



# GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Minutes

Regular Meeting  
October 6, 2020  
5:00 p.m.

County offices closed for public meetings  
Meeting conducted by remote participation

### **Council Members present by remote participation**

Mr. Butch Kirven, Chairman, District 27  
Mr. Willis Meadows, Vice Chairman, District 19  
Mrs. Xanthe Norris, Chairman Pro Tem, District 23  
Mr. Joe Dill, District 17  
Mr. Mike Barnes, District 18  
Mr. Sid Cates, District 20  
Mr. Rick Roberts, District 21  
Mr. Bob Taylor, District 22  
Mrs. Liz Seman, District 24  
Mr. Ennis Fant, Sr., District 25  
Mr. Lynn Ballard, District 26  
Mr. Dan Tripp, District 28

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted online and on the bulletin board at County Square and made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

### **Council Members Absent**

None

### **Staff Present**

**Joe Kernell**, *County Administrator*  
**Mark Tollison**, *County Attorney*  
**Kimberly Wunder**, *Assistant County Attorney*  
**John Hansley**, *Deputy County Administrator*  
**Regina McCaskill**, *Clerk to Council*  
**Jessica Stone**, *Deputy Clerk to Council*  
**Pam Gilliam**, *Administrative Assistant*  
**Paula Gucker**, *Assistant County Administrator, Public Works*

### **Others Present**

None

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Kirven

### **Invocation**

Chairman Kirven

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Item (4) Approval of Minutes**

**Action:** Councilor Seman moved to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2020, Regular Council Meeting.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (5) Appearances - Current Agenda Items**

- Ed Paxton, 1 York Circle, Greenville – appeared regarding the Greater Greenville Sanitation Board applicants

**Item (6) Consent Agenda**

- a. **Grant Application: Greenville Safe Voting Plan** *(Finance)*
- b. **WIOA Regional and Local Plan / PY200 – PY2023** *(Finance)*

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Meadows moved approval of the Consent Agenda items.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (7) Resolutions**

- a. **Iconic Technologies Inc. / Extension Resolution**

**Action:** Councilor Taylor moved for adoption a resolution approving the extension by Greenville County, South Carolina of a fee agreement by and among Ionic Technologies, Inc. and Greenville County, South Carolina, pursuant to the provisions of South Carolina Code Annotated, Section 12-44-30(13), Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended.

Councilor Taylor stated Iconic Technologies Inc. was a good addition to Greenville County; the company had a large amount of expensive equipment that needed to be replaced.

Chairman Kirven stated the business was located between Mauldin and Simpsonville; the extension of the fee agreement would greatly benefit the company.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (8) Ordinances – Third Reading**

- a. **Zoning Ordinances**
  - i. **CZ-2020-54:** Property of Mark III Properties LLC, located on Furr Road, requesting rezoning from R-S to FRD, as amended.

**Action:** Councilor Dill moved adoption of the ordinance at third reading.  
Motion carried with Chairman Kirven voting in opposition.

- ii. **CZ-2020-55:** Property of SCDOT, located on Right-of-Way adjacent to TMS# 0434000100106, requesting rezoning from Unzoned to C-2.

**Action:** Councilor Dill moved adoption of the ordinance at third reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

- iii. **CZ-2020-56:** Property of Robert Michael Gaddis, located on Stallings Road, Mountain Creek Church Road, E. Mountain Creek Road (SC Hwy 253) and Caroline Drive, requesting rezoning from S-1 to FRD, as amended.

**Action:** Councilor Dill moved adoption of the ordinance at third reading.

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

- iv. **CZ-2020-58:** Property of Diversified Properties, LLC and Durham Kids Investments, LP, located on Old Highway 14 and Farmer's Circle, R-S to FRD, as amended.

**Action:** Councilor Dill moved adoption of the ordinance at third reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (9) Ordinances – Second Reading**

- i. **CZ-2020-49:** Property of Philip Dean, located on McCall Road and Bannerbrook Drive, requesting rezoning from R-S to R-15. 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.

- ii. **CZ-2020-50:** Property of Betty Jane B. Bullard and Margaret B. Pearson, located at 917 and 919 Fairview Road, requesting rezoning from R-S to R-15. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended denial.

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

**Action:** Councilor Ballard moved to hold the item for a period of one (1) month at the applicant's request.

Motion to hold carried unanimously.

