



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

Regular Meeting

February 19, 2019

6:09 p.m.

County Square – Council Chambers

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

None

Staff Present

John Hansley, Deputy County Administrator
Mark Tollison, County Attorney
Regina McCaskill, Clerk to Council
Jessica Stone, Deputy Clerk to Council
Pam Gilliam, Administrative Assistant, County Council Office
Paula Gucker, Assistant County Administrator, Public Works
Bob Mihalic, Governmental Relations Officer
John Vandermosten, Assistant County Administrator, Public Safety

Others Present

None

Call to Order

Chairman Kirven

Invocation – *Introduced by Councilor Mike Barnes*

Eric Wooten, Pastor
Northwood Baptist Church
Greer, SC

Pledge of Allegiance

Item (4) Approval of Minutes

ACTION: Councilor Seman moved to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2019 Special Called Meeting and the February 5, 2019 Regular Council Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (5) Public Hearings

a. Greater Greenville Sanitation District Annexation / 2 Cunningham Road

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance to enlarge the boundaries of the Greater Greenville Sanitation District to include 2 Cunningham Road off Old Spartanburg Road.

There being no speakers, Councilor Seman declared the public hearing closed.

b. Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict Annexation / Goodwill Industries – Midlands (Property at Sandy Springs Road and Highway 25)

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding a resolution to enlarge the boundaries of the Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict to include the property identified as Tax Map Number 0602020101802 located at the intersection of Sandy Springs Road and Highway 25, and to provide for public notice thereof.

There being no speakers, Councilor Seman declared the public hearing closed.

Item (6) Appearances – current agenda items

- **Bruce Wilson**, 14 Freestone Street, Greenville – appeared regarding Item 10.c. Sale of County Owned Property – 1501 W. Washington Street

Item (7) Consent Agenda

a. Initiate Process to Adopt the City View Community Plan into the Greenville County Comprehensive Plan *(Planning and Development)*

ACTION: Vice-Chairman Meadows moved to approve the Consent Agenda Item.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (8) Resolutions

a. Greater Greenville Sanitation District Annexation / 2 Cunningham Road

ACTION: Councilor Seman moved for adoption a resolution to enlarge the boundaries of the Greater Greenville Sanitation District to include 2 Cunningham Road off Old Spartanburg Road.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict Annexation / Goodwill Industries – Midlands (Property at Sandy Springs Road and Highway 25)

ACTION: Councilor Seman moved for adoption a resolution to enlarge the boundaries of the Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict to include the property identified as Tax Map Number 0602020101802 located at the intersection of Sandy Springs Road and Highway 25, and to provide for public notice thereof.

ACTION: Councilor Seman moved to return the item to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee.

Motion to return the item to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee carried unanimously.

c. Historic Property Designation / Spring Park Inn – Travelers Rest

ACTION: Councilor Dill moved for adoption a resolution calling for the Spring Park Inn (c.1820), located at 301 Old Buncombe Road, Travelers Rest, South Carolina, to be placed on the Greenville County Historic Register.

Motion carried unanimously.

d. Project Midnight / Inducement Resolution

ACTION: Councilor Taylor moved for adoption a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of an inducement agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and Project Midnight, a company code name, whereby, under certain conditions, Greenville County would execute a fee in lieu of tax and special source credit agreement with respect to an industrial project in the County whereby the Project would be subject to payment of certain fees in lieu of taxes, and whereby Project Midnight would be provided certain credits against fee payments in reimbursement of investment in related qualified infrastructure; and providing for related matters.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (9) Ordinances – Third Reading

a. Project Treehouse / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement

ACTION: Councilor Taylor moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company or companies known to the County at this time as Project Treehouse with respect to certain economic development property in the County, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes, including the provision of certain special source credits; and other matter related thereto.

ACTION: Councilor Taylor moved to return the item to the Finance Committee.

Motion to return the item to the Finance Committee carried unanimously.

