



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011
6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1737 MAIN STREET

The Columbia City Council conducted a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:21 p.m. The following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Belinda F. Gergel and The Honorable Leona K. Plough. The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman arrived at 6:59 p.m. The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine and The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann were absent. Also present were Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore, City Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Reverend Dr. Eugene Sutton, Chaplain for the Columbia Police Department offered the Invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda with the following amendment:

- Defer consideration of **Item 17**.

APPEARANCE OF PUBLIC WITH COMMENTS RELATED TO THE AGENDA

No one appeared at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of November 15, 2011 - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of November 15, 2011, as presented.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Update on the South Carolina Philharmonic – Ms. Rhonda Hunsinger, Executive Director

Mr. Morihiko Nakahara, Music Director for the South Carolina Philharmonic thanked the City Council for its continued support. Mr. Nakahara distributed copies of the SC Philharmonic's Annual Report. He provided an update on the activities of the organization to include their education outreach programs.

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCES –FIRST READING

3. Ordinance No.: 2011-093 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 11, Licenses, Permits and Miscellaneous Business Regulations, Article II, Business and Professional License, Sec. 11-32 Definitions to add Boardinghouse and Roominghouse, and Charitable purpose, Sec. 11-34 License fee, Sec. 11-35 Registration of businesses; application for license; Sec. 11-36 Deductions from gross income; exemptions; determination of classification; Sec. 11-49 Classification rate schedules – *Approved on first reading.*

- **Council opened the Public Hearing at 6:31 p.m.**

No one appeared in support of or in opposition to Ordinance No.: 2011-093.

- **Council closed the Public Hearing at 6:31 p.m.**

Upon a motion made by Ms. Plough and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2011-093 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 11, Licenses, Permits and Miscellaneous Business Regulations, Article II, Business and Professional License, Sec. 11-32 Definitions to add Boardinghouse and Roominghouse, and Charitable purpose, Sec. 11-34 License fee, Sec. 11-35 Registration of businesses; application for license; Sec. 11-36 Deductions from gross income; exemptions; determination of classification; Sec. 11-49 Classification rate schedules.

OTHER MATTERS

4. The Economic and Community Development Committee recommends the approval of using City funding previously disbursed to the Fuel Cell Collaborative (managed by SCRA) to support the development of a portable fuel cell back-up generator in the amount of \$12,500. This fuel cell generator is being developed by a new, start up, fuel cell company, Logan Energy Carolinas (LEC) that has been established in Columbia by LOGANEnergy Corporation at the Enterprise Campus of Midlands Technical College.

Councilor Davis provided the following report on the Economic and Community Development Committee Meeting held on December 6, 2011: “Ms. Devine asked that the committee review information on an Economic Development Self-Assessment Tool that will assist the City in attracting business investments to target areas. The committee will consider including the Good to Great Foundation, Richland County, Lexington County and others in a regional assessment. This matter will be added to the committee’s agenda in January or February 2012. Ms. Plough requested that we conduct a commercial study on the Devine Street corridor similar to what was done with the City Center, North Main and Two Notch Road areas.”

Councilor Plough elaborated on her request for a commercial node study for the Devine Street Corridor at Cross Hill Road. She asked the City Manager when they might be able to start the process, because a number of the buildings are now vacant.

Councilor Davis recommended the approval of using City funding previously disbursed to the Fuel Cell Collaborative (managed by the South Carolina Research Authority) to support the development of a portable fuel cell back-up generator in the amount of \$12,500.

Councilor Plough requested that staff develop a format for presenting projects of this nature to the Committee and City Council. Even though they are very different projects, with different backgrounds and different objectives, there are some basic elements that would help us be able to make a decision. This would allow each project to be presented in a similar fashion and even compared with other proposals where appropriate.

Mr. Jim Gambrell, Director of Economic Development explained that Logan Energy Carolinas is a new start up company that is a subsidiary of LOGAN Energy, which is a well known fuel cell company. Logan will be starting here at the Enterprise Campus of Midlands Technical College. Over the next five (5) years, they will invest over \$2 million in the company. The purpose of the company is to develop and build a fuel cell that will supply electric energy for mobile uses. This is a very attractive and interesting type of unit that we'll be able to use in the City of Columbia. It will be used throughout South Carolina and outside of the State, too. They will add 15-20 jobs that will pay very big wages in Columbia.

