

**CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2013 – 2:00 P.M.
EAU CLAIRE PRINT BUILDING
3907 ENSOR AVENUE**



The Columbia City Council met for a Work Session on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at the Eau Claire Print Building located at 3907 Ensor Avenue, Columbia South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. The following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Leona K. Plough, The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan and The Honorable Moe Baddourah. The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman arrived at 2:17 p.m. Also present were Ms. Teresa B. Wilson, City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore, City Clerk. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 2:15 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 1** through **4** as outlined.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Discussion of the employment of an employee - *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
2. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements - *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
3. Discussion of negotiations incident to the proposed sale of property - *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*
4. Receipt of legal advice which relates to a matter covered by attorney-client privilege - *This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Plough, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the Executive Session at 3:25 p.m. and to reconvene the Work Session at 3:34 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager advised Council that later today, they will be asked to endorse the agency applications for Emergency Solution Grants for homeless assistance. She said that staff will provide an overview of how we interact with those programs.

Mayor Benjamin said let's make it a constructive dialog and figure out how we can move forward together; there is no us and no them. He said we have a number of hard working and able non-profits. He stated that there are limited public resources; as we face the reality and complexity of homelessness, we will have to do it together. He asked that we please respect the ability of others to speak. He also asked that the conversation remain positive and constructive; hold us accountable to make the decisions that need to be made as we move forward.

5. Review of Homelessness Services

- a) [Homeless Advisory Committee Report](#) – Dr. David Parker, Director of Supportive Housing Services / University of South Carolina Department of Medicine

Dr. David Parker, Director of Supportive Housing Services / University of South Carolina Department of Medicine reviewed the history of the Homeless Advisory Committee (HAC), which is an informal committee that meets every two (2) months along with subcommittees that meet during non-meeting months. He recognized the committee members as a large group with very diverse representation. The committee identified these areas with the strongest needs in the city: transportation, meals, panhandling and sanitation. The committee is not suggesting policy, but they are providing recommendations to the city. The Calhoun Street Corridor Subcommittee is working with the Columbia Police Department to identify individuals living in certain areas and to determine what their needs are; engaging railroad companies to clean, clear brush and increase patrols in Columbia; working to enact a marketing campaign so that people don't give money to panhandlers, but instead direct them to service providers and to secure no panhandling/loitering signs in five locations; working to obtain funding for five permanent trash cans at \$1,200 each along Calhoun Street. He noted that city staff agreed to empty the trash cans. The Sanitation Committee is working with the city to develop a GIS based map of all meal locations and identifying a funding source and locations for the restrooms. The Meals Subcommittee found that there are many providers of meals; services are varied and wide spread; and they are working to coordinate meal services. He noted that lunch meals are served within 30 minutes of each other to prevent individuals from eating in one location and then another. The committee has not looked at a centralized location. He said the Salvation Army has presented a good program, but they aren't sure that there are people going without meals. He stated that providers have seen a decrease of individuals needing services. The Winter Shelter Subcommittee is made up of people who have experience. He reported that the census is so far down at the Winter Shelter that there may not be a need to continue it. The committee is looking at a plan to phase it out over the years and allow the city to only provide emergency sheltering for inclement weather. He concluded that there are more beds available than when the Winter Shelter started and there is a need for affordable housing.

Councilor Devine asked Dr. Parker to talk about Housing First and where he sees that going.

Dr. David Parker, Director of Supportive Housing Services / University of South Carolina Department of Medicine stated that thirty-six (36) units are provided by HUD; the Columbia Housing Authority receives \$700,000 for Housing First; and the city provides \$250,000. He stated that next year they are requesting a 20% reduction to \$200,000. He announced that they moved the first two families into Family First and they have two additional family units that are open. He said that Housing First is unique to the Midlands area and it provides assistance to people that can't get service elsewhere.

Mayor Benjamin said they've heard great things about Housing First and how effective it is. He asked how many people have they actually touched.

Dr. David Parker, Director of Supportive Housing Services / University of South Carolina Department of Medicine said he supplied a report to Councilman Runyan with the figures; it costs \$38.10 per day per client.

Councilor Davis said the main goal is housing. He asked if they are limited to any particular type or location.

Dr. David Parker, Director of Supportive Housing Services / University of South Carolina Department of Medicine replied yes; the units are equally distributed around town in areas where the clients would have the highest probability for success and convenient to the bus system while avoiding high crime and drug areas.

Councilor Plaugh inquired about the length of time people normally stay; is it temporary or permanent housing.

Dr. David Parker, Director of Supportive Housing Services / University of South Carolina Department of Medicine said the ultimate goal is to get them stabilized and develop rental history, so they can then move into other independent housing. He noted that every person that comes into Housing First has a disabling condition; they are not able to work. He reported that the longest anyone has been in the program is 36 months.

Councilor Plaugh asked if these are single family units or apartments.

Dr. David Parker, Director of Supportive Housing Services / University of South Carolina Department of Medicine said they are apartments.

Councilor Baddourah asked how long a person is on the street before being in the Housing First Program; how do you find them.

Dr. David Parker, Director of Supportive Housing Services / University of South Carolina Department of Medicine said it depends; we've had people on the streets for 25 years before actually finding housing; it is a housing program of last resorts. He said these individuals are found through outreach, the neighborhoods and community outreach.

Councilor Newman recalled that he discussed the level of coordination with Dr. Parker.