Item (10) Ordinances – Second Reading

a. Zoning Ordinances

- 1. CZ-2019-01:** Property of William F. Brown, located at 2317 W. Blue Ridge Drive, requesting rezoning from C-1 to C-2. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval.

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

Motion carried with Councilor Cates voting in opposition.

2. **CZ-2019-02:** Property of Twojk, LLC, located at 774 Piedmont Highway, requesting rezoning from S-1 to R-S. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval.

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

Councilor Ballard stated the property has always contained a house and was zoned S-1 because it backed up to the railroad. He stated the owner had requested the R-S classification as he had plans to make changes.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. **CZ-2019-03:** Property of Saundra Alverson Tate, located at 210 Slatton Shoals Road, requesting rezoning from R-R3 to R-R1. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

4. **CZ-2019-04:** Property of Qtip Trust, located at 729 Fairview Road, requesting rezoning from R-S to NC. The Planning Commission recommended denial and the Committee recommended approval with conditions.

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

ACTION: Councilor Dill moved to amend the request to include the following conditions:

- A maximum height of 16 feet for parking lot light fixtures
- Zero light foot candles at residential property lines

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

5. **CZ-2019-05:** Property of Douglas R. & Wanda S. Clark, located on W. Georgia Road and Sullivan Road, requesting rezoning from R-S to R-12. The Planning Commission recommended denial and the Committee recommended approval.

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

Councilor Ballard stated the request was recommended for approval by staff and it fit the land use plan. Mr. Ballard respectfully requested his colleagues approve the request.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. **CZ-2019-06:** Property of Grove Road Partners LLC, located at 1139 Grove Road, requesting rezoning from R-12 to O-D. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

7. **CZ-2019-07:** Property of Chung Yol Choe, located at 2919 White Horse Road, requesting rezoning from S-1 to C-3. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

8. **CZ-2019-08:** Property of Sarah Jean Kruse, located at 220 Rocky Creek Road, requesting rezoning from R-S to O-D. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

9. **CZ-2019-09:** Property of S & H Simpsonville, LLC, located at 930 NE Main Street, Simpsonville, requesting rezoning from C-1 to C-2. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

10. **CZ-2019-10:** Property of SC Propco, LLC, located on Ebenezer Road, requesting rezoning from O-D to C-3. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended denial.

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

Councilor Roberts stated the property was located in his district in a beautiful area and was environmentally sensitive. He had encouraged the owner request a more specific zoning and FRD would be his recommendation; to go to a "blanket commercial use" would not be a good fit. Mr. Roberts stated he would appreciate his colleagues support by denying the request.

Motion was denied unanimously.

11. **CZ-2019-11:** Property of John Lisi, located at 117 Woodside Road, requesting rezoning from Unzoned to R-S. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

12. **CZ-2019-13:** Property of Lees Interior Design, LLC, located at 601 Easley Road, requesting rezoning from R-7.5 to R-6. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Greenville County Comprehensive Plan Amendment / Sans Souci Community Plan (CP-2019-01)

ACTION: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to adopt the Sans Souci Community Plan as an amendment to the imagine Greenville County Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

c. Sale of County Owned Property / 1501 W. Washington Street

ACTION: Councilor Taylor moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to authorize the sale and transfer of county owned property located at 1501 W. Washington Street, Greenville, South Carolina 29601, to the Greater Greenville Sanitation District.

Vice-Chairman Meadows stated when Council approved the purchased the old Berea Elementary School from Greenville County Schools, he felt the County should not have been required to pay for the building. The taxpayers of Greenville County had already paid for the school and the land. He added he felt the same way about the item in question and would like to suggest the County simply transfer the property to the Greater Greenville Sanitation District (GGS). He added the citizens of Greenville County had already paid for the property and it had been leased to the GGS for a number of years; GGS had made all the improvements to the property.

ACTION: Vice-Chairman Meadows moved to transfer the county owned property located at 1501 W. Washington Street, Greenville, South Carolina to the Greater Greenville Sanitation District free of charge.

ACTION: Councilor Cates moved to return the item to the Finance Committee for further review.

