The Columbia City Council met for a Work Session on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at the Eau Claire Town Hall located at 3905 Ensor Avenue, Columbia South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 2:19 p.m. The following members of Council were present: The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Brian DeQuincey Newman and The Honorable Moe Baddourah. The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan arrived at 2:26 p.m. The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine arrived at 2:56 p.m. The Honorable Leona K. Plaugh was absent. 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.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. **Busted Plug Project Update** – Ms. Dana Higgins, City Engineer

Ms. Dana Higgins, City Engineer recalled that on March 26, 2013, Council voted to negotiate a contract with W.P. Law, Inc. in an amount not to exceed $450,000.00. She sought input from Council on the following three (3) components: location, use of recirculated or repurposed water and interaction with the artist, Blue Sky.

Mr. Glenn Clonts, W.P. Law, Inc. Fountain Division Manager noted that his firm worked on the original Busted Plug. He recommended that the water busting at the plug would run all of the time; the water in the cracks would spray randomly during the operational times of the feature, between Memorial Day and Labor Day. He further recommended that the fountain be installed at the corner of Gadsden Street and Taylor Street, which is highly visible from the road and it’s currently an underutilized space. He presented a conceptual master plan for the Columbia Hydrant Splash Pad, as prepared by Mark Cotterill of Grimball Cotterill and Associates.

- **Mr. Runyan arrived at 2:26 p.m.**

Mr. Glenn Clonts, W.P. Law, Inc. Fountain Division Manager suggested that the water be used for the splash pad and then added to the pond at Finlay Park, which has a high evaporation rate. He said the water can be repurposed by installing a collection tank and pumping the water back to the pond instead of using the current 2” fill valve; excess water would flow to a creek bed in Memorial Park. He reported that evaporation for the pond would be approximately 80,000 gallons per day; the hydrant would produce almost 80,000 gallons per day; and that water can be used to replenish the lake. He said this approach allows us to not go through DHEC permitting; you don’t need a certified pool operator to test the water; you don’t incur costs for chemicals associated with that.
Mayor Benjamin inquired about the possible cost savings.

Ms. Teresa Wilson, City Manager asked Mr. Clonts to explain how the cost savings relate to DHEC standards.

Mr. Glenn Clonts, W.P. Law, Inc. Fountain Division Manager said that water sprayed on children and re-circulated will have to be treated back to a safe level, which takes a lot of chlorine and can also deteriorate the structure itself. He said we are not recycling that water; we will use fresh water one time and then use it for something else and DHEC doesn’t have control over that, except for the velocity of the water coming out of those nozzles.

Councilor Baddourah asked how much fresh water will be used daily.

Mr. Glenn Clonts, W.P. Law, Inc. Fountain Division Manager estimated using 80,000 gallons per day during the off season and 240,000 gallons per day during the summer. He said they did not look at the cost of recirculating the water, because that option is more costly. He said that the pumps will require maintenance, but it should not be a problem with keeping the pumps clean.

Mayor Benjamin asked about traffic counts on Taylor Street

Councilor Davis said that the proposed location is close to the sidewalk and street. He asked if there will be a barrier.

Mr. Glenn Clonts, W.P. Law, Inc. Fountain Division Manager said no, but there is an existing barrier along the roadway. He outlined the artist’s concepts of spraying water for a long distance; spraying water down a trough with nozzles for the kids to play in and an irrigation type nozzle with water falling out; or spraying water over the trees into the pond, but there would be water falling over two sidewalks. He said that the master plan includes components that will cost a fair amount of money to include changes to the walkways, arbors, steps, etc. He said with existing funding they can do an 80’ circle with a walkway from the plaza to the sidewalk at Taylor Street.

Councilor Baddourah asked if the splash pad could be moved further inside the park to make it safer.

Mr. Glenn Clonts, W.P. Law, Inc. Fountain Division Manager said that it would then be within the path of the Vista Greenway and they were trying to stay out of that area. He said it would be the least expensive location.

Mayor Benjamin said that it is a heavily traveled street, but people and children play in the park now without barriers being there.

Mr. Glenn Clonts, W.P. Law, Inc. Fountain Division Manager suggested that a barrier be installed around the plug, but the artist wants to elevate it and not install a barrier. He said he would like to reach a median with the artist.
Mayor Benjamin agreed that we must find a way to keep people off of it.

Councilor Davis asked about the steps that would be installed.

Mr. Glenn Clonts, W.P. Law, Inc. Fountain Division Manager explained that there is a low spot that runs along Taylor Street with a granite swell; we will bridge that and it steps up, which makes it harder for cars to get into that area. He noted that there are also trees along Taylor Street and a cable barricade.

Upon a motion made by Mayor Benjamin and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted four (4) to one (1) to move forward with the design proposal; approve the consultant’s recommendation on the location of the public art (at the corner of Gadsden Street and Taylor Street); support the repurposed water approach; and give the City Manager latitude to work with Blue Sky and W.P. Law, Inc. on how we move forward. Voting aye were Mr. Davis, Mr. Newman, Mr. Runyan and Mayor Benjamin. Mr. Baddourah voted nay.

2. Update on the Columbia Metropolitan Airport – Mr. Dan Mann, Executive Director of the Columbia Metropolitan Airport

Mr. Dan Mann, Executive Director of the Columbia Metropolitan Airport reported that the airport remains self-sufficient and requires no support from local tax dollars; enplanements were up by 2% in 2012; seat capacity increased by 10,868 from 2001 to 2012; they are now flying nonstop to 11 other major airports; and they shipped out over 66 million pounds of cargo. He reported a total economic impact in the amount of $421 million. He outlined the upcoming projects totaling $33 million. He reported on the possible air service opportunities through the American/USAir merger; AirTran’s B717; the LaGuardia service; and phase II of the John Hardy Expressway, also known as the airport connector.

- Ms. Devine arrived at 2:56 p.m.

Councilor Newman said there is the misconception that all rates are higher at the Columbia Airport. He asked what is being done to market the airport and what can the City of Columbia do to continue to promote the airport.

Mr. Dan Mann, Executive Director of the Columbia Metropolitan Airport said the Columbia Airport brought in a new air service development and marketing person this year. He said the airport has a lot of great airfares; they are getting more seats; low fares sell out quickly and should be looked for on Tuesdays after 2:00 p.m.; and the airport is a selling point for economic development.

Councilor Devine said that GSP has a billboard here. She asked if we are advertising in their markets.

Mr. Dan Mann, Executive Director of the Columbia Metropolitan Airport said no, but he has been asked to do that. He said it is advertising by necessity.
Mayor Benjamin and the members of City Council proclaimed August 19-23, 2013 as Aviation Week in the City of Columbia. Click here to view the Proclamation.

3. Funding Requests for External Organizations – Ms. Melissa Caughman, Budget Director – Consideration of this item was deferred.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made by Mr. Runyan and seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 3:08 p.m. for the discussion of Items 4 through 6 as outlined.

4. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements - This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.

5. Receipt of legal advice which relates to a pending, threatened or potential claim - This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.

6. Discussion of matters relating to proposed location or expansion of services to encourage location or expansion of industries or other businesses - This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.

- Council adjourned the Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore
City Clerk