

**CITY OF COLUMBIA
WORK SESSION ACTION REPORT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 - 9:00 A.M.
CITY HALL - 1737 MAIN STREET**



The Columbia City Council met for a Work Session on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 in the Council Conference Room, City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m. The following members of Council were present: The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II, The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III and The Honorable Belinda F. Gergel. Also present were Mr. Steven A. Gantt, Interim City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Cromartie and seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 9:22 a.m. for the discussion of the employment of an employee.

- **Mr. Finlay left the meeting at 9:30 a.m.**
- 1. City Manager Search – Mr. James Mercer, The Mercer Group - *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
- **Council adjourned the Executive Session at 11:20 a.m. to reconvene the Work Session.**

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

2. Innovista Redevelopment Plan

Mr. John Lumpkin, Esquire said that the Waterfront Steering Committee is a group of volunteers that were organized in 2006 to be stewards for the InnoVista District and the implementation of the master plan. He reported that the plan has four (4) elements: urban design, which looks at the fabric of a 500-acre tract of land and how to put an urban design concept into that area; green space and how to preserve a significant amount of that for pedestrian use; circulation of the road system; and land use.

Mr. Eric Shytle, Shareholder / Haynesworth, Sinkler and Boyd, P.A. / Midlands Business Leadership Group presented a map and outlined the contours of the InnoVista District, noting that the Congaree River is to the west, Gervais Street is to the north, Assembly Street is to the east and the south is bounded by Heyward Street and Dreyfus Street. He reported that two key pieces of the plan are to extend Greene Street over the railroad cut and to extend Williams Street in order to open the area up for development that could not exist without the redevelopment project. This type of growth is high valued; we project \$60 million in assessed value at build out.

This was a discussion. No action was taken.

- **Council recessed at 12:34 p.m.**
- **Council reconvened at 12:37 p.m.**

3. **Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services – The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble

Mr. Mike King, Assistant City Manager for Public Safety reported that they are exploring the concept of Firefighters driving EMS units when needed; however, there may be significant and additional costs that the City of Columbia will need to understand and consider prior to making a decision. There may be concerns with shared liability, enhanced certifications, enhanced training and cost. I have asked Fire Chief Bradley Anderson if he agrees with allowing Firefighters to drive EMS units and to prepare a formal request to initiate the exploration and investigation of the factors and costs involved. I will relay the request to Richland County Administrator Milton Pope for consideration and approval and then I will report back to City Council with our findings and our recommendations. Our focus during this entire process will be openness and fairness to all.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Coble and seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to direct the Interim City Manager to contact the Richland County Administrator and to endorse the creation of a policy as it relates to firefighters driving ambulances in emergency situations. Once the policy is drafted, it is to be considered by the members of City Council.

4. **Shady Lane Landscape Improvements – The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble

There was a consensus of Council to direct the Interim City Manager to coordinate a meeting between the residents of Shady Lane, Councilman Finlay and staff to determine what landscape improvements are needed on Shady Lane.

- **Council recessed at 12:48 p.m.**
- **Council reconvened at 1:00 p.m.**

5. **Council is asked to approve a Professional Services Agreement for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Funding (HPRP) Program. Award to the University of South Carolina for Case Management Services from September 30, 2009 through September 30, 2011 in the amount of \$95,800. – *Approved*

6. **Council is asked to approve a Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program Sub Recipient Agreement for Providing Services to Assist Program Participants in Obtaining Legal Service to Achieve Housing Stability. Award to the SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center in the amount of \$20,000 and to SC Legal Services in the amount of \$80,000 for a total amount of \$100,000. - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Cromartie and seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items 5.** and **6.** with a single motion.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

7. **Ordinance No.: 2009-110 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 6, Elections, Sec. 6-2, Method of election; election districts, (b) – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Cromartie and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2009-110 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 6, Elections, Sec. 6-2, Method of election; election districts, (b). Mr. Rickenmann was not present for the vote.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

8. Council is asked to approve an Amended Contract for Consulting Services Extension Agreement. Award to JB & Associates in an increased amount of \$51,000.00 modifying the not to exceed amount to \$81,000.00 for an additional one (1) year term commencing July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Cromartie and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve an Amended Contract for Consulting Services Extension Agreement. Award to JB & Associates in an increased amount of \$51,000.00 modifying the not to exceed amount to \$81,000.00 for an additional one (1) year term commencing July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Cromartie and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 1:47 p.m.

9. **Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements
- Ameresco
This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.

- **Council adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley
City Clerk