

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE

June 17, 2010 – 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING - ON ORDINANCE NO. 3848 –
APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL
YEAR JULY 1, 2010 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2011
– FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

Mayor Dean Dickey called the Public Hearing to order, pursuant to proper public notice having been given. Present were Mayor Dean Dickey, Vice Mayor Kennedy, Council Members Carl McCullen, Debbie Matthews, Christa Martin, Mike Greene and Susan Stephenson, Acting City Manager Patti Baltzer, Attorney Cara Lynn, City Recorder Betty Modrall, and Liz Bermudez, Recording Secretary. City Manager Paul Boyer and City Attorney Tim Tisher were absent.

There being no one present in connection with the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 3848, Council Member McCullen moved to close the Public Hearing. Council Member Martin seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

APPROVED:

DEAN DICKEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BETTY R. MODRALL, CITY RECORDER

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PUBLIC HEARING - ON ORDINANCE NO. 3852 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FY 2009-10 BUDGET ORDINANCE NO. 3806 AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED, PROVIDING FOR REVISIONS TO THE GENERAL AND CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS – FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

Mayor Dean Dickey called the Public Hearing to order, pursuant to proper public notice having been given. Present were Mayor Dean Dickey, Vice Mayor Kennedy, Council Members Carl McCullen, Debbie Matthews, Christa Martin, Mike Greene and Susan Stephenson, Acting City Manager Patti Baltzer, Attorney Cara Lynn, City Recorder Betty Modrall, and Liz Bermudez, Recording Secretary. City Manager Paul Boyer and City Attorney Tim Tisher were absent.

There being no one present in connection with the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 3852, Mayor Dickey asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Vice Mayor Kennedy moved to adjourn and Council Member Stephenson seconded the motion. During roll call Council Member Martin called for the question. Council Member Martin advised the motion needs to be to close the Public Hearing, not to adjourn. Mayor Dickey asked if there was a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 3852. Council Member Matthews moved to close the Public Hearing. Council Member Stephenson seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye to close the Public Hearing.

APPROVED:

DEAN DICKEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BETTY R. MODRALL, CITY RECORDER

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Mayor Dickey called the regular meeting to order, pursuant to proper notice having been given. City Recorder Betty Modrall called the roll. Present were Mayor Dean Dickey, Vice Mayor Wayne Kennedy and Council Members Carl McCullen, Debbie Matthews, Christa Martin, Mike Greene and Susan Stephenson, Acting City Manager Patti Baltzer, Attorney Cara Lynn, Betty Modrall, City Recorder, and Liz Bermudez, Recording Secretary. City Manager Paul Boyer and City Attorney Tim Tisher were absent.

Council Member Martin offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Mayor Kennedy.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Vice Mayor Kennedy moved to approve the Agenda. Council Member McCullen seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

PRESENTATIONS:

Item 5.1 - **PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FIRE DEPARTMENT, PROCLAIMING JUNE 20-26, 2010 AS “FIREFIGHTER SAFETY WEEK”**. Mayor Dickey was joined by Fire Chief Lee Bergeron and Deputy Chief Steve Cross at the front of the room. Mayor Dickey read the proclamation creating June 20-26, 2010 as “Firefighter Safety Week”. Chief Bergeron said everything a firefighter does every day is opposed to their personal safety. Chief Bergeron advised the Chief of New York was asked if firefighters were heroes when they entered the World Trade Centers and the Chief of New York’s response was they were heroes the day they signed up for the job. Chief Bergeron said our men and women when they signed up met those requirements. Deputy Chief Cross said this is the fifth or sixth year that the Fire Department has participated in this. Deputy Chief Cross said this is to promote firefighter safety, health and this year it is called “Fit for Duty”. Deputy Chief Cross spoke of teaching the firefighters healthy recipes and life choices. Deputy Chief Cross thanked the Mayor and Council for the proclamation because it tells them they value the firefighters’ safety and health.