Councilor Tripp inquired if there was a current agreement with GGS.

Vice-Chairman Meadows stated the only agreement he was aware of was for GGS to purchase the property for \$300,000.00.

Councilor Ballard stated GGS operated with an independent board; although the board members were appointed by Council, they were not under the purview of Council. Mr. Ballard stated Council had no authority to stipulate that the money intended for the purchase of the property be given to the employees instead.

Councilor Cates stated he did not intend for that to be a stipulation if the property was transferred and not sold to GGS.

Councilor Fant stated he had spoken with Vice-Chairman Meadows about the situation and was in support of the motion. He added it was wrong to ask the taxpayers of Greenville County to pay for the same property twice. He also agreed with the speaker who had indicated that the employees of GGS deserved raises; Mr. Fant suggested taking things one step further and stipulating that the money saved by transferring the property be returned to the taxpayers.

Councilor Roberts stated he did not disagree with Mr. Meadows' amendment but did not understand how the taxpayers would pay for the property twice.

Vice-Chairman Meadows stated if the property was sold to Greater Greenville Sanitation, the money would have to either be generated from somewhere or taken from money they already had. The taxpayers whose properties were serviced by GGS would, in essence, pay for the property twice.

Councilor Taylor stated it was important to note that Greater Greenville Sanitation District did not service all of Greenville County.

Vice-Chairman Meadows stated there was precedent that Greenville County had transferred property in the past to other entities without charge; the County should be consistent in dealing with similar situations.

Councilor Seman stated she was intrigued by Mr. Meadows' motion and the concept; she concurred with Dr. Cates' motion to return the item to the Finance Committee. She added she would like the opportunity to discuss the item further at committee level.

Councilor Tripp inquired if it would be better for the taxpayers to implement a straight refund to the customers of Greater Greenville Sanitation. Mr. Tripp also requested information regarding how transferring the property as opposed to selling it would affect the County's budget. He felt Council was moving too quickly in making a decision without knowing all the facts.

Chairman Kirven stated if that was the case, the idea of moving the item back to the Finance Committee was a good one. (He asked John Hansley if he had any comments.)

John Hansley stated he would prefer to address the item in the Finance Committee after researching Mr. Meadows' motion.

Councilor Taylor stated if Council voted in favor of Mr. Meadows' motion it would move the discussion differently than if the item was returned to the committee.

Mark Tollison asked Mr. Meadows to state his amendment for the record.

ACTION:

Vice-Chairman Meadows moved to amend the motion by authorizing the transfer of county owned property located at 1501 W. Washington Street, Greenville, South Carolina 29601, to the Greater Greenville Sanitation District. The Chairman of County Council and the County Administrator are authorized to execute deeds and any other appropriate documents and agreements necessary for the transfer of the property. The ordinance shall take effect upon the date of the adoption done at the Regular Meeting of County Council dated February 19, 2019.

Chairman Kirven asked if it would be fair to summarize the amendment by saying the property would be transferred to GGS without any compensation back to the County.

Vice-Chairman Meadows stated Mr. Kirven's statement was an accurate.

Councilor Dill asked how long Greater Greenville Sanitation had leased the property.

Steve Cole was present in the audience and stated 50 years.

Councilor Dill stated it appeared to him that Greater Greenville Sanitation had already paid for the property many times over. He added he would vote for GGS to have the property.

Councilor Roberts asked if Council was voting on Mr. Meadows' amendment then Dr. Cates' motion.

Chairman Kirven stated Council would only vote on Dr. Cates' motion if Mr. Meadows' amendment failed.

ACTION: Councilor Tripp raised a Point of Order. He inquired if a motion to refer the item back to committee took higher precedence over a pending motion.

Mark Tollison confirmed that Dr. Cates' motion took precedence over Mr. Meadows'.

Motion to return the item to the Finance Committee carried by a roll call vote of seven (Cates, Roberts, Taylor, Norris, Seman, Kirven and Tripp) in favor and five (Dill, Barnes, Meadows, Fant and Ballard) in opposition.

d. Project Pak / Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement

ACTION: Councilor Taylor moved for approval at second reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company or companies known to the County at this time as Project Pak with respect to certain economic development property in the County, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes, including the provision of certain special source credits; and other matters related thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

e. Greenville / Anderson Multi County Industrial Business Park Agreement (2010 Park) – Project Pak

ACTION: Councilor Taylor moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to amend an agreement for the development of a joint county industrial and business park (2010 Park) of Anderson and Greenville Counties so as to enlarge the park.

Motion carried unanimously.

f. Tower Automotive Operations USA I, LLC / Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement Amendment

ACTION: Councilor Taylor moved for approval at second reading an ordinance authorizing a second amendment to a fee-in-lieu of tax and special source credit agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina, Tower Automotive Operations USA I, LLC and Stag Industrial Holdings, LLC, to provide for an extended investment period; and to enter into such other necessary agreements or amendments to effect the intent of this ordinance; and other related matters.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (11) Ordinances – First Reading

a. Zoning Ordinances

Councilor Dill presented for first reading Zoning Dockets **CZ-2019-14, CZ-2019-15, CZ-2019-17 through CZ-2019-19** and **CP-2019-02**.

Chairman Kirven referred the items to the Planning and Development Committee.

b. Project Midnight / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement

Councilor Taylor presented for first reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax and special source credit agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the County at this time as Project Midnight with respect to certain economic development property in the County, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes, including the provision of certain special source credits; and other matters related thereto.

Chairman Kirven stated the item would remain on the floor.

Item (12) Committee Reports

No reports.

Item (13) Appearances by Citizens

- **Francis Bishop**, 15 Scott Dr., Greenville – appeared regarding Councilor Fant
- **Bruce Wilson**, 14 Freestone St., Greenville – appeared regarding Greenville County Detention Center
- **Lee Turner**, 21 Twin Springs Dr., Greenville – appeared regarding the County Administrator’s contract
- **Donald Smith**, 1222 Boiling Springs Rd., Greer – appeared regarding Leadership
- **Ed Paxton**, 1 York Circle, Greenville – appeared regarding planning

Item (14) Administrator’s Report

No report.

Item (15) Requests and Motions by Council Members

a. Initiation of Proposed Zoning Text Amendment

Councilor Roberts stated he provided a memo in the packet to have Council initiate a new zoning text amendment. The text amendment would provide a fix that allowed for very small reductions in open space for existing subdivisions. Mr. Roberts stated his motion just started the process and would go on to public hearing, then through the Planning & Development Committee and back to Council for three readings before adoption.

ACTION: Councilor Roberts moved to approve an ordinance to amend Section 7:2 of the Greenville County Zoning Ordinance, “Open Space Residential Development” to provide a procedure for an administrative reduction of not more than .5 acres in size and not more than one and a half (1.5) percent of previously approved open space in certain developments.

Motion carried unanimously.

- Vice-Chairman Meadows thanked the Sheriff’s Office and the people involved in the Drag Queen Story Hour over the weekend; he added they did an admirable job and no problems surfaced during the event. Mr. Meadows stated the costs involved for security were tremendous; it was not fair for the taxpayers to foot the bill for a private entity to hold an event. If the library had sponsored the event, he would agree the County should pay for security. Mr. Meadows stated 144 deputies were present at a cost of \$47,829.82. He requested Mark Tollison research the possibility of an ordinance to address the cost of extra security in regards to private entities

utilizing County public facilities. Mr. Meadows stated he felt it should be the responsibility of the private entities to pay for their own security. He stated that other private institutions, such as Furman, were responsible for hiring their own security. Mr. Meadows stated he was not basing his opinion on the Drag Queen Story Hour program; it was a matter of using the taxpayers' money wisely. Mr. Meadows requested the County Attorney work on a possible ordinance to address his concerns.

Mark Tollison assured Councilor Meadows he would work on the issue.

- Councilor Cates stated he was very disappointed the Library Board allowed the Drag Queen Story Hour to take place. Mr. Cates recalled when he was on the Library Board a few years ago and they were faced with the problem of people using the public computers to view pornography. The Library Board decided to place filters on the computers and were condemned by the American Library Association. Subsequently, the Library Board withdrew from the American Library Association and was threatened with lawsuits; however, the board decided to "let the chips fall where they may." Soon afterward, the Supreme Court ruled governments could put filters on public computers. Mr. Cates felt bad for the members of the Library Board and still supported the board, but, was opposed to allowing the use of a public facility for a program that was against the normality of the community.

Councilor Cates stated he was pleased during the Zoning Public Hearing on the previous night as there was a technology group with plans for District 25. Mr. Cates added there was quite a bit of industry in District 25 as well due to the huge amount of interstate highway miles that run through the district.

- Councilor Roberts thanked Chairman Kirven for setting up the Council Retreat. Mr. Roberts stated he did not always see eye to eye with everything that was said during the Council meetings and it was healthy to get upset from time to time. He stated the retreat needed to be very valuable; Council had lost some trust among the members. Mr. Roberts stated he had been told it was because he, along with other Council members, had chosen to speak to the media. He stated he had merely pointed out facts; he had wanted to see Administrator Kernell's contract; it was problematic that most of Council had never viewed the contract. Mr. Roberts stated he felt it was a "terrible contract"; data must be utilized when negotiating a contract. He added that Council had to expect the very best and had to rely on data in order to do so. Mr. Roberts stated this had nothing to do with Joe Kernell; it was about the procedures and standard practices that were in place.
- Councilor Norris stated she was still very concerned about areas in her district: New Washington Heights, Judson, Dunearn, City View and Poe Mill. She stated she hated to visit those areas because the residents needed help. Most of the residents made very little money and housing was terrible; Ms. Norris stated she could not put up with the problems too much longer. She stated the County had to do better and she would be happy to take anyone interested on a tour of the areas to see just how bad they were.
- Councilor Seman stated ITIC was featured in the February issue of Southern Automotive Alliance magazine. She stated there was continued good press coming out of SCTAC.
- Councilor Fant congratulated George Singleton, Delores Pinson and the Upstate Circle of Friends for a job well-done. He had attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony earlier in the day for the new Financial Literacy Program which would go a long way in the community. Mr. Fant thanked all the community members from District 25 who were in attendance. He also thanked them for the support, phone calls and encouragement. Mr. Fant stated the environment on Council was "toxic."

Mr. Fant requested the following be recorded verbatim for the minutes as he indicated he was "building a case for something:"

"As you are all aware, the events of the past few weeks have shined an unfortunate light on both this Council and the County Administration. We have all been forced to take pause at the Chairman's cred, as the Chairman's credibility, is now under intense scrutiny. He is currently being excoriated by the taxpayers and his ability to lead this Council effectively is now in question as the public trust in this body is eroding precipitously.

I challenge us to not continue to bury our heads in the sand and stand up and fully execute our oath of office. We should all be embarrassed that for too long too many of you on this body sat on the sidelines and abdicated your elected responsibility solely to the Chairman and the Administrator.

In recent years, it is apparent that the elected members of this body, outside of the Chairman, have been nothing more than idle spectators rather than involved participants.

I was deeply saddened to hear some of you who I had so much admiration and respect for attempt to justify that it is perfectly fine for the Administrator to have a contract that was never ratified by Council and has quietly grown to a compensation package of almost \$400,000 annually with no oversight or review process in place. No performance metrics to evaluate him by and no specified goals and objectives. As my good friend Councilman Lynn Ballard said, 'That's good work, if you can get it.'

I think we can all agree that the current situation is not tenable and cannot stand. Collectively, we must put forth every effort to restore the public trust in this body and our ability to lead.

Failure to do so will shine an even brighter light on the suspicion of malfeasance and fiduciary incompetence. State law is clear, that the actions of one Council cannot bind the next; thus Mr. Kernell has actually been working without a contract since the beginning of 2013.

I do wish to applaud Mr. Meadows for having the courage to admit that all Council members that were on this body prior to 2013 failed in their elected duties to not actually ratify the Administrator's contract and by not asking any questions of Mr. Kirven and Mr. Taylor. This lapse in judgement cannot be described as anything less than failed leadership. The fact that no one questioned anything can only lead the public to believe that the members of this body were either incompetent, complicit or both.

As a way forward I have spoken to Mr. Ballard and Mr. Roberts, who are both post-2012 Council members, and we will be reaching out to the business community to seek help for this Council in putting together a professional evaluation plan for the Administration and for this body's consideration.

In closing, it is my sincere hope and prayer to God, that over the next few weeks and months that we will take our fiduciary responsibilities seriously and work tirelessly to regain the public trust by eradicating this body from the bowels of an oligarchical dictatorship and cronyism"

ACTION: Councilor Tripp raised a Point of Order.

Mr. Fant's statement continued:

"to a harmonious body of equal members and equally respected. That concludes my remarks."

ACTION:

Councilor Tripp raised a Point of Order. Mr. Tripp stated Section III. Subsection D. Paragraph 2 states:

“Decorum in Speaking – When speaking, no Council member may indulge in personalities, use personally offensive language, arraign the motives of other Council members, charge deliberate misrepresentation, or use language tending to hold Council or a member of the Council in contempt.”

Councilor Tripp stated he would argue that about half of the list was done by Councilor Fant during his speech. He asked for Mr. Fant to refrain from using that type of language at the podium.

- Councilor Ballard stated he was very impressed with security provided by the County during the Drag Queen Story Hour and expressed thanks to Sheriff Brown and his staff. He also thanked Paula Gucker for providing two (2) Code Enforcement officers to attend the event. Mr. Ballard stated the cost amount provided by Vice-Chairman Meadows only included the Greenville County Sheriff’s Department. Also present were Highway Patrol, SLED and the FBI as well as the Code Enforcement officers.

Mr. Ballard stated he had inquired about protocol for submitting possible changes to the Council Rules and was advised they could be submitted at any time. He stated he would be doing so in the near future.

Mr. Ballard stated he was surprised that the Metro Boundary Expansion was sent back to committee.

Mark Tollison advised that the property owners had requested the item be returned to the committee.

- Chairman Kirven stated he had attended a ribbon-cutting for the Financial Empowerment Centers developed by the Dr. Duckett and the Human Relations Department. He stated a number of similar centers were planned throughout the County and the communities would certainly benefit from the centers. The personnel slated to provide services in the Simpsonville office were most outstanding and very impressive; Mayor Curtis was in attendance as well as a number of community members.
- Councilor Tripp stated everything was good in District 28.
- Councilor Dill stated District 17 still lacked adequate housing, still had poor people living in tents, still lacked transportation and still lacked adequate police protection. Mr. Dill stated problems existed in all the districts of Greenville County and added he had some of the poorest people in the county living in his district. For almost two years, District 17 had no representation on Council and some of the most vocal members of Council were responsible. Mr. Dill stated Council was getting nowhere beating up on each other and he had endured it for months. He added it was time to get something done. Council needed to quit playing games and get down to business. Mr. Dill stated Greenville County was in bad shape; people were hurting and needed help. He recommended Council start working together and stop fighting amongst each other.
- Councilor Barnes reminded everyone Pastor Wooten had stated “In God We Trust” at the beginning of the evening’s invocation. Greenville County was great and suggested everyone pray for it to be even better. He recognized some of the residents of Taylors who were in attendance and stated he wanted to see what could be done to get better sewer services for them.

- Councilor Cates stated he had one more thing to add. He reminded everyone that four (4) weeks ago, Council unanimously elected Mr. Kirven to serve as Council Chairman. Two weeks ago, Council also had a unanimous Vote of Confidence for the County Administrator, Joe Kernell. He asked for that information to be taken into account when considering some of the things that had been said during the evening's meeting.

Item (16) Adjournment

ACTION: Councilor Dill moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina G. McCaskill, Clerk to Council