



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2009
9:00 A.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1737 MAIN STREET

The Columbia City Council conducted a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, August 5, 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 9:05 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.

INVOCATION

Reverend Floyd Waters, Chaplin for the Columbia Police Department offered the Invocation.

APPEARANCE OF PUBLIC HAVING BUSINESS RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Lorraine Fowler, Interim Chair of the Renaissance Foundation appeared before the members of Council to talk about relationship issue. She said that she has been involved with the Foundation since its inception and she has been a board member for three (3) years. We are a multi-cultural organization for the City, county and anyone else that wishes to join us. We have local, state, interstate and federal partners. We are completely transparent; you may look at any of our books at anytime and call our auditors. We have met rules and requirements that are met by very few 501(c) 3 organizations. She said that several things have happened. We did not get the \$175,000 the City approved from the Hospitality Tax Committee, which visited us at our site on Monday. Furthermore, we have submitted the materials to them that related to all of the questions they asked, which were asked extremely rudely by Richard Burts, Chair of the Hospitality Tax Committee, who has his own vested interest along with other members of that committee. We are asking you to be treated as other persons and other entities are treated. We expect to be treated equally. This summer, we had our historic marker put up and on that day we got a call saying that the marker had been taken down because we were out of compliance with City code. No other markers in the City had been taken down even though this was the same kind of historical marker. We worked with the State and the Historic Columbia Foundation to assure that we were in compliance. This is outrageous and as a citizen I am dismayed. We will continue to bring in quality folks, because we care about our community.

Councilor Finlay asked if the request was for \$500,000 and the committee granted nothing.

Dr. Lorraine Fowler, Interim Chair of the Renaissance Foundation said that they don't know what the committee approved.

Ms. Mary Skinner Jones, Director of the Renaissance Foundation thanked the Council for what they've done for the Foundation thus far. I think we're upset because of the visit that we had on Monday. We had planned not to come back to City Council and the reason was this; we had a prospective sponsor to come to tour the building; we had a verbal audit and we felt like if there were questions of the Foundation, they should have been asked prior to or after that visit. I received a call from North Carolina asking us what's going on in South Carolina. We had to explain in front of them that we did not receive \$175,000 that was proposed by the Hospitality Tax Committee in 2005. We also had to explain that in 2005 I was requested by Ms. Gober to submit a proposal for the stabilization work before we received our funds. We submitted that information from Mashburn Construction, but then I called to tell them that we could get it done

cheaper. That subject came up again from our prospective sponsor on Monday. We thank you for what you've done and we have documentation to show that we did not receive that money. At a Retreat in December, it was said that Mr. Cromartie made the motion, it was never seconded. We requested a meeting with the City on several occasions to talk about that, but we never received a response. Each year, we send you a copy of our audit. Thus far, our project has brought \$2.4 million to the City of Columbia including all of the events we have coming to the City and construction. We projected that we would create fifty seven (57) jobs; we've already created seventy one (71) jobs.

Councilor Rickenmann inquired about the funding the Foundation never received. During what year was that funded? In 2005, a bunch of organizations were trying to put together a bond deal and that did not work out. This is the first time I've heard this.

Ms. Mary Skinner Jones, Director of the Renaissance Foundation said that it was \$175,000.

Councilor Rickenmann recalled that the City of Columbia gave the Foundation some money already.

Ms. Mary Skinner Jones, Director of the Renaissance Foundation concurred adding that the City had been wonderful with the Foundation. It's just that the visitor walked away thinking that we received funds that we didn't.

Councilor Rickenmann asked when the funding was approved.

Ms. Mary Skinner Jones, Director of the Renaissance Foundation said in 2004 or 2005.

Councilor Rickenmann asked Ms. Skinner what the organization received after that date.

Ms. Mary Skinner Jones, Director of the Renaissance Foundation said up to \$531,000. We received \$81,000 in marketing funds and the rest of it was for construction.

Councilor Rickenmann asked if there was any reason why the other amounts were disbursed, but not this amount.

Councilor Cromartie said that he's not sure that there was an actual vote of Council on the \$175,000.

Ms. Libby Gober, Council Liaison said yes there was. According to my records, the committee did recommend \$175,000, but I am unsure of the year and it was pending legal review. There was some question at the time about whether the church still owned the building; it was resolved a couple of years later, but at that time, they did not receive \$175,000.

Ms. Mary Skinner Jones, Director of the Renaissance Foundation said that the legal review had to be done before we received the first \$250,000; this was afterwards, not prior to.

Councilor Cromartie said that the legal review was resolved and the only thing outstanding was the actual receipt of \$175,000.

Ms. Mary Skinner Jones, Director of the Renaissance Foundation said yes and we have a copy of the Minutes from the 2005 Retreat, in which you recommended it; it wasn't seconded; we wrote a letter asking for it to be revisited; no one ever responded to us; but, it's out there that we received those funds. That's our concern, because we don't want prospective sponsors to think that we received something that we didn't.

Councilor Cromartie explained that he is very supportive of the Foundation. I requested the meeting on last Monday in order for the committee to see the work that has actually been done by the Renaissance Foundation. An e-mail was sent to all Council members. That meeting was held; they had a chance to go through the Bethel Church to see the work, which is in progress. It was important to me to make sure they could get the actuality of what actually existed as opposed to pictures. I am very supportive of the African-American museum. It is an economic stimulus for this community.

Upon motion by Dr. Gergel, seconded by Mayor Coble, Council voted unanimously to schedule a Work Session for an in-depth discussion on the funding, issues and challenges for the Renaissance Foundation.

Ms. Linda Khoury, Artistic Director for the South Carolina Shakespeare Company appeared before the members of Council to address the Finlay Park parking lot closing. We've been in the park for over seventeen (17) years and it is based on the idea of gathering people from all over the City to enjoy our urban park and to promote the arts in South Carolina. During that time, we've come to think of Finlay Park as a home. There are lots of other concerts, organizations, craft fairs and bands that participate in the fun and activities at Finlay Park. I am only speaking for our organization. When we produce a play we are in the park for four (4) weeks from 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. and closing down the lot will adversely affect us for two (2) reasons: it is the main parking lot of the park and it's the main entry point from that side of Columbia. We would recommend that the City of Columbia take a more active part in facilitating the patrol of that area and possibly provide guards there. It is an urban park; it is a public park; and we don't see how closing the parking lot will solve that problem.

Mr. Fred Shehan, Columbia City Ballet Board of Directors appeared before the members of Council to express concerns about the funding allocated to the Columbia City Ballet. We are here to request that the level of funding that the ballet has received be sustained and continued.

Mr. Dan Johnson, Columbia City Ballet Board of Directors appeared before the members of Council to express concerns about the funding allocated to the Columbia City Ballet. I am here to ask you to reconsider the committee's recommendation to cut the ballet's funding by \$20,000. The requested amount was \$150,000.

Councilor Cromartie thanked the Columbia City Ballet for their cooperation with our schools.

Councilor Gergel said that she is generally very supportive of the committee process, but she understands that the request for the additional \$25,000 centers on an opportunity to go to Chicago. She requested more information on the trip.

Mr. Dan Johnson, Columbia City Ballet Board of Directors explained that it's the 70th anniversary of the Southside community art groups, which is the oldest African-American culture arts center.

Mr. William Starret, Director of the Columbia City Ballet said that the performance will be held on February 27, 2010. We are doing two (2) outreach performances for I children on Friday afternoon; Saturday is the big fundraising gala for the 70th anniversary; and on Sunday there will be gospel performances and Jonathan Green will be in attendance with us.

A motion by Mr. Rickenmann to schedule a Work Session to hear from these groups along with the Renaissance Foundation was not seconded.

Councilor Davis concurred with Mr. Rickenmann, because we need to address the issues related to the committee process and these requests. We need to deal with this across the board.