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ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS:

Item 6.1 – **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 3, 2010.** Council Member Martin moved to approve the June 3, 2010 City Council Meeting Minutes. Council Member Matthews seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

Item 6.2 – **CONSIDERATION OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR LLOYD HICKMAN, DRIVER, FIRE DEPARTMENT – PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT.** Council Member Martin moved to approve the retirement benefits for Mr. Hickman. Vice Mayor Kennedy seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Vice Mayor Kennedy asked that Item 7.2 be removed from the Consent Agenda. Council Member Matthews moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item 7.2. Council Member McCullen seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye and the following items were approved:

1. Disbursements for the month of May 2010 in the amount of \$8,947,456.46.
3. Authorize the Mayor to execute a fifteen-year lease for oxygen and acetylene cylinders – Public Works Department.
4. Authorization to execute a contract with the State of Tennessee, Department of Transportation, to utilize the Statewide Global Navigation Satellite System Reference Network of Base Stations – Public Works Department.
5. Receive and file cost of living adjustment (COLA) for eligible retirees or beneficiaries of the City of Columbia Employees' Retirement Plan – City Recorder's Office.
6. Authorization to dispose of surplus city property – Finance Department.
7. Transfer of funds between activities within the Police Department – Finance Department.
8. Transfer of funds between activities within Public Works-Sanitation Department – Finance Department.

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9. Transfer of funds between activities in the Fire Department – Finance Department.
10. Bid award for video and audio enhancement system – Police Department.
11. Bid award for tractor and mower – Public Works Department.
12. Consider authorization to pay annual maintenance fee charges to the State of Tennessee – Department of Environment and Conservation for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) – Wastewater Department.

Item 7.2 – BID AWARD AND AUTHORIZATION FOR MAYOR TO EXECUTE A LEASE FOR A COLOR COPIER – FINANCE DEPARTMENT. Vice Mayor Kennedy moved to approve Item 7.2 for discussion. Council Member Stephenson seconded the motion. Vice Mayor said there was discussion Tuesday night about procedures for bidding, local bidding and out of town bidding. Vice Mayor said Senator Ketron called him and said he had more information on this topic but would not be able to get Vice Mayor Kennedy the information until the morning. Vice Mayor Kennedy moved to defer Item 7.2. Council Member McCullen seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

ADMINISTRATION:

Item 8.1 – CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE FOR TASVI PATEL TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT TONY’S FINE LIQUORS LOCATED AT 115 NASHVILLE HIGHWAY – WARD 5.

Council Member Stephenson moved to approve the Certificate of Compliance for Tasvi Patel. Council Member Matthews seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

Item 8.2 – AUTHORIZE AN AMENDMENT OF THE CONTRACT WITH EARTHAVERS, LLC FOR CURBSIDE RECYCLING SERVICES – PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND CITY MANAGER’S OFFICE.

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Council Member Matthews moved to approve the amendment to the contract with EarthSavers, LLC. Council Member Stephenson seconded the motion. Council Member Matthews said she is concerned when the City tries to bring businesses into the community and there is no recycling program. Council Member Matthews advised the State will eventually mandate recycling. Council Member Matthews said the City did not want to put a cost on citizens that are not interested in recycling at this time, so the City found a subcontractor that will come to the City and offer its recycling services to those that want to recycle and pay their fee each month. Council Member Matthews said the subcontractor set a goal between 1,500 to 2,000 people to sign up for recycling. Council Member Matthews said the process of signing people up started around last October and to date there have only been 550 people to sign up. Council Member Matthews advised the subcontractor agreed to come in earlier with 500 homes to get Columbia started on recycling. Council Member Matthews said the City made the commitment to buy carts for the first 2,000 people that signed up. Council Member Matthews advised for every 800 people that recycle, \$10,000 is saved from use of the landfill. Council Member Matthews asked if the person from EarthSavers will promise that if the City makes the investment of buying the 2,000 carts that EarthSavers will provide service for at least two to three years. Council Member Matthews said a concern for her is that the service stops because the amount of people who signed up declines and then the City is stuck with the recycling containers they bought. Council Member Matthews said anyone who signs up for recycling gets a month for free and if they refer someone they get another month for free. Council Member Matthews advised if a citizen gets twelve people they know to sign up then that citizen will get twelve months of free curbside recycling service. Council Member Matthews said a curbside container will sit next to your trashcan and all the recyclables are placed in this container, no separating the items with the exception of glass, which has to be placed on top. Mr. Bobby Bandy, owner and Chief Manager of EarthSavers, LLC, said he has enjoyed working with the City to get to the point they are at now. Mr. Bandy said they want to do business with Columbia. Mr. Bandy advised there have been a lot of concessions made to get recycling to Columbia. Mr. Bandy said the limit for them is 500 households and they have done things to try to push recycling forward with the free month service for signing up, etc. Mr. Bandy advised the risk is low for the City compared to the risk EarthSavers is taking. Mr. Bandy advised he cannot