Councilor Plough said that the \$12,500 buys the prototype, which will be used to market this fuel cell generator around the state and around the country. It will be here in Columbia for us to use for a number of city functions, particularly events at a park. We will have a clean, green generator at our disposal as a result of this investment.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Gergel and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the use of City funding previously disbursed to the Fuel Cell Collaborative (managed by SCRA) to support the development of a portable fuel cell back-up generator in the amount of \$12,500. The generator will be maintained by Logan Energy Carolinas personnel and made available to the City to provide "green" electrical power at events. After the initial development period, which is estimated to be five years, the generator will become the property of the City. LOGANEnergy is expected to create 15 new jobs over the next five years.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Ms. Plough and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 5 through 16 and 18 through 20**. The consideration of **Item 17** was deferred.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS, AGREEMENTS and CHANGE ORDERS

5. Council is asked to approve a Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with the South Carolina Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network to provide and seek immediate relief during emergencies for Water and Wastewater Utilities, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. - *Approved*
6. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Two (2) Chevrolet Caprices, as requested by the Police Department. Award to Love Chevrolet, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$51,464.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: US Justice Grants Control-Auto, Trucks Heavy Equipment Capital; 2659999-658500.* - *Approved*

7. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of 1200 Ninety-six (96) Gallon Roll Carts, as requested by the Solid Waste Division. Award to Toter Inc., as a Sole Source in the amount of \$62,145.60. This vendor is located in Statesville, NC. *Funding Source: Solid Waste Roll Carts-Roll Carts and Recycle Bins; 1014401-627600. - Approved*
8. Council is asked for the Continual Support of the Special City Prosecutor for Fiscal Year 2011/2012, as requested by Richland County Solicitor Dan Johnson. Award to the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office in the amount of \$70,000.00. *Funding is included in the FY 2011/2012 General Fund Budget. - Approved*
9. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Five (5) Chevrolet Impalas, as requested by the Fleet Services Division. Award to Love Chevrolet, using the SC State Contract in the amount of \$91,130.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Capital Replacement-Auto Trucks, Heavy Equipment>\$5K; 6308972-658500 – **Note:** These are for the Columbia Police Department Investigators. - Approved*
10. Council is asked to approve Capital Improvement Projects SS7101 and SS7102; Contract Amendment #2 for Engineering Services for Grinder & Hoist Additions at the North Columbia, Broad River and Mill Creek Pump Stations, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to URS Corporation in the amount of \$118,200.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Sewer Improvement Fund; 5529999-SS710101-636600 & 5529999-SS710201-636600 – **Note:** DESA, Inc. (Columbia, SC) will provide Technical Work, Construction, Administration and Record Drawing assistance at 21.9% of the total contract. - Approved*
11. Council is asked to approve Contract Amendments to Agreement for Professional Services for Renovation, Painting, Preventative Maintenance Services, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to Utility Services Company, Inc. for a total amount of \$410,727.24. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Water Maintenance Fund; 5516210-WM377907-638300. – **Note:** \$214,971.24 of the agreement will be used for Contracts Extension and \$195,756.00 will be use for a One (1) Time Cost of Tank Containment for Lead Abatement Work for the Wales Garden Tank. - Approved*
12. Council is asked to approve Capital Improvement Project SS7183; An Agreement for Engineering Services for Solids Handling Master Plan at the Columbia Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase I, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to H&S in the amount of \$315,112.00. This vendor is located in Charlotte, NC. *Funding Source: Sewer Improvements Fund; 5516212-SS7183-636600 – **Note:** The following sub-consultants will be assisting with work under this Agreement: Florence & Hutcheson (Columbia, SC) will provide planning services at 5.14% of the total contract and Applied Filter Technology (Bothell, VA) will provide Digester Gas Sampling & Analysis services at 1.86%. - Approved*
13. Council is asked to approve Capital Improvement Project SS7171-1A; A Task Order for Design and Improvement for North & South Levee Improvement Project Near the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to Terracon Consulting, Inc., in the amount of \$600,000.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Sewer Improvements Fund; 5529999-SS717101-658600 – **Note:** URS Corporation (Columbia, SC) will assist with engineering, surveying and permitting services at 32.8% of the total contract. - Approved*

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

14. Ordinance No.: 2011-094 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine at the 2011 Famously Hot New Year Event – *First reading approval was given on November 15, 2011. – Approved on second reading.*

ANNEXATION WITH MAP AMENDMENT – SECOND READING

15. **5307 and 5311 Forest Drive**, TMS# 16706-03-29 and-30; request recommendation to annex and zone the property C-3 (General Commercial). The property is zoned GC (General Commercial) in Richland County. – *First reading approval was given on November 15, 2011. – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2011-022 – Annexing 5307 Forest Drive and 5311 Forest Drive, Richland County TMS #16706-03-29 and 16706-03-30 – *First reading approval was given on November 15, 2011. – Approved on second reading.*

16. **840 Sparkleberry Lane**, TMS# 25608-10-29; request recommendation to annex and zone the property C-3 (General Commercial). The property is zoned GC (General Commercial) in Richland County. – *First reading approval was given on November 15, 2011. – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2011-089 – Annexing 840 Sparkleberry Lane, Richland County TMS #25608-10-29 – *First reading approval was given on November 15, 2011. – Approved on second reading.*

TEXT AMENDMENTS – SECOND READING

17. **Amend §17-305 – Planned Unit Developments** to modify review process for special exceptions in Planned Unit Development districts. – *First reading approval was given on November 15, 2011. – Consideration of this item was deferred.*

Ordinance No.: 2011-084 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 17, Planning, Land Development and Zoning, Article III, Zoning, Division 9, Supplementary District Regulations, Sec. 17-305 Planned unit developments – *First reading approval was given on November 15, 2011. – Consideration of this item was deferred.*

18. **Amend §17-55 Definitions, §17-258 Table of Uses, and §17-321 Private Dormitory to permit Private Dormitories as a conditional use in the MX-2 zoning district.** – *First reading approval was given on November 15, 2011. – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2011-085 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 17, Planning, Land Development and Zoning, Article III, Zoning, Division 9, Supplementary District Regulations, Sec. 17-321 Private Dormitory and Sec. 17-258 Table of permitted uses SIC 8811.6 – *First reading approval was given on November 15, 2011. – Approved on second reading.*

19. **Amend §17-55 - Definitions and 17-464 Definitions** to modify requirements for site plan review approval. – *First reading approval was given on November 15, 2011. – Approved on second reading.*

Ordinance No.: 2011-083 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 17, Planning, Land Development and Zoning, Article III, Zoning, Division 1, Generally, Sec. 17-55 Definitions, Group commercial or industrial development and Group housing development, and Article IV, Subdivisions, Division 1, Generally, housing development, and Article IV, Subdivisions, Division 1, Generally, Sec. 17-464 Definitions, Subdivision development types – *First reading approval was given on November 15, 2011. – Approved on second reading.*

20. **Adjust corporate boundary to include S/S of Forest Drive (former US Army Reserve Center) and exclude 5133 Forest Drive.** – *First reading approval was given on November 15, 2011.*

Ordinance No.: 2011-022 – Adjustment to corporate limits, S/S Forest Drive, Richland County TMS #16701-05-01 and 5133 Forest Drive, Richland County TMS #16705-05-11 – *First reading approval was given on November 15, 2011. – Approved on second reading.*

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

21. Ordinance No.: 2011-077 – Granting encroachment to the Hermitage House Home Owners Association for installation and maintenance of a flagstone path, landscaping and an irrigation system within the right of way area of the 600 block of King Street adjacent to 619 King Street, Richland County TMS #11382 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Gergel and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2011-077 – Granting encroachment to the Hermitage House Home Owners Association for installation and maintenance of a flagstone path, landscaping and an irrigation system within the right of way area of the 600 block of King Street adjacent to 619 King Street, Richland County TMS #11382.

22. Ordinance No.: 2011-079 – Granting an encroachment to Art Bar for installation and maintenance of a scored concrete patio and landscaping within the right of way area adjacent to 1211 Park Street, Richland County TMS #09013-11-08 and twenty (20) chairs and five (5) tables for use by its patrons for outdoor dining during normal business hours – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2011-079 – Granting an encroachment to Art Bar for installation and maintenance of a scored concrete patio and landscaping within the right of way area adjacent to 1211 Park Street, Richland County TMS #09013-11-08 and twenty (20) chairs and five (5) tables for use by its patrons for outdoor dining during normal business hours.