There was a consensus of Council to schedule a Work Session on August 26, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. to hear from organizations that would like to request funding outside of the committee process. A letter will be sent to all organizations that received allocations from the Hospitality Tax Fund and those organizations are required to submit their information for consideration. It is noted that \$100,000 remains in the Hospitality Tax Fund.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Closing of the Finlay Park Parking Lot – Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services and Mr. Michael King, Assistant City Manager for Public Safety

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services provided recommendations on the closing of the upper parking lot at Finlay Park. He said that the staff recommendation is not to close the parking lot completely. This issue has been characterized in many ways to include a police issue. While police are an important link to the security of our City; this is a park management issue. In this particular instance, we have to better manage the behavior of those visitors to our park and the parking lot is a part of the park. We must maintain the integrity of this major investment that we have made in downtown Columbia. We recommend that we reconfigure the parking lot by closing the Gadsden Street exit to the public. One issue that we have not discussed is the need for emergency services to access these homes. It is necessary that our Fire Department be able to access this area. We are also recommending that we reduce the size of the parking lot by 50% so that there would be no parking on the lower end closer to Gadsden Street. We should be aesthetically sensitive to what we do to all of our parks. The parking and entryway at Earlewood Park were completely reconfigured to address similar concerns. This will eliminate the issue of cars cruising around the park and the perception of a speedway. We need to improve the gating system. There was a concern about closing the parking lot at 6:00 p.m. and I would not recommend that we close at 6:00 p.m., because we need to be consistent with the park operating hours from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Most people visit the park between 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and that's when parking is needed the most. We must evaluate the need and effectiveness of speed reduction devices such as speed bumps. We need to evaluate the need for and effectiveness of additional regulatory signs at the entry ways of the parking areas to include prohibitions of the nuisance violations and operating hours. We don't want to create rules and regulations that increase our enforcement issues. We don't want to put patrons in a situation where they cannot comfortably use the park for the reason for which it was built. We need to improve the lighting coverage, not just for the parking lot, but for the entire park. In January, you approved a contract for us to improve the lighting in the entire park, but for budgetary reasons, we made the decision to wait until the new budget year to move forward, but those plans are on the table. From a police perspective, we should place the parking lot and the park on Zone Watch with the Columbia Police Department. Both the Regional and Metro Patrol Officers are to maintain tracking logs of the parking lot checks; we will coordinate high visibility/deterrence efforts with Parking Enforcement on an hourly basis; two (2) Community Safety Officers will be on staggered patrols; park employees will report violations; and Park Rangers will continue to close the park. There are additional things that the Columbia Police Department will be doing that we prefer not to discuss publicly. We believe that these recommendations are things we've done in other places and when the need arises we can duplicate that across the City.

Mr. Mike King, Assistant City Manager for Public Safety explained that the park has been placed under a Zone Watch, which is an enhanced awareness and vigilance area for our Police Department. I've directed the Police Department to log the data whenever they patrol the park or are called to the park. We are working on a partnership with other public safety teams to look at every resource we have available and to work together as a team to provide the maximum impact we can for the safety and security of the park. They will be working staggered shifts and we are working with park and parking employees to help us by being the eyes and ears when public safety personnel are not in the park.

Chief Bradley Anderson, Columbia Fire Department explained that currently the streets in Governor's Hill are very narrow, access with the fire trucks is limited and it is difficult to make turns. This means that we have to manually pull hoses to fight fires. Also, the area around the outside of Governor's Hill is very useful to us for any houses that may catch on fire along the perimeter. Those homes are more accessible from the parking lot than they are from the interior streets. The proposal is to install a removable bollard at the Gadsden Street entrance so the Fire Department can simply cut the lock, pull the bollard out and get the trucks in.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services further explained that there were issues at Martin Luther King Park with cars driving into the park and abusing the Stone of Hope. We placed an entryway there that has very attractive bollards and that's the kind of approach that we want to take with this as well. The curb would be slightly raised as well.

Councilor Davis said that it is obvious that staff spent a lot of time on this and bringing different resources to the table. With all due respect to what I'm reading and to the people I've spoken with, it's strange that we come up with this master plan for this location that's 1 ½ blocks from the Columbia Police Department, which is the power center of law enforcement in the capital City. When I look at the numbers and the offenses that have occurred, it's nothing that hasn't been happening and still going on in other parks in this City. If we're that close to this location, then wasn't it addressed or observed. We are talking about enforcement, but if you cut that section off you will eliminate parking spaces. By shutting that off, you end up with a semi-gated area in the City of Columbia. If park management was the issue then why has that not occurred prior to this time. He said that reconfiguring has not been done in every park in this City; this park has been given preferential treatment. We did not go into Earlewood Park with the same kind of precision to address another constituent's concerns. We have issues at Hyatt Park and Greenview Park, where seniors can't feel safe while walking the trail. I don't see this Council addressing this, unless we come up with a master plan for every park in this City.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services said that Mr. Davis was involved and very instrumental in the reconfiguration of the parking lot at Earlewood Park; a lot of money was spent to change the old entryway, because people were using it as a thoroughfare. The changes that we made were made in response to the community concerns. I don't like to remind people, but the upper parking lot at Earlewood Park next to the upper ball field is closed for that very reason. There is still much parking left, so it did not impact the visitors' ability to park.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services added that quite a bit of money was spent at Greenview Park to install curbs and gutters and to improve parking so that the park would be well accessible. I don't want to suggest that we are doing something special; we always have to manage the behavior of patrons. The same people that use our parks are the same people that use the City streets and they do things everywhere. We have a responsibility to try to manage that. This is not unreasonable.

Councilor Finlay thanked Mr. Baker and Mr. King. This issue has gotten very hot; there is a lot of emotion; people have been accused of having blood on their hands. He agreed with Mr. Davis, stating that the issue we have before us is one of the history of this parking lot and the history of issues in other parks. I think many of the recommendations are very good. I am not certain that I understand the need for speed humps, but the bollards make great sense. There is a perception of service being unevenly applied throughout the City. I have good friends in Governor's Hill and I want them to feel safe, but I want the public to know that they have access to public spaces. This problem is pervasive throughout our community; we spend \$9 million per year on parks and if they aren't safe then the investment is gone. There has to be a common ground here that protects our investment in parks; addresses Mr. Davis' concerns; and approaches this in a professional manner. We need to do this incrementally, because there are a lot of people on both sides of the issue that are very upset, but we have to focus our resources on all of the parks and parking lots throughout the City.

Councilor Gergel said that she is prepared to support the recommendations. She asked if the rest of our parks are safe and secure; do we know what are challenges are; do we have a plan to address security issues; and are we ready to say to our patrons that you are safe and secure in our parking lots and parks. She asked that we have a public safety and parks assessment of safety issues at every park in this City to include statistics and a recommendation on plans to address safety concerns.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services agreed to do that. He said that our parks are a part of our community and the Police Department, Public Safety Director King and our Police Chief are working with agencies across the City to improve our response and our safety measures; our parks are included in that.

Councilor Gergel said that she would like to hear from park users and park neighbors.

Councilor Rickenmann said that really need a reasonable and sustainable plan; not a temporary plan.

Councilor Davis suggested that they don't implement this until we have a master plan.

Councilor Gergel asked how much the plan will cost.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services said that they will get that information. We expect the Public Works Department to help with the changes to limit costs. This is not a major expense, but gating will be the biggest expenditure.

- **Council opened the Public Hearing at 10:11 a.m.**

Mr. Bruce Sanders, 3505 Magrath Street stated that the plan takes some of his concerns into consideration. It could become a problem if you're going to lose spaces and that doesn't square with what I thought should be done. The needs of the neighborhood are important. Most of the folks moved there after the park was built. While I understand their concerns and I think they should be addressed, if you buy a house at the airport you shouldn't fuss because there is some noise from the jets. This doesn't mean that these folks need to be subjected to unsafe conditions or lawlessness in the parking lot; they don't own the parking lot, but they do live next to it and they should be able to feel safe in their neighborhood.

