The Columbia City Council conducted an Administrative Policy Committee Meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2013 in the 2nd Floor Conference Room located at 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Leona K. Plaugh (Chair) called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m. The Honorable Moe Baddourah was present. The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine joined the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

1. Update on the Affordable Housing Taskforce Recommendations – Ms. Deborah Livingston, Director of Community Development

Ms. Deborah Livingston, Director of Community Development gave a short overview of the Affordable Housing Taskforce Recommendations that were previously discussed.

Mr. Bob Amundson, Executive Director of Affordable Housing Resources added that the trend is shifting to multi-family units and away from affordable homes. The Rosewood Community Council has seen the properties in Rosewood become a mix of 50% owner-occupied and 50% rentals. The University of South Carolina is building enough housing for students and that will provide more opportunities for affordable housing for individuals.

Councilor Plaugh stated that there comes a point when you do not want to help in homeownership, because they really cannot sustain the house.

Ms. Deborah Livingston, Director of Community Development recalled that we talked about voluntary inclusionary zoning.

Councilor Plaugh asked if there was a component for affordable housing at Canal Side.

Councilor Devine said there were initial discussions, but it never made it into the Canal Side agreement.

Councilor Plaugh suggested that if there is a revision to the Bull Street Agreement it would be helpful to include that. When we provide a subsidy, we should encourage the affordable housing component.
Mr. Bob Amundson, Executive Director of Affordable Housing Resources said thanks to Community Development we have some homes that have a 15 year term; no subsidy programs should support non-profits to help people subsidize homeownership.

Ms. Deborah Livingston, Director of Community Development said the City could develop on surplus property. We should take a look to see if it can be developed. We should have a land trust because land is affordable.

Ms. Krista Hampton, Director of Planning and Development Services added that they are currently looking at the policy re-establishing accessory dwellings. There is a need and a desire for it; it is very controversial; it’s about what controls are in place, but it’s a great way to get diversity into housing areas.

Mr. Brian Huskey, Executive Director of Midlands Housing Trust Fund presented recommendations to the committee. Report

There was a consensus of the committee to have staff create a short list of the recommendations for Council to take up for discussion and possible action.

2. City Attorney Evaluation Process – Ms. Pamela Benjamin, Director of Human Resources

Ms. Pamela Benjamin, Director of Human Resources presented to the committee the current evaluation procedures for city staff. They should be done annually. She noted that the state has a different system for evaluations. She presented several different evaluations for judges and the city attorney. She discussed the feasibility of doing 360° evaluations.

There was a consensus of the committee to review the different evaluations for these positions and provide feedback to Ms. Benjamin within a week so that she may draft an evaluation for the committee to review.

There was a consensus of the committee to schedule the next meeting for March 18, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.

- The meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Connie Lucius, Ombudsman
Office of the City Council