



CITY OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT I EVENING MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2008
6:00 P.M.
GREENVIEW PARK – 6700 DAVID STREET

The Columbia City Council conducted a District I Evening Meeting on Wednesday, July 9, 2008 at Greenview Park, 6700 David Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Mayor Robert D. Coble called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The following members of Council were present: The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II, The Honorable Sam Davis, The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine, The Honorable Daniel J. Rickenmann, The Honorable Kirkman Finlay III and The Honorable Belinda Gergel. Also present were Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager and Ms. Erika D. Salley, City Clerk.

PRESENTATIONS

**Mayor Coble recognized Mrs. Clyburn, the wife of Senator James Clyburn and his daughter Angela Clyburn. He thanked the Clyburn Family for all that they do.

1. Special Presentation – The Honorable Members of City Council

Mayor Coble said to Senator Kay Patterson “You have been the friend of not only the City of Columbia, you have been the friend of working men and women, poor men and women, all men and women in the State of South Carolina and in Richland County. You have spoken for people who could not speak for themselves and you have been a tireless advocate for our community. Your voice has been heard loud and clear and we have all sometimes been recipients of that voice and we appreciate what you’ve done. Today we just wanted to very briefly say thank you as a Council and as a city for all that you’ve done for the citizens of Columbia and the State of South Carolina.”

The Members of City Council presented Senator Kay Patterson with a special token of appreciation and a Proclamation declaring July 9, 2008 as Senator Kay Patterson Day in the City of Columbia.

The Honorable Senator Kay Patterson thanked the City Council for their graciousness and kind remarks. He said that he has served for thirty-four years and now it is time for him to move off of the stage and give the younger generations a chance to move onto the stage and serve. He said that you can’t live forever and you can’t serve forever so it’s good to leave on your own before they send you home.

2. Welcome Address to the District I Evening Meeting – The Honorable Sam Davis

The Honorable Sam Davis welcomed everyone to the District I Evening Meeting at Greenview Park.

Mrs. Harriett Garden Fields, President of the North Columbia Civic Club welcomed everyone to the Greenview Community. She welcomed the Council back at any time.

Mr. Henry Hopkins, President of the Eau Claire Community Council welcomed everyone to North Columbia. He said that Eau Claire and North Columbia should be the priority for the city. He charged the Council to stick by the commitments that were made to make this area the best it can be. He invited everyone to participate in the upcoming community clean up event on August 9, 2008.

Representative Chris Hart thanked the members of Council for holding this meeting in the

North Columbia area.

MINUTES

3. Minutes of April 23 and 30, 2008 – *Approved as presented.*

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of April 23 and 30, 2008 on a single motion and as presented.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

4. City Manager's Report – Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager reported as follows: I bid you good evening and now that the new fiscal year has begun, please know that we are excited about the opportunities that are in store for the City of Columbia. The emphasis that we are now placing on transparency, efficiency and accountability, is intended to ensure that we continue to perform our jobs at the highest possible levels and as we mandate superior job performances we must also take steps to provide our City employees with the best healthcare management and wellness programs available. We believe that a healthy workforce is a high performance and highly efficient workforce. Towards that end, we are currently finalizing plans with BlueCross BlueShield to implement a Healthcare Management Program for employees that will take effect on August 1, 2008. The overriding goal of this initiative is to educate our employees on their options for healthcare, assess their needs and provide management tools to encourage healthy lifestyles. The health management program that will be administered through BlueCross BlueShield also includes the educational piece, "My Health Toolkit," personal coaching & management for maternity, diabetes, asthma, heart conditions and other chronic ailments as well as personal health assessments for all employees. We propose to pay for this by reinvesting \$41,000 refunded from the Retiree Drug Subsidy, as a result of Medicare Part D. Actually, the program pays for itself and then some. Please allow me to share with you the following example. One renal failure costs approximately \$150,000 per year. Over the last twelve months, the City, through our employee population, has experienced five renal failures, primarily attributable to diabetes. As you can see, the costs spent to educate our employees on maintaining their health are in no comparison to the astronomical costs associated with paying for complications or chronic diseases. As we initiate the Healthcare Management Program, we will continue implementation of the City of Columbia Corporate Wellness Campaign. As I mentioned in my last City Manager's Report, staff has made excellent progress with developing our Employee Wellness Program. In addition to the City Manager's Cup and Citywide Wellness Challenge, an All Health Team has been appointed by me and a timeline has been set for the campaign. A needs assessment survey will be completed by all employees. The specifics of the campaign will be presented to you at the next City Council meeting. BlueCross Blue Shield will coordinate with the City's wellness initiative and will assist with an aggressive public relations campaign. It is my directive that the coordinated effort of healthcare management and employee wellness address any misconceptions or roadblocks that employees might encounter on their way to healthier lifestyles. We should be proactive in educating our workforce on the merits of utilizing Doctor's Care or Urgent Care services for their day-to-day medical concerns and non-emergency issues instead of going to the Emergency Room, which is not only time consuming but expensive. It also ties up valuable and limited resources that can be better applied to true emergencies. In addition, these initiatives will be accessible to all employees, not only through electronic means, but via the mail, phone calls and person-to-person contact at staff meetings and kiosks set up at prime locations throughout City buildings. I look forward to sharing with you the progress we continue to make as we improve healthcare management and wellness for our employees. Briefly, I would like to update you on the Computer Aided Dispatch project. A contract has been signed between Tritech and Richland County on behalf of the City and

