

**GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
September 3, 2013
4:34 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 BOB TAYLOR	SID CATES
VICE CHAIRMAN WILLIS MEADOWS	LOTTIE GIBSON
JIM BURNS	LIZ SEMAN
JOE DILL	JOE BALDWIN
XANTHENE NORRIS	BUTCH KIRVEN
FRED PAYNE	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

DAN RAWLS

STAFF PRESENT:

JOE KERNELL, County Administrator
MARK TOLLISON, County Attorney
JOHN HANSLEY, Deputy County Administrator
THERESA KIZER, Clerk to Council
REGINA MCCASKILL, Deputy Clerk to Council
BOB MIHALIC, Governmental Relations Officer
PAULA GUCKER, Assistant County Administrator, Public Works
SHANNON HERMAN, Assistant to the County Administrator
SANDRA YUDICE, Assistant to the County Administrator
KIMBERLY WUNDER, Assistant County Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT:

CHIP BENTLEY, Director, SC Appalachian Council of Governments, Planning and Economic Development Services
JOHN COCCIOLONE, Executive Director, Disabilities and Special Needs

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bob Taylor

INVOCATION

Councilor Liz Seman

Item (3)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Councilor Meadows moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Committee of the Whole meeting of August 20, 2013 and the Special Called Committee of the Whole meeting of August 26, 2013.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (4)

SOUTH CAROLINA APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CEDS UPDATE

Chip Bentley, Director of SC Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG) Planning and Economic Development Services, presented the Committee of the Whole with a five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) progress report. He stated in an effort to create jobs, the CEDS document was a part of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Agency's program to help communities around the nation with grant opportunities to attract industry and encourage business expansion. He stated as the local economic development district for the Appalachian Region in South Carolina, ACOG was tasked with updating the CEDS Report. He stated the areas of emphasis for regional economic development were clusters, target industries and innovation capacities, workforce development, infrastructure, available sites and buildings, entrepreneurship, access to capital, and local asset-based economic development. The goals of the strategic plan were to promote the growing regional industrial clusters and target industries of Advanced Materials, Automotive, Biosciences, Energy, and Aerospace. They also promote local clusters and target industries which were unique to individual counties and communities. SC Upstate Alliance was marketing these clusters as target industries for the region on a global level. He stated it was important to provide capacity-building technical assistance for the recruitment and enhancement of each target industry. During the past twelve-months there were five new advanced material company announcements, with a total of over \$25 million investment and 137 new jobs. Seven new automotive company announcements, with a total of over \$38 million investment and 521 new jobs; one bioscience company announcement with a total of over \$14 million investment and 100 new jobs; three energy company announcements with a total of over \$2 million investment and 82 new jobs and seven other company announcements with a total of \$29 million investment and 286 new jobs. The key to carrying on that successful rate of investment and job creation was to work with federal partners and to continue building upon the public-private innovation capacities. The Clemson University – International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR) expanded through construction of the new Research One building which would bring a combination of specialized classroom and incubation space for automotive start-up companies. SCTAC has partnered with CU-ICAR to develop a program to test wireless charging systems in electric vehicles. SCTAC and CU-ICAR have contracted with Oak Ridge National Laboratory to support this three year cutting edge automotive program, and the research is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. With 225 miles of interstate highway along I-85 and I-26, the region had a great foundation for transportation infrastructure. These interstates provided fast access to surrounding regions and to world class airports and seaports. He stated road and highway networks must continue to be upgraded in order to alleviate congestion and to foster successful development in a growing region. While several major regional employers relied on rail service, there was potential to connect more sites to rail in order to attract major economic development prospects. The new, centrally located "Inland Port" rail terminal would have a transformational impact on the region's rail capacity and relieve highway truck traffic through increased intermodal product transport. While a detailed inventory of assets was provided in the 5-Year CEDS, the most notable infrastructure development of the 12-Month Update had been the construction of the Inland Port in Greer – the completion of which was scheduled for September of 2013. The 100-acre Greer rail development, which was located directly off I-85 and adjacent to GSP International Airport, would have a transformational impact on international container movements between the Port of Charleston and the region. Referred to as "a port without water", it would provide a place to transfer shipping containers between train and truck for shipments to/from the coast. The facility would improve the transport of freight on this 218-mile corridor by converting 50,000 all-truck container moves to more efficient multimodal moves. Adding to the impact of this development was the fact that nearly 2,600 acres of adjacent GSP International Airport property was being opened for economic development. As the update was being written, there was already a 400,000 square foot distribution facility being constructed on the site (expandable to 700,000 sq. ft.). In June 2013 SCDOT announced the list of its top seven interstate improvement projects, and three of them were located in the SC Appalachian Region.

