

**MINUTES
GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
JANAURY 20, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:07 p.m.**

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
VICE CHAIRMAN BUTCH KIRVEN
JOE DILL
JOE BALDWIN

WILLIS MEADOWS
SID CATES
JIM BURNS
XANTHENE NORRIS

LIZ SEMAN
LOTTIE GIBSON
LYNN BALLARD
FRED PAYNE

COUNCIL MEMBER(S) ABSENT:

NONE

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
JOHN VANDERMOSTEN, Assistant County Administrator, Public Safety
PAULA GUCKER, Assistant County Administrator, Public Works
BOB MIHALIC, Governmental Relations Officer
ERIC VINSON, Director, Planning and Code Compliance
DEAN CAMPBELL, Deputy County Attorney
JEFF WILE, Assistant County Attorney
SHANNON HERMAN, Assistant to the County Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT:

SHERIFF LOFTIS, Greenville County Sheriff's Office
CHIEF DEPUTY JOHN ELDRIDGE, Greenville County Sheriff's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bob Taylor

INVOCATION

Meg Kocher, Director
Birthright of Greenville

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Item (4)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Councilor Payne moved to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2014, Regular Council Meeting, the January 5, 2015, Council Installation Meeting and the January 6, 2015, Regular Council meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (5)

PROCLAMATIONS

(a) Christ Church Varsity Football Team

Councilor Gibson presented the Christ Church Varsity Football Team and Coach with a proclamation honoring their historic accomplishment as a team in winning four straight 1A State Championship Titles and 54 straight games.

(b) Hillcrest High School Football Team

Councilor Kirven recognized Mr. Burke Royster, Superintendent of the Greenville County School District.

Councilor Kirven presented the Hillcrest High School Varsity Football Team and Coach with a proclamation honoring their historic accomplishment as a team in winning the 2014 AAAA State Championship Title.

(c) The Yum-Yum Snack Shop

Councilor Ballard presented Kyle and Carol Gilley of the Yum-Yum Snack Shop with a proclamation saluting their entrepreneurial spirit that has helped foster economic growth in Southern Greenville County.

Item (6)

APPEARANCES – CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

There were no speakers.

Item (7)

ORDINANCES – THIRD READING

(a) Zoning Ordinances

- 1. CZ-2014-41,** Property of Ahmed Abdeladl, 1904 and 1908 Anderson Road requesting rezoning from R-M20 to C-3.

ACTION: Councilor Dill moved adoption of the ordinance at third reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

(b) CCL Label, Inc. (formerly Project Picket Fence) / Laurens Multi County Industrial Business Park Creation

ACTION: Councilor Kirven moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance to develop a joint county industrial and business park (CCL Label, Inc.) in conjunction with Laurens County, South Carolina, to be geographically located in Laurens County and established pursuant to South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976 §4-1-170, et sequitur, as amended; to provide for a written agreement with Laurens County regarding the park; and other matters related thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

(c) Laurens Multi County Industrial Business Park Amendment (2000) / CCL Label, Inc. (formerly Project Picket Fence)

ACTION: Councilor Kirven moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance to authorize execution of a first amendment of agreement for development of joint county industrial and business park between Greenville County, South Carolina, and Laurens County, South Carolina, for the purpose of extending the term of such agreement; and other matters related thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECOGNITION

Chairman Taylor recognized Sheriff Loftis who was in attendance.

Item (8) ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

(a) Zoning Ordinances

- 1. CZ-2014-38**, Property of Timothy William Lyda and Paula Kim Parris Living Trust located on N. Pleasantburg Drive and Worley Road requesting rezoning from R-12 to C-2 as amended.

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved approval of the ordinance at second reading.

ACTION: On behalf of the applicant, Councilor Dill moved to amend the request to rezone only a portion of the subject property, consisting of approximately 2.5 acres, to C-3. The portion being described as Tax Map # 0174020600700, fronting on Highway 291, and leaving the remaining 0.27 acre portion in the rear of the property zoned R-12. A survey depicting the proposed zoning boundary line was included in the agenda packet.

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

ACTION: Councilor Dill moved to allow for amendments at third reading.

Motion to allow for amendments carried unanimously.

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

2. **CZ-2014-40**, Property of Carol Pierce McKinney located on Rocky Point Way requesting rezoning from PD to R-S. The Planning Commission recommended approval and the Committee sent the docket forward with no recommendation.

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved approval of the ordinance at second reading.

ACTION: Councilor Cates moved to hold the item.

Motion to hold carried unanimously.

3. **CZ-2014-47**, Property of Roger Stewart located at 1418 Brushy Creek Road requesting rezoning from R-15 to C-1. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended denial.

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved approval of the ordinance at second reading.

Motion as presented was denied.

4. **CZ-2014-51**, Property of Greenville Elks Lodge #858, located at 7700 Pelham Road requesting rezoning from C-1 to S-1. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval.

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved approval of the ordinance at second reading.

Councilor Burns stated the request was for the purpose of allowing the applicant to build an outdoor, pistol range. He stated he could not support the request given the fact that the subject property backed up to a residential area, creating safety and noise issues.

Motion as presented was denied.

Item (9)

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

(a) Zoning Ordinances

Councilor Dill presented for first reading Zoning Dockets CZ-2014-50, CZ-2014-53 and CZ-2015-01 through CZ-2015-08.

Chairman Taylor referred the zoning dockets to the Planning and Development Committee.

Item (10)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Committee of the Whole

1. Confirmation of the Human Relations Director

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Kirven moved to confirm the appointment of Dr. Yvonne Duckett as the new Human Relations Director.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. DSN Legislation

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Kirven moved to modify the length of members' terms on the Greenville County Disabilities and Special Needs Board to be in line with State law.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (11)

APPEARANCES – NON AGENDA ITEMS

- David McCraw, 109 Breeds Hill Way, Greer – appeared regarding UBER and Sunday alcohol sales
- Ed Paxton, 1 York Circle, Greenville – appeared regarding pedestrian bridges over major roadways
- Bob Davis, 6 Setinel Court, Greer – appeared regarding as the world turns
- Durant Ashmore, 220 McKittrick Bridge Road, Fountain Inn - appeared regarding crime prevention

Item (12)

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

There was no Administrator's Report.

Item (13)

REQUESTS AND MOTIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Councilor Payne acknowledged Mr. Ashmore and stated his appreciation for what he has done to promote crime watch in Southern Greenville County.
- Councilor Ballard expressed his concern with the changes made in the placement of EMS units. He requested Mr. Kernell ask his staff to return the EMS vehicles to their previously assigned stations until such time as Council has an opportunity to review all the data associated with the operation pertaining to EMS.

Councilor Dill concurred with Mr. Ballard. He stated they had met with the Administrator and the people at EMS about the changes, and at the time it did not appear to be a problem. Since then, the issues have grown and escalated. He stated yesterday there was an incident in Marietta where a woman nearly died due to it taking over 30 minutes for EMS to respond. Mr. Dill stated he would like to see the EMS units moved back to their original locations until Council could discuss the matter and decide what to do.

County Administrator Joe Kernell stated the relocation of resources was an ongoing practice; the only difference was now there was a formalized posting plan. He stated resources were being shifted to temporary posting areas in order to keep drive times the same. He stated if they did not shift their resources and an ambulance left its primary location to answer a call, the response time in that ambulance's area would shoot through the roof because there was no unit nearby for additional calls. What the County was doing was shifting resources to cover those areas as calls came in so that there would be a unit as close as possible to keep the response time down. Mr. Kernell stated the shifting of resources was all based on the data of what, when and where the calls were coming from. The goal was to keep response times under 12 minutes 37 seconds, however, depending on call volume; the County has experienced times of zero availability. During those times, the County did have the ability to use other resources such as Mobile Care, Med Shore and some of the other services that would provide some coverage. He stated he could move the units back, but felt it would be putting the public at more risk to do so. Mr. Kernell stated the anticipated problem they were facing was that several fire departments have taken ownership of the ambulances the County has placed in their facility. He stated EMS was not a fire-based system where they could have their resources sit in a station, go to a call and then come back to the station to wait on the next call. EMS answered too many calls a day; running codes sun-up to sun-down and throughout the night. He stated the County did not have the luxury of keeping its resources sitting, parked in a station. The County rented space from the fire departments. The fire departments were not doing anything for or giving anything to the County in order to have an ambulance there.

Councilor Gibson stated this was a perfect example of what happened when standing committees did not meet to discuss situations the County was having. She asked if Council had voted to make this change.

Chairman Taylor stated this was a management decision; it was within the Administrator's purview to make those kinds of decisions.

Councilor Gibson felt there should be a report made to a committee when those types of things come up that affect everyone. She suggested moving the matter to the Public Safety Committee or to the Committee of the Whole for a full discussion.

Chairman Taylor stated there would be further discussion on the matter during their workshop time.

Councilor Dill stated he could understand what the Administrator was trying to accomplish, but he could not rationalize it. He stated under that same rational he could close down the military installation in Washington because there were 20,000 men over there not fighting anybody; there was no war going on in Washington. Having all those men sitting around was all about "what if." He stated, what if I had a wreck, what if you had a wreck on North Highway 25, are you going to have to wait 30 minutes for an ambulance to come. He stated he would like to have the ability to discuss the matter and if seven people on Council decided this was what they wanted to do, then he would deal with it the best he could. He felt their number one priority was to keep their citizens safe.

- Councilor Seman stated SCTAC was honored to be a sponsor for the 2015 South Carolina Automotive Summit in Greenville on February 23rd. She stated the summit attendees would preview plans to expand the \$40 million International Transportation Innovation Center (ITIC). She encouraged her colleagues to participate.
- Councilor Kirven commented on the increase of roadside litter and inquired about ways to improve the appearance of the County's roads.

Chairman Taylor asked the Clerk to follow up with and coordinate the efforts of those organizations that have the responsibility of picking up trash so that they could work together to make a difference.

- Councilor Cates asked if there was still a 1-800 number to call if you saw someone throw out trash. Mr. Kernell stated that was a state number.
- Councilor Cates suggested the possibility of staff sending out a note to Council when substantial changes took place within the County operations, such as with EMS. He then inquired about the new locations of the ambulances.

Mr. Kernell stated their move was an intermediate posting for when resources come out of a station in order to maintain the same level of coverage.

Councilor Cates felt it would be safer for them to be in the confines of a fire department as opposed to being out at three o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Kernell stated they had selected sites that were very safe.

- Councilor Cates stated law enforcement had been taking a beating, nation-wide, for the past three months from people who are influential; people who didn't want to take sides for fear of offending one side or the other. He wanted to express his appreciation of and his support for the law enforcement agencies in Greenville County.
- Councilor Meadows asked the County Administrator if additional personnel and vehicles would help alleviate the EMS issue and should they consider that in their next budget cycle.

Mr. Kernell stated that was something they were looking into, but based on all the information from the professionals, the County had the staffing it needed; it was just a matter of how to utilize that staff. Mr. Kernell stated the goal was and has always been to keep the response times down.

- Councilor Baldwin stated his displeasure with the state in regards to their slow progress on repairing the bridge on Memorial Drive Extension that washed out during a storm in August. He suggested if such a thing happened again, the County should ask the state for the money and the County should do the work.

Chairman Taylor stated a County bridge was washed out in the same storm and that bridge was up and operational by the first of January.

- Councilor Norris expressed her concern with public safety and with the current climate regarding law enforcement. She said she talked with John Castille about the problems they were having on her side of town in regards to the young man that was autistic. She stated they needed to be cognizant of the fact that sometimes they didn't do their job. Ms. Norris stated she was concerned that law enforcement, as well as some of Council, did not know what autism was and how to recognize the reason a person was having the problems they were having. She stated they must not be getting the information they need when they go to their educational sessions. She stated she was not taking one side over the other, but was taking the side that they needed to do something to study and rectify the problem.
- Councilor Dill requested the Chairman look into scheduling periodic planning meetings with the Legislative Delegation to talk about problem areas that affect the whole County. The purpose of the meetings would not be to ask for anything, but to discuss issues such as mental health, trash, and the Local Government Fund.

- Councilor Meadows stated Bryan White, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, has filed a bill to suspend the rules for the Local Government Fund, which meant they had already set in motion a way for the County to not get the 5% they thought they were going to get.

Councilor Dill stated if the Tax Payers Association and the Tea Party and all the other groups who were in favor of lower taxes and less government were to jump on the bandwagon about the Local Government Fund, the County would get 100% funded. He stated that money was allocated to lower taxes.

Item (14)

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Councilor Dill moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa Kizer, Clerk to Council