Ms. Elaine Cooper, 3105 Dalloz Road / Food Not Bombs said that she strongly opposes the compromise of eliminating parking spaces. I have gone to the park every Sunday from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. for years and I've never seen any crime. A few officers have shown up. We have 120 to 150 people every Sunday and we cannot lose parking. Why would you eliminate those parking spots? It is a City park paid for with my tax dollars. Why do we want to form a gated community at a City park? She agreed with Mr. Davis; why are we isolating this park.

Councilor Finlay asked Ms. Cooper if it would be reasonable to have one way in and one way out with a bollard installed on Gadsden Street.

Ms. Elaine Cooper said that it is interesting that the news is reporting that only six (6) of the sixty four (64) crimes occurred at the top. Why not eliminate public parking at all City parks? I definitely agree with keeping the park open until 9:00 p.m. and not closing at 6:00 p.m. What would happen to those patrons with disabilities?

Ms. Jennifer Krueger, 1320 Pulaski Street said that the City has advocated a work life balance and we support what is currently going on with this development; however, safety is the number one issue for us that live down here. We are not asking for a gated community; we are not asking for any particular favor or privileges. I am an avid runner; I run in Finlay Park; and I refuse to run in the parking lot, because of the vehicles that are there. Typically, those

individuals don't utilize the park and they are there to carry on activities that are not appropriate and sometimes unlawful. The park has evolved and so has the downtown area. It is time to re-evaluate this. I would advocate for a compromise to prevent the in and out; to prevent speeding; and to prevent the loitering that goes on by those that do not use the park. I would advocate for total closure, but that may not be possible at this time.

Ms. Debbie Truluck, 7 Governors Hill said that it is a safety concern. We do have people racing through the parking lot. I am more concerned about the inappropriate behavior that I have personally witnessed. I have seen inappropriate sexual behavior that I truly don't like seeing right outside of where I live. The park is not the jewel of the City; it has a terrible reputation. I have concerns about the park staying open until 9:00 p.m. during the fall and winter. I would not go into that park at night.

Councilor Davis asked Ms. Truluck if she believes that people would not indulge in illegal activities if there was a law enforcement presence on a regular basis.

Ms. Debbie Truluck, 7 Governors Hill said that she doesn't think that would solve the problem. There were times that we did not call the police, because by the time they respond the problem is gone. A partial presence won't help.

Councilor Gergel said that's where we get back to a sense of frustration if we can't make it safe as it is. Why can't we make it safe? I need an answer from the Police Chief about why this hasn't been appropriately addressed. Why are we at this point?

Ms. Elizabeth Quackenbush, 111 S. Edisto Avenue/Food Not Bombs said that they have 70 individuals that come to the park on Sundays with hot homemade food to feed as many as 150-170 individuals every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. without any trouble or crime. It is a peaceful gathering of Christian people who believe that feeding the poor is the right thing to do. If we did not have adequate parking that would discourage people from bringing food down to the park. I would be in favor of installing speed bumps if speeding is a problem, but we need all of the spaces that are available to us. I have no problem with having a one-way entrance and exit.

Mr. Livingston Truluck, 7 Governors Hill said that he read about a similar problem at the zoo; these problems are happening everywhere. We have to change some things; we have to get ahead of and address the issue. We asked for the complete closure of the lot, because we have had issues with elicit behavior and things like that. We originally proposed closing the parking lot completely; making it into a pedestrian walking mall; installing additional parking on both sides of Laurel Street like it is on Taylor Street; and adding parking on Gadsden Street. He said that reconfiguring the parking lot and installing additional spaces along the perimeter would be best. It is a design problem.

Councilor Cromartie said that we have dealt with each park as issues arose. We have to balance the interest of the public and those living adjacent to the park. The neighborhood will probably not like the proposal before us, but they have to understand that this is a public parking area. I think that we should remain consistent with the other parks and close at 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Livingston Truluck, 7 Governors Hill said that closing at 6:00 p.m. has been wonderful and has stopped a lot of problems; we feel like 9:00 p.m. is too late. I understand leaving the lower parking lot and the park open until 9:00 p.m. I stand for total closure of the parking lot.

Councilor Finlay said that he would not support taking parking out of the park and putting it on Laurel Street, which is a high volume traffic street.

Ms. Susan Gressette, 19 Governors Hill said that they are not asking for special treatment. I agree that we need a public safety plan that's continuous. We want a solution to the problem. We were lead to believe that this would be properly maintained, patrolled and safe. It is 1 ½ blocks from Police Headquarters, City Hall, the Governor's Mansion and the Capitol. With all due respect to the feeding of the homeless, we are talking about using 50 parking spaces for the volunteers. Is that fair to the people who are trying to bring their families to the park? I don't think that the intent of the park is to provide parking for services provided within the park.

Mr. Ashby Gressette, 19 Governors Hill said that his family has been there the longest and its time to get something done. We are concerned citizens and when we moved in fifteen (15) years ago the Mayor and members of Council were very excited about us taking the lead and moving into the neighborhood. Please help us out of this situation. I think it's a citywide issue. I consider Finlay Park to be a real gem of the City; it's something we like to brag about.

Mr. James W. Derrick, Jr., 4 Governors Hill said that he is concerned about the parking lot. We want all parks to be safe. The people who park in this lot are not using they park; they are parking there for other reasons. We think that the lot should be opened for events; the landscaping is out of control; the density of the bushes and plants has taken over the park. We would like for the hours to be from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. It has been beneficial to us and it has not affected anyone else. You should address the homeless issue; I appreciate that they need to be fed, but why should they be fed in the middle of the City. I would prefer to have the lot closed at 6:00 p.m. unless there is an event.

Mr. Durham Carter, President of the Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association said that he is an 81 year resident of the City of Columbia and proud of it. He recalled living in the Ward One area, which is now the University of South Carolina property. We moved to Arsenal Hill, which is now a part of the Vista and I can remember Arsenal Hill with all of the drugs on Gadsden Street across from the Governors Mansion. I can remember two (2) of my friends being suffocated in the railroad track in Finlay Park. My parents moved to the Lower Waverly area in 1940 and I have lived there over 70 years as an active citizen. He said that he came to the Council some time ago talking about the problems in King Park and he was told by a City Council member that that's what the park is for. I called the police to report prostitution and they go by without stopping. I admire what I am hearing this Council say today, because I never heard them say these things in the past. Nobody roped off 806 Oak Street until the St. Patrick's Day Festival organizers complained about the car break-ins. Do it for all of the areas. Nobody roped off the dead-end of Stark Street when the Police report showed that 17 condoms were found back there. This is not about what you are proposing. Do it for all of the areas.

Dr. Lonnie Randolph, President of the SC Chapter of the NAACP said that we need to have a reality check; we aren't talking about somebody's private residence or some exclusive neighborhood; we are talking about a City park. A park is a noun defined as land reserved for pleasure and relaxation. You are going to have certain problems with certain areas. He told Mr. Cromartie to stop dealing with it and fix it; that's the problem. You have an unequal system of governing neighborhoods. We've had a constitution for 233 years now that says that all men and women are created equally. That same policy and doctrine should apply to our neighborhoods. The media has taken this to a class and ethnic fight. We have problems with driving under the influence; will we close down the interstate. This is a public facility.

Mr. Michael Gorman, 3 Governors Hill said that eliminating half of the lot doesn't solve anything, but eliminating the egress and ingress at Gadsden Street might be a partial solution. The hours of 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. have been effective. We don't want towering lights shining in our windows. We don't support the plan as it relates to losing parking spaces. We need to cut down on people cruising through the park.