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say yes to Council Member Matthews request. Mr. Bandy said he does not think there is much of a risk and he anticipates starting August 1st. Council Member Stephenson thanked Mr. Bandy for taking the time to come before Council and for reducing the number of people required to start the program. Council Member Stephenson advised she attended the TML Annual Conference and recycling will soon be a mandate, possibly by 2014. Council Member Stephenson said she got information about others who have used incentives to generate more participation from the public. Council Member Stephenson said the benefit of that would be two-fold in that local businesses could be promoted and recycling customers get coupons from the businesses, which generates more business. Council Member Stephenson advised she thinks this is a great program and it is nice that it is simple, with all the recyclables going into one container with the exception of glass, which has to be separated. Vice Mayor Kennedy asked if what Council Member Matthews said is correct with the free month of service for each referral. Mr. Bandy advised it is correct. All Council Members present voted aye with the exception of Vice Mayor Kennedy who voted no.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 10-23 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EAST COLUMBIA NEIGHBORHOOD REDEVELOPMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PLAN – WARD 3 – COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY.

Council Member Martin moved to approve Resolution No. 10-23. Council Member McCullen seconded the motion. Council Member Martin said there have been several open meetings to solicit input and at the meetings there was a lot of information and concerns given to them. Council Member Martin advised they are modeling a program that is working out of Knoxville, TN and the program has been modified to reflect Columbia's size and dynamic. Council Member Martin said she hopes the Redevelopment Plan can be positive and move forward in the East part of Columbia, but is looking forward to it being used across the entire City. Vice Mayor Kennedy asked how much this is costing the City, if it is a matching grant etc. Mr. Trent Ogilvie of Columbia Housing Authority

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advised their board voted to change their name to the Columbia Housing and Redevelopment Corporation. Mr. Ogilvie advised this process of developing the redevelopment plan, that was recently approved by Council, is \$10,000. Mr. Ogilvie advised this plan is the first for the City of Columbia and it opens up the opportunity to improve the neighborhoods. Mr. Ogilvie advised he has Mr. Dan Tiller with him who recently retired from KCDC as their Chief Development Officer. Mr. Ogilvie said Mr. Tiller was a part of the twenty-one redevelopment plans for the City of Knoxville. Mr. Ogilvie advised Mr. Tiller has agreed to assist them with the plan even in his retirement. Mr. Ogilvie thanked Mr. Tiller for his assistance. Council Member Stephenson said she has heard great things with the redevelopment plans in Knoxville and it making an incredible difference in their City. Council Member Stephenson said there is no reason it cannot happen in Columbia as well. All Council Members present voted aye.

RESOLUTION NO. 10-24 - A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE OF THE STREETS AND DRAINAGE IN THE LANDINGS SUBDIVISION, PHASE I IN THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE – WARD 5 – ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

Council Member Stephenson moved to approve Resolution No. 10-24. Vice Mayor Kennedy seconded the motion. Council Member Stephenson asked if Mr. Shaw would come before Council. Council Member Stephenson thanked Mr. Shaw for being present at the meeting and she thanked him for raising the bar and going above and beyond. Council Member Stephenson said she hopes people will follow Mr. Shaw's leadership both as a businessman and a developer. Council Member Stephenson said The Landings is a development that she considers to be a development of excellence. Council Member Stephenson described the amenities like underground utilities, concrete drive, street lights etc. that were put in that did not have to be put in. Council Member Stephenson again thanked Mr. Shaw for all that he has done and for building quality homes to help recruit jobs and improve the City's economy. Mayor Dickey thanked Mr. Shaw. All Council Members present voted aye.

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RESOLUTION NO. 10-25 - TAX CORRECTIONS – CITY RECORDER’S OFFICE.

Council Member Martin moved to approve Resolution No. 10-25. Vice Mayor Kennedy seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

RESOLUTION NO. 10-26 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DAILY HERALD AS THE OFFICIAL LOCAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE CITY OF COLUMBIA – CITY RECORDER’S OFFICE.

Vice Mayor Kennedy moved to approve Resolution No. 10-26. Council Member Matthews seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

RESOLUTION NO. 10-27 - A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$75 FOR THE 2010 CITY OF COLUMBIA PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNERS – CITY RECORDER’S OFFICE.

