



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes
Committee of the Whole
July 16, 2019
5:17 p.m.

County Square – Conference Room D
301 University Ridge
Greenville, South Carolina 29601

Council Members

Mr. Butch Kirven, Chairman
Mr. Willis Meadows, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Xanthene Norris, Chairman Pro Tem
Mr. Joe Dill
Mr. Mike Barnes
Mr. Sid Cates
Mr. Rick Roberts
Mr. Bob Taylor
Mrs. Liz Seman
Mr. Ennis Fant, Sr.
Mr. Lynn Ballard
Mr. Dan Tripp

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 Absent

Lynn Ballard, *District 26*

Staff Present

Joe Kernell, *County Administrator*
Mark Tollison, *County Attorney*
Kim Wunder, *Assistant County Attorney*
John Hansley, *Deputy County Administrator*
Regina McCaskill, *Clerk to Council*
Paula Gucker, *Assistant County Administrator, Public Works*
Conway Belangia, *Director, Election Commission*
Nicole Wood, *Assistant to the County Administrator*
Bob Mihalic, *Governmental Relations Officer*

Others Present

None

Call to Order

Chairman Kirven

Invocation

Councilor Ennis Fant

Item (3) **Approval of Minutes**

Action: Councilor Taylor moved to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2019, Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

Item (4) **Executive Session**

Action: Vice-Chairman Meadows moved to go into Executive Session for discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of a property.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present and the Committee of the Whole entered Executive Session at 5:20 p.m.

Reconvene

County Attorney Mark Tollison reported the Committee of the Whole out of Executive Session stating no action was taken during that session. The regular Committee of the Whole meeting reconvened at 5:38 p.m.

Item (5) **Selection and Acquisition of Real Property for use by the Family Court, State and Related Public Offices**

Councilor Seman stated she appreciated the conversation and continued work of the entire staff on the project.

Action: Councilor Seman stated after considering all options available, she moved to select the former Fluor office buildings and property on Halton Road and authorize the County Administrator to proceed with negotiation and execution of agreements to complete the lease and purchase of the property.

Vice-Chairman Meadows stated the motion was previously defeated; he inquired if it was necessary for a member of the prevailing side to make the new motion in order for the item to be reconsidered.

Chairman Kirven stated when the agenda was set, it was determined the subject was more expansive than when previously presented. He added there were now several options for Council to consider and the subject would be viewed as “new”; therefore, any member of Council could make the motion.

Vice-Chairman Meadows stated it appeared Council was again making the “rules fit.”

Chairman Kirven stated the procedure complied with Council Rules; however, Mr. Meadows could challenge the ruling. Mr. Kirven asked Mark Tollison to comment.

Mark Tollison stated the previous motion was to defeat the entire project and was based on time constraints; the item before Council today was more of a selection and a different motion.

Councilor Tripp stated it was his understanding that the motion presented at the last Committee of the Whole meeting was to “kill” the project; a subsequent motion was then made to move all County Square offices to the Halton Road site.

Chairman Kirven stated a previous motion was presented to Council at a Special Called Meeting and there was no time to get the appraisal completed.

Vice-Chairman Meadows stated the proposal presented to Council during the Special Called Meeting was the same proposal that was presented on this date.

Chairman Kirven stated the Special Called Meeting was specific to the one property; today’s meeting was open to any motion or consideration to give direction to the County Administrator.

Vice-Chairman Meadows advised Chairman Kirven to review the minutes.

Chairman Kirven stated he did not dispute what Mr. Meadows was saying about the previous meetings.

Councilor Tripp stated the material reason for which the original motion was denied was the lack of an appraisal. Council now had an appraisal in hand which constituted a substantive change to the previous motion.

Councilor Barnes stated the previous motion was in regards to Halton Road, not the entire project.

Chairman Kirven stated the content of the previous motion was not being disputed. The item currently on the floor was more expansive than the previous motion and there were more options available within the agenda.

Vice-Chairman Meadows stated several of the buildings, such as Greenville Tech, that were presented as possible options during today’s presentation were not part of the previous presentations. He stated it appeared that the exact same thing was being done during today’s meeting as in the previous meeting. Mr. Meadows stated he had no problem with a Council Member from the prevailing side making the motion. He added the public did not trust Council due to those types of situations.

Councilor Roberts stated he had expressed his support in the project moving forward but there were procedures in place that Council needed to follow; it would set a bad precedent if Council just voted on the item without adhering to proper procedures. Mr. Roberts stated he would make a motion to approve.

Chairman Kirven stated the motion was already on the floor; Councilor Roberts could make a motion to suspend Council Rules in order to allow the motion on the floor to proceed.

Councilor Seman stated she could have made a motion to select any of the other properties as outlined in Mr. Kernell’s presentation; she apologized if the motion caused any confusion. Ms. Seman stated she felt the Fluor property was the best option.

Chairman Kirven stated the motion on the floor was for one of the many options that had been presented to Council since the process began. Mr. Kirven stated it was his opinion that Ms. Seman's motion was in order.

Councilor Norris stated she wanted to make sure everyone was on the same page. The project was two-fold: the County Square Project would continue and the other offices would be moved to another location.

Councilor Fant stated it would be better for appearance and public transparency to suspend Council Rules for the reconsideration.

Action: Councilor Roberts moved to suspend Council Rules relating to notice and time in order to reconsider the prior vote relating to the Halton Road property.

Motion carried with Councilors Barnes, Meadows and Cates voting in opposition.

Action: Councilor Roberts moved to reconsider the prior vote relating to the Halton Road property.

Motion carried with Councilors Barnes, Meadows and Cates voting in opposition.

Councilor Seman restated her original motion.

Motion as presented carried by a roll call vote of nine (Dill, Cates, Roberts, Taylor, Norris, Seman, Fant, Kirven and Tripp) in favor, two (Barnes and Meadows) in opposition and one (Ballard) absent.

Item (6) Adjournment

Action: Vice-Chairman Meadows moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present and the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Regina G. McCaskill
Clerk to Council