

City of Columbiana
City Council Work Session

August 16, 2011

MINUTES

The members of the Columbiana City Council conducted a council work session with Mayor Lowe presiding. The meeting was held at Columbiana City Hall in the Council Chambers immediately following the regular council meeting.

The following members were present:

Frieda Abrams, Stancil Handley, Jim Strickland, Tom Seale and Ouida Mayfield.

The following members were absent: None.

The meeting was called to order. The following topics were discussed:

- Council member Strickland discussed property tax on rental property and his discussion with Don Armstrong; also the impact of personal property tax on equipment-relative to the current economy.
- Council member Handley discussed the information provided to the Council by the City Clerk at their request regarding business license fees with respect to contractors/subcontractors/general contractors and the comparison with other Shelby County towns and cities.
- Mayor Lowe reported on the visit to Alabaster's Senior Center and their programming.
- City Clerk Gina Antolini advised the City Council that SEIB, the City's health insurance provider, would not be increasing rates (the first time in at least 7 years) and therefore employees' withholding would not increase and the cost for the council health benefit would not increase (a savings to the city). Also, she reported that SEIB is preparing to issue a discount drug card for generic prescriptions beginning in January. Both items are good news for employees and the City.
- Mayor Lowe presented the Council with the issue of increasing employee contribution percentage, via adoption of a resolution, for state retirement, with the benefit of saving an equal percentage for the city's contribution. City Clerk Gina Antolini had provided the information a couple of weeks ago for the Council's review. State Retirement has passed the cost on to the state employees and member agencies have the option to adopt the resolution or opt out but if passed, it is irrevocable. There was no one on the Council in support of the resolution being considered.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.