Council Member Stephenson moved to approve Resolution No. 10-27. Vice Mayor Kennedy seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. 3854 - AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FOR THE YEAR 2010 ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY AT THE RATE OF \$1.30 PER \$100.00 – CITY RECORDER’S OFFICE.

THIRD CONSIDERATION

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Council Member McCullen moved to approve Ordinance No. 3854 on third consideration. Council Member Matthews moved to defer Ordinance No. 3854 on third consideration. Council Member Martin seconded the motion to defer. Acting City Manager Patti Baltzer requested clarification of the item being deferred to the Special Called City Council Meeting on June 29, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. All Council Members present voted aye to defer the Ordinance to the Special Called Meeting on June 29th.

ORDINANCE NO. 3848 - APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2010 THROUGH
JUNE 30, 2011 – FINANCE
THIRD CONSIDERATION DEPARTMENT.

Council Member Stephenson moved to defer Ordinance No. 3848 on third consideration to the Special Called City Council Meeting on June 29, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. Council Member Martin seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

ORDINANCE NO. 3852 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FY
2009-10 BUDGET ORDINANCE NO. 3806
– AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED,
PROVIDING FOR REVISIONS TO THE
GENERAL AND CAPITAL PROJECTS
THIRD CONSIDERATION FUNDS – FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

Council Member Martin moved to approve Ordinance No. 3852 on third consideration. Council Member Matthews seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

ORDINANCE NO. 3851 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE
COLUMBIA MUNICIPAL CODE BY
ADDING A NEW TITLE 16, CHAPTER 6,
ENTITLED MASS
GATHERING/SPECIAL EVENTS –
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
THIRD CONSIDERATION DEPARTMENT.

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Vice Mayor Kennedy moved to approve Ordinance No. 3851 on third consideration. Council Member McCullen seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

ORDINANCE NO. 3853 - AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION PLAN FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FOR THE 2010-2011 FISCAL YEAR – PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT.
THIRD CONSIDERATION

Council Member Martin moved to defer Ordinance No. 3853 on third consideration to the Special Called City Council Meeting on June 29, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. Council Member McCullen seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

ORDINANCE NO. 3849 - AN ORDINANCE TO DE-ANNEX 20.05 ACRES LOCATED AT 2857 CARTERS CREEK STATION ROAD, COLUMBIA TENNESSEE AND ESTABLISH THE DATE OF JULY 15, 2010 AS THE DATE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING – WARD 5 – GRANTS AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT.
FIRST CONSIDERATION

Vice Mayor Kennedy moved to approve Ordinance No. 3849 on first consideration. Council Member Matthews seconded the motion for discussion. Council Member Matthews said they heard from Grants and Planning Director Norman Wright Tuesday night that the City had checked the urban growth boundaries and this location is undeveloped land at this point; and with his advice and the approval of the Planning Commission, she thinks they should go ahead and de-annex the property. Council Member Martin said this is a unique situation and she would like more comments for the record tonight since they normally do not de-annex property. Grants and Planning Director Norman Wright advised the applicant is stating an economic hardship so on that basis and without any basis to deny the request from a planning standpoint, they recommend the

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approval and so too did the Planning Commission. Director Wright advised factors that would cause a de-annexation to be denied would be if the geography would create a hole in the City limits, if the development was already created, or if there was service between this property and other property to an easement for any utility. Director Wright said in this case, this is untouched, undisturbed earth, there is a stated economic hardship, and it is on the outskirts of the City limits, so they see no grounds or risk to the City to deny the request. Council Member Stephenson said she met with the property owner and the situation is an economic hardship. Council Member Stephenson advised the property behind him was supposed to develop but that did not happen and his plan was to develop his property when the property behind him was developed. Council Member Stephenson said this is not a precedent that she wants to set, but she understands the circumstances and the property owner's request. All Council Members present voted aye.