County. A kick off meeting was held today in the Richland County GIS conference room and the following is being done at this time: A project consultant is being identified who will oversee the project for the City and County. This individual will oversee installation of electrical, HVAC, and fire suppression for the Columbia Richland Communication Center; protect the interests of the City and County in regards to the installation of the CAD system, meeting project milestones, etc.; and work with an IT specialist and GIS specialist, who will report to 911 Director Mike King and Dale Welch, Assistant IT Director for the County. Please note Item H on your agenda under Resolutions. I have reviewed the most recent version of the Intergovernmental Agreement for Detention Facility Services between the City of Columbia and Richland County. I respectfully request that you ratify and authorize me to execute the final draft. Also note that the RFQ for Centralized Bidder Services as part of our Disparity Study recommendations will be released on Friday, July 11, 2008. Finally, I am pleased to report that a safety plan of action has been established for Finlay Park. The following schedule of patrols began on Monday, July 7th: A Community Safety Officer will be assigned to Finlay Park on Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; The Park Rangers will cover Finlay Park from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.; Park Rangers will cover Finlay Park on Saturdays and Sundays, as needed from 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; the Columbia Police Department will provide early morning sweeps; and the Columbia Police Department will close the parks in the evenings. Additionally, the Department of Parks and Recreation is in the process of constructing decorative fencing around the Finlay Park cafe area which will eliminate loitering and sleeping in that area.

Councilor Finlay said that after he reviewed the agreement with Richland County for the jail he became concerned with the escalation of pricing in the future. He said that this is a pretty good agreement for the city unless they wanted to get into the jail business.

**Councilor Gergel said that she is excited about working with her peers to address the challenges of this city. She already worked with the Council members on various special interests and now she is eager to be a partner in building a great city.

**Councilor Devine introduced Miss Ebony Perkins as a rising sophomore of Claflin College that is shadowing Ms. Devine this evening. Miss Perkins is a graduate of Richland School District One and is majoring in Marketing.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION / ACTION

5. Council is asked to approve the appointment of Ms. Dana D. Turner as the Chief Administrative Judge of Municipal Court effective July 1, 2008 through July 1, 2010. - *Approved*

Upon motion by Ms. Devine, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Dana D. Turner as the Chief Administrative Judge of Municipal Court effective July 1, 2008 through July 1, 2010.

Councilor Devine said that this is a change to have a Chief Administrative Judge. She said that all of the current Judges have been sworn in and asked if the City Manager's Office could coordinate the scheduling of the swearing in ceremony for August 1, 2008 or another practical date.

6. Council is asked to approve the Letter of Agreement for the Richland One School District Performance Analysis, as requested by the Department of Governmental Affairs. Award to the University Of South Carolina College Of Education in the amount of \$26,400.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 1018418 (General Fund) - Approved*

Mayor Coble explained that this is part of the "Together We Can" initiative that's looking at the A Plus schools. Dr. Lindberg will head the gathering of data and has been a part of this initiative to bring the community together and have more community and business involvement. He added that Mobile, Alabama was able to measure exactly where the school district was. Our committee has been meeting and we started with focus groups that included teachers, parents, community leaders, etc. to make sure we are looking at all of the measurements and not just test scores. The USC Department of Education will gather and present that information to us in August. The total cost is approximately \$26,000, but he anticipates splitting that with Richland School District One.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve the Letter of Agreement for the Richland One School District Performance Analysis, as requested by the Department of Governmental Affairs. Award to the University Of South Carolina College Of Education in the amount of \$26,400.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 1018418 (General Fund)*

7. Restroom Facility at Drew Park – The Honorable E.W. Cromartie, II
8. Winton Avenue Clearing and Fencing – The Honorable Sam Davis
9. Child Care Services at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center – The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager presented a combined request for General Capital Projects for **Items 7., 8. and 9.** He reported that during the budget process there were items that were approved as general capital projects to include a restroom facility at Drew Park; Winton Avenue fencing and clearing; and child care services at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center. He respectfully requested authorization to review the general capital project fund to earmark funding for these projects.