Dr. David Parker, Director of Supportive Housing Services / University of South Carolina Department of Medicine replied there is a difference between the organizations and the individuals that provide meals. He said help is needed to get the word out about a community forum to discuss this; it needs to be a coordinated effort.

Councilor Runyan asked if the federal government requires city funding for the program.

Dr. David Parker, Director of Supportive Housing Services / University of South Carolina Department of Medicine replied no; the University has a contract and it has specific entities that it will and will not work with; and the program isn't dependent upon city funding.

Councilor Runyan asked Dr. Parker to delineate the difference between the groups served.

Dr. David Parker, Director of Supportive Housing Services / University of South Carolina Department of Medicine explained that the 58 people housed in the Housing First units were placed in a unit funded by Housing First; the 25 Housing First clients who transitioned to independent housing were people who were housed in the Housing First unit, but then transitioned to independent housing that was not a Housing First unit; and the 73 people housed through outreach were housed by the outreach worker funded through Housing First and the alternative placement means that they were housed in units other than a Housing First unit.

Councilor Runyan said that Housing First has served 16.5 people per year or 1.4 per month over five years. He asked how many of the 83 clients returned to self-sufficiency.

Dr. David Parker, Director of Supportive Housing Services / University of South Carolina Department of Medicine answered probably zero, because 100% of them are disabled.

Councilor Devine clarified that the population he targets is a difficult population that isn't traditionally served by other organizations; if we are going to talk about a comprehensive approach to homelessness today, we needed be aware of Housing First as a component and the role it plays.

Dr. David Parker, Director of Supportive Housing Services / University of South Carolina Department of Medicine stated that if they are walking around Columbia, you are not going to reduce visible homelessness.

Councilor Davis echoed Ms. Devine's sentiment; there is no one program or service that fits all. He said that getting people off the street is a plus and if they come with individual resources, that also helps in terms of stability.

Dr. David Parker, Director of Supportive Housing Services / University of South Carolina Department of Medicine concluded by saying that South Carolina has one of the highest rates of disabilities among the general population and Medicaid is the number one health insurance provider in South Carolina.

b) [Winter Shelter Report](#) – Reverend Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries provided an update on the Winter Shelter. He reported that it cost \$23.29 per night per guest served to include operations and all sub-contracts for a total of 890 guests with a nightly guest average of 135.3. He reported that there were 240 beds available with a 64% occupancy rate.

Councilor Devine asked if there were any people who went to Transitions.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries replied yes; they added 60 beds and were selective in those that would qualify for the services and/or beds.

Councilor Devine said part of the discussion is whether or not there is need for the shelter beyond the winter.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said that the shelter helps to remove the high visibility from neighborhoods and the business district. He said there are severe cases with needs that do not fit into programs overnight; but we can help them systematically.

Councilor Devine asked if there individuals have a desire to go to the shelter if it's not cold.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said it starts as a process that would require participation from all businesses, agencies and neighborhoods; our job would be to move them toward self-pay housing; and a year round shelter can get individuals the resources they need. He said the winter shelter is not a fix it all; the location is not long term, but it's close to where the problem is.

Councilor Plough asked Rev. Jones to provide his assessment on the HAC subcommittee report on the Winter Shelter, which is to phase out the city's winter shelter.

Reverend Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries replied two years is aggressive. A year round shelter would be the equivalent of four years of running the Winter Shelter. This might be the perfect season for harnessing the spirit and energy that currently exists.

Councilor Plough asked if Rev. Jones has the dialog to get to the right solutions.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said the homeless told us what the problem is and they are a part of the solution; we must constantly hear from them and develop relationships with them.

Councilor Plough inquired about the steps going forward.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said he would move toward a five year goal that will give relief to the taxpayers. He said there are several groups that want to have a solution and once you create the induction center the bedroom doesn't have to be downtown anymore. He said the city doesn't want to be in the winter shelter business, but the city wants to take

care of the homeless and there has to be a shelter. He insisted that the induction center needs to be where the problem is; we must utilize our own bus system; and the goal needs to be to serve the most disenfranchised, in the most pleasant way possible.

Councilor Plaugh inquired about the 65% occupancy rate.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said the goal was not to fill the Winter Shelter, but to get them out; it is the emergency Winter Shelter.

Councilor Davis inquired about individuals that they are trying to move toward self-sufficiency and back to their support groups, but they are restricted from returning to their home county.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries referenced sex offenders, because they are in great abundance; they cannot get a job or find an apartment; and they are roaming the streets. He said that we as a society have to deal with that. He agreed that there are cases when the support structure is not there. He reported that they are sending more out than they are taking in.

Councilor Baddourah asked about the average stay per patient at the shelter.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said some were there for the duration. He noted that volunteers also helped move more people out.

Councilor Baddourah said the homeless are everywhere; how do you bring them to a centralized location for help.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said it's a process and not an event; the culture will change, but it is going to take a process.

Councilor Baddourah said in terms of a year round triage, when a person has been helped enough.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said Ms. Livingston is going to report on the other groups and agencies that are providing assistance; we have a fabulous network already in place that will be able to help one or two individuals at a time.

Councilor Baddourah asked how long should they stay at a temporary shelter?

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries stated that a lot of people are asked to set a goal at the end of seven (7) days.

Mayor Benjamin asked about volunteer hours rendered at the shelter and for a dollar amount to quantify those hours. He asked what three (3) similar cities have their arms around this issue.

