

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION
CITY OF COLUMBIANA, ALABAMA
Tuesday October 13, 2015**

The City Council of the City of Columbiana, Alabama met for a Work Session in the City Hall Conference Room, Tuesday, October 13, 2015. Mayor Handley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Present:

Council member Leslie Whiting	Council member Barbara Moore
Council member Ricky Ruston	Council member Kim King
Council member Ouida Mayfield	Mayor Stancil Handley

Absent:

None – A quorum present.

Liz Taylor – Moving Employment From Part To Full Time

There was discussion about the transition of Liz Taylor from a part time Court Assistant to Full Time. There was a question about funding by the Court as this department is operating at a deficit for much of the year. City Clerk Mark Frey explained that this position is primarily a Court position, but she will also be working in Revenue and training to be able to perform the same duties as the Court Clerk, Magistrate, and Revenue Officer. After extended discussion by all the Council, they asked the City Clerk to add this to the consent agenda for the next regular Council meeting.

Sales Tax Rate Review

The Council discussed all of the services that are being provided by the City as well as new facilities such as the Senior Center and the new Old Mill Square Park project. The Council also was presented a list of all municipalities located in Shelby County and their current tax rate. Every city except for Columbiana (8%) and Wilsonville (8%) had already raised their sales tax rate to 9%. The Council also discussed at length the auto tax rate which is currently at 2%. This rate is higher than every other municipality in the County. Wilsonville is also currently 2%. In an effort to more closely reflect the rates around the County, the Council asked City Clerk Mark Frey to prepare an ordinance that will increase the City sale tax from 3% to 4% and decrease the City auto sales tax from 2% to 1.5% effective on January 1, 2016.

Sister City

Mayor Handley stated that he is taking an economic development trip to China with a 25 member delegation from the State and Troy University. The Council asked Mayor Handley to talk to Mayors in China about opportunities to build a Sister City relationship. This would be an opportunity for cultural exchange as well as potential economic partnerships for the future.

Senior Center Advisory Board

The Council discussed forming a 3 member Senior Center Advisory Board in order to assist the Senior Center Director. This board is strictly advisory and will be unpaid positions.

United Way FY2016 Funding Request

United Way sent a letter requesting \$2,500 in funding for the 2016FY. It was noted that the City has not contributed anything in recent years and the United Way would be able to solicit donations with the employees. The Council asked the City Clerk to add to the agenda for the upcoming Council meeting a \$250 appropriation for the United Way.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Council member Ruston made the motion to adjourn and Council member Whiting seconded the motion which was followed by a vote of members present to adjourn. Mayor Handley declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Stancil Handley, Mayor

J. Mark Frey, City Clerk