

**CITY OF COLUMBIA
WORK SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2010 – 9:00 A.M.
CITY HALL - 1737 MAIN STREET
3rd Floor – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**



The Columbia City Council met for a Work Session on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 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 9:07 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, City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. Columbia City Ballet Funding Request

Councilor Devine suggested that the Council allow Ms. Libby Gober, City Council Liaison to work with the Columbia City Ballet to ensure that the funds are expended on eligible items. She asked if the new performance at Drayton Hall (USC) was included on the application submitted during the spring. If not, is that eligible for consideration at this time?

Ms. Libby Gober, City Council Liaison explained that several of the items listed are not eligible for funding from the Hospitality Tax Contingency Fund. They requested funding for a new website to market the performance in Chicago; to pay for bill inserts to advertise the performance in Chicago; rental fees and advertisements for the performance at Drayton Hall (USC); and payments for guest performers. We can cover the web design and the advertisement of the performance at Drayton Hall for \$11,000.

Councilor Rickenmann stated that he is inclined to deny the request, because the funding request has been moved around several times. If we start funding projects outside of the City, we will have to do the same for every group. We have to stop funding outside of the process.

A motion made by Mr. Rickenmann and seconded by Mr. Davis to decline the Columbia City Ballet's request failed due to the passing of a substitute motion.

Upon a substitute motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted five (5) to two (2) to allocate up to \$5,000 from the Hospitality Tax Contingency Fund, subject to the Columbia City Ballet working with Ms. Libby Gober, City Council Liaison to determine if the website can be designed to market the City of Columbia. Voting aye were Mr. Cromartie, Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine, Dr. Gergel and Mayor Coble. Voting nay were Mr. Rickenmann and Mr. Finlay.

2. **Strong Mayor Referendum on April Ballot – The Honorable Belinda F. Gergel

The members of Council held an in-depth discussion about placing the strong Mayor referendum on the April 6, 2010 Municipal Election ballot.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to schedule a Public Session on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 to educate and communicate with the citizens of Columbia about the strong mayor form of government.

- **Council recessed at 10:53 a.m.**
- **Council reconvened at 10:56 a.m.**

3. **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marker Unveiling and Street Closing - The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II

The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II announced that the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marker Unveiling Ceremony will be held on Monday, January 18, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. at the corner of Harden Street and Greene Street.

Major Randy Martin, Coordinator of Homeland Security explained that there will be Community Safety Officers helping with traffic control; we will use Pavilion Street as a detour; and officers will be posted to assist in directing traffic.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Cromartie and seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to approve a request to close Harden Street between Greene Street and College Street from 2:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. on Monday, January 18, 2010 for the unveiling of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. markers.

4. Update on New Downtown Parking Garage – Mr. John David Spade, Director of Parking Services

Ms. Mary Beth Sims Branham, AIA, Vice President / Managing Principal for LS3P Associates, LTD. presented an update on the City Center Garage and Development. We are proceeding with the Sumter Street/Taylor Street site. We are currently in the schematic design phase; we will bid the project in June 2010; construction will begin in August 2010; and the garage will open in August 2011. We considered two options: a 350 car capacity garage or a 500 car capacity garage. We have developed a site context plan for a 532 car capacity garage; it's much more than a garage; it is a catalyst for downtown development. There will be a Main Street connector and we will be demolishing the rear portion of the building at 1620 Main Street to open it up and make it more inviting. We are creating a gated walkway to allow adjacent property owners to maintain access to their properties via the alleyway. The total project budget is estimated at \$14 million.

This report was received as information. No action was taken.

5. Columbia Renaissance Redevelopment Plan and the Innovista Redevelopment Plan – Mr. Angelo McBride, Senior Business Administrator

Mr. Angelo McBride, Senior Business Administrator and Mr. Josephus Howard, Business Loan Officer provided an update on the Tax Increment Financing Plans; the purpose of the redevelopment plan; tax increment bonds; the projects under the Columbia Renaissance & InnoVista Redevelopment Plans; and the economic impact of the Columbia Renaissance & InnoVista Redevelopment Plans.

The Public Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1737 Main Street. No action was taken.

6. Economic Development Special Projects Account – Mr. Jim Gambrell, Director of Economic Development – *Consideration of this item was deferred.*
 - **Mr. Finlay left the meeting at 12:31 p.m.**

RESOLUTIONS

7. Resolution No.: R-2010-004 – Authorizing the Mayor to execute an Employment Contract between the City of Columbia and Steven A. Gantt – *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

APPOINTMENTS

8. Climate Protection Action Committee as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Advisory Committee (NPDES)

Upon a motion made by Mr. Cromartie and seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to designate the existing Climate Protection Action Committee as the conduit for receiving public input as required under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit.

BUDGET DISCUSSION – 2nd FLOOR, CONFERENCE ROOM

9. Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Budget Schedule and Format – Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager – *This matter was deferred.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mayor Coble and seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 12:33 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 10.** through **15.** as outlined.

10. Legal advice which relates to matter covered by attorney-client privilege
 - Smoking ordinance – The Tobacco Merchant
 - Callison Tighe Conflict Waiver

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

11. Legal advice which relates to a pending, threatened or potential claim
 - Thorn Tree homeowners

This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.
 12. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements
 - Sheraton Hotel
 - Lower Richland Sewer

These items were discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.
 13. Discussion of negotiations incident to the proposed purchase of property – *This item was withdrawn from the agenda.*
 14. Discussion of negotiations incident to the proposed sale of property - *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
 15. Discussion of employment of an employee - *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
- **Mayor Coble and Ms. Devine left the meeting at 1:10 p.m.**
 - **Council adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley
City Clerk