- iii. **CZ-2020-52:** Property of Andrew Bryan McGeachie and Michael Allen McGeachie, located on Parsons Road, requesting rezoning from R-S to R-15. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended denial.

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

**Action:** Councilor Ballard moved to hold the item for a period of one (1) month at the applicant's request.

Motion to hold carried unanimously.

- iv. **CZ-2020-57:** Property of Bishop of Charleston, located on Brushy Creek Road and Strange Road, requesting rezoning from R-10 to R-M7. 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.

Motion carried with Councilor Cates voting in opposition.

**Item (10) Ordinances – First Reading**

a. **Broadmoor Special Tax District / Uniform Service Fee Continuation**

Councilor Taylor presented for first reading an ordinance to provide for the uniform service fee to be charged in the Broadmoor Special Tax District.

Chairman Kirven stated the item would remain on the floor.

**Item (11) Committee Reports**

a. Committee of the Whole

i. **Board and Commission Appointments**

**Action:** On behalf of the Committee, Vice-Chairman Meadows moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation the following:

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| Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee.....    | B.J. Koonce and Brian Crowne   |
| Historic Preservation Commission.....         | Angela Clark, Alexander Evans, Anne Peden, Derenda Ropp and Jason Smit |
| Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict.....           | Caleb Freeman and Evan Ruggiero  |
| Museum Commission.....                        | Julie Garrett and Mary Johnson   |
| Ashwicke Tax District Commission.....         | David Cook and Andrew Floyd  |
| Chanticleer Community Commission.....         | Hunter Murphy and Peter Schwartz                                       |
| Devenger Pointe Special Tax District.....     | Michael Ballenger, Peggy Ballenger and Brad Toulson                    |
| Donaldson Fire Service Area.....              | Phil Misklow   |
| Old Mill Estates Tax District.....            | David Dalby  |
| Sterling Community Special Tax District.....  | Vicky Ashley   |
| Terra Pines Estates Special Tax District..... | Jerrald Dempsey and Bob Hollis   |

Motion carried unanimously.

**Action:** On behalf of the Committee, Vice-Chairman Meadows moved to forward the following board applicants to a ballot vote on October 20, 2020.

Airport Commission..... Stanley Mays and Ronald Tamaccio

Greater Greenville Sanitation Board..... David Armstrong and Amanda Cass

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (12) Administrator’s Report**

Mr. Kernell stated paving on the original portion of the Swamp Rabbit Trail had begun; all preparation and paving work would be completed in-house by staff. In total, more than eight (8) miles of the trail, between Willard Street and Downtown Travelers Rest, was to be completely resurfaced. Work began on September 30; crews prepared the trail from Willard Street up to near the Swamp Rabbit Café. They were currently working on the section from Hampton Avenue to Cedar Lane Road. Crews worked Monday – Thursday; project was expected to last through the end of the calendar year. Paving was being done in sections, so as not to close the entire trail; however, areas under construction were closed. Over 1500 trail users had signed up for text notifications regarding trail closures; the status of the trail was constantly updated on the County’s social media accounts.

Renovation to the Pavilion had been completed; staff was preparing to move back in on October 28. Before it opened to the public, Council Members were invited to get a “sneak peek” of all the renovations at an Open House to be held on Tuesday, October 27. More information would be provided.

County staff was working diligently regarding the CARES Act money. They were working with GCRA and United Way in regards to the Utility Assistance Program, which was part of the original program. With people being laid off from their jobs, utility assistance had become a big issue. Approximately 8500 accounts were currently past due in Greenville County; Duke Energy was slated to resume disconnections in the near future. It was unknown what percentage of those account owners would be eligible for assistance based on income and COVID-19 related issues.

Chairman Kirven requested Mr. Kernell review the areas to be paved on the Swamp Rabbit Trail.

Mr. Kernell stated in addition to the original portion of the trail, plans were being made regarding a bridge crossing at Blue Ridge Highway, which was a high traffic area for the trail. The portion of the trail from Travelers Rest onward was in much better condition and not in need of repaving at this time.

Councilor Seman stated she appreciated staff’s willingness to be creative in regards to the CARES Act money. She inquired about proposals for housing and health-related issues.

