

Special Council Meeting at 5 p.m.

February 21, 2012

Members Present:

Joe Owens, Mayor  
Boyd Jones, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Abbott L. Bray, Jr.  
Eric L. Fowler  
Casey Jordan Hallman  
L. Dale Harley  
Tommy Parler  
Teddy Wingard

Members Absent:

B.J. Unthank, out of town on business

Others Present:

Myron Corley, Deputy City Administrator  
Mardi Valentino, City Clerk  
Brian Carter, Director of Planning and Zoning  
Donna Smith, Director of Economic Development  
Sid Varn, Director of Planning and Engineering

Rick Hodge, City Treasurer  
Wyatt Coleman, Fire Chief  
Charles Garren, Director of Public Works  
Dennis Tyndall, Police Chief  
Members of the Public and Press

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Agenda Item I – Call to Order

Mayor Owens called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. and noted a quorum was present. *The State, Free Times, Lexington County Chronicle, Cayce-West Columbia News, and The Columbia Star* were notified of the meeting by e-mail on February 17, 2012.

Agenda Item II – Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Owens gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item III – Request for Appearance

Mayor Owens recognized Mr. Michael Mayo, owner of Palmetto Outdoors, a kayak, canoe and tube rental business operating at the West Columbia Riverwalk Park. Mr. Mayo said that Palmetto Outdoors has grown over the last six years into the largest recreational outfitter in South Carolina. Mr. Mayo said he would like to start offering historic tours along the Riverwalk from West Columbia into the Cayce portion of the park. He explained the tour group would begin its walk in West Columbia by the Gervais Street Bridge and proceed toward the Blossom Street Bridge onto the sidewalk along Knox Abbott Drive past the Guignard Brick Works. He said the tours would recognize the sesquicentennial anniversary of the War Between the States and provide background information about the burning of Columbia by federal troops under the command of General William T. Sherman. Mr. Mayo said the war began in Charleston at the firing upon Ft. Sumter and ended with the burning of Columbia because Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Virginia shortly after Columbia burned.

Mayor Owens recognized Council Member Eric Fowler who asked how many people would constitute a tour group. Mr. Mayo responded that a tour would not be any larger than 20 people. Mr. Mayo noted that he expanded his business insurance to \$1 million, which now includes historic tours in the coverage.

Mayor Owens said his concern would be complaints about the size of the tour groups interfering with people riding bikes and pushing strollers along the walkway. Mr. Mayo said if the size of the group interfered with people using the Riverwalk path he would adjust the group size to a smaller number.

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### Agenda Item III – Request for Appearance (continued)

Mayor Owens recognized Council Member Bray who asked where the tour groups would stop along the Riverwalk. Mr. Mayo responded that planned stops would include the SS Columbia shipwreck in the West Columbia portion of the Riverwalk. Mr. Mayo stated the tour would be based upon historical curriculum developed by the SC public school system for third and eighth grade students in order to provide a venue for student field trips at the Riverwalk Park and the state house. Council Member Bray said he would be interested in seeing the text of the tour information. Mr. Mayor said he would provide Council with copies of the historical information that he plans to use on the tours. He intends to make the tour as objective as possible by presenting only the facts of the events and not the political overtones.

Mayor Owens recognized Council Member Hallman who asked where the school buses would be parked during the tours. Mr. Mayo responded that there is enough room at his business location to park 10 buses at one time. He explained he currently uses two former school buses and plans to purchase another bus to transport people on the tours. Ms. Hallman suggested that Mr. Mayo contact Lexington School District Two to obtain the procedures for school tours. Mr. Mayo responded that he would contact the school district to ensure that his tours followed the proper protocol for students.

Mayor Owens advised Mr. Mayo that Council would consider approving the historic tours on the West Columbia Riverwalk if the tour groups are limited to 20 people and if Council is provided with copies of the historical information to be given on the tours. Mr. Mayo said he would provide a proposal for the historical tours at the council meeting on March 6, 2012.

### Agenda Item IV – Adjourn to Executive Session to Discuss a Contractual Matter

Mayor Owens entertained a motion to adjourn to executive session. Council Member Bray so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned to executive session at 5:30 p.m.

### Agenda Item V – Adjourn from Executive Session and Reconvene to Regular Session

Mayor Owens entertained a motion to adjourn executive session and reconvene to regular session. Council Member Parler so moved and Council Member Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council reconvened to regular session at 7:40 p.m. Mayor Owens stated that no action was taken in executive session.

### Agenda Item VI – Adjourn

Mayor Owens asked if there was any further business and received no response. Mayor Owens entertained a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro-Tem Jones so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta M. Valentino, CMC  
City Clerk