Rev. Jimmy Jones, Christ Central Ministries said San Antonio, Texas and Austin, Texas. He said we must be fluid in our approach; we have to follow the need.

c) Transitions Funding Allocation – Col. Craig Currey, Transitions

Col. Craig Currey, Transitions said they are grateful for the city's support over two (2) years. He reported that the city's investment put 325 people into permanent housing since June 2011; we've had 1,024 into positive outcomes; they partnered with 20 organizations to offer supportive services for our clients. He admitted that this is hard and every client is different. He noted that the federal government looks at six (6) months to two (2) years for transitional housing. He said the city designated funding for security and the city police suggested that we look at how we do our security. He asked that the city lift the restrictions on the funding.

Councilor Devine said she knew that security costs were more than what we allocated; it cost \$275,000 now and we currently fund \$250,000. She expressed concerns about the request; we should look at helping more with funding for security, but not lifting the restrictions. She explained that Transitions will bid the security contract out this summer and look to hire retired police officers as staff. She suggested that the city add \$25,000, noting that the funding can come from the \$50,000 reduction in Dr. Parker's request. She noted that the CPD recommendations to Transitions require a capital investment for internal cameras, gating, etc. and this will be sent to the Budget Committee as well. She asked that Council reaffirm that the allocation is for security with the understanding that the security needs will be provided for. She also noted that wants and warrant checks are being conducted.

Mayor Benjamin added that the request is regional. He asked what the delta is in terms of ongoing needs; what is the overall request.

Col. Craig Currey, Transitions stated that the budget is \$2.1 million; Lexington County funds 10% and Richland County and the City of Columbia fund 70% of that budget. He asked both counties for more, but he hasn't received a final response from either.

Mayor Benjamin said that several Councilmembers want to be more supportive of Transitions; you all are working together to include the business community and other governments. He said the issue is more mature and it's time to look for additional funding to ensure that we are addressing the issue aggressively. He said we will consider the request for funding and there should be additional funding that you can have the latitude to use for programmatic needs.

Councilor Davis inquired about the additional needs and costs.

Col. Craig Currey, Transitions replied that we have a contract solution that is more expensive, but hiring more experienced staff may reduce the need for additional personnel. He stated that the CPD conducted a risk assessment and provided recommendations to better control the environment.

Ms. Teresa B. Wilson, City Manager asked if the Council is endorsing some flexibility with how Transitions provides security and a formal request for an additional \$25,000 plus a proposal on the additional security matters.

Councilor Devine said that she asked Col. Currey to present a proposal for both requests. She asked Council to reaffirm our commitment to their security being funded with our money and she is hoping that the Budget Committee will support \$275,000.

Mayor Benjamin supports Ms. Devine's request, noting that the request would be more than \$275,000.

Col. Craig Currey, Transitions replied it would be \$300,000.

Mayor Benjamin further suggested that they take the Housing First reduction and apply it to Transitions.

Councilor Plaugh asked Col. Currey to clarify his proposal.

Col. Craig Currey, Transitions stated we have used more money than the city provides for contract security and we don't want to do that anymore; we want flexibility to hire and designate our own staff as security and spend less on security. He noted that the bulk of their security is handled by staff in the Day Center and he wants to use the money from the city to pay for those positions that are predominantly maintaining order. He reiterated the request for \$275,000 for security.

Councilor Plaugh thought that having in-house security would reduce the funding request.

Councilor Devine clarified that the \$275,000 will cover security wants and warrants checks.

Ms. Teresa B. Wilson, City Manager asked Col. Currey to break out the capital costs above the \$275,000.

Councilor Plaugh asked about other funding sources.

Col. Craig Currey, Transitions said they are trying to get money from every possible place.

Mayor Benjamin said we are trying to deal with a major social issue and our primary responsibility citywide is public safety. He wants to see the funding request for other needs that help us get to the heart of moving people from the streets to some type of self-sufficiency with real dignity.

d) Path Forward Possibilities – The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan

Councilor Runyan declared that we are entering a new era; the paradigm is shifting. He said Federal funding will continue to be slashed dramatically; the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was cut 40%; and there will be 5% cuts annually for the next twelve (12) years due to sequestration. He said that we have to get ahead of this as a community before money runs out. He noted that the city is facing a \$1.5 million gap next year as we reduce water and sewer transfers to the general fund. He insisted that five years down the road we are going to be out of the homeless business whether we want to or not and as a community, we don't have a unified goal for where we want to be as to how we service the least among us. He noted that hundreds of people volunteered at the Winter Shelter from

over 160 churches and we have a diversity of stakeholders that are stepping up to be a part of the solution. He insisted that as we move forward, we must be honest and transparent about our approach. He said we must identify weaknesses and do we all we can to mitigate them. He shared comments from the meeting of the Downtown Coalition of Neighborhoods. He challenged Council and the community to have a short process over a course of a month to engage stakeholders from all over this city in a dialog about a goal and where are we going five years from now.

Councilor Devine said the HAC was charged to do that; not to say that they can't add other folks. She asked Mr. Runyan what he feels is missing.

