



# MINUTES GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Committee of the Whole

May 5, 2016

4:30 p.m.

County Square – Conference Room D

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

*Mr. Bob Taylor, Chairman*

*Mr. Butch Kirven, Vice Chairman*

*Mr. Joe Dill*

*Mr. Joe Baldwin* Arrived 4:34 p.m.

*Mr. Willis Meadows*

*Mr. Sid Cates*

*Mr. Jim Burns*

*Mrs. Xanthene Norris*

*Mrs. Liz Seman*

*Mrs. Lottie Gibson* Absent

*Mr. Lynn Ballard*

*Mr. Fred Payne* Arrived 4:34 p.m.

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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.

## STAFF PRESENT:

**Joe Kernell**, County Administrator

**John Hansley**, Deputy County Administrator

**Mark Tollison**, County Attorney

**Kimberly Wunder**, Assistant County Attorney

**Theresa Kizer**, Clerk to Council

**Regina McCaskill**, Deputy Clerk to Council

**Paula Gucker**, Assistant County Administrator, Public Works

**Sandra Yudice**, Assistant to the County Administrator

## OTHERS PRESENT

None

## CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bob Taylor

## INVOCATION

Councilor Xanthene Norris

**Item (3)                    APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Councilor Ballard moved to approve the corrected minutes of the April 19, 2016 Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

**Item (4)                    GREENVILLE WATER SYSTEM PRESENTATION**

*Philip Kilgore, Chairman  
Greenville Water System*

- Constituent-oriented organization
- Experienced and dedicated professional staff
- Long-term Commissioners with a deep body of knowledge
- Triple A Credit Rating from all three major credit agencies
- Strong financial handle in terms of cash flow and managing the organization
- Recent recognitions:
  - Government Finance Officers Association
  - Gold Award for Exceptional Utility Performance from the Metropolitan Water Agencies Association
  - President's Award from the Partnership for Safe Water

*David Bereskin, Chief Executive Officer  
Greenville Water System*

- Two major studies:
  - Facilities Master Plan
  - Water Resources Plan
- Goal to identify facilities and resources
- Retained *Black & Veatch* for a strategic look at existing and future facilities
- Five (5) year and Ten (10) year Capital Improvement Plans (CIP)
  - Raw water intake
  - Water treatment improvements
  - Water Lines
  - Pumping
  - Storage
  - Control Valves
- Pipe Replacement Program
  - Robust rating system
  - Coordinate with road improvement programs with sister agencies
  - Maximize dollars
  - In 2015, Greenville Water invested \$6.02 million in Greenville County projects
  - Notify all residents prior to construction
  - In 2016, Greenville Water had \$8.1 million budgeted for projects throughout Greenville County including \$2.575 million in the CIP.
- Long Term Viability
  - Water Resources Master Plan
    - Phase I has been completed
    - Phase II and Phase III were included in the CIP
  - Why Important?
    - Economic development
    - Environmental protection
    - Public Health

- Population growth
  - 2016 – 4.6 million people in South Carolina
  - Projected for 2030 – 5.5 million
- Eight Planning Regions in South Carolina managed by DHEC and DNR used for water quality and quantity planning
- Water Resources Master Plan
  - Develop plan to meet supply demands for the next 100 years
  - Consider safe yields of existing reservoirs
  - Permitted withdrawal capacities
  - Coordinate with Duke Power on use of Lake Keowee
  - Contracted with Goodwyn Mills Cawood, Greeley and Hansen and Clemson University to provide a plan for the next 100 years
  - Impacts of water conservation and reuse
  - Locations of potential future water supplies
- First step in Water Resources and Facilities Planning was making growth and population projections
- Greenville Water's Goals
  - Maintain Existing Permitted Supply
    - 150 MGD Lake Keowee
    - 32 MGD Table Rock Reservoir
    - 60 MGD North Saluda Reservoir
    - Plan and Vigilance
  - Be a Good Corporate Citizen
    - Proactively pursue Water Conservation efforts
    - Community Outreach Efforts
    - Promote Economic Development
    - Keep Rates Low
- Fluoride Recommendation Changes
  - In April, the US Department of Health and Human Services issued a new recommendation for fluoride
  - Since 1962, the recommendations was 0.7 – 1.2 mg per liter
  - Because Americans have better access to fluoride products, the recommended amount was lowered to .7 mg per liter
- What happened in Flint?
  - Relationships
    - Mistrust
  - Chemistry
    - Service inlets, indoor plumbing
    - Piping and fixtures, solder
    - Mains
  - Bad Decision
    - No corrosion control
    - Create jobs – not value
  - Communication
    - No notification, testing, outreach
    - Denial
- Why is Greenville Water different?
  - Relationships
    - Greenville Water is a supplier
  - Chemistry
    - Professionals and Scientists
    - Corrosion Control Program
    - Testing
    - SCDHEC Oversight