Councilor Finlay asked that the City Manager report back with the specific dollar amount of each project.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager noted that two of the projects have been priced; the restroom facility is \$52,000 and the Winton Avenue fencing and clearing project is \$75,000.

Councilor Devine said that an advisory committee will be presenting this service to the Council and that the maximum amount needed for childcare is \$84,000.

Councilor Cromartie explained that the intent is to make a park outside the Wellness Center with a water park, the walking area and other aspects. He said that people will need a restroom facility and a place to change their clothing.

Councilor Davis explained that the Winton Avenue project stems from the Gable Oaks initiatives wherein one commitment was to shut this area off. This is a path that is known for drugs, prostitution and short cutting to a particular grocery store. The city has allowed the property owners to extend the back portion of their property in hopes of closing the area off. The street is not used. This has had a negative impact on the neighborhood and the Columbia Police Department will monitor the area.

Upon motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council authorized the City Manager to review the General Capital Projects Fund and to earmark funding for the three (3) projects.

****Senator John Scott** of Senate District 19 said that it is his pleasure to be here. He looks forward to working with the Council, noting that money is an issue across the State and pledged to do all that he can to bring the resources back home to this community.

****Mayor Coble** recognized Mr. Gilbert Walker, Executive Director of the Columbia Housing Authority.

10. Parking Needs in Five Points – The Honorable Belinda Gergel

Councilor Gergel recognized Mr. Andy Marion, President of Wales Gardens, Ms. Beth Bilderback, President of the Hollywood Rose-Hill Neighborhood Association and Ms. Susan James, former President of the Hollywood Rose-Hill Neighborhood Association. She stated that the City Manager received notification from the Five Points South Developers that they are not going to pursue a contract with the City for a parking facility in Five Points. This project has generated considerable controversy and there has been much conflicting information out there about our need for parking and the best way to address it. We have a 2002 Parking Study that relied on 1999 data that questioned the need for a structured garage and made alternative recommendations. We have a number of merchants that feel that we must address parking in Five Points if we're going to grow that area. Finally, we have countless residents who want to see a vibrant, retail village district, but want to make sure that any parking that goes in Five Points respects the nature and the historic character of this urban village and never detracts from surrounding neighborhoods. She has communicated with the Council about her interests to begin again with an open process to look at the parking needs in Five Points. Parking is always about the present and about the future and we need up-to-date, reliable information to verify and document our parking needs. To the extent that additional parking is needed, we need this data to help us find the best possible alternatives, at the best possible price for our city. It is my desire that we move forward with the following motion. I move that City Council adopt the following two-part action to address our parking needs in Five Points: First, that Council approves the establishment of a citizen's advisory committee to evaluate parking needs in Five Points and to identify the best strategies for addressing parking. If it is determined that new parking arrangements are necessary the committee will present to City Council with a ranked list of alternative options for consideration. Secondly, that Council authorizes our staff to begin the RFP process to secure an urban design parking consultant to assess present and future parking needs in Five Points and if more arrangements for parking are deemed appropriate to investigate potential options, evaluate and contrast those options including a cost analysis. The consultant will advise the citizen's advisory committee and City Council on the best course of action. The RFP should emphasize the need for immediate availability and for prior experience in urban historic business districts that border on residential neighborhoods.

Councilor Devine said that in light of all of the discussions she is interested in the committee concept to determine what the residents and merchants think is needed. She doesn't believe that we are ready to move forward with the RFP process due to funding issues and the need to let the committee begin the dialog first.

Councilor Rickenmann said that he is not in favor of having another study done at this phase. He said that we need to understand the purpose of the committee; is it to advise the Council. We need to understand what the committee's mission would be along with the composition of the committee and who would make the appointments and who would the committee report to. He suggested that they include Ms. Lucinda Statler in the process, because she is an Urban Planner for the City of Columbia.

Councilor Finlay is okay with appointing a citizen's committee, noting that he would like to know how it would be structured. He suggested that they determine what the various groups can agree upon from the 2002 Parking Study. He further suggested that the committee dissect the last study to determine where we went wrong, instead of spending money on an urban planner and someone to review our parking system.

Councilor Gergel explained that it would be a Council committee just as the other committees are and it would represent all of the stakeholders from merchants to property owners to residents. She welcomed input from the other Council members. She is concerned that they do not have reliable data. She feels that it is necessary to bring in an outside consultant to help the group look at the best way to structure parking in a very unique place like Five Points.

Councilor Davis believes that they should step back for a moment. He believes that some may view parking as a luxury in comparison to other priorities that require funding. He said that questions need to be answered in regards to possible underground contamination at the Kenny's site. He suggested that the members of Council continue discussions on this matter prior to moving forward.

Councilor Cromartie said that they have talked about parking in Five Points for the past twenty-five (25) years. He suggested that Dr. Gergel move forward with composing the committee with or without nominations from City Council members.

Mayor Coble suggested that they move forward with the advisory committee by sending their nominations to Dr. Gergel. He said that this committee could make sure we have the previous studies and dates and then make suggestions on the additional information and/or expertise that may be needed. This has to be based on data that can't be questioned. The expertise should determine whether parking is needed and provide successful alternatives based on what other cities have done in similar situations.

Upon motion by Dr. Gergel, seconded by Mayor Coble, Council voted unanimously to approve the establishment of a citizen's advisory committee to evaluate parking in Five Points. Each member of Council is to submit one (1) nominee to Dr. Gergel and she will report back to the full Council on the composition and charges of the committee.

Councilor Finlay suggested that the committee be charged with studying the diversity and breakdown of existing commercial businesses in Five Points, because this information impacts the number of spaces needed.

11. Appointments to the Chief Financial Officer Advisory Committee – The Honorable Robert D. Coble

Mayor Coble said that an advisory committee of outstanding citizens is needed to help select the Chief Financial Officer. The committee would consist of 7-9 business men and women, Chief Executive Officers and Chief Financial Officers that would advise the City Manager. He requested that this matter be scheduled for July 16, 2008 and he will continue to circulate the

names in the interim and asked the members of Council to submit their nominees.

Councilor Finlay agreed, noting that the committee members would bring credibility to the decision and knowledge that we don't necessarily possess in house.

**Councilor Finlay volunteered to utilize surplus funds from his Council Expense Account from the past two (2) years to purchase new microphones for the City Council.

11a. **Congaree River Briefing – The Honorable Robert D. Coble

Mayor Coble said that DHEC has been testing for fecal coliform bacteria in the public bodies of water throughout South Carolina. They have put up two (2) Swimming Advisory Signs at the Congaree River. They are looking at those areas with the highest bacteria levels and the most public accessibility. The signs don't prohibit swimming, but they warn swimmers that the fecal coliform bacteria levels exceed the standard of 10% for primary contact. He reported that the cause is unknown, but it could be pet or animal waste, alligator contribution, leaking septic tank or sewer line or general run off. DHEC has suggested that the City send a letter to them requesting that SCDHEC accelerate the schedule for the development of fecal coliform Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in local water bodies. He noted that this is not a financial commitment.

Upon motion by Mayor Coble, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to authorize the City Manager to draft and sign a letter to the SCDHEC outlining the city's request to accelerate the schedule for the development of fecal coliform Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) in local water bodies and the city's interest in working collaboratively with SCDHEC and other local jurisdictions in developing a TMDL.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Devine inquired about **Item 16.** on the **Consent Agenda.** She asked where the lights will go.

Mr. Steve Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations explained that the light poles we put on Gervais Street in the late 1980's were made of fiber glass and have since deteriorated substantially. It is cheaper to replace those poles with aluminum poles as part of phase one of the replacement poles for the Gervais Street corridor.

Councilor Cromartie inquired about the replacement poles for Two Notch Road.

Mr. Steve Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations explained that they need to meet with Mr. John Hardee to have another discussion about the hurricane proof poles that were installed on Two Notch Road to see if SCDOT will help.

Councilor Cromartie asked if an appraisal was done for **Item 30.**

Mr. Steve Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations said yes, it has already been presented to Council.

Councilor Davis inquired about **Item 19.**

Mr. Steve Gantt, Senior Assistant City Manager for Operations explained that some demolitions have to take place during phase one of the North Main Street Project. The contractor will remove 10 feet from the building on the corner of Elmwood Avenue and North Main Street so

that it is out of the right of way.

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 12.** through **30.** on a single motion.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS, AGREEMENTS and CHANGE ORDERS

12. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Gas Monitors, as requested by the Fire Department. Award to Dawson Associates as the lowest bidder meeting specifications in the amount of \$11,210.39. This vendor is located in Lawrenceville, GA. *Funding Source: 1012303-657400 - \$9,708.11 and 1012303-631800 - \$1,502.11 - Approved*
13. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Grass Cutting and Landscaping Services for City Buildings during fiscal year 2008/2009, as requested by Support Services. Award to James Thomas, as the lowest bidder in the amount of \$13,500.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 1011201-638200 - Approved*
14. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of a Core Alignment Fusion Splicer, as requested by the Traffic and Engineering Department. Award to Norfolk Wire and Electronics, as the lowest bidder in the amount of \$17,940.69. This vendor is located in Greenville, SC. *Funding Source: 2529999-623600 - Approved*
15. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Lawn Maintenance, as requested by the Columbia Canal and Lake Murray Water Plants. Award to James Thomas, as the lowest bidder in the amount of \$19,488.00. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 5516206-638300 - \$10,080.00 and 5516207-63800 - \$9,408.00 - Approved*
16. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Fifty (50) Decorative Light Poles, as requested by the Traffic and Engineering Division. Award to Flagpoles, Inc. as the lowest bidder in the amount of \$32,352.00. This vendor is located in East Setauket, NY. *Funding Source: 1013205-657300 - Approved*
17. Council is asked to approve a Contract Amendment for Professional Services, as requested by Economic Development. Award to Global Consulting & Affiliates of Columbia, SC in the amount of \$46,666.67 plus expenses in an amount not to exceed \$6,500.00. *Funding Source: Economic Development Special Projects Account - Approved*
18. Council is asked to approve Project #SS7055; Video Tape Sewer Line from North Columbia Pump Station to Gervais Street Bridge, as requested by the Department of Utilities and Engineering. Award to Trussell Brothers Construction Co. Inc. as the lowest bidder in the amount of \$48,843.90. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Sanitary Sewer Improvement Fund #SS29999-851600 - Approved*
19. Council is asked to approve Project #2110; Renovation to North Main Street Improvement Project, Phase 1A, as requested by Utilities and Engineering. Award to Preferred Construction Company, the lowest bidder in the amount of \$64,292.00. This firm is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 9307000101-636100 - Approved*
20. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Lawn Maintenance, as requested by the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to Gregory Landscape Services, as the lowest bidder in the amount of \$69,840.00. This vendor is located in Lexington, SC. *Funding Source: 5516208-638300 - Approved*

21. Council is asked to approve Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Testing by Independent Laboratories for Environmental Monitoring Programs Required by the City's Code of Ordinances and State and Federal Regulations and as requested by the Engineering Department in the amount of \$136,497.00. *Funding Source: Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant Operating Budget - Approved*

22. Council is asked to approve Project #WM4119; 12" and 8" Water Mains along Flintlake Drive and William Hardin Road, as requested by the Utilities and Engineering Department. Award to C.B.G., Inc., the lowest bidder in the amount of \$140,987.00. This vendor is located in Gaston, SC. *Funding Source: Water Maintenance Improvement Fund - Approved*

23. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Grit, Ash, Sludge Hauling and Container Rental for Fiscal Year 2008/2009, as requested by the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award to Palmetto Environmental Solutions, Inc. as the lowest bidder in the amount of \$149,680.00. This firm is located in West Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: 5516208-638300 - Approved*

24. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Chemicals for the Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Annual Chemical Bid, as requested by the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Award the five (5) lots to the lowest bidders in the total amount of \$168,093.00. Lot 6 – Polymer- will be awarded after results of the polymer trials are received. *Funding Source: 5516208-624800 - Approved*

Lot 1 – Chlorine- Jones Chemical, Charlotte NC	\$106,975.00
Lot 2 – Caustic Soda- Brenntag Southeast, Duncan SC	\$ 576.00
Lot 3 – Sulfamic Acid- Univar USA, Spartanburg SC	\$ 1,222.00
Lot 4 – Sulfur Dioxide- Allied Universal, Miami FL	\$ 57,400.00
Lot 5 – Sodium Chloride- Univar USA, Spartanburg SC	\$ 1,920.00

25. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Wastewater Maintenance Repair Materials for Fiscal Year 2008/2009, as requested by the Wastewater Maintenance Department. Award the five (5) lots to the lowest bidders in the total amount of \$210,244.56. *Funding Source: 5516205-625700 - Approved*

Lot 1 – Manhole Frames- U.S. Foundry, Columbia SC	\$ 59,325.00
Lot 2 – Meter Boxes-Mainline Supply, Columbia SC	\$ 3,072.00
Lot 3 – Fernco Couplings-Noland Co., Columbia SC	\$ 28,594.00
Lot 4 – PVC, HDPE Pipe- Ferguson Inc., Elgin SC	\$ 53,984.24
Lot 5 – PVC fittings- HD Supply, West Columbia SC	\$ 51,515.00

26. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Water Meters Annual Bid for Fiscal Year 2008/2009, as requested by the Water Distribution Department. Award the three (3) lots to the lowest bidders in the total amount of \$557,233.53. *Funding Source: 5516203-625600 - Approved*

Lot 1 – 5/8" & 1" Meters-Mainline Supply, Columbia SC	\$187,575.00
Lot 2 – 1 1/2" & 2" Meters- Badgers Meters, Milwaukee WI	\$ 50,250.00
Lot 3 – Fire Service Meters- Badgers Meters, Milwaukee WI	\$282,954.00

27. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of Water Distribution Repair Materials for Fiscal Year 2008/2009, as requested by the Water Distribution Division. Award the twenty-four (24) lots to the lowest bidders in the total amount of \$739,152.46. (Lot 15 will be re-bid at a later date). *Funding Source: 5516203-625700 - Approved*

Noland Co., Columbia SC – Lot 1	\$ 5,093.90
Mainline Supply, Columbia SC – Lots 2,6,7,12,17,18,20,24	\$461,923.97
Ferguson Enterprises, Elgin SC – Lots 3,14,21,22,23	\$ 85,949.57
HD Supply, West Columbia SC – Lots 4,5,11,13,16	\$ 77,208.25
Independent Waterworks, Lexington SC – Lots 8,9,10	\$ 33,977.00
Tec Utilities, Greenville SC – Lot 19	\$ 26,544.00

28. Council is asked to approve Change Order #1 for Project SS6966; Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Annual Maintenance Contract for Emergency Repairs, as requested by the Engineering Department in the amount of \$1,376,178.85. *Funding Source: Sewer Improvement Fund - Approved*

29. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of the Annual Chemical Bid, as requested by Lake Murray and Columbia Canal Water Plant. Award the Eleven (11) lots to the lowest bidders in the total amount of \$2,323,512.60. (Lot 2, Alum, will be re-bid and Lot 8, Blended Phosphates, will be awarded after product testing is complete). *Funding Source 5516206-624800 \$1,161,768.40 and 5516207-624800 \$1,161,744.20 - Approved*

Lot 1 – Carbon- Norit Americas Inc, Marshall TX	\$ 276,000.00
Lot 3 – Ammonia-Tanner Industries, Southampton PA	\$ 144,450.00
Lot 4 – Chlorine-Jones Chemical, Charlotte NC	\$ 218,960.00
Lot 5 – Fluoride-LCI, Jacksonville Beach FL	\$ 288,200.00
Lot 6 – Lime-Burnett Lime, Campobello SC	\$ 344,250.00
Lot 7 – Caustic Soda-Colonial Chemical, Augusta GA	\$ 19,452.60
Lot 9 – Chlorite-International Dioxide, N. Kingstown RI	\$ 538,200.00
Lot 10 – Polymer-Polydyne Inc, Riceboro GA	\$ 42,000.00
Lot 11 – Ferric Sulfate-Kemira Inc, Lawrence KS	\$ 452,000.00

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

30. Ordinance No.: 2008-055 – Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Agreement of Sale for the transfer of 0.96 acres (41,635.67 square feet) of an unopened portion of Wheat Street and 0.62 acres (26,891.50 square feet) of an unopened portion of Rice Street to South Carolina Electric and Gas Company – *First reading approval was given on June 18, 2008. - Approved*

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

31. Ordinance No.: 2008-037 – Granting an encroachment to the St. Thomas More Catholic Student Center for installation and maintenance of brick pavers and landscaping adjacent to its building at 1610 Greene Street – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2008-037 – Granting an encroachment to the St. Thomas

More Catholic Student Center for installation and maintenance of brick pavers and landscaping adjacent to its building at 1610 Greene Street, subject to all Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements being met and the minimum width for ADA being maintained.

- A. Ordinance No.: 2008-041 – Granting encroachment to Main & Gervais, LLC for its building at 1221 Main Street for installation and maintenance of a driveway, water and sewer utility lines, parking spaces and building overhang – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2008-041 – Granting encroachment to Main & Gervais, LLC for its building at 1221 Main Street for installation and maintenance of a driveway, water and sewer utility lines, parking spaces and building overhang.

- B. Ordinance No.: 2008-052 – Granting an encroachment to The Blue Marlin for installation and maintenance of a flower bed within the right of way area of the 1200 block of Lincoln Street adjacent to its building – *Approved on first reading.*

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2008-052 – Granting an encroachment to The Blue Marlin for installation and maintenance of a flower bed within the right of way area of the 1200 block of Lincoln Street adjacent to its building.

- C. Ordinance No.: 2008-056 – Annexing 101 Powell Road, Richland County, TMS # 14500-02-24 – *Approved on first reading.*

Councilor Davis asked if the city issued the buffering versus coming through the back of the school district property.

Mr. Marc Mylott, Director of Planning and Development Services said that the issue has nothing to do with the annexation of the Midlands Technical College Enterprise Campus, but he will check and report back to Mr. Davis on the matter.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager explained that he sent a letter to the Superintendent of Richland School District One advising them of the city's position as it relates to water services and their need to sign the covenant. We are not in support of the buffer.

Councilor Finlay stated that while he supports this annexation, we need to be cognizant that we are adding an approximate cost of \$200,000 to the Police Department's budget. This is an important issue to watch during a tight budget year.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager explained that the practical reality is that Midlands Tech has its own police force, which consists of State certified constables who are academy trained. In addition to that there is a Sheriff's Department Substation about three (3) blocks up the road. We would seek to work out an arrangement with them to have some overlap as it relates to the patrol function. He noted that state property has access to resources such as SLED and the Bureau of Protective Services.

Councilor Davis suggested that we obtain a written confirmation that the shared patrol function will take place.

Upon motion by Mr. Rickenmann, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2008-056 – Annexing 101 Powell Road, Richland County, TMS # 14500-02-24, subject to the city arranging an overlap of police protection from

the nearby Sheriff's Station and other state agencies.

- D. Ordinance No.: 2008-058 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 13, Municipal Court – *Approved on first reading.*

Councilor Devine explained that this Ordinance creates the position of Chief Administrative Judge.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Mr. Davis, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2008-058 - Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 13, Municipal Court.

- E. Ordinance No.: 2008-060 – Allowing for hospitality cabinets (mini-bars) in qualified facilities within the City limits of the City of Columbia – *Approved on first reading.*

Mr. Ken E. Gaines, City Attorney explained that state law requires municipalities to approve the use of mini-bars in hotel rooms and other qualifying facilities to include the downtown Sheraton, the Holiday Inn and similar facilities. There are certain controls under the State statute.

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to give first reading approval to Ordinance No.: 2008-060 – Allowing for hospitality cabinets (mini-bars) in qualified facilities within the City limits of the City of Columbia.

RESOLUTIONS

Upon motion by Ms. Devine, seconded by Mr. Cromartie, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items F.** through **H.** on a single motion.

- F. Resolution No.: R-2008-013 – Authorizing acceptance of Falling Springs Court from Land Holdings Two, LLC - *Approved*
- G. Resolution No.: R-2008-033 – Release and Abandonment of the City's Existing 15' Water Main Easement along Lexington County TMS #002898-04-001 & TMS #002898-04-033 (Portion); Sportsmans Warehouse; CF #141-09 & CF #290-25 - *Approved*
- H. Resolution No.: R-2008-034 – Ratifying and authorizing the City Manager to execute the final draft of the Intergovernmental Agreement (Detention Facility Services) between the City of Columbia and Richland County - *Approved*

OTHER MATTERS

Upon motion by Mr. Cromartie, seconded by Ms. Devine, Council voted unanimously to approve **Items I.** and **J.** on a single motion.

- I. Council is asked to approve an Application for Certificate of Convenience and Necessity, as requested by the Business License Division. Award to Laddie Howard doing business as Imperial Transportation Service located at 1332 Main Street, Suite 61, Columbia, SC. - *Approved*

J. Council is asked to approve an Application for Certificate of Convenience and Necessity, as requested by the Business License Division. Award to Adewale M. Agboke doing business as 24/7 Taxi located at 195 Ashewood Lake Drive, Columbia, SC. - *Approved*

****Councilor Rickenmann** said that Columbia is considered one of the top ten underrated cities by Hotels.com. He said that our marketing efforts needed to be stepped up so people can come and see what a beautiful city we have. He asked that the Council consider holding back 25% from the Hospitality Tax Fund due to the current economic downswing. This discussion should take place on July 16, 2008 and organizations should be notified of the Council's intent. He would also like to discuss the Economic Development Special Projects Account on July 16, 2008. He asked that the budget and back up materials be provided to the Council.

****Councilor Davis** recognized other neighborhood presidents that were in attendance.

****Councilor Cromartie** recognized additional neighborhood presidents and leaders that were in attendance.

APPEARANCE OF PUBLIC HAVING BUSINESS WITH CITY COUNCIL

Mr. Scott Trent, Belmont Neighborhood Association President stated that he hopes that a better paving asphalt company is awarded the contract for North Main Street, than the one that paved Harden Street in Five Points.