Mayor Benjamin said the committee has worked well on specific issues and we need to implement the specific recommendations and find money for five trash cans. He said that the larger vision of where we want to be and how we are going to get there is a different discussion. He said it may be a bold goal to be out of the Winter Shelter business, but you don't get there by cutting your way there; you invest. He noted that we have to deal with the prisoner drop off issue from the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center as a region; from October 2012 to Feb 2013, over 7,000 people were dropped off in the city core; 4,600 were arrested by the CPD. He said that we have ideas that we need more time to develop; this also affects the neighborhoods.

Councilor Runyan said we need a goal that everyone is vested in and the HAC will move towards that goal.

Councilor Devine asked what is being proposed.

Councilor Runyan recommended a series of stakeholder meetings at the Convention Center to open a dialog about goals for this community going forward. He said this is a constructive way to harness the energy of this city and it will bring together churches, policy makers, homeless and the business community to have an open dialog.

Ms. Teresa B. Wilson, City Manager asked if Council is proposing that staff look at our budget with the money that is flat and consider the Transitions' proposal while factoring in more time for dialog. She asked if we preparing to fund anything differently at this juncture.

Councilor Runyan said that a goal is needed first.

Mayor Benjamin said it is putting good money after bad, unless we have a clear idea of where we are going collectively.

Councilor Plough said this is interesting and exciting, but you can't fix one aspect of the community, you have to look at all aspects and long range planning. She said the homeless are just one segment of the economic development picture. She suggested that we be thoughtful about how we approach this.

Mayor Benjamin agreed that planning has to be a bigger piece of the puzzle.

Ms. Teresa B. Wilson, City Manager stated that after today's discussion, the third meal service will be left as status quo.

Mayor Benjamin said yes.

Councilor Plaugh asked that Council be briefed on the city's housing plan.

- e) Discussion of Meal Programs – *Discussion of this item was deferred.*
 - f) Regulation of Meal Programs – Mr. Kenneth E. Gaines, City Attorney - *Discussion of this item was deferred.*
 - g) Prisoner Drop-off from the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center – The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin - *Discussion of this item was deferred.*
 - h) Stakeholder Input - *Discussion of this item was deferred.*
- **Council adjourned the Work Session at 6:03 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2013
6:00 P.M.
EAU CLAIRE PRINT BUILDING
3907 ENSOR AVENUE

The Columbia City Council conducted a Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at the Eau Claire Print Building located at 3907 Ensor Avenue, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m. and the following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Leona K. Plough, The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman, The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan and The Honorable Moe Baddourah. Also present were Ms. Teresa B. Wilson, City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Moore, City Clerk. This meeting was advertised in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Chaplain Billie Bright, Columbia Fire Department offered the invocation.

PET OF THE WEEK

Mr. Dennis Flory, Senior Animal Control Officer for the Animal Services Division introduced Boo, a shepherd-chow mix, as the Pet of the Week. All animals are spayed/neutered, micro-chipped, vaccinated and wormed. Canines are tested for heartworms and felines are tested for feline leukemia/aids. To view other animals available for adoption, visit www.petfinder.com. For more information, visit the Columbia Animal Shelter at 127 Humane Lane or call (803)776-7387.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the adoption of the agenda, subject to deferring consideration of **Items 1, 8, 9 and 15**.

PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one appeared at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Work Session Meeting Minutes of February 5 and February 19, 2013 - *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

PRESENTATIONS

2. Recognition of Lower Richland High School Girls' Basketball Teams – The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin

Mayor Benjamin and the members of City Council recognized the Lower Richland High School girls' basketball team on bringing home the seventh state championship title. Coach Debbie Stroman was presented with a Key to the City and Tuesday, April 9, 2013 was proclaimed as Coach Debbie Stroman Day in the City of Columbia. The assistant coaches and players were all presented with citations.

Coach Debbie Stroman expressed her sincere gratitude for this recognition; she was so proud to have this presented in front of the girls who did all the hard work. She recognized the assistant coaches, the Athletics Director and the Principal for all they have done.

3. Introduction of the Mayor's Fellows – The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin

Mayor Benjamin stated that when he came into office in 2010, we had a lot of great folks working for the city, but we still had significant needs in terms of having resources to do great policy development and research. He noted that in this region, we have 50,000 students in ten (10) colleges and universities and they decided to come up with a program to leverage that talent. He said in some cases students are getting college course credits and this opportunity gives each one great experience. He added that former Mayor's Fellows are doing awesome things around the country.

Mr. Sam Johnson, Special Assistant to the Mayor explained that this program has been held for seven (7) semesters with at least ten (10) students per semester, who have been very beneficial to the Mayor's Office. He introduced the current Mayor's Fellows:

Anne N. Evangelista, a senior from Greensboro, North Carolina seeking a Political Science major and Criminal Justice minor; Taylor Fontan, a freshman from Fishers, Indiana seeking a Political Science major and double minor in Spanish and Business Administration; Taylor Lybrand, a sophomore from Spartanburg, SC seeking a Political Science and History double major; and Elaine S. Farmer, a sophomore from Richmond, VA seeking a Business major and a Spanish minor. These students attend the University of South Carolina.

4. Mayor's Columbia Lifesavers Blood Drive Update – Ms. Allison Cranford, American Red Cross SC Blood Services Region Board member

Ms. Allison Cranford, American Red Cross SC Blood Services Region Board member provided the results of the City of Columbia's two-day Blood Drive that was held on February 12 - 13, 2013. The City of Columbia set a new record of 377 pints of blood collected, exceeding last year's total of 320 pints and 2011's 210 pints. She reported that more than 2,700 patients' lives were impacted by these blood donations.

