

**CITY OF COLUMBIA  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
MAY 18, 2010 – 9:00 A.M.  
CITY HALL - 1737 MAIN STREET  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM**

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The Columbia City Council met for a Work Session on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 in the City Council Conference Room located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine and The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann. The Honorable Belinda F. Gergel arrived at 9:05 a.m. and The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III arrived at 9:19 a.m. Also present were Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

**BUDGET WORK SESSION**

Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Budget Review – Mr. Steve Gantt, City Manager

- General Fund

Mr. Steve Gantt, City Manager reported that some of his recommendations from the last meeting have changed. We've included the \$700,000 that we were going to take out of Public Works; the reduction in the fleet repairs; and the SAFER Grant is being used to replace some general funds for the Fire Department. In Community Promotions, we left the committee as they were, but we've made changes in funding to Fast Forward, by using training funds from the Human Resources Department. Fast Forward will receive \$40,000 from the General Fund; \$50,000 from the Water and Sewer Fund; and \$10,000 from CDBG for a total of \$100,000. We will need an additional \$18,750 to make them whole. They will train 600 employees and provide computer access for the Fire and Police Departments. I did not reduce funding for the River Alliance or the Community Relations Council. I took KOBAN out and we can contact the Eisenhower Foundation to determine if they are willing to fund the organization. I am suggesting that the Urban League be funded from the Economic Development Contingency Account due to the work initiative that has an economic impact. I did about 10 or 12 buy-outs last week at 10% and I've increased that number by \$100,000 to \$1,250,000, which I feel comfortable with. I reduced the internal auditor contract by \$50,000, because the Council can contract with someone annually for that service. I put the Broadband Grant match in the amount of \$250,000 back in the Operating Budget and if it is successful, we can take the funds out of the Reserve Fund. We included the projected revenue generated from increasing the franchise rate from 3% to 5%.

- **Ms. Devine left at 9:15 a.m.**
- **Mr. Finlay arrived at 9:19 a.m.**
- **Ms. Devine returned at 9:47 a.m.**

Ms. Melisa Caughman, Budget Director stated that they need to advertise the bottom line number of the budget this week for a June 9, 2010 Public Hearing. The budget will be given first reading on June 16, 2010 and second reading on June 23, 2010.

- **Mayor Coble left the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and Mayor Pro-Tem Finlay is now presiding.**

- **Mr. Davis left the meeting at 10:19 a.m.**

Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager said that we won't be able to sustain the Hospitality Tax Contingency Fund if we continue to transfer from it as we did for last year and this upcoming year.

There was an in-depth discussion on additional budget reductions within the General Fund and the use of the Hospitality Tax Fund. No action was taken.

- Parking Fund – *This item was not discussed.*
- Water & Sewer Fund

Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager reported that \$14,958,511 will go towards water and sewer capital improvement projects in addition to all surplus funds.

There was a discussion of the Water and Sewer Fund. No action was taken.

There was a consensus of Council to direct the City Manager to advertise the Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Budget Public Hearing for Wednesday, June 9, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.; first reading consideration of the budget ordinance will be given on June 16, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.; and second reading consideration will be given on June 23, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. The budget is \$107,395,624.00.

- **Council adjourned the Work Session at 11:17 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley  
City Clerk