Mr. Kernell stated a group of area non-profit organizations submitted a proposal for assistance with housing, specifically rent and mortgage payments; staff was working through GCRA to determine if the assistance could be granted. Initially, John Castile had indicated possible problems getting funds disbursed by the end of the year. GCRA had received additional funds with no end of the year disbursement stipulation; staff was to determine if it was practical to access additional funds.

Councilor Ballard inquired about the money being used to repave the Swamp Rabbit Trail.

Mr. Kernell stated the County sold a piece of property located in downtown Greenville that was purchased years ago; the parcel was sold for a significant amount of money (\$4.2 million). As part of the sale ordinance, part of the money was to be used for the Swamp Rabbit Trail. The extension along Laurens Road would also be funded from the sale of the property.

Councilor Barnes asked about the final date for disbursement of funds for the CARES Act as well as how much was still left to be appropriated.

Mr. Kernell stated the final date for disbursement was December 30, 2020. As of October 2, there was approximately \$60 million that had not been used; it was estimated that approximately \$30 million would remain unappropriated by the deadline.

Councilor Roberts asked if the County would lose the unappropriated funds by the deadline.

Mr. Kernell stated the original legislation mandated that any money remaining after the deadline was to be sent back to the U.S. Treasury. If passed, proposed legislation actually extended the deadline; there was a good possibility the money would not have to be disbursed by the original deadline. Mr. Kernell stated the proposed legislation could also change the guidelines; staff was diligent in adhering to the current guidelines for allocation. The money could not be disbursed to non-profits or other agencies that had suffered a loss of revenue. At the end of the day, Greenville County was responsible to ensure the money was spent properly; if not, the money would have to be paid back.

Councilor Roberts stated many small businesses had lost revenue to the pandemic; it was hard to explain to business owners. He asked if the money could be used for free COVID-19 testing.

Mr. Kernell stated there had been no recent requests to utilize the money for testing; it was available for such. Earlier, Prisma Health had requested and received funds for testing. DHEC was using the Halton Road property for a testing site.

**Item (13) Requests and Motions by Council Members**

- Chairman Kirven announced the second County Council Citizen Comment Session to be held Wednesday, October 14 at 4:00 p.m. Citizens should limit their comments to issues over which Council had some jurisdiction or authority.
- Councilor Ballard asked everyone to keep Chief Steve Graham and his family in their prayers; his son unexpectedly passed away recently.
- Councilor Seman stated the county was very fortunate to have received money from the CARES Act to help the citizens of Greenville County who were in need. The local non-profits directly supported those in need; those agencies were on the front line talking to people, fielding calls and trying to help. She appreciated the County's willingness to work with them. The economic and physical health of the community was interlinked; it was important to get people back to work, children back to school, give companies and people the ability to be philanthropic as well as help small businesses and non-profits realize lost revenue. The County needed tourism in order to fill up the coffers to be able to give out hospitality tax money and accommodations tax money; it had to be done in the safest way possible. The pandemic was frustrating for everyone. Every Council Member had constituents who had been touched by it; she hoped they could all continue to work together to find solutions.
- Councilor Norris stated that she, along with Councilor Fant, had recently worked with two Council Members from the City of Greenville, registering people to vote. It was very successful and she was pleased with the turnout.
- Councilor Taylor stated he welcomed his 8th great-grandchild on September 28. The baby's four-year old siblings were very disappointed that he could not walk or talk.

- Councilor Roberts stated addiction and domestic violence continued to skyrocket in Greenville County; assisting those agencies involved in treating those issues would be greatly appreciated.
- Councilor Cates apologized to Dr. Fant, and all of his colleagues, for his earlier remarks.
- Vice-Chairman Meadows stated he was glad a second County Council Citizen Comment Session had been scheduled in order for citizens to address Council. The first session was very successful.

Mr. Meadows reminded his colleagues that the budget process would start in January.

- Councilor Dill stated he agreed with Ms. Seman and Mr. Roberts. There were many people hurting; power bills were high, homelessness was increasing along with other issues. He was very concerned about the number of new homeless people.

Mr. Dill asked how much money Council had voted to spend since the pandemic started in March.

Mr. Kernell stated Council had not voted on any budget to spend any money since March.

- Councilor Cates wished Mr. Dill and Dr. Taylor a Happy Birthday.

**Item (14) Adjournment**

**Action:** Councilor Cates moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Regina G. McCaskill  
Clerk to Council