- Responsible Decision-Making
  - Qualified consultants
  - Long-range planning
  - Engaged Commission
- Communication
  - Testing Program
    - 50 tests every 3 years
    - 740 voluntary annual tests
  - Social Media
  - CCR
  - Op-Eds

### *Questions*

Councilor Baldwin asked if there would be an adequate supply of water in the future.

Mr. Bereskin stated the “water wars’ in the West, as well as the Atlanta area, have prompted Greenville Water to plan and have adequate permits. He added, through studies conducted by Greenville Water, they were confident the current water sources would carry South Carolina through the end of the century.

Councilor Baldwin asked about the current water issues in Atlanta and Charlotte.

Mr. Bereskin stated Charlotte was trying to tie water resources together as they are currently disparate, but currently had a good water supply. He stated Atlanta would be in court for the next 10-20 years to reconcile the water issue but would eventually utilize the Savannah for water resources.

Councilor Payne inquired about “lost water”. He stated some communities have reported up to 50% of the water pumped out was unaccounted for and not billed.

Mr. Bereskin stated a program was put in place about 12 months ago to study “unaccounted water”. He stated about 8-12% of Greenville Water’s current supply was unaccounted for.

Councilor Payne asked what percentage of Greenville County residents did not have public water.

Mr. Bereskin stated he did not have that figure. He stated Greenville Water recently worked with Greenville County and some residents in District 17 in getting public water to their area.

Councilor Payne inquired about Greenville Water’s relationship with ReWa.

Mr. Bereskin stated there were 15 subdistricts that needed to consolidate and the new CEO of ReWa was working to sell this concept.

Councilor Ballard thanked both gentlemen for Greenville Water’s assistance with problems in District 26.

Councilor Dill stated he wanted to brag on Greenville Water and added the citizens in his district loved the water system.

Chairman Taylor inquired how many small water companies were currently in Greenville County.

Mr. Bereskin stated there were currently four small water companies.

Item (5)

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ATTENDANCE STATUS AND DISCUSSION**

Councilor Seman thanked Council staff for gathering the information. Most of the comments received addressed health and work-related issues; only a couple suggested negligence. She pointed out that GCRA had different attendance requirements. Councilor Seman suggested Council review the language used in the GCRA by-laws and possibly consider changing the current Boards and Commissions Attendance Policy to include long-term illness, personal or family tragedy and/or other extenuating circumstances. Each board and commission should have an attendance policy that either mirrored or was stronger than the policy set forth by County Council. She stated quorum issue was not the purpose of gathering the information. She stated Council needed to be consistent in taking action.

Councilor Norris stated she was very pleased with the number of professionals who serve on the boards and commissions. She added Council should first check with the Chairman of a board in the case of excessive absences. Councilor Norris stated Council was very fortunate to have so many volunteers who were willing to serve.

Councilor Seman stated she agreed with Councilor Norris but in light of the action taken in regards to the Planning Commission, Council had put itself in a very interesting position. She referenced the letter from the Human Relations Commission which gave one member in question the opportunity to resign prior to being removed.