Mr. Bruce Sanders stressed the importance of Council conducting an evening meeting each month, because not everyone can come to morning meetings. He suggested that the Council look at their executive sessions, noting that some things must be done in executive session, but most things are better when you don't have folks wondering what's going on. He reported that the tower on the Survey Building has a clock that needs to be reset to the correct time.

Mr. Henry Hopkins announced that Ms. Dawn Stoner is the new College Place President.

****Councilor Devine** welcomed back Mr. Bill Manley, an Eau Claire resident that has been away due to an illness.

Representative Chris Hart recognized Mr. Jesse Story as the President of the Senior Fitness Club at Greenview Park and Mr. Grover Jenkins as the President of the Easter Street Club.

Mrs. C. M. Reese said that she is concerned about the noise nuisance every weekend in the 6100 block of Easter Street. She noted that "No Parking" signs were installed and someone removed them. Officer Watson told her that the Police Department issued 22 tickets. She said that it is a scary thing. She complained of her windows vibrating and the use of bad language. She said that something needs to be done, because she has been here for 48 years and was never scared before.

Mr. Lee Carroll, Save Our Kids, said that he is disturbed by pictures distributed in The State Newspapers on Sunday. The picture showed kids fighting and he insisted that it was a staged fight, because the kids were smiling. They cannot publicize staged events that look like crimes. He went around the neighborhood and found that the people in the picture don't live in Latimore Manor or the surrounding area. He is concerned about summer camp, adding that it should be free in the city. If Save Our Kids can run free summer camp programs then so can the city.

Councilor Cromartie agreed with Mr. Carroll adding that he didn't understand how the newspaper could obtain photos of the kids fighting. He said that there should be consequences if the fight was orchestrated. He noted that the city does provide scholarships for free summer camp.

Mayor Coble said that we will follow up with the newspaper on this. We are working to promote a clean up event for August 9, 2008 and we will bring this to their attention as they work to promote the northeast community.

Councilor Davis said that we are providing feedback to each other and sometimes you start with the negative and end with the positive. Maybe it's just coincidental that they showed up during a fight, but we will continue to talk with them since they know what fairness is.

Mr. Charles P. Austin, Sr., City Manager said that our position is that no child should be turned away from a public facility and if this happens, they should call my office and we will handle it.

Mr. Jacobs asked that the Council consider putting 4-5 additional tennis courts at Greenview Park. He presented the same request several years ago.

Ms. Christie Savage, Northwood Hills Resident stated that they are still at the same place they were at several years ago. It is time to see something tangible in terms of not seeing trash, hearing noise and smelling fumes. She said that a reporter from FOX 57 met with them today and toured the neighborhood. She has been meeting with the Mayor and others about these matters. There is a need for a traffic light at Fairfield Road and North Main Street and she was told that they will have to wait. They are scheduled to meet on July 14, 2008. She said that a buffer is needed between the neighborhood and the Industrial Park, but they have not heard anything yet. They talked about hiring a sound engineer, but nothing happened. She insisted that the Industrial Park would not have been put in most areas. We were told they were going to be warehouses and now we are stuck with it so somebody needs to do something expeditiously.

Mr. Jesse Story, Leader of the Greenview Senior Fitness Group noted that they have the largest group in the southeast with 150 members. We have fun and we have seniors with health issues. He said that a new sound system is needed in the gym, because you can't hear. He inquired about the kitchen equipment as well.

Councilor Rickenmann said that it is in the budget along with the other improvements they discussed.

Ms. Shonda Sweat, Parks and Recreation Department reported that she has been ill for the past 1 ½ years and that her condition has worsened over the past year. Upon her doctor's orders she petitioned for a set morning schedule to accommodate her disability. Human Resources told her this should not be a problem and various chains of command assured her that something would be done. In April, an Intravenous line was surgically placed into her right arm and due to circumstances beyond her control she had to be connected to an IV fluid bag by 5:00 p.m. She immediately made her department aware of this situation and her chain of command stated that accommodations had already been made for her and they would not make anymore. She was then placed in a facility with several environmental and safety hazards that added to her health situation. She noted that accommodations were not made within the timeframe of her doctor's request. As a result, her condition has worsened and she has to receive artificial feeding through a catheter, which has been surgically inserted into her right chest. She is 32 years old and has two daughters. Her condition continues to worsen, because of broken promises and her chain of command's reluctance to adhere to her doctor's orders.

Mayor Coble asked the City Manager to look into this matter.

- **Council adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Salley
City Clerk