

**Eau Claire Community Council
Quarterly Meeting
Minutes - 25 May 2010**

The Eau Claire Community Council held its Second Quarterly Meeting of 2010 on Tuesday 25 May at 6:30 P.M. at the Eau Claire Print Building. Phyllis Coleman, President, called the meeting to order and asked for approval of minutes and adoption of agenda. Both were approved.

Introductions

Executive Director Henry Hopkins introduced special guests for the evening including Mayor Elect Steve Benjamin and City Councilman Sam Davis. Also attending were Public Safety Director Mike King, Interim Police Chief Carl Burke, Interim Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins and Deputy Director of 911 services Kim Gather.

City of Columbia Update

Mr. Benjamin told the group he had appointed his transition Team to prepare for a new city administration on July 1, 2010. He praised the members of the team which includes former Mayor Pro-Tem and Richland County Bar Association President Luther Battiste, CoastalStates Bank Executive Vice President & Managing Director and Midlands Technical College Trustee Robert Dozier, internet pioneer, entrepreneur, and director of TheRackesGroup Barbara Rackes, and Columbia Council of Neighborhoods President Bessie Watson. Benjamin said the team would expand to incorporate many areas of interest to city residents and promised strong efforts toward work force development.

Mr. Benjamin invited the group to a prayer service on the eve of his inauguration on June 29 at 6:00 P.M. at St. John Baptist Church, and to the Swearing In ceremony at 6:00 P.M. on June 30, at the Columbia Convention Center.

Mr. Davis told the group that the city was still working to bring retail establishments to North Columbia and announced the opening of CiCi's Pizza in the North Main Plaza this summer. He said that the restaurant and other development announcements that would be made in "the coming weeks" fall within the North Columbia Master Plan, and added that stimulus funding requested through Cong. Clyburn's office was currently in the budget

committee for approval in FY 10-11 and added, “Congressman Clyburn is committed to seeing the streetscaping completed.”

Mr. Davis also commented on the City Budget saying “we’re in better shape than this time last year.” He said the city’s number one priority is law enforcement and said that “furloughs [for city employees] are off the table.”

Mr. Davis invited the community to attend the dedication of the James E. Clyburn Community Health Center on Thursday, June 3, from 4:00 - 6:00 P.M.

ECCC Business

Financial Report

A year-to-date Statement of Activities (January 1 - March 31) for the Council was presented which showed cash on hand as \$2,104.79. Mr. Bill Manley questioned why the budget did not include the month of April 2010. Ms. White, Council Treasurer, said that bank statements for April had not yet arrived and that the report was for the months indicated. Mr. Manley argued that the budget report “is not acceptable for what is needed to be effective.” Accountant Angela Singletary suggested that the Council might consider holding its Quarterly meetings by the calendar quarterly—namely in March, June, September and December—in order to satisfy the requirement of up-to-the-minute financial reporting. Mr. Manley also questioned certain line items, namely, stipends which totaled \$2,600 for the three-month report. Mr. Yoma Edwin, a local businessman, said he would be available to assist with budget management for the Council.

Appointment of By-Laws Committee

Ms. Coleman asked for volunteers to serve on a By-Laws revision committee to review such issues as were raised during the Financial Report. In addition, she said that with a new administration, a review of By-Laws is customary. Volunteering to serve on the committee were Lee Carroll, Bill Manley, Gail Baker, Sabrina Odom and Becky Bailey. A copy of the current By-Laws will be distributed to the committee by secretary Becky Bailey. The Committee will report its suggestions to the board at the August 23 Quarterly Meeting.

ECCC/Greater Columbia BDPA partnership

President Phyllis Coleman outlined a new initiative between the Council and

the Greater Columbia BDPA. BDPA is a globally recognized organization of information technology professionals committed to the development and technical growth of its membership. Through the partnership, the ECCC will leverage BDPA's High School Computer Training Program to launch educational initiatives to serve North Columbia youth in a program called Science and Technology Education Partnership (STEP). Through the program, middle and high school students will learn web design and web programming. The ECCC will be asking neighborhood leaders to encourage students in their neighborhoods to consider science and technology as career options and to take advantage of the STEP initiative.

North Columbia Development

Mr. Hopkins said that the Council is encouraged by development initiatives in North Columbia including the new CiCi's Pizza and the completion of the first phase of the North Main Streetscaping project. Phase IA is currently underway between Fairfield Road and Fuller Street near Columbia College.

Sabrina Odom, president of the North Columbia Business Association, said that the Office of Business Opportunity (OBO) can bring projects to North Columbia and urged the support of the community of local businesses. Noting that the N. Main Deli had closed, discussion focused on the cost of doing business in the North Main Plaza. Mr. Hopkins, an ex-officio member of the Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc. which manages the facility, said that the CEZ is re-evaluating rents at the North Main Plaza.

Ribs and Renaissance

Becky Bailey invited everyone to attend and to participate in the upcoming Ribs & Renaissance festival on Saturday, June 5. She said volunteers were needed and to contact Reggie McKnight to volunteer. She also provided contact information including the event web site for more information.

There being no further business, the president asked for a move to adjourn at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted
Becky Bailey
Secretary