Mr. Tim Liszewski, 2718 Blossom Street said that the current proposal is not a viable option. By cutting off half of the parking spaces you will still have room for people to do what they want, just in a concentrated area. We cut spaces when we built Governors Hill. What will happen when people are still having sex in the park? Neighborhoods are treated differently throughout the City of Columbia. You should address the safety concerns of cars racing through there.

Ms. Rachael Kefalos, 2323 Gadsden Street agreed that Finlay Park does have a bad reputation. On a daily basis I am warned not to pass through Finlay Park. I do not agree with the proposal. A greater police and community safety officer presence is needed. I don't think that traffic control devices are effective at all. We need to think about what we can do to get more people to visit these parks in order to create a perception of greater safety.

Maris Burton, 1700 Omarest Drive appeared before the Council as a people's advocate. The times are changing and it's time for us to change with them and to look at innovative solutions. How can we make sure that everybody is safe in the park? I take my visitors to Finlay Park. Yes, there are problems, but we can't legislate people's behavior. I love the suggestion of real security cameras. I am not sure that closing one exit will limit cruising. We need to be reasonable and I don't want one plan for all parks; we need to look at each park to see what works.

Mr. Femi Olulenu, 1007 Pine Street said that the former Sydney Park was meant to be similar to New York's Central Park. All of that area was supposed to be for parking for park users and all of a sudden friends split that area and built those homes. Were these problems there before the homes were built? They are trying to privatize the area.

Rev. A. A. Dicks asked the Council to take into account the perception that this gives. Would I be expected to close my lot if there was illegal activity going on? I trust you will allow the public an opportunity to meet as you help all parks as opposed to one park.

Mr. Steve Bowman, Russell & Jeffcoat said that he understands their concerns, but his father uses the parking lot to unload food to feed the homeless. Don't close the lot. The hours should be seasonal. Security should be out there if an event is scheduled after hours. I would be more concerned about the fire trucks getting in, because their insurance will go up as well as their house payments.

Mr. Richard Shier said that he goes to Finlay Park daily and it was never totally reopened. It is pretty much a one-way street now. You should add cameras, police enforcement and parking enforcement.

Mr. Joel Sligh said that he had a problem when they built those houses. Why would they do that anyway? You all should not have allowed that, because it was all parking at one time. I never see violence and crime in the park. Where are the police reports? We are basing all of this on five homes.

Ms. Robin Orman respectfully disagreed that everything is based on five (5) homes. I am concerned about the perception being created here today about this being an elite area. We don't oppose them feeding the homeless in the park. We knew what we were getting into and that is not the issue. She reminded the group that the Columbia Development Corporation developed the property and the residents supported that by living there. We do not support a stop gap measure.

- **Council closed the Public Hearing at 11:53 a.m.**

Police Chief Tandy Carter, Columbia Police Department said that the Columbia Police force is capable of doing many things, but it is not capable of doing everything. As Police Chief, I want to provide the same level of service to all 57 parks throughout the City of Columbia. I look at issues across the board in the City. Another issue is that the City has 18,000 crimes a year; 9,200 serious crimes; and 174,000 calls for service. When you look at how safe are parks, you also have to look at how safe are cities. The self initiated calls tell me that they are driving by and addressing issues without being called. Most crimes don't happen in the presence of the police. Our parks are equally safe. We do have problems and some criminal activity, but the level of that criminal activity borders more into nuisance and misdemeanor instances and suspects are given a ticket and some custodial arrests are being made.

Mr. Davis made a motion to table the recommendations until the Council receives a comprehensive security and safety plan for all parks in the City of Columbia. The motion was seconded by Dr. Gergel.

Councilor Cromartie disagreed. We give the wrong message if you say to one neighborhood that you are going to table the motion in terms of their concerns. The message should be that we will look at a holistic approach and address Finlay Park along with all other parks in the City of Columbia. We will seek to have an advisory committee with law enforcement representatives.

Councilor Rickenmann said that closing the lot was a knee jerk reaction and everyone should have been involved. There is stuff on this list that we do for neighborhoods every day and there is no reason why we can't move forward with those things right now. We can't go down the path of closing the parking lot or creating a walking trail unless we've looked at everything. We have a set of laws and we need to be able to enforce those. Every park is different and we can't just close the parks at night. It will be hard to create one plan. I will not vote to close the parking lot until we make a decision.

Councilor Finlay reviewed the list of staff recommendations that were feasible to implement immediately, noting that we should leave the policing to the police.

Upon a substitute motion by Dr. Gergel, seconded by Mayor Coble, Council voted unanimously to direct staff to prepare a comprehensive safety and security report for all City of Columbia parks. Staff is directed to work with an ad-hoc committee comprised of neighborhood leaders and law enforcement personnel in developing this plan, which is to be presented to City Council within sixty (60) days.

Councilor Rickenmann asked if the wattage can be increased on the existing lighting.

Mr. S. Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services said that they will have a future discussion on lighting in Finlay Park, which might include upgrades.

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to direct staff to proceed with adding twelve (12) parking spaces on Gadsden Street; to evaluate the need and effectiveness of speed reduction devices, such as speed humps; evaluate the need and effectiveness of additional regulatory signs at the entrance of the parking area to include the prohibition of nuisance violations and the closing time for the parking lot; to evaluate the need for improved lighting coverage/quality (park wide); and to place the parking lot on Zone Watch by the Columbia Police Department as outlined within the recommendations.

- **Council recessed at 12:21 p.m.**
- **Council reconvened at 12:36 p.m.**

MINUTES

2. Minutes of December 3, 4, and 10, 2008 – *Approved as presented.*

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of December 3, 4 and 10, 2008 with a single motion and as presented. Mr. Finlay was not present for the vote.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2a. **Jail and Bail March of Dimes Fundraiser Event - Ms. Jacki Apel, Communications Director for the March of Dimes

Ms. Jacki Apel, Communications Director for the March of Dimes reported that there are more and more babies being born prematurely and the toll on the healthcare system and the families is hard. She announced the upcoming Jail and Bail Event being hosted at the Columbia Police Department Headquarters located at #1 Justice Square on August 20, 2009 from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. She asked the members of Council to participate as a Jailbird or to nominate someone else. Each Jailbird is asked to raise \$300.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

3. Business License Appeal (*Howard Hammer, Attorney at Law, P.A.*) – Ms. Brenda Kyzer, Business License Administrator

Mr. Howard Hammer's business license appeal was deferred at the request of Mr. Hammer.

4. Department of Commerce Broadband Technology Opportunities Program – Ms. Teresa Wilson Florence, Director of Governmental Affairs

Ms. Teresa Wilson Florence, Director of Governmental Affairs reported that we are in partnership with Benedict College and Richland County to apply for a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Grant through the Department of Commerce. It is a grant for deploying broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas; enhancing broadband capacity at public computer centers; and/or promoting sustainable broadband adoption projects. A middle mile project is basically laying infrastructure and that is primarily what our application would do. There is approximately \$4 billion available and \$1.6 million for BTOP applications, which are due by August 14, 2009. Our grant application will address each of the core purposes of the BTOP. Our concentration will be an eligible project for broadband infrastructure. There is up to \$1.2 billion that's available for broadband infrastructure. Out of all of the stimulus opportunities that we've had before us, this is probably the most significant application we can apply for. The long ranging impact that this will have on the City of Columbia and Richland County is major. We would be laying the fiber to provide all kinds of services and the basic infrastructure for many of the projects you all have wanted to do, such as the camera project for public safety. You are looking at the efficient delivery of data, cost savings and less overhead for the City of Columbia, over time. There are many inner-connectivity issues that have been a barrier to the City of Columbia and this enhances our ability to adapt to future needs and technology. We are asking for an estimated amount of \$8 to \$10 million and there has to be a 20% match. We can address the match in three different ways: we can ask for a waiver based on the financial situation of the City; we can seek the match through our partners; and we are looking at in-kind services. Over three years, we can make up a significant portion of the match, based on the time spent by our internal information technology professional's time spent on such a project. The middle mile distribution will be the City/county portion of this along with the pilot partners and the last mile portion of it we will be providing services to citizens and Benedict College will be taking on that part of it. The boundaries will go from Eau Claire to Atlas Road and from Harden Street to the Metro Water Plant; it is a huge service area. This will lay the ground

work for Richland County's rural areas and they will be able to tap into that. This doesn't compete with any local vendors or private entities that are providing services. The guidelines of this grant are truly about the unserved and underserved populations getting access. We are in complete compliance with the federal guidelines. There is a 36-month time period for phase one and we have a shovel ready project.