Mr. Bentley stated construction in those sections of I-85 over the next several years would carry a major regional impact: I-85/I-385 interchange in Greenville County, I-85 widening in Greenville/Spartanburg counties (24.7 miles) and I-85 widening in Spartanburg/Cherokee counties (28.36 miles).

ACTION: Councilor Dill moved to direct the chairman to send the CEDS letter of support for the progress report.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (5) GREENVILLE COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD ORDINANCE

Chairman Taylor stated the purpose of the ordinance was to create the new board, the number of members and terms. He stated County Council would input additional requirements at a later date.

Councilor Dill asked if a person in the community would be able to serve on the board if a member of their family received services.

Chairman Taylor stated the current ordinance stated they would not qualify to serve on the board.

Councilor Dill asked if the current ordinance prohibited individuals from serving on any other client service board or commission.

Mr. Tollison stated the recently adopted board and commission policy stated any member who either themselves or a direct family member received services from an entity would not be able to serve on that specific board or commission.

Councilor Dill recommended holding the proposed ordinance until other board and commission ordinances were researched to ensure all individuals were treated equally.

Chairman Taylor stated he spoke with Mr. John Cocciolone, Executive Director of Disabilities and Special Needs and Mr. Alex McNair, Interim Chairman of Disabilities and Special Needs, and discussed the fact that there were many qualified individuals who wanted to serve however, because they themselves or a direct family member received services from DSN, they were not eligible to serve.

Councilor Dill stated he had an issue with everyone not being able to apply for vacancies regardless of whether they or a direct family member received services. He did not understand how an individual was able to serve on the state DSN board, but not the local board.

Councilor Kirven stated individuals with conflicts of interest would be able to assist by serving on advisory committees.

Councilor Seman stated she did not agree with holding the item. She stated County Council did not have a great track record of appointing highly qualified individuals and hopefully parameters would be put in place to insure any repeat situations would not occur.

Councilor Meadows stated County Council needed to be consistent with all boards. He asked were there other counties in the state with the same rule as the proposed ordinance.

Chairman Taylor stated although it was not a common practice to enforce, the proposed ordinance was already a part of the ordinance for all boards.

Mr. Tollison stated DSN informed him Greenville County was the only county in the state with a limitation on service as it related to family members receiving services.

Councilor Meadows stated the interim board had done an excellent job and he would not want to impede their efforts to move forward.

Councilor Kirven encouraged giving the new system a try.

Councilor Gibson stated the old system did not work. A previous policy stated the board had to have family member representation on the board. She stated family representation on the board was important. She stated she agreed with holding the item.

ACTION: Councilor Gibson moved to hold the item until statewide research was accomplished.

Councilor Burns stated he was not sure what kind of information they should expect to receive.

Councilor Gibson stated other counties would be able to inform Greenville County why they choose to allow family members to serve on the DSNB.

Councilor Norris stated she would not agree with holding the item. She stated although her grandson had a disability, she would not want to serve on the DSNB because micro-managing may become an issue when a family member was involved. She stated Greenville County may be unique from other counties by recognizing having family members on the board was not a good design.

Councilor Gibson stated she agreed with allowing one slot for a family member.

Councilor Seman asked if the DSN ordinance was modified, would it be in conflict with the boards and commission ordinance.

Mr. Tollison clarified the ordinance on the table was a separate issue from prohibiting or allowing family members to serve.

Councilor Dill stated he would like to know if passed, how the proposed ordinance would affect boards and commissions. He agreed with holding the item until further research was completed.

Councilor Gibson stated it was crucial to allow qualified individuals to serve on the board regardless of family connectivity to the DSN. She withdrew her motion to hold.

ACTION: Councilor Kirven moved to approve the motion as presented.

Motion carried by a roll call vote of eight in favor (Baldwin, Cates, Burns, Taylor, Norris, Seman, Kirven, Payne), one absent (Rawls) and three in opposition (Gibson, Dill, Meadows).

Councilor Dill asked if staff would be able to begin enforcing the policy immediately.

Mrs. Kizer stated as written, the current application would not allow an individual to divulge their connection to a board or commission; the application would need to be modified.

ACTION: Councilor Payne moved to contact each board and commission chairperson to survey their members to determine if they or family members received services from their board or commission.

Motion carried with ten in favor (Baldwin, Cates, Burns, Taylor, Norris, Seman, Kirven, Payne, Dill, Meadows), one absent (Rawls) and one in opposition (Gibson).

Item (6)

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Councilor Dill moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Motion to adjourn carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa B. Kizer, Clerk to Council