

**CITY OF COLUMBIA
WORK SESSION ACTION REPORT
DECEMBER 9, 2009 – 9:00 A.M.
CITY HALL - CONFERENCE ROOM
1737 MAIN STREET - 2ND FLOOR**



The Columbia City Council met for a Work Session on Wednesday, December 9, 2009 in the City Council Conference Room at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. The following members of Council were present: The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II, The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III and The Honorable Belinda F. Gergel. The Honorable Sam Davis and The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine arrived at 9:13 a.m. Also present were Mr. Steven A. Gantt, Interim City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

1. [Ordinance No.: 2009-128](#) – Authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute a Lease Agreement between the City of Columbia and Open Living Community, LLC for the lease for 5406 Farrow Road, (9.90 acres), Richland County TMS# R11612-04-01

Upon motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2009-128 – Authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute a Lease Agreement between the City of Columbia and Open Living Community, LLC for the lease for 5406 Farrow Road, (9.90 acres), Richland County TMS# R11612-04-01.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

2. Economic Development Special Projects Account – Mr. Jim Gambrell, Director of Economic Development
 - A. [Central SC Alliance](#) – Mr. Mike Briggs -

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve an agreement between the Office of Economic Development and the Central SC Alliance in the amount of \$72,000. This contract is to be paid on a quarterly basis and the Alliance is asked to provide bi-annual updates on their economic development activities.
Funding Source: Economic Development Department's Budget

- B. Black Expo – Mr. Darrin Thomas

This report was received as information. No action was taken.

- C. World Affairs Council & The Export Consortium – Mr. Fred Monk

This report was received as information. No action was taken.

- D. Engenuity & The Fuel Cell Consortium – Mr. Neil McLean

This report was received as information. No action was taken.

E. Good to Great Foundation – Mr. Ted Speth and Mr. Grant Jackson

This report was received as information. No action was taken.

F. ****Columbia City Ballet – Ms. Lauren Han and Ms. Coralee Harris**

There was a consensus of Council to direct the Columbia City Ballet to resubmit an application for Hospitality Tax Funding for their specific need(s). This item will be reconsidered by City Council on December 16, 2009.

There was a consensus of Council to defer voting on the requests from the Black Expo, World Affairs Council / ECI, Engenuity & the Fuel Cell Consortium and the Good to Great Foundation until January 13, 2010 and to direct staff to provide the following:

- Balance of the Economic Development Special Projects Account;
- Total amount of requests for funding from this account;
- Detailed information regarding each request to include the organizations' role in economic development, total budgets, financials, activities and accomplishments;
- Criteria for approving such requests in the future.

3. Water & Sewer Bonds – Mr. Brent Robertson, Financial Advisor / Merchant Capital

Upon motion by Mr. Finlay, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to authorize Mr. Steven A. Gantt, Interim City Manager to proceed with the issuance of bonds in an amount not to exceed \$105 million for the completion of Water and Sewer projects as authorized by Ordinance 2009-086.

4. [Landfill Contract](#) – Ms. Missy Gentry, P.E., Director of Public Works

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 12:40 p.m. for the receipt of legal advice as it relates to matters covered by attorney-client privilege.

- **Council adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened the Work Session at 12:51 p.m.**

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Dr. Gergel, Council voted four (4) to two (2) to authorize the Interim City Manager to issue a Request for Proposals for landfill services. Voting aye were Mr. Davis, Ms. Devine, Mr. Rickenmann, Mr. Finlay and Dr. Gergel. Voting nay were Mr. Cromartie and Mayor Coble.

5. Municipal Court Collections – Ms. Dana Turner, Chief Administrative Judge

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to authorize Chief Administrative Judge Dana Turner to proceed with outsourcing the scheduled time payment collections pursuant to procurement procedures

6. Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response ([SAFER Grant](#)) from the U.S. Fire Administration - Chief Bradley Anderson, Columbia Fire Department

Upon motion by Dr. Gergel, seconded by Mr. Finlay, Council voted unanimously to endorse the Columbia Fire Department's application for a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant from the U.S. Fire Administration.

7. **Consent to an Order – Mr. Ken E. Gaines, City Attorney

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Rickenmann, Council voted unanimously to direct the City Attorneys to consent to an Order in the case of Brandon Hoffman/Sign-arama et al v. City of Columbia case number 09-CP-40-6229, Richland County Common Pleas Court, dismissing the case and providing that the sign sought to be constructed by Hoffman be permitted. The mediator fees shall be paid solely by Hoffman.

I base this motion on the lack of certainty of the interpretation of the zoning ordinance and the fact that we have subsequently amended the text to resolve this in future applications.

8. Mounted Patrol Operations – Chief Tandy Carter, Columbia Police Department

Police Chief Tandy Carter informed the Council that he has raised \$3,500 in private donations to assist in funding the Mounted Patrol Operations.

This report was received as information. No action was taken.

APPOINTMENTS

9. [Bull Street Property Advisory Committee](#) Appointments

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of the following individuals to the Bull Street Property Advisory Committee.

Mr. Richard Burts	Dr. Roger Stroup
Ms. Elizabeth Marks	Mr. Marc Mylott
Ms. Ellen Cooper	Ms. Amy Moore
Mr. Charles Small	Planning Commission Chair
Mr. Paul Bouknight	Design Development Review Commission Chair
Mr. Don Tomlin	

10. [Facility Review Committee](#) (Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports & Tourism)

There was a consensus of Council to invite Mr. Ric Luber, President/CEO of the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports & Tourism and the board members to appear before the Council on December 16, 2009 for a briefing on this matter.

11. [Columbia Tree & Appearance Commission](#)

Upon motion by Ms. Devine, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointments to the Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission for a three-year term as outlined below.

Appointments	Re-Appointments
David Rodriguez	Robert Reibold
Jim Morris	Emily Freeman Jones
Cynthia South	
Leslie Ann Minerz	
Don McInnes	

12. Columbia Empowerment Zone – Mr. Tony Lawton, Director of Community Development

Mr. Angelo McBride, Business Administrator of the Office of Business Opportunities provided an overview of the Sumter-Columbia Empowerment Zone since its conception through its 10-years of service.

- **Mr. Finlay left the meeting at 2:24 p.m.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 2:40 p.m. for the discussion of **Items 13.** through **15.** as presented.

- **Mayor Coble left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.**

13. Receipt of legal advice which relates to matters covered by attorney-client privilege

- Affordable Housing Task Force Ordinance

This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.

14. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements

This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.

15. Discussion of employment of employee

- Municipal Court

This item was discussed in Executive Session. No action was taken.

- **Council adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.**