Mr. Ryan Corcoran, Chief Executive Officer for the American Red Cross SC Blood Services Region announced the winner of contests that were held in conjunction with the Blood Drive. He recognized Ms. Jewel Bryant (Payment Center) for sharing her story about what she would do with the \$300 gift card from Wal-Mart; she will immediately donate it to her father who is in need. He also recognized the top donor recruiters for recruiting 81 donors: Mr. Jim Crawford (CPD), Ms. Lisa Troop (CRC 911 Communications), Ms. Lindsay McVean (Public Works) and Mr. Rodney Wingard (Parking Services). He presented Mayor Benjamin with a commemorative plaque in recognition of his efforts.

5. National Community Development Week Proclamation – Ms. Deborah Livingston, Community Development Director

Ms. Deborah Livingston, Community Development Director announced the 27th anniversary of Community Development Week. She said they will celebrate Community Development Block Grants and HOME program funds during the Week of Service by having the Community Development Department construct a ramp.

Mayor Benjamin and the members of Council proclaimed the week of April 1-6, 2013 as Community Development Week in the City of Columbia.

6. National Fair Housing Month Proclamation – Ms. Deborah Livingston, Community Development Director

Ms. Deborah Livingston, Community Development Director announced the 45th anniversary of the National Fair Housing Act. She said during this month we hope to educate individuals that discrimination has no home in America and that no person should be denied housing or treated differently because of their race or religion. Ms. Livingston presented Ms. Pat Green, Director of Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity; Mr. Larry Knightner, Field Office Director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and Ms. Henrietta Baskins, Executive Director of the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council with tokens of appreciation for their efforts.

Mayor Benjamin and the members of Council proclaimed April 2013 as National Fair Housing Month in the City of Columbia.

Mr. Larry Knighter, Field Office Director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development thanked the city for their efforts. He expressed gratitude to Ms. Green for her work throughout the state and City Council for their support of fair housing and community development.

Ms. Pat Green, Director of Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity congratulated the City for being in partnership with them to eliminate housing discrimination not only in the city, but in the state. She said that even though it has been 45 years, we are still experiencing housing discrimination in so many ways; the job is not over yet.

Ms. Henrietta Baskins, Executive Director of the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council said she has worked with housing programs since 1984. She insisted that it takes us working together to end housing discrimination.

7. [Historic Elmwood Park Tour of Homes](#) – Mr. Chuck Archie, President of Historic Elmwood Neighborhood Association

Mr. Chuck Archie, President of Historic Elmwood Neighborhood Association invited everyone to participate in the 31st Annual Tour of Homes. He said that Elmwood Park has been around since 1905 and where it resides today used to be the state fairgrounds and a horse track. He said the area was the first property annexed into the city then a group of citizens banded together to work with the City and hosted the first tour in 1982. He stated that the event will feature eight (8) homes; three (3) gardens; 45 (forty-five) homes will host wine tastings, artwork, chef demonstrations and musicians; Logan Elementary School; Park Street Baptist Church; and there will be tours of the Randolph and Elmwood cemeteries. He presented City Council with framed artwork of the event. In closing, he announced that Elmwood Park has been chosen as one of the finalists for the 2013 National Neighborhood of the Year.

Ms. Teresa B. Wilson, City Manager noted that Ms. Deborah Livingston will be attending the NUSA conference as a resident, a staff member and a former Neighborhood President.

8. SC Cornbread Festival Report - Ms. Sabrina Odom, Executive Director of the North Columbia Business Association – *This presentation was deferred to a later date.*

SIDEWALK VENDING PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

9. [Ordinance No.: 2013-039](#) – Granting a Franchise to Keyser Concessions, LLC for operation of a stationary sidewalk vending cart on the northwest corner of Main Street and Washington Street – *Consideration of this item was deferred.*

OTHER MATTERS

10. [Neighborhood Street Lighting Requests](#) - *Approved*

Neighborhoods Listed by Priority	Existing Lights	Requested Lights	Current Lease Cost / Annually	Increased Amount	Total Year to Date
Farrow Road and Cushman Drive	0	1	\$0.00	\$212.52	\$19,032.48
Moore’s Creek Subdivision	0	1	\$0.00	\$327.12	\$19,359.60

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to approve the Neighborhood Street Lighting Requests for Farrow Road at Cushman Drive and Moore’s Creek Subdivision.

11. [Four-Way Stop Request](#) - *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Baddourah and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to approve the Four-Way Stop Request on Heyward and Holly Streets.

12. Council is asked to approve the [submittal of an application to Host the 40th Annual Neighborhoods USA Conference in May of 2015](#), as requested by the Community Development Department. The projected budget amount for the conference will be \$175,000.00, which includes revenues from sponsorships, registrations and exhibit fees. – ***Note:** The department will apply for Accommodations and Hospitality Tax Funding in 2014. Upon selection, sponsorship committees will be in place to assist with financial commitments. - Approved*

Ms. Deborah Livingston, Community Development Director reported that she has spoken with Ms. Libby Gober and was advised that they are eligible for \$61,000 from the Hospitality Tax Fund, based on the budget for expenses. She said they will ask for sponsorships from major corporations and will work in concert with the city. She noted that there is a registration fee for each participant, of which NUSA will get \$50 and the rest will go to the host city to help with the cost of the event. She noted that there is a 40 page full color document that we would be responsible for printing; everything from start to finish would be done by our staff. She stated that the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods and the Richland County Neighborhood Council unanimously offered their support and we have letters of support from the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). She reported that last year’s attendance was 300 from around the country and 300 from Indianapolis. She admitted that it will be a lot of work, but with your help, we can make sure that cost is minimal; no money will be used from the general fund. She stated that the only downside is signing the contract and if for some reason we decide to pull out, we would owe NUSA \$25,000.00.

