

**GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 4, 2014
5:06 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 the County Square and made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned Citizens.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN BOB TAYLOR	XANTHENE NORRIS
VICE CHAIRMAN WILLIS MEADOWS	LOTTIE GIBSON
JOE DILL	JOE BALDWIN
LYNN BALLARD	BUTCH KIRVEN
SID CATES	FRED PAYNE

COUNCIL MEMBER(S) ABSENT:

JIM BURNS
LIZ SEMAN

STAFF PRESENT:

JOE KERNELL, County Administrator
MARK TOLLISON, County Attorney
THERESA KIZER, Clerk to Council
KIM WUNDER, Assistant County Attorney
JEFF WILE, Assistant County Attorney
JOHN HANSLEY, Deputy County Administrator
PAULA GUCKER, Assistant County Administrator, Public Works

OTHERS PRESENT:

NONE

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bob Taylor

INVOCATION

Councilor Lottie Gibson

Item (3)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Councilor Kirven moved to approve the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of October 21, 2014.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

Item (4)

VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY RESOLUTION

Councilor Kirven stated during the last County Council meeting, he requested that the County Administrator, Joe Kernell, study the matter of recognizing Veteran's Day as an official holiday in Greenville County.

Mr. Kernell stated currently, Greenville County had 11 Holidays (New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, the Day after Christmas and a Floater Holiday (which was used at the employee's discretion). Mr. Kernell stated Annual Leave was also granted to employees. Mr. Kernell stated he had received different comments from employees in relation to the Floater Holiday. Mr. Kernell stated Veteran's Day deserved to be on the list with the other holidays and therefore, he recommended replacing the Floater Holiday with Veteran's Day (November 11th), beginning the following week.

Councilor Gibson stated she supported the motion and she inquired about the amount of Annual Leave granted to employees.

Mr. Kernell stated the amount of Annual Leave received was dependent on the years of service; beginning with two weeks, then a gradual increase every five years, up to a maximum of five weeks.

Councilor Gibson asked if employees were able to carry-over Annual Leave.

Mr. Kernell stated employees working 37.5 hours per week were able to carry-over 225 hours of Annual Leave and employees working 40 hours per week were able to carry-over 240 hours of Annual Leave. He stated special exceptions were made in certain areas (Public Safety), where employees may not have been able to take Annual Leave, they were allowed to carry-over more hours, with the understanding that they would expend the time within a very short period of the following year.

ACTION: Councilor Gibson moved for adoption a resolution to amend section 8.2 of the County of Greenville Personnel Handbook so as to designate Veterans Day as a County Holiday.

Councilor Ballard asked would all County Offices be closed on Veteran's Day.

Mr. Kernell stated Public Safety Personnel (the Sherriff's Office, EMS and the Detention Center) were the only County Offices that would remain open on Veteran's Day. He stated individuals required to work on a holiday were paid overtime.

Councilor Ballard asked was there any costs associated with the holiday.

Mr. Kernell stated overtime in the amount of \$180,000 - \$200,000 for Public Safety employees working that day, were the only costs associated with the holiday. The County was able to absorb the costs with the current salary budget without any amendments,

changes, or additional money. Mr. Kernell stated there was enough money in the salary budget to cover the costs due to employees leaving and because of lower new hire pay rates.

Councilor Kirven stated Veterans Day was already a Federal and State Holiday. He stated Greenville County was one of three counties in South Carolina who did not recognize the holiday and it would mean a lot to Veteran's and their families to have an official recognition by the County. Councilor Kirven stated there were over 35,000 Veterans living in Greenville County, and they appreciated the annual ceremony held at County Square on Veteran's Day and Memorial Day.

Councilor Gibson stated through the years, County Council had discussed having a Veteran's Holiday and she hated that Greenville County had declined to do something special for the Veterans therefore, she stated she supported the resolution 100%.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

Item (5)

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Councilor Norris moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:14 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members present.

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa Kizer, Clerk to Council