ORDINANCE NO. 3855 - AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3040 CLEBURNE ROAD, CONSISTING OF 89 ACRES AND ESTABLISH THE DATE OF JULY 15, 2010 AS THE DATE OF THE PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE ANNEXATION AND THE PLAN OF SERVICES – WARD 5 – GRANTS AND FIRST CONSIDERATION PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

Council Member Stephenson moved to approve Ordinance No. 3855 on first consideration. Council Member Greene seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

ORDINANCE NO. 3856 - TO ZONE PROPERTY BEING ANNEXED BY ORDINANCE 3855 LOCATED AT 3040 CLEBURNE ROAD, CONTAINING 89 ACRES, TO MRC-PUD (MIXED RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL – PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT), APPROVE THE PRELIMINARY MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN, AND

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ESTABLISH THE DATE OF JULY 15, 2010 AS THE DATE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING – WARD 5 – GRANTS AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT.
FIRST CONSIDERATION

Council Member Stephenson moved to approve Ordinance No. 3856 on first consideration and to establish the date of July 15, 2010 as the date of the Public Hearing. Vice Mayor Kennedy seconded the motion. Council Member Matthews said being a life long resident of Maury County you see fields and things change and it is not easy or warranted a lot of times. Council Member Matthews advised she is glad to see this development is going through with a PUD overlay because PUDs have specific requirements that the developer has to follow. Council Member Matthews spoke about buffering, tree ordinances, etc. to protect nearby residents who have invested in nearby property. All Council Members present voted aye.

ORDINANCE NO. 3857 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 3638, THE SAME BEING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE REGARDING SOCIAL SERVICE INSTITUTIONS AND ESTABLISH THE DATE OF JULY 15, 2010 AS THE DATE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING – GRANTS AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT.
FIRST CONSIDERATION

Vice Mayor Kennedy said so moved. Mayor Dickey advised a motion is needed to take this off the table. Council Member Stephenson moved to take the Ordinance off the table. Vice Mayor Kennedy seconded the motion. Council Member Martin asked if the Ordinance is taken off the table is a deferral an option. Attorney Cara Lynn advised a deferral is an option. All Council Members present voted aye to take the Ordinance off the table with the exception of Council Member Matthews who voted no. Council Member Martin moved to defer Ordinance No. 3857 to the next regularly scheduled meeting. Council Member McCullen seconded the motion to defer. Council Member Martin advised she is asking for a deferral because this needs to be revisited from the first time, there are new Members of Council and there has been input from citizens and Council that

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needs to get to Director Wright and Mr. Boyer. All Council Members present voted aye with the exception of Council Member Stephenson who voted no.

Item 12.1 – CALLING A SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 29, 2010 AT 5:30 P.M. Vice Mayor Kennedy moved to call a Special Called City Council Meeting on June 29, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. Council Member Stephenson seconded the motion. All Council Members present voted aye.

Mayor Dickey said they are going back to OTHER BUSINESS to have Council's comments and then they will go to PUBLIC COMMENTS.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Council Member McCullen asked for an update on the Greenlick Pump Station. Acting City Manager Baltzer advised an engineering agreement with J.R. Wauford was received this week and that agreement will be on the next Council Agenda. Acting City Manager Baltzer said the study of the inflow and infiltration will begin in September due to the flow of the water, rainfall, climate etc.

Council Member Martin said she has had employees contacting her regarding the insurance Council passed two weeks ago. Council Member Martin advised insurance is a very complicated issue and a decision has to be made. Council Member Martin said things they had to consider when they looked at insurance was the renewal date, open enrollment date, the take home pay, the buy-up option, deductible amounts (where they are now and where they will be with the new agreement), how many bids were taken by our Agent of Record, etc. Council Member Martin advised Acting City Manager Baltzer told her that there were more correspondences in Council's packet. Council Member Martin asked that the City revisit this. Council Member Martin spoke about adjusting open enrollment and getting it in line with the insurance renewal date so that people can make modifications to their plan. Council Member Martin said her main concern two weeks ago was the take home pay for the employees, but a concern for them was the deductible. Council Member Martin said those two things were at odds with each other, but a decision had to be made. Council Member Martin

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asked Acting City Manager Baltzer that this be revisited when the City Manager returns. Council Member Martin spoke about sharing with the employees that there is an open door for them to go to the benefits administrator so they can be more informed. Council Member Martin advised they are trying to do the best for the employees in these tough times.

