

**GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
October 1, 2013
4:13 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
VICE CHAIRMAN WILLIS MEADOWS
JIM BURNS
JOE DILL
BUTCH KIRVEN
FRED PAYNE arrived at 4:37 p.m.

SID CATES
LOTTIE GIBSON
LIZ SEMAN
JOE BALDWIN
DAN RAWLS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

XANTHENE NORRIS

STAFF PRESENT:

JOE KERNELL, County Administrator
MARK TOLLISON, County Attorney
THERESA KIZER, Clerk to Council
REGINA MCCASKILL, Deputy Clerk to Council
JOHN HANSLEY, Deputy County Administrator
PAULA GUCKER, Assistant County Administrator, Public Works
JOHN OWINGS, Planning Department

OTHERS PRESENT:

NONE

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bob Taylor

INVOCATION

Councilor Butch Kirven

Item (3)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Councilor Gibson moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Committee of the Whole meeting of September 17, 2013.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

Item (4)

BOARD AND COMMISSION NOMINATIONS/COUNTY-WIDE BOARDS

(a) Committee on Finance

1. Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee (5 vacancies)

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation applicants Kris Bryant, Katherine Davis, Michael Heater and Joyce McCarrell to fill four of the vacancies on the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

2. Arena District (1 vacancy / unexpired term)

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, Stacy Kuper was nominated to fill the one vacancy on the Arena District Board.

Councilor Meadows nominated Joyce Smart.

ACTION: Councilor Seman moved to close nominations and forward the names of Stacy Kuper and Joyce Smart to a ballot vote on October 15th, 2013

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

3. Economic Development Corporation (1 vacancy / at-large seat)

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Meadows moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation applicant Peter Strub to fill the one vacancy on the Economic Development Corporation Board.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

4. Research and Technological Development Corporation (1 vacancy)

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Meadows moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation applicant Thomas Epting to fill the one vacancy on the Research and Technological Development Corporation Board.

Motion carried with one in opposition (Gibson).

(b) Committee on Public Safety

1. Airport Environs Planning Commission (2 vacancies)

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Seman moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation applicants Brad Metcalf and Van Swafford to fill the two vacancies on the Airport Environs Planning Commission.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

2. Greater Greenville Sanitation Commission District (1 vacancy)

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Gibson moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation applicant Thomas Gilstrap to fill a vacancy on the Greater Greenville Sanitation District Commission.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

(c) Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure

1. Library Board of Trustees (5 vacancies)

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, the names of Susan Barry, Robert Clark, Richard Jensen, Glenda Julian and Lindsey Myers were placed into nomination to fill the vacancies on the Library Board of Trustees.

Councilor Baldwin nominated Brady Gilbert.

Councilor Meadows nominated Deryl Paradis.

ACTION: Councilor Seman moved to close nominations and forward the names of Susan Barry, Robert Clark, Richard Jensen, Glenda Julian, Lindsey Myers, Brady Gilbert and Deryl Paradis to a ballot vote on October 15th, 2013.

Motion carried with Councilor Gibson in opposition.

2. Museum Commission (3 vacancies)

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Gibson moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation applicants Heidi Aiken, James Campbell and Gwen Neighbors to fill the three vacancies on the Museum Commission.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

(d) Planning and Development Committee

1. Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals (1 vacancy)

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Meadows moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation applicant William Graves to fill the one vacancy on the Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals Board.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

2. Historic Preservation Commission (2 vacancies)

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Gibson moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation applicants Cynthia Jenkins and Rick Owens to fill the two vacancies on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

3. Zoning Appeal Board (1 vacancy)

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Gibson moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation applicant James Patterson to fill the one vacancy on the Zoning Appeals Board.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

Item (5) BOARD AND COMMISSION NOMINATIONS / SPECIAL TAX DISTRICTS

(a) Council District 17

1. Autumn Hills Special Tax District (1 vacancy)

ACTION: Councilor Dill moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation applicant Allen Culver to fill the one vacancy on the Autumn Hills Special Tax District.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

2. Foothills Fire District Commission (1 vacancy/unexpired term)

ACTION: Councilor Dill moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation applicant David Murphy to fill the one vacancy on the Foothills Fire District Commission.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

(b) Council District 20

1. Linkside Special Tax District (1 vacancy)

ACTION: Councilor Cates moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation applicant Kevin Polley to fill the one vacancy on the Linkside Special Tax District Board.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

2. Old Mill Estates Tax District (2 vacancies)

ACTION: Councilor Cates moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation applicants Sandra Fraser

and Edwin Tepera to fill the two vacancies on the Old Mill Estates Tax District Board.
Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

(c) Council District 21

1. Devenger Point Special Tax District (1 vacancy)

ACTION: Councilor Gibson moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation applicant Mary Riley to fill the one vacancy on the Devenger Point Special Tax District Board.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

2. Devenger Tax District (2 vacancies/unexpired terms)

ACTION: Councilor Payne moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation applicants Randy Price and Scott Sharp to fill the two vacancies on the Devenger Tax District Board.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

(d) Council District 25

1. Donaldson Fire Service Area (2 vacancies)

ACTION: Councilor Gibson moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation applicants Michael Felix and David McBride to fill the two vacancies on the Donaldson Fire Service Area Commission.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

Item (6) SCTAC Representative Seat on the Research and Technological Development Corporation

ACTION: Councilor Meadows moved to waive the timeline on the current Board and Commission Policy in order to refer to the Finance Committee, the consideration of nominations for the SCTAC representative seat on the Research and Technological Development Board.

