



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MARCH 21, 2017

4:35 P.M.

COUNTY SQUARE – CONFERENCE ROOM D

COUNCIL MEMBERS

MR. BUTCH KIRVEN, CHAIRMAN

MR. WILLIS MEADOWS, VICE CHAIRMAN

MRS. XANTHENE NORRIS, CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

MR. JOE DILL **ABSENT**

MR. MIKE BARNES

MR. SID CATES

MR. RICK ROBERTS

MR. BOB TAYLOR

MRS. LIZ SEMAN

MR. ENNIS FANT, SR.

MR. LYNN BALLARD

MR. FRED PAYNE

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

Mark Tollison, County Attorney

Kimberly Wunder, Assistant County Attorney

John Hansley, Deputy County Administrator

Theresa Kizer, Clerk to Council

Paula Gucker, Assistant County Administrator, Public Works

Bob Mihalic, Governmental Relations Officer

OTHERS PRESENT

None

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Butch Kirven

INVOCATION

Councilor Sid Cates

Item (3) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

ACTION: Councilor Seman moved to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2017, Regular Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

Item (4) **VISION REPORT FOR NEW WASHINGTON HEIGHTS**

Mike Winiski and Matt Cohen
Furman University

Envisioning Space and Place

- Washington High School (1962 – 1970) was demolished in 2015
- High school closed when Greenville County Schools were desegregated
- The property (27 acres) owned by Greenville County

- Community Engagement process in May of 2016
- Featured 7 community events over a six day period
- 112 unique participants
- 11 community members that participated in multiple events

Eight Guiding Themes

- A Commemorative Place
 - Bring together the past and future
 - Strengthen family and community
 - Draw people from across Greenville, just like the high school
 - Inclusive
 - Focus on children
- An Active Place
 - A safe place outside the classroom – playground
 - Sports / Multi-purpose field
 - Walking / Biking – Trail
- A Refreshing Place
 - A pool with challenges
 - Alternative: splash-pad
 - Other ideas: pond or fountain
- A Leisurely Place
 - Covered place – Pavilion
 - Resting area – seating
 - Other amenities – dog parks
- A Connected Place
 - Accessibility – trails and restrooms
 - Parking access
 - Increase safety – road improvements
- A Safe Place
 - Lower crime – lighting and police presence
 - Natural danger – brush control and snakes
- A Creative Place
 - Something for everyone – amphitheater and studio
 - Public art – murals
- A Coordinated Place
 - Physical Activity – organized sports leagues
 - Community building – ESL training and programs for seniors
 - Children – after school and summer camps

Next Steps

- Foundation for a site plan
- Provide evidence of community support for grant writing and fundraising
- Facilitate future collaboration
- Guidance for phased implementation
 - Phase 1: Re-activate Happy Hearts Community Center
 - Phase 2: Improve and Expand Recreational Fields
 - Phase 3: Build an Iconic Park along the Swamp Rabbit Trail Connector

Item (5)

UPSTATE ALLIANCE - PRESENTATION

John Lummus, President and CEO

- Formed in 2000 as a public / private regional economic development organization
- Comprised of public and private sector investors
- Governed by Board-Level Investors and an Executive Committee
- Limited resources of counties and the SC Department of Commerce to market and build a brand
- Strength of a regional approach – provide a more compelling message and sales pitch as a region
- Supports GADC with marketing by finding leads and contacts
- 170+ investors
- Announcements since 2007
 - 53,440 new jobs
 - \$16.77 billion in capital investment
- 2016 Achievements
 - \$1.89 billion in capital investment
 - 67 Company announcements
 - 33 new
 - 34 existing
 - 5,396 jobs created
- Mission Statement: Firmly establish Upstate South Carolina as a unified and innovative economic region and position it to excel in the global economy through strategic marketing collaboration, and thought leadership
- Region Building
 - Lead regional marketing and business attraction
 - Move up the manufacturing value chain
 - Engage intentionally in the Global Economy
 - Establish alliance as an economic thought leader
 - Anchor efforts in robust research

Item (5)

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPLICATION REVIEW

(a) Greenville Technical College Area Commission (1 vacancy)

The following individuals appeared before the Committee of the Whole and gave their personal presentations:

1. Southerlin, Kenneth - At-large

ACTION:

Councilor Cates moved to nominate Kenneth Southerlin to the Greenville Technical College Area Commission to fill one at-large seat and forward his name to the Greenville Legislative Delegation for consideration.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

(b) Human Relations Commission (3 vacancies)

The following individuals appeared before the Committee of the Whole and gave their personal presentations:

1. Shaniece Criss - District 19
2. Melida Ehlen - District 22
3. Robert Houston, Jr. - District 25
4. William McNeil - District 25
5. Dexter Reaves - District 18
6. Ashley Rhinehart - District 26
7. Dana Williams - District 25

ACTION: By ballot vote, Shaniece Criss, Dexter Reaves and Ashley Rhinehart were elected to fill three vacancies on the Human Relations Commission.

(c) Planning Commission (3 vacancies)

The following individuals appeared before the Committee of the Whole and gave their personal presentations:

1. Steven Bichel - District 21
2. Chris Harrison - District 21
3. Nick Hollingshad - District 20
4. James Moore - District 26
5. John Reckenbeil - District 24

ACTION: By ballot vote, Steven Bichel, Chris Harrison and Nick Hollingshad were elected to fill three vacancies on the Planning Commission.

Item (6) ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Councilor Norris moved to adjourn.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present and the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa B. Kizer, Clerk to Council