

# City of West Columbia, SC

## Council Work Session Minutes

March 15, 2010 at 6:05 p.m. following the Special Council Meeting at 6 p.m.

### Members Present:

Bobby E. Horton, Mayor  
Jack L. Harmon, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Eric L. Fowler  
L. Dale Harley  
Boyd Jones  
Marsha Moore  
Tommy Parler

### Members Absent:

BJ Unthank, out of town  
Cathy Shannon

### Others Present:

Jenny Cunningham, City Administrator  
Myron Corley, Deputy City Administrator  
Mardi McKinnon, City Clerk  
Sid Varn, Director of Planning and Engineering  
Donna Smith, Economic Development Director  
Members of the Public and Press

Wyatt Coleman, Fire Chief  
Charles Garren, Public Works Director  
Brian Carter, Planning & Zoning Director  
Dennis Tyndall, Police Chief  
Stuart Jones, Building Official

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Mayor Horton called the meeting to order at 6:05 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 March 11, 2010.

Mayor Horton discussed the amount of per diem given to council members and city staff that travel out-of-state on city business. He explained that the current per diem is \$75.00, which is supposed to cover expenses such as food, taxi fare, parking fees, phone calls or other miscellaneous expenses. He said on his recent trip to Washington, DC he spent most of the \$75.00 per diem on taxi fare, which left hardly any money for food. He proposed that Council consider raising the amount of per diem for out-of-state travel to \$100.00, but keep the in-state travel per diem at \$75.00. Mayor Horton recognized Council Member Harley who said larger cities such as Atlanta and Washington, DC are a lot more expensive. He suggested raising the per diem to \$125.00 if travel is to a place that is considerably more expensive than the Columbia area. Mayor Horton asked to place the per diem revision for out-of-state travel on the agenda for the upcoming council meeting in April 2010.

Mayor Horton recognized Fire Chief Wyatt Coleman who stated that the Fire Department has received an offer of \$3,500 from Berkley County to purchase the 1975 Mack pumper truck for use as a reserve truck. Mayor Horton asked Chief Coleman if the pumper truck could be refurbished. Chief Coleman responded that apparatus built before 1979 does not meet the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Code 91 requirements. He said the pumper truck could not be refurbished to those standards. Chief Coleman recommended selling the truck "as is" to another agency. Council Members concurred with Chief Coleman's recommendation.

Mayor Horton recognized City Administrator Jenny Cunningham who provided a copy of the budget schedule for Fiscal Year 2010-2011. She said the budget work session would be held on May 17, 2010 and the public hearing on the proposed budget would be held June 1. First reading would take place on June 1 and second reading would be June 21, 2010.

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Mayor Horton recognized Council Member Parler who discussed promoting a city-wide clean up in conjunction with the Great American CleanUp sponsored by the Keep America Beautiful of the Midlands. The Great American CleanUp is the nation's largest community improvement program and takes place annually between March 1 and May 31. Council Member Parler suggested dividing the city into four areas with two contiguous council districts per area. He explained that the council members for each area would work together to involve people in their respective districts to participate in a clean up day on a designated Saturday. He said the Sanitation Department could provide assistance with roll carts for trash pick up. He asked council members if they were willing to support the clean up efforts and received an affirmative response. Council Member Parler said a representative from Keep the Midlands Beautiful will be at the council meeting on April 6, 2010 to brief Council on the Great American CleanUp event. Council Member Parler also requested that Code Enforcement officers be available to work on designated Saturdays in the four areas to focus on properties in violation of city codes. He said the city could publicize the event during April to maximize community response.

Mayor Horton noted that the clean up efforts would be a good opportunity for schools, Boy Scout troops and community organizations to become involved. He suggested that some incentive such as a donation to the organization could be offered for the group that collects the largest number of bags.

Mayor Horton recognized Deputy City Administrator Myron Corley who stated he had notified council members about members of the World Changers organization coming to Lexington County on June 7, 2010. He explained the World Changers are church volunteers who offer assistance with simple home repairs such as painting or installing wheel chair ramps. He asked council members to provide names and addresses of people in their districts who could benefit from the volunteer program.

Mayor Horton asked Mrs. Cunningham when the sewer line repairs would be finished on 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Mrs. Cunningham responded that the contractor advised him the construction work would be completed by the end of March. She said the process is slow because the lines are buried over 20 feet deep. She explained that the contractor had to use a special technique to prevent the sides of the excavation from collapsing inward, which impeded the progress of the repairs.

Mayor Horton asked if council members had any further business to discuss. Hearing no response, Mayor Horton entertained a motion to adjourn. Council Member Harley so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta Valentino McKinnon, CMC  
City Clerk