Councilor Cromartie inquired about the cameras.

Ms. Teresa Wilson Florence, Director of Governmental Affairs recalled that there were different phases within the recommendations from the advisory committee. With this grant, you would be able to tackle the vast majority of the recommendations, but at a minimum, you would be able to complete phase one, which is the implementation of twenty (20) sites.

Councilor Cromartie asked if this does anything for Wi-Fi.

Ms. Teresa Wilson Florence, Director of Governmental Affairs said no. It's basically laying the fiber and wires for broadband access.

Mr. Vincent Simonowicz, Director of Information Technology reported that the entire project was laid out to be a wireless delivery system for the cameras. You will already have the infrastructure in place and Benedict College will build on top of that as the last mile delivery. We will get two bangs for one buck.

Ms. Teresa Wilson Florence, Director of Governmental Affairs explained that we have applied for a membership with the SC Broadband initiative and that will provide additional resources. I seek your endorsement of the application along with the caveat that I can bring back the exact numbers.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to authorize staff to partner with Benedict College and Richland County to apply for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Grant in an estimated amount of \$8 to 10 million with a 20% match.

5. Liquor Rebate Fund - Mr. Bill Ellis, Deputy Finance Director

Mr. Bill Ellis, Deputy Finance Director said that our request is to find a funding source for previously approved projects by Council that were not funded. This is an appropriate method for covering said items.

Mr. Steven A. Gantt, Interim City Manager explained that we have \$32 million of general capital projects that you all approved over time that we are looking for funding sources for.

Councilor Gergel inquired about the balance of the Liquor Rebate Fund.

Mr. Bill Ellis, Deputy Finance Director said approximately \$586,000 that's not obligated.

Councilor Gergel asked for the restrictions of the Liquor Rebate Fund.

Mr. Bill Ellis, Deputy Finance Director explained that it's for capital improvements to include, but not limited to civic centers, convention centers, coliseums, stadiums, parks and recreational facilities. The fund can also be used for the purchase or renovation of buildings which are historic properties as designated in § 6-12-10. We are reserving money that we previously obligated for a canopy; we are transferring the remainder for general capital projects; and any future monies received will be allocated appropriately.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to authorize the transfer of the balance of the Liquor Rebate Fund to General Capital Projects for various capital and improvement park projects after the funds have been disbursed for the previously approved canopy project.

STAFF REPORTS

6. Fiscal Year 2009 / 2010 Accommodations Tax / Community Promotions / Hospitality Tax Funding Recommendations – The Honorable Judge Mildred McDuffie, Chair of the Community Promotions Advisory Committee and Ms. Libby Gober, City Council Liaison

Councilor Cromartie asked for the total amount of money in the Community Promotions Fund.

Ms. Libby Gober, City Council Liaison reported that there is \$200,425; the committee funded \$196,500; and there will be a contingency fund for the committee, which is approximately \$16,000 for monthly allocations.

Councilor Finlay asked Judge McDuffie if this is what we should do.

The Honorable Judge Mildred McDuffie, Chair of the Community Promotions Advisory Committee said yes and we the committee met in a day to get this right. We looked at each application to make sure we were doing the right thing.

Mayor Coble asked what the “other” column refers to.

Ms. Libby Gober, City Council Liaison explained that it’s the funding approved by City Council outside of the committee process and from different funding sources.

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve the fiscal year 2009/2010 Community Promotions funding recommendations.

Councilor Davis asked if the committee will be considering a second round of applications from organizations that have already been before the committee.

The Honorable Judge Mildred McDuffie, Chair of the Community Promotions Advisory Committee said that committees would have to submit another application for consideration.

Ms. Libby Gober, City Council Liaison said that these committees did very work hard. This committee did the same thing this year as they did last year; they funded the Conventions and Visitors Bureau and Lake Murray out of this pot.

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to approve the fiscal year 2009/2010 Accommodations Tax funding recommendations with the understanding that all recipients are required to apply the Famously Hot logo on all new marketing materials.



Mayor Coble said that there are two (2) organizations that he feels deserve some consideration. One is the Cultural Council and the other is the Renaissance Foundation. This is a Council decision. If we don’t fund the Cultural Council, we will lose it and that will be a mistake. The Renaissance Foundation is an important group. I don’t know where we will get the money. There are other organizations like the Columbia City Ballet whose funding was cut.

Ms. Libby Gober, City Council Liaison stated that the committee felt very strongly about the tennis tournament that we were in jeopardy of losing due to the condition of the tennis courts. They recommended that \$50,000 be allocated to the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department. If that is not needed, there will be \$150,000 in the contingency for the committee. The intent of the committee was to look at new projects.

Councilor Rickenmann said that the members of Council need to understand what's available in case they decide to add funding to the groups that were cut. Do we fund the groups that were completely cut off? Do we fund the groups that want additional funding? We all need to realize that these numbers are based on projections and if the economy goes awry, organizations may not be funded anyway. We need to balance all of those things.

Councilor Finlay recalled that the Council voted to fund the Palmetto Project, but a funding source wasn't identified. I would ask that we move forward to fulfill that commitment. It is one of the projects that we've received tremendous feedback from about at-risk school children. It's a positive project that doesn't come with an enormous price tag. He asked that this be discussed at the Work Session.

Councilor Davis said that we need to continue to look at worthy projects that don't get anything. We are supposed to keep in mind that funding is not guaranteed. We need to put a strategy in place, because there are other organizations and individual artists that don't have an opportunity to compete for funds.

Councilor Gergel said that she would like to learn more about the committee process and the challenges that Mr. Burts see. This funding is very restrictive and it would be more helpful to understand the process that you use and any insight that you may have for us as we struggle with how we do everything possible to keep these organizations that are bringing tourism dollars here funded.

Mr. Richard Burts, Chair of the Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee said that all of the groups that submitted applications to the City realize that things could have been really bad this year. We have an eleven (11) member committee and ten (10) members showed up for 3 ½ days to review applications. He encouraged the members of Council to contact their appointees to get their take on the discussions. We offer our own individual time to meet with organizations outside of the committee to help them formulate their applications to better meet the guidelines. Our number one tenet is to put people in seats in restaurants. A lot of people get this funding confused with General Fund money; it's not; it's restricted funds. As the Community Promotions Fund sees fewer applications; the Accommodations Tax Fund has been restricted to Lake Murray and the Convention and Visitors Bureau; more and more applications have come before the Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee. We are the only source of funding for them; however our guidelines have not changed. We have to look at how the application and the money will fit together to put people in seats in restaurants.

Ms. Libby Gober, City Council Liaison further explained that there were so many questions about the applications this year. As staff, we offered to hold workshops throughout the City and some committee members offered to join us to go over the applications with the applicants. Once City Council approves this funding, letters are sent to the groups whether they are funded or not. We ask the groups funded by City dollars to incorporate the "Famously Hot" logo in all of their new marketing and advertising. To be clear, we are not asking groups to recreate any marketing and advertising that they have in place.

Councilor Rickenmann clarified that preprinted items and things they've already spent money on do not need to be reprinted, but the logo does need to be added to ad copies going forward.

Ms. Libby Gober, City Council Liaison said that the letter also explains that the funding is depended upon the revenue and we do notify groups of the events calendar that the City has on our website. We include attachments to remind the groups of eligible and ineligible expenditures and to explain the process and timeframe of receiving a check. There is an attachment that explains the deadlines and the associated penalties. The Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee has asked that matches be dollar for dollar on capital projects. We are looking to Council for guidance on whether or not this has to be tangible funding. If the match comes in the form of pledges, the committee would like to ask the organizations to provide proof of receipt of the pledges. Also, several organizations sponsor each other by buying tables at each other's events. I understand that it is a form of marketing, but the committee didn't feel that this is the type of marketing that would be the best use of this money. That is a decision City Council will have to make.

Councilor Davis said that we put a lot of dollars into promoting Columbia. How much duplication are you seeing in these applications when it comes to marketing? Are we hitting the mark with the dollars we put in across the board? There are organizations that specialize in marketing. There is a line item on the application for marketing as well. Are you seeing a return on those dollars?

Mr. Richard Burts, Chair of the Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee said that this is a pot of money that has boundaries. It has grown from \$3.5 million to \$7 million. From my standpoint, clearly the process is working. The money is going into the areas where it is needed in order to get people out.

Ms. Libby Gober, City Council Liaison said that she is concerned about the organizations buying tables, sponsorships and/or ads at another organizations event. That may not be the best use of the dollars. We do require back up for every dollar that is spent and we expect for it to be accurate. At the end of the day, we ask the committee to approve eligible expenditures from each organization. The applications were submitted in January; it is now August; and if something changed I can then allow them to use it for another eligible expenditure.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to approve the fiscal year 2009/2010 Hospitality Tax funding recommendations.

7. Hollywood/Rose Hill Historic District Designation – Ms. Amy Moore, Preservation Planner IV

Ms. Amy Moore, Preservation Planner IV stated that she was here to discuss three (3) Items: a report and update on the Hollywood/Rosehill historic designation; to ask for direction regarding interim measures in this neighborhood; and to request direction regarding future historic districts in this City. In regards to the historic designation for the Hollywood/Rosehill Neighborhood, we held meetings over the course of five (5) months and took the pulse of the neighborhood, which voted against the designation as proposed. I wanted your input on that, because there has been some interest in a designation at a lower level. She said that Hollywood/Rosehill currently has interim measures in place. The ordinance states that the interim measures are effective for two (2) years or until such time City Council votes to grant or deny a request for a historic or design protection overlay district. Should we prepare an application to remove interim measures from this neighborhood?

Councilor Finlay asked how much time is left under their interim measures.

Ms. Amy Moore, Preservation Planner IV replied a year. I would seek direction from you regarding a written policy for City Council to adopt outlining a process through which neighborhoods would go to request historic designation/design protection.

Ms. Georgianna Graham, President of the Hollywood/Rosehill Community Council said that this was a very divisive battle; it was a hard fought battle throughout the neighborhood. You can tell from the numbers that we were almost equally divided. It became very personal and it became a battle of neighbor against neighbor. A written policy would be a wonderful thing to do for the neighborhoods that are yet to come; it might eliminate a lot of what we went through. Unfortunately the hard feelings are still lingering and we are not ready to look at another level of protection. Our interim measures sunset in one (1) year, but no action should be taken to remove those measures.

Councilor Finlay said that if somebody comes up with something that doesn't fit with only two months left under interim protection, let's try to be reasonable. He asked staff to think about how projects are approved as we approach the sunset date.

Mr. Jeff Mehr, Hollywood/Rosehill Community Council Member said that his understanding is that the vote is the vote and now it is a dead issue. It would be extremely disruptive and disappointing to bring this up again. There should not be another vote on historic designations.

Councilor Gergel said that the vote is only advisory to Council. My neighborhood has been under a historic designation for over 30 years and we never voted, but the process has evolved. City Council has to decide what is in the best interest of the City. We need to be clearer about getting the information out about what is involved in historic designations and making sure that we all understand the process as well. There should be good consensus about what is important to the City as we look at building sustainable neighborhoods in the future.

Councilor Rickenmann said that Mr. Mehr wants to know if we are going to push this on the neighborhood. We should be honest with folks about what our intentions are.

Councilor Gergel said that this is not a property rights decision that the City is making when it makes a decision on historic designations; it is a decision that the City is making about what is important and significant as we look at the protection and sustainability of neighborhoods.

Councilor Finlay argued that it is a property rights issue.

Councilor Gergel urged staff to move forward with drafting a written policy for City Council's consideration. I've learned that most of the work is put on the shoulders of neighborhood associations and there are financial considerations that are made in terms of resources. We want a clear and fair process to see how the residents of the neighborhood feel. I am not interested in how the resident in New York who owns property feels about historic designation.

Councilor Rickenmann asked if the neighborhood agreed that the vote was the vote. I don't want to ask staff to circumvent what was agreed to in the neighborhood.

Ms. Georgianna Graham, President of the Hollywood/Rosehill Community Council stated that she doesn't know of an agreement either within the neighborhood or the Council. We voted on a particular designation and the vote failed according to the current procedures. We said all along that if the neighborhood chose to come back for a different designation that that was something that could happen.

Councilor Rickenmann said that's a neighborhood choice and that would be fine. I want to be clear from this day on that if we change the rules to take somebody out of the ball game, there is going to be a problem. I've been very supportive of letting the process work. I am going to have a serious issue if we take away a person's right to vote because they don't live in that house. If you pay property taxes; you maintain your property; you have a vote.

Councilor Davis said that he is also concerned about consistency in the rules and the voting mechanism. I don't have a problem with an absentee owner having a vote.

There was a consensus of Council to direct staff not to work with the neighborhood to determine if a lesser degree of protection may be acceptable; to let the interim measures remain in effect until the scheduled sunset date; and to direct staff to prepare a written policy that outlines the process through which a neighborhood would go to request historic design protection for City Council to adopt.

APPEARANCE OF PUBLIC HAVING BUSINESS WITH CITY COUNCIL

Ms. Constance McCarthy, 1001 Tree Street appeared before the members of Council to express concerns about missed communications with the City of Columbia regarding her property. I have not been able to get into my driveway for the last four days and for the last month I have not had full use of my facilities. The City damaged a sewer line, but did not inform me. When I noticed sewage seeping into my yard, I was very upset and when I asked the City what the problem is they said that they were working on storm drains. I don't get the connection between the storm drain and the sewer line. The lady across the street had sewer problems and they dug up her area; they dug another hole across the street; and they kept digging until they found my sewer line. This resulted in me calling a plumber; the plumber could not get through with his camera; and the plumber informed me that he broke the water line. I had to replace the entire line from my house back out to the City's line and I paid the humungous bill to get that done. The City never bothered to tell me that they disconnected the line after they broke it and that I didn't have to call a plumber.

There was a consensus of Council to direct the Interim City Manager to meet with Ms. McCarthy to resolve the matter. An update should be provided to the members of Council.

