

**CITY OF COLUMBIA  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
APRIL 29, 2009 – 9:00AM – 1:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL - 1737 MAIN STREET**

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The Columbia City Council met for a Work Session on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. The following members of Council were present. The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann and The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III. The Honorable Belinda F. Gergel was absent. Also present were Mr. Steven A. Gantt, Interim City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

**PRESENTATIONS**

A. \*\*Columbia Museum of Art Proclamation – The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble

The Mayor and members of Council presented a proclamation to Mr. Michael John Roh, Director of Planning and Facility Use for the Columbia Museum of Art declaring Wednesday, April 29, 2009 as Michael John Roh Day in the City of Columbia.

- **Council recessed at 9:07 a.m.**
- **Council convened the Work Session at 9:13 a.m.**

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

A. \*\*Council is asked to approve the Purchase of one (1) lot of Goods, Labor and Services to Modify the City's Outdoor Swimming Pools to become compliant with the Federal "Virginia Graham Baker Act and as requested by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Award to Aqua del Sol Pools, in the amount of \$14,791.74. This vendor is located in Cumming, GA. *Funding Source: PK00731-636600 - Approved*

Councilor Finlay asked if the money is in the budget for this.

Mr. Steven A. Gantt, Interim City Manager replied yes sir; Mr. Baker has assured me that the funding is available.

Councilor Cromartie said that this is a federal regulation.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the Purchase of one (1) lot of Goods, Labor and Services to Modify the City's Outdoor Swimming Pools to become compliant with the Federal "Virginia Graham Baker Act and as requested by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Award to Aqua del Sol Pools, in the amount of \$14,791.74. This vendor is located in Cumming, GA.

\*\* Mr. Steven A. Gantt, Interim City Manager announced that the insurance representatives will be here today to enroll Council members in the new healthcare plan.

**\*\*Councilor Rickenmann wished Mayor Coble a happy birthday.**

### **AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING**

#### **B. Audit Committee Update – The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III**

Councilor Finlay explained that there is one (1) open issue involving various Development Corporations. I think most of these issues are old with some dating back ten (10) years. I would like to ask Mr. Ellis to walk through this and then we can answer any questions. I don't think that the journal entries that the auditor has suggested we make will impact the General Fund this year, but there may be questions or changes about subsequent journal entries.

Councilor Devine said that she is confused; I don't understand what the auditor's questions have to do with the accounting part. Why should the accountant care? We are better staffed now and someone needs to be advising us. We need that information ahead of time before going forward. Some of these issues are very old; we've had audits and if we are doing things wrong that will impact our audit and the way it's reported then someone needs to be advising us.

Councilor Finlay said that this has never been adequately explained to Council. We will see things that should have been caught in previous audits. For example, we bought a fire truck last year and we were assured that there was money set aside for this and there wasn't so that number hit the General Fund this year in the amount of \$1 million. He said that staff can either address those comments by making the journal entries that he has suggested or not.

Mr. Bill Ellis, Deputy Finance Director said that you don't have that option. If you don't make the entries you will get a qualified opinion and we can't have that with a bond issue.

Councilor Davis said that there is confusion about the audit process. Up to this point every year the Eau Claire Development Corporation has passed and satisfied every federal requirement.

There was a consensus of Council to direct Mr. Bill Ellis, Deputy Finance Director and Mr. Tony Lawton, Director of Community Development to develop a listing of the audit issues discussed today and to provide the necessary supporting documentation to Council for further discussion and consideration on May 6, 2009.

### **BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**

#### **C. Proposed Fiscal Year 2009/2010 General Fund Budget – The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III**

The Council reviewed the proposed General Fund Summary for Fiscal Year 2009/2010. There was an in-depth question and answer session.

There was a consensus of Council to schedule a Budget Work Session on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 11:54 a.m. for the discussion of **Items D.** through **F.** as outlined.

- D. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements
- LRADAC
  - Anti-Gang Initiative / Benedict College
  - External / Internal Auditor
  - Jackie Breland & Associates
  - School Resource Officers for Fiscal Year 2009/2010

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

- E. Discussion of negotiations incident to settlement of legal claims
- Columbia Ventures Condemnation
  - Attorney's Fee Request

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

- F. Receipt of legal advice which relate to matters covered by attorney-client privilege
- Street Lighting

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

- **Council adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley  
City Clerk