23. Ordinance No.: 2011-081 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 23, Utilities and Engineering, Article V, Water and Sewer Rates, Sec. 23-152 Sewer plant expansion fee (b) – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2011-081 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 23, Utilities and Engineering, Article V, Water and Sewer Rates, Sec. 23-152 Sewer plant expansion fee (b).

24. Ordinance No.: 2011-092 – Granting an encroachment to Timothy G. Adams, Sr. for installation and maintenance of a brick wall and landscaping within the right of way adjacent to 29 Samson Circle, Richland County TMS #14203-14-11 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2011-092 – Granting an encroachment to Timothy G. Adams, Sr. for installation and maintenance of a brick wall and landscaping within the right of way adjacent to 29 Samson Circle, Richland County TMS #14203-14-11.

25. Ordinance No.: 2011-097 – Granting an encroachment to City Center Partnership for placement and maintenance of one bike rack and one sculpture within the sidewalk right of way of the 1300 block of Main Street adjacent to 1136 Washington Street – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Gergel and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2011-097 – Granting an encroachment to City Center Partnership for placement and maintenance of one bike rack and one sculpture within the sidewalk right of way of the 1300 block of Main Street adjacent to 1136 Washington Street.

26. Ordinance No.: 2011-098 – To Grant to Sprint-Nextel Communications Company, its Successors and Assigns the Right, Power and Authority to Construct, Install, Maintain and Operate In, Over, Upon and Under the Streets and Public Places of the City of Columbia, its Lines, Poles, Wires, Cables and other Telecommunications Facilities to Render Telecommunications Services to its Customers in the Limit of the City of Columbia for Such Period as Provided Herein; and to Provide for the Payment for Compensation for the Use of the Streets and Public Places – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mayor Benjamin, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2011-098 – To Grant to Sprint-Nextel Communications Company, its Successors and Assigns the Right, Power and Authority to Construct, Install, Maintain and Operate In, Over, Upon and Under the Streets and Public Places of the City of Columbia, its Lines, Poles, Wires, Cables and other Telecommunications Facilities to Render Telecommunications Services to its Customers in the Limit of the City of Columbia for Such Period as Provided Herein; and to Provide for the Payment for Compensation for the Use of the Streets and Public Places

27. Ordinance No.: 2011-100 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 8, Environmental Health and Sanitation, Article III, Noise, Division 1, Generally, Sec. 8-67 Radios, phonographs, musical instruments and other sound-amplifying devices – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Dr. Gergel and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2011-100 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 8, Environmental Health and Sanitation, Article III, Noise, Division 1, Generally, Sec. 8-67 Radios, phonographs, musical instruments and other sound-amplifying devices.

28. Ordinance No.: 2011-101 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 2, Administration, Article V, Procurement to add Sec. 2-208 Purchase and sale of real property, exceptions for certain utilities project and site acquisitions – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Plough and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2011-101 – Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 2, Administration, Article V, Procurement to add Sec. 2-208 Purchase and sale of real property, exceptions for certain utilities project and site acquisitions.

RESOLUTIONS

29. Resolution No.: R-2011-074 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine within Boyd Plaza adjacent to the Columbia Museum of Art for Arts and Draughts – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Plough and seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2011-074 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine within Boyd Plaza adjacent to the Columbia Museum of Art for Arts and Draughts.

30. Resolution No.: R-2011-075 – Authorizing Notice of 2012 Election for Three Members of City Columbia – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2011-075 – Authorizing Notice of 2012 Election for Three Members of City Columbia.

APPOINTMENTS

31. Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development
- Council is asked to approve the appointment of Dr. John Hall Dozier to complete the term of Mr. Cecil Hannibal, as requested by The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine. The term will end March 29, 2015. – *Approved*
 - Council is asked to approve the reappointment of Mr. Paul Grimes for a final four (4) year term, as requested by The Honorable Daniel Rickenmann. – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Dr. John Hall Dozier for a term ending March 29, 2015 and the reappointment of Mr. Paul Grimes for a four (4) year term ending on January 15, 2015.