STAFF REPORTS

8. Economic Development Activities and Special Projects Account – Mr. Jim Gambrell, Director of Economic Development

Mr. Jim Gambrell, Director of Economic Development provided an overview of current projects and activities as well as a proposed plan of action for the future. He explained that the Economic Development Office has been in existence since 1993 and it has made a positive impact on Columbia. This is a team sport; it's not something that we do alone; we work with other people to ensure that we are doing all we can to encourage development in Columbia and the growth of jobs. Our staff is critical in making Columbia a business friendly City. We work externally with the City Center Partnership, the Central SC Alliance, the SC Department of Commerce, The Chamber of Commerce, EngenuitySC, USC/Columbia Technology Incubator, the SC Research Authority and others. In Columbia, we are blessed with a strong economy; we have a large medical cluster; we have a large finance and insurance cluster; we are a large government that works closely with the State of South Carolina; and we have a large military presence at Fort Jackson. Our overall objectives are to implement the City of Columbia's Economic Development mission as set forth by City Council and the City Manager; to increase tax and fee income for the City; to increase the number of high wage, knowledge based jobs and other jobs that raise the per capita income of the citizens of Columbia; and to promote and facilitate sustainable economic growth and viability within the corporate City limits of Columbia and the area served by the City's water and sewer system. We manage the Columbia Industrial Park on Bluff Road; there is no property available in the Industrial Park, because it has been sold out. The revenue from land sales since 1994 is \$5,256,000. The business license and property tax revenues in 2001 were \$113,000 and \$352,000 in 2006. We assist and work with developers, businesses and property owners who are interfacing with the City's regulatory and authoritative departments. We coordinated the City's participation with the Hydrogen Fueling Station. We support, advise and work with companies in the International Business Center and the USC/Columbia Technology Incubator. We serve on boards with the primary focus of workforce development. We worked on a City Center Corporate Office Project that created 130 new jobs in a 35,000 sq. ft. office building on Main Street. This sparked the interest of another

company that wanted to come downtown. He noted that parking is a common issue for businesses that move downtown. We need more parking. Later this year, 480,000 sq. ft. of office space will go dark and we have to work very hard to bring new businesses into that dark space. We have a major manufacturer of fishing gear looking to expand here in Columbia. We are working with our partners to attract other businesses to the area. EngenuitySC is the technology marketing organization that we formed almost seven (7) years ago and an update is forthcoming. He outlined their on-going marketing efforts.

There was a consensus of Council to further discuss the Economic Development Special Projects Account once there has been a review of the July 2009 financials.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS, AGREEMENTS and CHANGE ORDERS

9. Council is asked to approve a Professional Services Contract for Grants Professional Services, as requested by the Office of Governmental Affairs. Award to Chris M. Segars doing business as More Than Just Words in an annual amount not to exceed \$85,000.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 1011103-638600 - Approved*

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to approve a Professional Services Contract for Grants Professional Services, as requested by the Office of Governmental Affairs. Award to Chris M. Segars doing business as More Than Just Words in an annual amount not to exceed \$85,000.00. Mr. Cromartie was not present for the vote.

10. Council is asked to approve a Professional Services Contract for Lobbying Services, as requested by the Office of Governmental Affairs. Award to McLeod Butler Communications, LLC in the monthly amount of \$1,491.00 for a total annual amount of \$17,892.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 1011103-638300 – Consideration of this item was deferred.*
11. Council is asked to approve a Professional Services Contract for Lobbying Services, as requested by the Office of Governmental Affairs. Award to The Grant Group, Inc. in the monthly amount of \$1,491.00 for a total annual amount of \$17,892.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 1011103-638300 – Consideration of this item was deferred.*
12. Council is asked to approve a Professional Services Contract for Lobbying Services, as requested by the Office of Governmental Affairs. Award to the State Capitol Group, LLC in the monthly amount of \$2,982.00 for a total annual amount of \$35,784.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 1011103-638300 - Consideration of this item was deferred.*
13. Council is asked to approve a Professional Services Contract for Lobbying Services, as requested by the Office of Governmental Affairs. Award to Barbara McCall and Ralph Garboushian doing business as CapitalEdge Strategies, LLC in the monthly amount of \$5,175.00 for a total annual amount of \$62,100.00. This firm is located in Washington, DC. *Funding Source: 1011103-638300 - Approved*

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to approve a Professional Services Contract for Lobbying Services, as requested by the Office of Governmental Affairs. Award to Barbara McCall and Ralph Garboushian doing business as CapitalEdge Strategies, LLC in the monthly amount of \$5,175.00 for a total annual amount of \$62,100.00. Mr. Cromartie was not present for the vote.

14. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Vehicles, as requested by Various Departments using the SC State Contract, in the amount of \$78,794. - *Approved*

Upon motion by Dr. Gergel, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to approve the Purchase of Vehicles, as requested by Various Departments using the SC State Contract, in the amount of \$78,794.00 as outlined below. Mr. Cromartie was not present for the vote.

Vendor	Qty.	Type	Department	Account	Total
Vic Bailey Ford, Inc.	1	Ford Explorer	Utilities: Water Improvement	5516223-658500	\$19,494.00
Vic Bailey Ford, Inc.	1	Ford Explorer	Utilities: Wastewater Improvement	5516224-658500	\$19,494.00
Vic Bailey Ford, Inc.	2	Ford Escape	Storm Water: Inspection	5534207-658500	\$39,806.00
			Total		\$78,794.00

15. Council is asked to approve Change Order #1, SD8279; Storm Drainage Improvements for Martin Luther King Park, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to Trussell Bros. Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$500,000.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: SS709801 851600 – **Note:** This change will relocate and/or rehabilitate various conflicting sanitary sewer pipes located in Martin Luther King Park. - Approved*

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to approve Change Order #1, SD8279; Storm Drainage Improvements for Martin Luther King Park, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to Trussell Bros. Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$500,000.00.

ZONING CONFIRMATIONS –SECOND READING

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to the *Zoning Confirmations* for **Items 16.** through **22.** with a single motion.

16. **5432 Farrow Road**, TMS# 11612-07-18; confirm C-3 (General Commercial) zoning for property annexed 02/18/2009. – *First reading approval was given on July 15, 2009. – Approved on second reading.*
17. **2629 Percival Road**, TMS# 19716-01-06; confirm C-3 (General Commercial) zoning for property annexed 02/18/2009. – *First reading approval was given on July 15, 2009. - Approved on second reading.*
18. **1313 Rosewood Drive**, TMS# 11208-01-02; confirm M-1 (Light Industrial) zoning for property annexed 01/07/2009. – *First reading approval was given on July 15, 2009. - Approved*
19. **11.24 acres, N/S Clemson Road**, TMS# 25700-04-05; confirm M-1 (Light Industrial) zoning for property annexed 02/18/2009. – *First reading approval was given on July 15, 2009. – Approved on second reading.*
20. **0.76 acres, SE/S Wildewood Centre Drive**, TMS# 25608-10-11; confirm C-3 (General Commercial) zoning for property annexed 03/25/2009. – *First reading approval was given on July 15, 2009. – Approved on second reading.*
21. **1019 and 1023 Darlington Street**, TMS# 09106-03-10; confirm RG-2 (General Residential) zoning for property annexed 03/25/2009. – *First reading approval was given on July 15, 2009. – Approved on second reading.*

22. **121 Shop Road Extension**, TMS# 16200-04-18; establish City of Columbia M-1 (Light Industrial) zoning for property annexed 06/24/2009. – *First reading approval was given on July 15, 2009. – Approved on second reading.*

MAP AMENDMENTS – SECOND READING

Upon motion by Dr. Gergel, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to the *Map Amendments* for **Items 23.** through **27.**

23. **USC Athletics Village – Area generally bound by Heyward Street, S. Marion Street, Norfolk Southern R.R., and Rosewood Drive**, TMS# 11305-01-01, -02; 11305-02-01; 11305-14-19; rezone from C-1 (Office and Institutional) to PUD-C (Commercial Planned Unit Development). – *First reading approval was given on July 15, 2009. – Approved on second reading.*
24. **6810 N. Main Street**, TMS# 11813-05-23; rezone City of Columbia Fire Station #12 from D-1 (Development District) to C-1 (Office and Institutional). – *First reading approval was given on July 15, 2009. – Approved on second reading.*
25. **1215 and 1225 Confederate Avenue**, TMS# 9113-01-03, -04; rezone to remove –CC (Community Character) overlay from C-3 (General Commercial) base district zoning. – *First reading approval was given on July 15, 2009. – Approved on second reading.*
26. **1000 Catawba Street**, TMS# 11301-02-01; rezone from M-2 (Heavy Industrial) PD (Planned Development) To PUD-C (Commercial Planned Unit). – *First reading approval was given on July 15, 2009. –Approved on second reading.*
27. **Rosewood Community**, TMS# Multiple - please refer to case summary; add –CC (Community Character) overlay to all zoning districts. – *First reading approval was given on July 15, 2009. – Approved on second reading.*

TEXT AMENDMENTS – SECOND READING

28. **Amend §17-258** to permit Computer and Data Processing Services as a permitted use in M-2 (Heavy Industrial) zoning districts.