Councilor Plough said she is proud of this community development staff; it gives me great pride that our staff would be interested in putting extra time into working on it. She said this would be an opportunity to showcase Columbia to other community development cities and neighborhoods all over the country. She asked if the funding came from hospitality, would it not impact funding for any other group.

Ms. Libby Gober, Assistant to City Council explained that they would not go through the application process; Council would commit a certain amount of funds to this; and the amount could be split over two (2) years for fiscal year 2013/2014 and fiscal year 2014/2015. She agreed that it may impact other people, but it's certainly an eligible expenditure if that is something Council is willing to entertain.

Councilor Devine clarified that it's no different than receiving new applications; if funded, it could impact funding for other groups.

Councilor Plough said her only concern is that because of the timing we are taking it out of sequence and we are not able to look at anyone else.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager clarified that the request is to move forward with the submittal of the application, which is due Thursday.

Mayor Benjamin said at some point we will have to pay for it, whether it's this year or the next.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the submittal of an application to host the 40th Annual Neighborhoods USA Conference in May of 2015 in the City of Columbia.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 13, 14, 16** through **17**. The consideration of **Item 15** was deferred.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS, AGREEMENTS and CHANGE ORDERS

13. Council is asked to endorse the [2013 Emergency Solution Grant \(ESG\) applications for Homeless Assistance](#), as requested by the Community Development Department – ***Note:** ESG is a state funded activity for year round services and the City merely endorses the applications. Due to the operation of a temporary shelter, the City has never been able to apply for the grant - Approved*
 - Alston Wilkes Society (Columbia, SC) to support operating costs of existing Housing Program for Homeless Veterans in the amount of \$75,000.00.

- Sistercare, Inc. (Columbia, SC) to provide essential, preventative, operational and administrative services for Homeless Family Violence Victims in the amount of \$100,000.00.
 - St. Lawrence Place (Columbia, SC) for continuation of support services, life skills and transitional housing to enable Homeless Families to achieve independent living in the amount of \$32,500.00.
 - The Cooperative Ministry (Columbia, SC) to directly support an increase in demand for emergency assistance to Homeless Clients needing counseling, clothing, housing, employment information and supplies in the amount of \$219,014.00.
 - The Family Shelter (Columbia, SC) for facility expenses that aide in the continuation and expansion of programs to assist Homeless Families with permanent housing placement and provide group sessions in the amount of \$57,000.00.
 - The Salvation Army (Columbia, SC) for a Rapid Re-housing Program that will assist families and individuals in moving from homelessness into stable housing in the amount of \$160,000.00.
 - The Women’s Shelter to pay a portion of the shelter’s operation expenses in the amount of \$55,000.00.
 - Transitions Midlands Housing Alliance (Columbia, SC) to engage chronically homeless people in services and to recruit them into on-site Housing Programs in the amount of \$207,747.00.
 - United Way of the Midlands (Columbia, SC) to directly support management and operations of the Homeless Management Information System in the amount of \$75,000.00.
 - Wateree Community Action Council (Columbia, SC) to provide emergency shelter, preventive and Rapid Re-housing services for individuals or families that are or near Homeless to acquire or sustain permanent housing in the amount of \$350,000.00.
14. Council is asked to approve the [Renewal of Customer Services Suite Software for Fiscal Year 2013/2014](#), as requested by the Information Technology Department. Award to Ventyx in the amount of \$102,170.00. This vendor is located in Atlanta, GA. *Funding Source: General Admin Information Tech/Maintenance and Service Contract, 6218950-638200 – **Note:** This is the utility billing software which is responsible for the billing and customer management for water and sewer, parking garages and solid waste - Approved*

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

15. Ordinance No.: 2013-017 – Amending Section 9 of the Franchise Agreement between South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (“SCE&G”) and the City of Columbia dated February 20, 2002 and amended February 15, 2011 – *First reading approval was given on February 5, 2013 – **Note:** This ordinance is being revised and will be posted upon receipt – Consideration of this item was deferred.*

16. [Ordinance No.: 2013-023](#) – Granting an encroachment to St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church for installation and maintenance of three (3) white crepe myrtle trees within the right of way area of the 1900 block of Lincoln Street adjacent to 900 Calhoun Street, Richland County TMS #09011-08-01 – *First reading approval was given on March 26, 2013- Approved on second reading.*

ANNEXATIONS WITH MAP AMENDMENTS – SECOND READING

17. [131 Sysco Court and 8009 Garners Ferry Road](#), TMS# 19000-01-01 and 19100-05-02; request to annex and zone the properties M-1 (Light Industrial). The property is zoned M-1 (Light Industrial) in Richland County – *First reading approval was given on January 15, 2013 – Approved*
- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Council District: | 4 |
| Proposal: | Annex and zone property M-1. Contiguous, Secondary Area |
| Applicant: | Sysco Columbia, LLC |
| PC Recommendation: | Approve PUD-R zoning (6-0) 12/03/12 |
| Staff Recommendation: | Approve |

[Ordinance No.: 2013-004 \(Revised\)](#) – Annexing 131 Sysco Court and 8009 Garners Ferry Road Richland County TMS #19000-01-01 and 19100-05-02 – *First Reading approval was given on January 15, 2013 – Approved on second reading.*

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

18. [Ordinance No.: 2013-024](#) – Granting encroachment to the State of South Carolina Budget and Control Board for installation and maintenance of a driveway, curbing and gutter bump-out, raised concrete median, directional signage and an ADA compliant handicap ramp in the right of way area adjacent to the Calhoun Building located at 1015 Sumter Street, Richland County TMS #11304-01-01 – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2013-024 – Granting encroachment to the State of South Carolina Budget and Control Board for installation and maintenance of a driveway, curbing and gutter bump-out, raised concrete median, directional signage and an ADA compliant handicap ramp in the right of way area adjacent to the Calhoun Building located at 1015 Sumter Street, Richland County TMS #11304-01-01.

19. [Ordinance No.: 2013-036](#) – Granting encroachment to the South Carolina Budget and Control Board for installation and maintenance of handicap ramp, front step, handrails, repaving of concrete sidewalk and landscaping within the right of way area adjacent to its building at 1026-1028 Sumter Street – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Runyan and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2013-036 – Granting encroachment to the South Carolina Budget and Control Board for installation and maintenance of handicap ramp, front step, handrails, repaving of concrete sidewalk and landscaping within the right of way area adjacent to its building at 1026-1028 Sumter Street.

20. [Ordinance No.: 2013-037](#) – Amending encroachment Ordinance No. 2010-029 granted to Historic Waverly Improvement and Protection Association for installation and maintenance of landscaping and irrigation within the right of way areas of 2214 Washington Street; 2214 Hampton Street; North side of the 2300 block Hampton Street; NE corner of Heidt Street and Gervais Street; NE corner of Pine Street and Gervais Street; SE corner of Lady Street and Heidt Street; NE corner of Oak Street and Gervais Street; NW corner of Hampton Street and North Millwood Avenue; NW corner of Oak Street and Washington Street; NE corner of Oak Street and Washington Street; SE corner of Washington Street and Oak Street; SW corner of Washington Street and Oak Street; NW corner of Lady Street at Pine Street; SW corner of Lady Street and Pine Street; SE corner of Lady Street and Pine Street; NE corner of Lady Street and Pine Street; SE corner of Taylor Street and Oak Street; 1421 Oak Street; SE corner of Hampton Street and Oak Street; and, SE corner of Hampton Street and Harden Street to allow for the installation and maintenance of a permeable paver driveway apron and paver walk at 2214 Hampton Street – *Approved on first reading.*

Councilor Newman asked how was this initiated.

Ms. Krista Hampton, Director of Development Services said that they neighborhood requested the encroachment to allow pavers in those areas.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2013-037 – Amending encroachment Ordinance No. 2010-029 granted to Historic Waverly Improvement and Protection Association for installation and maintenance of landscaping and irrigation within the right of way areas of 2214 Washington Street; 2214 Hampton Street; North side of the 2300 block Hampton Street; NE corner of Heidt Street and Gervais Street; NE corner of Pine Street and Gervais Street; SE corner of Lady Street and Heidt Street; NE corner of Oak Street and Gervais Street; NW corner of Hampton Street and North Millwood Avenue; NW corner of Oak Street and Washington Street; NE corner of Oak Street and Washington Street; SE corner of Washington Street and Oak Street; SW corner of Washington Street and Oak Street; NW corner of Lady Street at Pine Street; SW corner of Lady Street and Pine Street; SE corner of Lady Street and Pine Street; NE corner of Lady Street and Pine Street; SE corner of Taylor Street and Oak Street; 1421 Oak Street; SE corner of Hampton Street and Oak Street; and, SE corner of Hampton Street and Harden Street to allow for the installation and maintenance of a permeable paver driveway apron and paver walk at 2214 Hampton Street.

21. [Ordinance No.: 2013-040](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Fourth Amendment to Lease Agreement with Branch Banking and Trust Company (BB&T) for use of 3905 Ensor Avenue (Lutheran Survey Building) **Note:** *This lease is for the Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) located within the Eau Claire Town Hall – Approved on first reading.*

Upon a motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2013-040 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute a Fourth Amendment to Lease Agreement with Branch Banking and Trust Company (BB&T) for use of 3905 Ensor Avenue (Lutheran Survey Building).

RESOLUTIONS

22. [Resolution No.: R-2013-028](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only within Finlay Park for the Bark to the Park Walk and Festival – *Approved*

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2013-028 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only within Finlay Park for the Bark to the Park Walk and Festival.

23. [Resolution No.: R-2013-035](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only at Moe’s Burrito Dash 5k fundraiser for Epworth Children’s Home after race celebration in the 600 block of South Main – *Approved*
24. [Resolution No.: R-2013-040](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine within Boyd Plaza adjacent to the Columbia Museum of Art for Arts and Draughts – *Approved*
25. [Resolution No.: R-2013-046](#) – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Five Points Association's 5 After 5 Concert Series - *Approved*

Upon a single motion made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution No.: R-2013-035 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine beverages only at Moe’s Burrito Dash 5k fundraiser for Epworth Children’s Home after race celebration in the 600 block of South Main; Resolution No.: R-2013-040 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Five Points Association's 5 After 5 Concert Series; and Resolution No.: R-2013-046 – Authorizing consumption of beer and wine only at Five Points Association's 5 After 5 Concert Series.

26. [Resolution No.: R-2013-047](#) – Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between Lake City, South Carolina and the City of Columbia, South Carolina for Professional Guidance and Assistance - *Approved*

Councilor Plough sought clarification on the intent of the agreement.

Mayor Benjamin explained that the purpose is to formalize a real agreement between a large city in the state and a small city in the state. He noted that they are doing some things that no other town in the state is doing like ArtFields with 750 artists. He noted that they have some structural challenges. He said they recently met with the Mayor and one of the questions was; what is the proper role for the City of Columbia to play in developing the rural areas of the state. He agreed that we work with municipalities and counties on a regular basis, but this is a deliberate attempt to formalize a relationship that would be beneficial to both parties. He added that Mr. Gantt is very involved in this effort and it might serve as a model for these types of relationships.

Councilor Plough asked how much it is going to cost us.

Mayor Benjamin said there are many departments involved with this from Community Development to Water and Sewer.

Ms. Teresa B. Wilson, City Manager said she will check with Mr. Gantt to determine the amount of time dedicated to the effort.

Councilor Plough said she is unsure how we would know if we fulfilled their expectation or not. She said it is very generic.

Ms. Teresa B. Wilson, City Manager offered to ask the Municipal Association for their thoughts.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted six (6) to one (1) to approve Resolution No.: R-2013-047 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between Lake City, South Carolina and the City of Columbia, South Carolina for Professional Guidance and Assistance. Voting Aye were Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine, Mr. Newman, Mr. Runyan, Mr. Baddourah and Mayor Benjamin. Ms. Plough voted nay.

APPOINTMENTS

27. [Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee](#)

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to appoint the following individuals to the Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee:

Restaurateurs:

- Terry Davis serving a two (2) year term to expire in April 2015
- Jesse Bullard, IV serving a three (3) year term to expire in April 2016
- Jimmy Williams serving a two (2) year term to expire in April 2015
- Joseph Wales serving a one (1) year term to expire in April 2014

At-Large:

- Cynthia Hardy for a one (1) year term to expire in April 2014
- John Whitehead for a two (2) year term to expire in April 2015
- John Dozier for a three (3) year term to expire in April 2016
- William Cantey, III for a two (2) year term to expire in April 2015
- Lee Lumpkin for a one (1) year term to expire in April 2014
- Rosie Craig for a two (2) year term effective April 2014 - **Note:** *She will replace Ms. Cynthia Hardy in April 2014. Please refer to **Item 29.***

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

28. Economic and Community Development Committee March 26, 2013 [Report](#)

Councilor Davis reported that the committee received an update on directional signs on March 26, 2013 and they decided that permits to place the signs in the right of way should be issued in the name of the business owner or agent. He recommended that Council support the draft ordinance so it can be sent to the Planning Commission for consideration under his sponsorship.

Councilor Plough added that this ordinance is similar to what Richland County has.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to support the draft ordinance regarding directional signs in the right of way.

Councilor Davis reported that staff continues to do a good job on the Commercial Revolving Loan Fund code revisions. He said that the committee requested an outline of the revisions and they are close to completing the revisions to the sections of the code.

Councilor Plough added that staff has done a good job modifying their reports to the committee on the status of the various loans, job creation and job retention and plans. She said this will help them understand how the dollars are out there working for us.

29. Environment and Infrastructure Committee March 26, 2013 [Report](#)

Councilor Devine advised Council that staff is still working on the proposed residential pilot program for the Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) Program. The committee reviewed ABLE South Carolina's proposal to conduct an accessibility assessment of City Hall, which was referred to the City Manager and the community inclusion and disability training for staff, which was referred to the Human Resources Director. She further reported that the committee received a report on the National Bike Summit and

recommendations are forthcoming. She outlined some of the activities that are being planned for May in celebration of National Bike Month. She added that they received an update on the W. G. Sanders Middle School sewer lines. She noted that the issue of who owns the lines and how they are paid for with East Richland predates all members of Council, but staff is working with the school district to resolve the matter.

30. Public Safety Committee March 26, 2013 [Report](#)

Councilor Baddourah reported the Public Safety Committee received Rev. Jimmy Jones Winter Shelter Report.

**Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Runyan, Council voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Rosie Craig to the Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee as a replacement for Ms. Cynthia Hardy for a term effective April 2014 and to allow Ms. Craig to attend meetings as a non-voting member until she officially takes office.

Councilor Plough expressed concerns about this Council making appointments into the future and binding a future Council.

Mayor Benjamin noted that we had a fund balance last year that allowed a large amount of funds to be distributed and the amount that was previously distributed will be safe. He stated that the Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee has provided wise counsel over the past couple of years and we will be creative and energetic in putting heads on beds.

31. Finance, Audit and Budget Committee April 4, 2013 [Report](#)

Councilor Newman announced that the final committee meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2013.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Baddourah, Council voted unanimously to refer a review of the Police Department's policy for traffic control during runs and walks to the Public Safety Committee for better traffic coordination and to prevent land locking the neighborhoods.

APPEARANCE OF THE PUBLIC

No one appeared at this time.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Newman, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk