

**GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
MAY 20, 2014
4:38 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 *arrived at 4:48 p.m.*
VICE CHAIRMAN WILLIS MEADOWS
SID CATES
JOE DILL
XANTHENE NORRIS

FRED PAYNE
LIZ SEMAN
BUTCH KIRVEN
JOE BALDWIN *arrived at 4:45 p.m.*
LOTTIE GIBSON

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

JIM BURNS

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
GENE SMITH, Executive Director, Recreation Department

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Willis Meadows

INVOCATION

Councilor Fred Payne

Item (3)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Councilor Gibson moved to approve the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of May 6, 2014.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

Item (4) GREENVILLE COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM / ACCREDITATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN APPROVAL RESOLUTION

Joe Kernell, County Administrator, stated the purpose of the proposed resolution was to adopt a Comprehensive Plan for The Recreation Department. The process had begun prior to the Recreation District becoming a department of the County.

Gene Smith, Executive Director of the Parks, Recreation and Tourism, stated in 2009 it was determined it was time for an updated needs assessment in Greenville County. A Memorandum of Understanding was established with the Recreation District and Clemson University, which stated Greenville County would be used as an “urban lab”. The study worked very well over the past five years. In 2010, the Needs Assessment Survey was performed with 1193 valid surveys. He stated in 2011 it was decided to pursue accreditation provided by the National Commission. In order to achieve accreditation, there were certain standards required, one of which was having a Comprehensive Plan. Out of the approximate 35,000 Parks and Recreation Departments throughout the country, only 140 of those were accredited. The Comprehensive Plan sets goals and objectives. The Needs Assessment Study performed by Clemson University showed five major areas: 1) trails and walking paths; 2) adult fitness facilities; 3) rectangular athletic fields; 4) large parks in rural areas; and 5) dissatisfaction of condition of old parks. The study showed the top five trends impacting the department: 1) a growing ethnically diverse, less health aging population; 2) slow recovery from 2008 economic downturn; 3) park maintenance, aged and over-used public park infrastructures; 4) trails; 5) growing public environmental sensitivity. Mr. Smith stated County Council support was important in obtaining accreditation.

Councilor Norris asked for clarification on the term *regional provider*, used in the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department’s Mission and Vision Statement.

Mr. Smith stated regional provider was the term used to show the vision for the year 2020. He stated the proposed Comprehensive Plan was available online.

Councilor Seman asked if there was a timeline for the capital projects.

Mr. Smith stated he was working with the County Administrator to develop a timeline and to work out a plan with the municipalities before a timeline was determined for the capital projects. He wanted to ensure everything was carefully considered before recommendations were made to County Council.

Mr. Kernell stated considering the capital projects total of \$33 million, it would be several years before a timeline was determined. He stated most of the Hospitality Tax was bonded and although there was some growth, currently Greenville County did not have the capacity to handle the capital projects. Other options would be explored in the near future to start to tackle some of the projects.

Councilor Cates inquired about the plans for the Travelers Rest (TR) Gym.

Mr. Smith stated the TR Gym was in the process of being demolished. He stated although the building was reasonably sound, it would cost \$250,000 to replace the sprinkler system. The two fields located on the property were in good shape and there were plans to maintain and improve both.

Councilor Cates asked if the TR Gym was included in the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Smith stated the top five capital projects included in the Comprehensive Plan were: 1) deferred maintenance at existing parks; 2) Dean “Chico” Bolin Park; 3) Poinsett Corridor / West Washington Park & Greenway; 4) MESA Soccer Complex Expansion; and 5) GHS Swamp Rabbit Trail Expansion. He stated the TR Gym would fall under Number One.

Councilor Norris asked if there was a guide for evaluation.

Mr. Smith stated the Needs Assessment Study would determine which areas needed evaluation based on public input.

Councilor Gibson asked for an update on a gym for the Staunton Bridge Community Center.

Mr. Smith stated they were in the process of developing a grant for a playground at the Staunton Bridge Community Center.

Councilor Gibson stated last summer 134 children attending the Staunton Bridge Community Center had to play outside in the hot sun; but felt they needed to play inside with air conditioning. She stated this has been an issue for over 20 years.

Mr. Smith stated Staunton Bridge Community was on the Capital Improvement Plan List and funding for the project would depend on County Council’s decision.

Councilor Gibson asked Mr. Kernell if he had any information or suggestions in relation to a gym for the Staunton Bridge Community Center.