Councilor Cates stated the Board of Zoning Appeals letter stated members did not attend when there was no docket and a recommendation was made to change the current policy to state "3 consecutive meetings or 25% of all meetings in which there is a docket involved".

Councilor Kirven stated engaging the Chairpersons and the board members may have improved the situation. He added an improvement in attendance was very likely.

Councilor Ballard stated he agreed with Councilor Kirven but still felt Council acted hastily. He stated Council needed to be more aware of attendance and should follow up on a routine basis, not just when a problem arose.

Councilor Taylor stated Barry Formanack with the Arena District had excessive absences and Council re-elected him to the same board.

Councilor Seman suggested Council review the attendance record of any individual up for re-appointment.

Councilor Burns asked what was Council going to do about the current situation and how was the policy going to be changed. Council may have to admit they were wrong in order to not exacerbate a bad situation. Councilor Burns stated when a member had missed 80% of the meetings or 10 out of 11 meetings, it was clear the individual was not dedicated to the board. He added Council needed to clearly state future expectations.

Chairman Taylor asked if all Chairmen gave reasons for excused absences

Councilor Burns stated the Chairmen did not have the authority to excuse a member from attending the meetings.

Theresa Kizer stated a response was received from all the board Chairmen with members having excessive absences. Some of the responses indicated more of a supposition as opposed to facts.

Councilor Dill referenced the response from the Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission which indicated one board member had issues dealing with a mother-in-law's illness and another board member had a bout with cancer. The Chairman of that board went on to point out either of those board members could experience problems attending meetings in the future due to these same issues which could affect the board. Councilor Dill stated he had labored over the attendance issue for quite some time. He stated if a board member found themselves in a situation which prevented them from attending meetings, they should step down and apply for re-election at a later time. Councilor Dill stated when he reviewed the responses, it was clear to him the individuals in question, as well as some of the Chairmen, did not take boards and commissions seriously.

Chairman Taylor stated although he agreed no one board was more important than the other, he did feel some boards related to the entity more than others. For instance, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission gave a lot of direction to the Phoenix Center. Other boards contributed, but in a different way, and Council may need to take that in consideration when making a decision.

Councilor Payne suggested Council establish future policies and decide on how to deal with the current situation. He stated a member should be either Present, Absent or have an Excused Absence and there should be a list of acceptable excuses. Councilor Payne stated the boards should manage themselves. If attendance of a member became a problem, Council would be asked to intervene.

Chairman Taylor stated the individuals on the current list with unexcused absences should be sent a letter asking them to come before Council and discuss the problem.

Councilor Norris stated she spoke with her constituents on the list about what was going on in their lives that prevented them from attending meetings.

Councilor Ballard recommended everyone on the list should be sent a letter stating their attendance was in question and Council would be taking action as deemed necessary. He added the letter should indicate Council wanted to hear from the board member in regards to their wish to remain on the board or not.

Councilor Kirven suggested the letter state the individual would be removed within 30 days unless they appealed to County Council with valid reasons for the absences and recommitted to future service. If the individual chose not to respond, they would be automatically removed.

Councilor Ballard stated that was a very good idea and put responsibility on the individual in question. He added Council had been criticized for not giving the members of the Planning Commission an opportunity to speak.

Councilor Dill stated the list included everyone who had violated the policy.

Chairman Taylor stated everyone on the list would get a letter and an opportunity to defend their position.

Councilor Ballard stated the letter should indicate that County Council questioned the individual's commitment to their board.

Councilor Cates stated the future boards and commissions' attendance had not been addressed.

Councilor Seman suggested a small group to work on a revised attendance policy.

Chairman Taylor stated a letter would be constructed as well as a revised attendance policy.

**Item (6)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION:**

Councilor Kirven moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Motion to adjourn carried unanimously by Council Members present.

Respectfully submitted:

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Theresa B. Kizer, Clerk to Council