Mr. Tollison stated it was determined the SCTAC representative for the Research and Technological Development Corporation was a County Council appointed seat; therefore this motion would waive the timeline in order for the Finance Committee to make the nominations at a later date.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

Item (7) ROAD FUNDING OPTION PRESENTATION

Councilor Kirven stated a York County representative gave a presentation to the Committee of the Whole in 2012 to inform County Council of their Local Option Sales Tax for a road program in York County. He stated the presentation was based on citizen complaints regarding road conditions in Greenville County. Councilor Kirven stated the purpose of the current presentation was to inform County Council of his findings over the past ten months. The purpose of

transportation infrastructure was vital for public safety, economic development and quality of life. Providing infrastructure required effective planning, realistic decision making, application of available resources and public support. Based on citizen participation during a public hearing held in the Batesville Road area on March 7, 2013, there was major public interest on the issue. The Greenville Pickens Area Transportation Study (GPATS) served the urbanized areas in the region. GPATS 25-year outlook included sixty-three road projects in Greenville County, which would not include road maintenance. The Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), which was updated bi-annually, was a list containing projects to be completed within five years and also would not include road maintenance. Currently there were fifteen projects on the TIP List costing \$74 million however; only \$44 million of actual funds were available. Mr. Kirven stated roads were deteriorating and became more congested faster than they were being fixed. South Carolina State Legislature approved \$50 million per year for seven major interstate projects; \$50 million for state matching funds for bridge projects statewide; and \$415 million vehicle sales tax for non-federal aide secondary road maintenance. Counties within the state had two options for a county referendum to allow a limited sales tax: Capital Projects Sales Tax and Optional Method for Financing Transportation Facilities. The Capital Projects Sales Tax option, used by York County, was narrowly focused on roads, bridges and deferred maintenance, regardless of jurisdiction; had a temporary six-member Citizens Committee; the committee would select projects and draft a ballot question for the referendum; County Council had to approve an ordinance to allow the question to be on the General Election ballot and the estimated revenue was \$65 million per year for Greenville County. The Optional Method for Financing Transportation Facilities, used by Charleston and Richland County, focused on broader transportation modes including mass transit and bus stations. County Council would be able to form a Transportation Authority to manage transportation projects approved by referendum; County Council identified and authorized projects subject to voter approval by referendum; sales tax may be collected up to 25-years; Transportation Authority remained as long as the sales tax remained in effect and provided an estimated revenue of \$65 million per year. A referendum would allow more road projects and intersection improvements in Greenville County. As an example, the following projects would be funded with a referendum authorized sales tax: Hampton Avenue Extension Pedestrian Bridge, Bates Bridge Road Bridge, Rocky Creek Road, Woodruff Road, Howell Road, Grove Road, multiple small projects, multiple repairs and resurfacing projects countywide. Any projects tackled would be subject to citizen priority.

Councilor Cates asked if the Transportation Authority in Richland and Charleston County selected the projects or were the projects listed on the referendum.

Councilor Kirven stated it was his understanding County Council was instrumental in selecting the projects when using the Optional Method for Financing Transportation Facilities method.

Councilor Cates asked how long would the Local Sales Tax Option stay in existence.

Councilor Kirven stated the sales tax would remain in effect for eight years. He stated the County had the ability to match state or federal funds for projects. He stated he favored the Capital Projects Sales Tax option used by York County.

Councilor Dill asked if the Department of Revenue would collect the sales tax funds.

Mr. Kernell stated the Department of Revenue would collect the funds for Greenville County and they would charge a collection fee. He stated the County was not set up to collect sales tax.

Councilor Dill stated it was his understanding Florence County was in its eighth year of collecting sales tax for road projects with no completed projects.

Councilor Kirven stated the County would be responsible for the outcome of the monies collected for the projects.

Councilor Dill questioned if the one-cent sales tax would be in addition to the current \$15 Road Maintenance Fee.

Councilor Kirven stated giving citizens a choice to determine the road projects by priority was important.

Councilor Burns asked how would the County work on state roads would without involving the state.

Councilor Kirven stated there was a close working relationship with the counties and state in which one of the options was implemented.

Councilor Burns stated option one was for roads only and the commission selected which projects would be placed on the ballot. He stated County Council would only have an up or down vote; they would not have the ability to alter the projects.

Councilor Meadows stated when the state grants funds, 39% of the monies would go back to the state for Management Fees.

Councilor Kirven stated the County had the ability to contract with SCODT to manage projects on specified state roads.

Councilor Payne stated permission was received from the state for a project that had state and county roads in it. The County took full responsibility for the project. He asked if it was appropriate to insert verbiage to allow for sidewalks and bike lanes.

Councilor Kirven stated the design standards would have to meet federal highway laws.

Chairman Taylor stated selecting citizens with a county-wide view would be the best candidates for a committee.

Mr. Tollison stated a draft resolution, included in the packet, mapped out how a six-member committee would be formed.

Councilor Burns suggested a workshop to receive public comments and allow County Council members to receive additional information.

Chairman Taylor stated a workshop would require individuals with the ability to answer funding questions.

Councilor Cates asked if it would be possible to invite the York County Representative back for a workshop.

Chairman Taylor stated he would ask Mr. Kernell to setup a meeting to receive additional information.

Item (8)

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: There being no further discussion, Councilor Meadows moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

Motion to adjourn carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa B. Kizer, Clerk to Council