Acting City Manager Baltzer advised Roger Witherow, Agent of Record, has been requesting competitive bids for the renewal of the City's insurance. Acting City Manager Baltzer said the City's claim history at this time is horrible and the claims are driving the increase in premium rates. Acting City Manager Baltzer advised several agencies will not bid on our insurance because they cannot be competitive. Acting City Manager Baltzer spoke about getting the lowest rate and impacting the employees the least amount possible. Acting City Manager Baltzer said there could be additional communication with all departments about our benefits administrator being available. Acting City Manager Baltzer advised the benefits administrator said he has gotten very few calls about the insurance and that a letter was sent out with paychecks about the changes and stating that he was available for questions. Acting City Manager Baltzer said maybe the benefits administrator could rotate from department to department answering questions or set-up meeting times to address questions on a one-on-one basis since the plans are different for each individual. Acting City Manager Baltzer said until claims decrease, the price will not decrease. Council Member Martin said they need to be reassured that the City's Agent of Record is getting as many bids as possible, or making as many requests as possible, so that they have the best environment to choose insurance in. Council Member Martin said that after the original meeting two weeks ago Council has received two follow-up reports. Council Member Martin advised they have confidence in the Agent of Record but the facts need to be seen. Council Member Matthews said she is the only Council Member to vote against the increase. Council Member Matthews said the City has been with Blue Cross for ten years and the last two years have been bad years for the City. Council Member Matthews advised last year Blue Cross increased the premium 6% and this year 20%, but what about the years the City was doing good on claims. Council Member Matthews said this increase is not working for her and she is unhappy with what she saw in the bid process. Council Member Matthews advised she did not see three competitive bids and the two letters that Council received this week were from two insurance

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companies that would not consider bidding. Council Member Matthews said she is not even familiar with the two companies that would not bid. Council Member Matthews advised she still wants three bids. Council Member Matthews said the City has an aging workforce and aging retirement base, so this will not get better. Council Member Matthews advised CPWS has decided to become a self-insured company and their benefits are great. Council Member Matthews reiterated that she still expects three bids from Mr. Witherow. Council Member Matthews said Mr. Witherow is supposed to come back in front of Council to revisit this if possible. Council Member Matthews said if an employee checked in somewhere and their policy is pulled up and it says \$1,000 deductible, then they have to pay that. Council Member Matthews said since part of this is self-insured, employees are not being reimbursed for a long time. Council Member Matthews said the reimbursement period needs to be faster.

Council Member Stephenson said she also has received phone calls about the insurance. Council Member Stephenson advised the employees understand the claims situation the City has been in with over \$3 million in claims over the last two years. Council Member Stephenson said when we have a loss ratio over 100%, then there is no room to negotiate. Council Member Stephenson advised the insurance company has paid out in claims more than what they received in premiums from the City. Council Member Stephenson said this past Tuesday, competitive bids were requested from two companies, one which is well known, and both companies declined giving a quote. Council Member Stephenson reiterated that the employees understand the claim situation. Council Member Stephenson said the two things that she picked up that were the most concerning were the issue of renewal and open enrollment being six months apart and not being able to switch from the buy-up to the core plans. Council Member Stephenson advised this is not a good situation for anyone and employees know that the Council wants the best for the employees. Council Member Stephenson spoke about having an open forum with the employees so everything can be explained to the employees directly and to give them an opportunity to discuss it and ask questions. Council Member Stephenson advised she would like to see the City do this with all the departments because one big group would be overwhelming. Council Member Stephenson spoke about bringing the open enrollment and renewal period closer together. Council Member Stephenson said communication is key. Council Member

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Stephenson asked Acting City Manager Baltzer to communicate these ideas with Mr. Boyer when he returns.

Vice Mayor Kennedy said he does not know why everyone is complaining tonight except that the employees have been calling people. Vice Mayor Kennedy said he does not know why there were not any calls made to the insurance office itself, because he received over forty phone calls. Vice Mayor Kennedy advised employees stopped him and told him they could not afford the insurance increase. Vice Mayor Kennedy advised he wanted to revisit the insurance the night they voted on it, but he was told time was of the essence; but it was not, because they had until July 1st. Vice Mayor Kennedy said he would like to see three bids also; and there are other ways to pay for this, which he suggested the last time. Vice Mayor Kennedy spoke of using some of the tax rate to help the employees. Vice Mayor Kennedy said the employees have not had a raise but their benefits and insurance are going up. Vice Mayor Kennedy advised a way needs to be found to help the employees. Vice Mayor Kennedy said he voted under protest at the last meeting on this. Vice Mayor Kennedy said he agrees with Council Members Martin and Matthews about the need to revisit this issue.

Council Member McCullen said he also had calls from employees and appreciates Council Member Martin requesting revisiting the City's insurance. Council Member Stephenson said she was told the reason it seemed like the insurance issue was last minute was because Mr. Witherow was trying to negotiate the best deal for the City up until the last minute. Council Member Stephenson said if Council would not have gone forward with the insurance then there could have been an issue with getting ID cards in time and going over the policy with employees before July 1st. Council Member Stephenson said the information that was given to Council was that they really needed to move forward at the last Council Meeting or they would end up with employees that did not have insurance cards by July 1st. Council Member Matthews advised the Agent of Record had a really good idea of what the rates were going to be in February or March of this year, and for this to come in at the last minute puts them in a crunch to where they cannot ask questions and cannot do this because there is not enough time. Council Member Matthews said it makes her uncomfortable because there was time for this discussion to have taken place instead of dealing with it at

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the last minute. Council Member Matthews spoke of having an insurance review earlier next year, at least by March.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Pastor James Walker said the concern he has is about the way things happened two weeks ago. Pastor James Walker said you do not wait until the last minute to bring bids to a group of people, to vote on it, that do not understand it. Pastor Walker said they have to study and restudy and now the employees are forced to pay for something they do not even know anything about. Pastor Walker advised he is concerned about how business is done. Pastor Walker spoke about the City not being able to give the employees a raise, but raising insurance. Pastor Walker said he was concerned about this being done in less than 30 days, this needed to be studied for at least six months. Pastor Walker said he was shut down when he brought up the topic of an investigation. Pastor Walker advised if it is an internal investigation, then keep it internal and do not bring external people in. Pastor Walker said it bothers him how fast the City passes things through without care or discussion of the things that affect us in the community and employees are part of the community.

Ms. Flo Grabowski said she represents the Frye Road community. Ms. Grabowski said she is concerned that Council does not give instruction to the public to understand the Agenda. Ms. Grabowski said when the situation over the Cleburne Road was on the Agenda she did not realize she could come forward and express her opposition to that Ordinance. Ms. Grabowski advised there are situations she is opposed to and she did not get the opportunity to share her thoughts when the item was being read. Ms. Grabowski said Council is rushing through items and not giving the people who Council represents the opportunity to slow things down and understand what is going on. Ms. Grabowski asked Council to not rush through things. Mayor Dickey advised on July 15th there will be a Public Hearing on the Ordinance and at that time, she can come and address the Ordinance.

Ms. Annie Hardison said she was present at the last Council Meeting and one of the Commissioners got up to speak, but was not allowed to speak and the remark of “cut the lights off” came out and made her feel small, because she is a citizen and she is member of Columbia. Ms. Hardison said two

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people were allowed to speak and then the Commissioner was not allowed to speak. Ms. Hardison said she knows Council loves them more than that and she just wanted to call this to their attention. Mayor Dickey advised that it was a mistake and he called Mr. Richardson and apologized, which Mr. Richardson accepted. Mayor Dickey said that is why things were switched around tonight, because at the last meeting he asked the public for comments and no one responded, so when Council was done speaking they thought that was it.

Mr. Pete Frierson said he was not present at the last Council Meeting but he is aware there is an internal investigation going on. Mr. Frierson advised he is one of the five people that were called. Mr. Frierson said he agrees that it is an external investigation because it was made that way. Mr. Frierson said he thinks what is important is that if any disciplinary action is taken against this alleged city employee, then it would be unfair. Mr. Frierson said the investigation is tainted. Mr. Frierson said one of the Council Members has crossed the line as far as the Charter is concerned by getting involved in departmental affairs. Mr. Frierson asked the Mayor if he would consider an independent investigation to find out which Council Member it was. Mr. Frierson said the City is trying to stop the Fourth Amendment Right. Mr. Frierson advised there are others who can say the line has been crossed.

Mr. Jason Tharp said he wanted to make sure there was another time for the public to speak on the Ordinance about the Children's Home. Mayor Dickey advised the Public Hearing is on July 15th. Council Member Matthews said this is just the first consideration, so there is an opportunity on second consideration at the next City Council Meeting. Council Member Matthews spoke about opportunities to speak on third consideration also. Council Member Matthews mentioned Council Study Sessions. Council Member Stephenson said the item has to go through three considerations before it is approved. Mayor Dickey suggested talking to their Council person.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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APPROVED:

DEAN DICKEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BETTY MODRALL, CITY RECORDER