

**GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
September 18, 2012
4:36 p.m.
County Square - Conference Room D**

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted on the bulletin board at County Square and posted on the County's web page for all media and concerned citizens to access and review.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN BUTCH KIRVEN
VICE CHAIRMAN BOB TAYLOR
JOE BALDWIN
LIZ SEMAN

FRED PAYNE
DAN RAWLS
SID CATES
JOE DILL

JIM BURNS
WILLIS MEADOWS
XANTHENE NORRIS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

LOTTIE GIBSON

STAFF PRESENT:

JOE KERNELL, County Administrator
MARK TOLLISON, County Attorney
THERESA KIZER, Clerk to Council
REGINA MCCASKILL, Deputy Clerk to Council
BOB MIHALIC, Governmental Relations Officer

OTHERS PRESENT:

NONE

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Butch Kirven

ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Kirven stated Councilor Gibson was released from the hospital and was convalescing at home. He stated Councilor Gibson wanted to thank everyone for their cards, prayers and calls. Chairman Kirven stated Director of Emergency Management Scott Wendelken was released from Roger C. Peace Rehabilitation Hospital, and he asked everyone to keep him in their prayers as well.

INVOCATION

Councilor Fred Payne

Item (3)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Councilor Seman moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Committee of the Whole meeting of September 4, 2012.

Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

Item (4)

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNEMENTS – ANNUAL UPDATE

ACOG Deputy Director Doug Burns presented the annual update He stated the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document was a requirement of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) through the Department of Commerce for eligibility of federal grants. The document was updated annually and re-written every five years. The regional CEDS five-year mark was recent, and therefore, the presented document was newly re-written for submission to the EDA by September 30, 2012 for the purpose of qualifying for federal funding. The Advisory Committee appointed by the ACOG Board reviewed and recommended the CEDS 2013-2017 document; the next step was consideration by the local governments. There was a new format for the report; projects were now grouped in clusters rather than the capital projects list, which took up half of the document and most of the projects were not EDA grant competitive. He further stated it was clear to determine which projects were large enough to be on the EDA's radar. He stated the document would need a letter of support from the six counties to go along with the CEDS 2013 - 2017 submission on September 30, 2012 to the EDA.

Councilor Taylor asked if promises were made to companies beforehand or would a business need to be in the area before any offers were made.

Deputy Director Burns stated ACOG would work with a company after a commitment was made.

Councilor Burns asked what were the objectives in the report and how did they compare to previous reports.

Deputy Director Burns stated he had only been with the organization for approximately a year and was unsure of tracking measures. He stated he would research and confer.

Councilor Burns asked if a company was aware of the amount of proposed funding through the EDA once a decision had been made to locate to the area.

Deputy Director Burns stated businesses were aware of the amount of funding from the EDA. If the EDA funding was needed to move the project forward, the business would input notification of such on the application.

Chairman Kirven stated the plan laid out the procedures to apply and the criteria.

Councilor Payne asked if Greenville County needed to do more to promote economic development.

Deputy Director Burns stated he was unsure if Greenville County needed to do more; he worked with the knowledgeable and impressive County staff and GADC, therefore, he did not think there was any course of action or recommendations from ACOG for the County to implement economic endeavors.

ACTION: Councilor Dill made a motion to support the CEDS 2013 -2017 Plan and the Appalachian Region as an EDA Economic Development District in the form of a pledge letter.

Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

Item (5)

BOARDS AND COMMISSION INTERVIEWS AND NOMINATIONS

(a) Human Relations Commissions (5 vacancies)

The following individuals appeared before the Committee of the Whole and gave their personal presentations.

- Sharon Bryant
- Roxanne Cordonier
- John Culp
- Mary Dillard
- Nichole Scott
- James Speed, Jr.

Chairman Kirven announced James Speed, Jr., John Culp, Mary Dillard, Angela Huntley and Nichole Scott were nominated by ballot vote.

Item (6)

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Councilor Seman moved to adjourn the meeting.

Without objection the Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa B. Kizer, Clerk to Council