Ordinance No.: 2009-064 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 17, Planning, Land Development and Zoning, Article III, Zoning, Division 8, District Descriptions; Use and Dimensional Regulations, Sec. 17-258, Table of permitted uses, SIC 737 computer and data processing services – *First reading approval was given on July 15, 2009. – Approved on second reading.*

Upon motion by Dr. Gergel, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give second reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2009-064 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 17, Planning, Land Development and Zoning, Article III, Zoning, Division 8, District Descriptions; Use and Dimensional Regulations, Sec. 17-258, Table of permitted uses, SIC 737 computer and data processing services.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

29. Ordinance No.: 2009-066 (*Revised*) - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 5, Buildings and Building Regulations to add Article VIII, Absentee Landlord Registration Program– *First reading approval was given on July 8, 2009. – Approved on second reading.*

Upon motion by Dr. Gergel, seconded by Mayor Coble, Council voted five (5) to one (1) to give second reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2009-066 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 5, Buildings and Building Regulations to add Article VIII, Absentee Landlord Registration Program. Voting aye were Mr. Cromartie, Mr. Davis, Mr. Rickenmann, Dr. Gergel and Mayor Coble. Mr. Finlay voted nay.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to **Items 30.** through **A.** with a single motion.

30. Ordinance No.: 2009-065 – Granting an encroachment to CSL Plasma for installation and maintenance of an irrigation system and landscaping adjacent to 215 South Assembly Street (*Mr. Marc Mylott, Director of Planning and Development Services: Recommends approval*) – *Approved on first reading.*
31. Ordinance No.: 2009-080 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 19, Solid Waste Management, Article II, Collection and Disposal, Sec. 19-31 Definitions, Multiple residential unit and Sec. 19-41 Restrictions on collection, (g) Bulk containers for multiple dwelling units – *Approved on first reading.*
- A. Ordinance No.: 2009-082 – Annexing 3825 Eureka Street, Richland County TMS #13708-09-19 (*Mr. Marc Mylott, Director of Planning and Development Services: Recommends approval*) – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to **Items B.** through **D.** with a single motion.

- B. Ordinance No.: 2009-083 – A Seventh Supplemental Ordinance Supplementing Fifth Supplemental Ordinance No. 2009-072 and Providing for the Issuance and Sale of City of Columbia, South Carolina, Waterworks and Sewer System Revenue Bonds, Series 2009, in the principal amount of not exceeding \$105,000,000; delegating the authority to the Mayor and Interim City Manager to determine certain matters with respect to the bonds; prescribing the form and details of such bonds; making certain amendments to general bond ordinance No.94-43; and other matters relating thereto – *Approved on first reading.*
- C. Ordinance No.: 2009-086 – Repealing Sixth Supplemental Ordinance No. 2009-081 (A Sixth Supplemental Ordinance Supplementing Fifth Supplemental Ordinance No. 2007-072 and Providing for the Issuance and Sale of City of Columbia, South Carolina Waterworks and Sewer System Revenue Bonds, Series 2009, in the principal amount of not exceeding \$105,000,000; delegating the authority to the Mayor and Interim City Manager to determine certain matters with respect to the bonds; prescribing the form and details of such bonds; making certain amendments to general bond ordinance No.94-43; and other matters relating thereto – *Approved on first reading.*
- D. Ordinance No.: 2009-087 – A Sixth Supplemental Ordinance Supplementing Fifth Supplemental Ordinance No. 2007-072 and Providing for the Issuance and Sale of City of Columbia, South Carolina Waterworks and Sewer System Revenue Bonds, Series 2009, in the principal amount of not exceeding \$105,000,000; delegating the authority to the Mayor and Interim City Manager to determine certain matters with respect to the bonds; prescribing the form and details of such bonds; making certain amendments to general bond ordinance No.94-43; and other matters relating thereto – *Approved on first reading.*

RESOLUTIONS

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items E.** through **J.** with a single motion.

- E. Resolution No.: R-2009-046 – Release and Abandonment of a Portion of the City’s Existing 20’ Sanitary Sewer Easement along Richland County TMS #07413-03-01 (Portion); 4500 Williamsburg Drive; Lot 5; Block G, Riverview Terrace; CF#50-79A - *Approved*
- F. Resolution No.: R-2009-047 – Release and Abandonment of the City’s Existing 20’ Sanitary Sewer Easement along Richland County TMS #07316-02-05 (Portion); 4516 Williamsburg Drive; Lot 3, Block G, Riverview Terrace; CF #50-79A - *Approved*
- G. Resolution No.: R-2009-048 – Release and Abandonment of a Portion of the City’s Existing 20’ Sanitary Sewer Easement along Richland County TMS #07316-02-06 (Portion) 4508 Williamsburg Drive; Lot 4, Block G, Riverview Terrace; CF #50-79A - *Approved*
- H. Resolution No.: R-2009-049 – Release and Abandonment of the City’s Existing 20’ Sanitary Sewer Easement along Richland County TMS #07316-02-03 (Portion); 4532 Williamsburg Drive; Lots 1 & 2, Block G, Riverview Terrace; CF #50-79A - *Approved*
- I. Resolution No.: R-2009-053 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine at the Vista Bike Night fundraiser benefiting Honor Flight South Carolina - *Approved*
- J. Resolution No.: R-2009-055 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine at the USC Pep Rally at Wild Wing Café in the Vista - *Approved*
- K. Resolution No.: R-2009-060 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Lease between the City of Columbia and Allard H. Dial for lease of 150 Montgomery Road, Richland County TMS #06700-01-05 – *Funding Source: 1012406-636300 - Deferred*

Consideration of this item was deferred to allow the Police Chief to determine if the Equestrienne Unit is a cornerstone of the Police Department operations.

- L. Resolution No.: R-2009-061 – Adopting the City of Columbia’s Identity Theft Prevention and Detection and Red Flags Rule Policy Statement - *Approved*

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2009-061 – Adopting the City of Columbia’s Identity Theft Prevention and Detection and Red Flags Rule Policy Statement.

EXECUTEIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 3:06 p.m. for the discussion of **Items M.** through **O.** as amended.

- M. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements
 - Request For Qualifications for External/Internal Auditor
 - SCANA Communications, Inc

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

- N. Receipt of legal advice which relates to matter covered by attorney-client privilege
- Angelica Textile Appeal
- This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
- O. **Discussion of compensation of an employee
- This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*

- **Council adjourned the Executive Session at 4:10 p.m.**

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

- P. Purchase of Real Property

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to approve a voice resolution authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute any and all documents to consummate the purchase of real property known as 2126 Devine Street, Richland County TMS# R11312-15-05 for the purchase price of \$850,000.00 plus commissions and fess of \$56,866.99 and the real property known as 2132 Devine Street, Richland County TMS# R11312-15-06 and 07 for the purchase price of \$1,080,000.00 plus commissions and fees of \$16,200.00. Mr. Finlay was not present for the vote.

- **Council adjourned the meeting at 4:11 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley
City Clerk