32. Climate Protection Action Committee – *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

33. Economic & Community Development Committee – *Please refer to **Item 4.***

34. Environment and Infrastructure Committee

On behalf of Councilor Devine, Councilor Plough provided the following report on the Environment and Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on November 22, 2011. We asked the City Manager to look at services that we might consider for privatization. We talked about Solid Waste, but the committee felt like the manager should look at this and come back with recommendations. Ms. Missy Gentry, P.E., Assistant City Manager and staff presented a report on the Street Survey. We were impressed with the information they gathered. A full report will be made to City Council in January. Mr. Joey Jaco, Director of Utilities and Engineering advised the Committee that they are working on a Request for Proposals for Automate Meter Reading that should be ready to advertise in December. The RFP will be for a trial period of one (1) year and encompass a specific area that contains up to 1,000 water meters. We hope to select a vendor by spring of 2012 for Council's consideration. We also discussed an audit of our lighting and the opportunity to take advantage of tax credits. We thought we could move quickly to take advantage of the tax credits that expire at the end of the year, but there was a follow-up e-mail and I'm not sure if we can do this quickly. We are still pursuing the idea of being more energy efficient. The last one is a proposal that the National League of Cities is doing on a water and sewer line warranty program. Councilman Davis has a similar interest. We discussed looking at three possible vendors that provide the water and sewer warranty. This has been done in other cities. We will look at other cities and other vendors and then bring something back to City Council for consideration.

35. Administrative Policy Committee

Councilor Plough provided the following report on the Administrative Policy Committee Meeting held on November 18, 2011. Focusing first on the ethics policy discussion, we put a lot of responsibility on our Human Resources Department. We asked them to come back with a proposal on how to implement ethics training for the staff as well as city boards, commissions and other organizations that the city appoints people to. We also asked them to look at recommending to the committee an ethics violation reporting process that could be anonymous. We spent some time looking at the Blue Cross Blue Shield "Our Values" booklet that they did for their corporate structure. We talked with our Human Resources Department about doing something similar to that in order to help everyone understand how the City's ethics policy relates to what city values would be. It would serve as a guide for ethical behavior of our employees. It would emphasize the obligation to report potential violations and it would clearly spell out actions everyone should take in terms of reporting concerns. The final piece of that was asking the Legal Department to look at our current ethics policies to ensure that the language conveys that people have an obligation to report any suspected violations and to make sure that we prevent retaliation on individuals who report something as a potential violation. It was suggested that the violations would be first reported to the Human Resources Department, where reports would be validated. Then all reports would be submitted to the City Manager for the appropriate action to be taken and as required, forwarded to City Council or the Governor. A summary report would be provided to City Council as needed and on an annual basis. We also spent time discussing the False Claims Act and we will continue to follow that. Staff did a very good job researching other

policies of senior staff being required to live in the city. We made a recommendation to this Council. The Mayor and other members of this Council suggested that we look at other cities. We came up with a model that the City of Charlotte has. Staff is going to look at that in terms of how that might be applicable in Columbia and come back to the committee with another recommendation. The final recommendation is about staff serving on boards and commissions and a Resolution will be placed on the December 20th agenda. Ms. Plaugh further suggested that the City Council receive one hour of training on ethics and changes in the ethics law at their annual retreat.

- **Mr. Newman joined the meeting at 6:59 p.m.**
- **Mr. Davis left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

APPEARANCE OF PUBLIC HAVING BUSINESS WITH CITY COUNCIL

Mr. John McLean appeared before the Council to suggest that the City invite the Atlanta Braves to play two exhibition games at the Capital City Stadium. He also suggested that Underground Columbia be re-opened. It was located in the Arcade Building on Main Street and closed thirty-five years ago.

Mayor Benjamin announced the recent reconstitution of the Youth Commission. Applications have been sent to every public and private high school in the region. He also requested that the public input meeting on the proposed redevelopment of the baseball stadium scheduled for Monday, December 19, 2011 from 6-8 p.m. at 701 Whaley Street be properly advertised.

Councilor Gergel announced that "Saints at the River" by Ron Rash is the book selection for the 2012 One Book, One Columbia initiative. Ron Rash, the author, is a South Carolina native. It is an award winning book that is set in South Carolina. The reading period will begin on January 17, 2012 until the end of February. A variety of activities will take place that you all will enjoy participating in.

Mr. Steven A. Gantt, City Manager invited the members of Council to fellowship with City Employees at the Annual Employee Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Public Works.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Gergel and seconded by Ms. Plaugh, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk