

**MINUTES  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**April 14, 2015  
5:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM D - COUNTY SQUARE**

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted on the bulletin board at the entrance of the Council Office and mailed to the newspapers, radio stations and television stations.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Liz Seman  
Vice Chairman Joe Baldwin  
Councilor Lottie Gibson  
Councilor Lynn Ballard  
Councilor Willis Meadows

**COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jeffrey D. Wile, Assistant County Attorney  
John Vandermosten, Interim Assistant County Administrator  
Debbie Templeton, Administrative Assistant  
Helen E. Wood, Clerk to Public Safety Committee

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Steve Loftis, Sheriff, Greenville County Sheriff's Office  
Scott Wilson, Major, Greenville County Sheriff's Office  
Rick Blackwell, Director, E-911, Greenville County Sheriff's Office  
Rod McLain, Buford Goff & Associates, Inc.  
Mike Corbett, Buford Goff & Associates, Inc.  
Bob Mueller, Resident, Greenville County

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Liz Seman  
Chairman

**INVOCATION:**

Lottie Gibson  
Councilor

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Councilor Lottie Gibson moved to approve the minutes as amended of the Committee on Public Safety and Human Services' meeting of March 10, 2015. Motion carried unanimously by all Council members present.

## UPDATE ON RADIO SYSTEMS AND OPERATIONS

Mr. Rick Blackwell, Director-E911, presented a power point presentation for Sheriff Steve Loftis, Greenville County Sheriff's Office, who envisions replacement of the current radio communications system, which is "end of life" in 2018, as an opportunity of interoperability between all Greenville County public safety agencies. This would call for an infrastructure that any FCC compliant P25 radio could utilize for communications. Engineering firm, Buford Goff and Associates was hired to assist in inventory and site analysis, RFP development, and radio vendor response vetting. A review of needs and visions in regards to the radio systems by both the engineering firm and Greenville County has compiled 3 options: 1) Build/Own/Operate, 2) Shared Infrastructure, or 3) PAL800.

Councilor Meadows asked if the current radio system would be obsolete. It was confirmed that by around the year 2018 the current radio system would become obsolete. Councilor Meadows inquired if the County-Wide P25 Radio System could be phased in over a number of years after the infrastructure. It is possible to complete the infrastructure and phase in the P25 system. There are also interfaces built into the infrastructure that would allow for communications with those agencies not participating in the P25 system. Councilor Meadows also inquired if other agencies, such as fire departments within the county, would be able to communicate with each other should they decide not to participate with the P25 system. Those not joining would not necessarily be able to communicate with each other. However, they cannot always communicate with each other at present.

Councilor Ballard shared events surrounding a recent major fire with multiple fire departments responding. There was an issue with trucks from different stations not having the ability to communicate with each other. The interoperability would correct this issue. Councilor Ballard inquired to the number of towers needed for the infrastructure. Four (4) additional simulcast sites will be erected in the southern part of the county should Greenville County decide on the PAL800 option.

Councilor Gibson asked if there were any other counties that may have utilized federal money to fund this type of project. There is little money available to assist with infrastructure. However, there are grants through the Department of Homeland Security for portable P25 radios.

Vice Chairman Baldwin inquired if the municipalities were included in with the "other agencies". It was affirmed that "other agencies" includes all public safety agencies within Greenville County and those public safety agencies bordering Greenville County.

Chairman Liz Seman asked when the current radio communications system was implemented. The current radio communications system was implemented in 1997. Chairman Seman thanked all in attendance for the presentation.

### **DRAFT OFDINANCE TO PROHIBIT THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS WITHIN DEVELOPED PLATTED RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISIONS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF GREENVILLE COUNTY OR WITHIN 300 YARDS OF A CHURCH, SCHOOL, OR PLACE OF BUSINESS AND TO PROVIDE FOR EXCEPTIONS THERE TO**

Resident Bob Muller shared the origins for the requested change in the proposed draft ordinance. Mr. Muller explained that in his subdivision a stray bullet shot by a resident who had set up a target practice range in their back yard penetrated the wall of a neighbor's home and it was inches above a bed where a child could have been sleeping. He went on to say it was not unusual to hear

gunfire in and around his neighborhood. Mr. Muller is concerned that the current county ordinance does not protect against such events.

Sheriff Loftis explained that in a little over three years the county has responded to 6,798 calls for service due to firearms fired within the county. He stated that in review of the ordinance as written presently it is not enforceable by the Sheriff's Department. Time is needed to consult with the County Attorney as well as review other County ordinances and try to create an ordinance which is enforceable which would include some type of negligence or recklessness which would be enforceable. The revised ordinance will be reviewed by all including Solicitor Walt Wilkins.

**ACTION:** Councilor Lottie Gibson moved that the County Attorney along with the Sheriff's Office move forward with the revision of the draft Ordinance to prohibit the discharge of firearms within developed platted residential subdivisions in the unincorporated area of Greenville County or within 300 yards of a church, school or place of business and to provide for exceptions thereto and bring back an ordinance to meet our needs and allow enforceability by law enforcement.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION:** Councilor Meadows moved to adjourn the meeting of the Committee on Public Safety and Human Services. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Debbie Templeton, Administrative Assistant