Mr. Kernell stated Staunton Bridge Community Center was a part of the Capital Improvement Plan, which they were looking at funding options for future needs on the list. He stated currently Greenville County was not able to do any of the projects on the Capital Improvement Plan List.

Councilor Gibson stated she was upset with how the homeowners in the Staunton Bridge Community area were being treated. She stated it was her understanding the funding was available. She stated it was obviously unfair the way the homeowners were being treated.

Councilor Norris stated there were still needs at the Sterling Community Center. She stated poor neighbors were not getting the support they needed.

ACTION: Councilor Dill moved to accept the Greenville County Parks, Recreation and Tourism / Accreditation Comprehensive Plan Approval Resolution.

Councilor Kirven stated as the revenue increased, a priority should be established to fund the projects mentioned by Councilors Gibson and Norris.

Chairman Taylor asked would the main source of capital funding likely come from the Hospitality Tax

Mr. Kernell stated while Hospitality Tax was one source, there were other possible avenues as well. He stated he would give an update fairly soon.

Councilor Baldwin asked would the Hospitality Tax solely come from the funds collected from the unincorporated areas of the County. He also asked if municipalities used their Hospitality Tax for their own capital projects.

Mr. Kernell stated that was correct.

Councilor Baldwin asked how was the \$1.7 million from the Hospitality Tax spent.

Mr. Kernell stated approximately \$1 million was scheduled to go back to the cities and approximately \$700,000 was scheduled to fund operations.

Councilor Baldwin stated he was concerned the entire \$1.7 million in Hospitality Tax did not go to the Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

Mr. Kernell stated some funds would also be used for deferred maintenance.

Councilor Baldwin wanted clarification that monies collected from the Hospitality Tax would not go back into the County budget.

Mr. Kernell stated the monies would not go into County budgets.

Councilor Meadows inquired about the progress with municipalities funds being under the County umbrella.

Mr. Kernell stated there had been conversations with the municipalities and some seemed receptive to the possibility. He stated there was a meeting scheduled with City Administrators and that was a topic on the agenda.

Councilor Meadows asked Mr. Kernell to report back to County Council after the discussions.

Mr. Kernell stated County Council had previously given approval for the expenditure of the funds.

Councilor Meadows stated he was aware of County Council giving authority to negotiate, but not to expend funds.

Mr. Kernell stated he believed approval was given, however he would bring the proposal back to County Council.

AMENDMENT: Councilor Gibson moved to add Staunton Bridge and Sterling Community Centers to the Capital Improvement Plan List.

Mr. Smith stated although the two centers were not on the top priority list, they were a part of the overall Capital Improvement Plan List. He stated they could be added to the top priority list. He stated Greenville County Redevelopment Authority notified them that additional parking was being built at Sterling Community Center. He stated Sterling Community Center was as good as it will ever be.

Councilor Norris stated she wanted to be sure the facilities would remain intact.

Mr. Kernell stated the Capital Improvement Plan List was a recommendation; it could be altered by County Council.

ACTION: Councilor Gibson moved to amend the proposed by adding Staunton Bridge as the sixth item on the Top Capital Projects List on Page 23 of the Greenville County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Comprehensive Plan 2013 – 2020.

Motion to amend carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

Motion to accept the Greenville County Parks, Recreation and Tourism / Accreditation Comprehensive Plan Approval Resolution as amended carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

Item (5) GREENVILLE TECHNICAL COLLEGE AREA COMMISSION / NOMINATIONS FROM THE GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

(a) Greenville County School District Nominees

1. Burke Royster
2. Charles J. Saylor

(b) Workforce Investment Nominees

1. D. Douglas Dorman
2. Dean E. Jones

ACTION: Councilor Dill moved to accept and refer the nominees for the Greenville County School District and Workforce Investment Board to the Greenville Legislative Delegation.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

Item (6) GREENVILLE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION COUNCIL MEMBER SEAT – NOMINEES

Councilor Payne nominated Councilor Dill to fill the Council Member seat on the Greenville County Economic Development Corporation.

ACTION: Councilor Seman moved to close nominations and elect Councilor Dill to fill the Council Member seat on the Greenville County Economic Development Corporation.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

Item (7) GREENVILLE AREA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION COUNCIL MEMBER SEAT – NOMINEES

Councilor Norris nominated Councilor Kirven to fill the Council Member seat on the Greenville Area Development Corporation.

ACTION: Councilor Seman moved to close nominations and elect Councilor Kirven to fill the Council Member seat on the Greenville Area Development Corporation.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

Item (8) ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Councilor Dill moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

Motion to adjourn carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa B. Kizer, Clerk to Council