breland & Associates in an amount not to exceed \$35,000. - *Approved*

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to approve a Contract for Professional Financial Consulting Services. Award to Jackie Breland & Associates in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.

- **Council adjourned the meeting at 1:11 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley
City Clerk