



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Committee of the Whole

Minutes

March 1, 2022

4:03 p.m.

County Square - Council Chambers

Council Members

Mr. Willis Meadows, *Chairman, District 19*

Mr. Dan Tripp, *Vice-Chairman, District 28*

Mrs. Xanthene Norris, *Chairman Pro Tem, District 23*

Mr. Joe Dill, *District 17*

Mr. Mike Barnes, *District 18*

Mr. Stephen Shaw, *District 20*

Mr. Chris Harrison, *District 21*

Mr. Stan Tzouvelekas, *District 22*

Mrs. Liz Seman, *District 24*

Mr. Ennis Fant, Sr., *District 25*

Mr. Lynn Ballard, *District 26*

Mr. Butch Kirven, *District 27*

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*

Regina McCaskill, *Clerk to Council*

Jessica Stone, *Deputy Clerk to Council*

Pam Gilliam, *Administrative Assistant, County Council Office*

Nicole Wood, *Assistant County Administrator*

Meredith Papapieris, *Director of Grants and Special Projects*

Others Present

None

Call to Order

Chairman Willis Meadows

Invocation

Councilor Joe Dill

Item (3)

Approval of Minutes

Action:

Councilor Dill moved to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2021, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

Item (4)

Appalachian Council of Governments Presentation

Presented by: Steve Pelissier, Executive Director
Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG)

Mr. Pelissier thanked Mr. Meadows, Mr. Kirven, Mr. Dill and Mr. Fant for serving on the Appalachian Council of Governments Board of Directors. Councilor Dill was currently the Chair for the Regional Aging Advisory Committee, the largest program operated by ACOG.

Mr. Pelissier stated a good measure of performance was a return on investment. Last year, Greenville County invested \$180,306; in return, more than \$10 million was provided to the County’s citizens. For every \$1 invested by the County, there was a return on investment of \$55. Approximately \$2.5 million was utilized for aging funds. The purpose of the aging program was to help people remain in their homes. People thrive in their homes; they like being able to stay in their community with family and friends as opposed to living in an institution. From a taxpayer prospective, assisting with transportation, medication, meals, medical equipment, etc. was a “win for everybody.” A total of 80,000 meals were provided, \$378,000 for respite care support and 158 senior citizens received in-home services.

For ACOG’s Small Business and Entrepreneurial Revolving Loan Program, \$2.3 million was provided. The program was important for economic development. Many similar programs target big investors with a large number of employees, despite the fact that so much of current job creation was “the little person.”

Grant Services was one of ACOG’s most popular. Monies were used to help people find and secure funding to take advantage of opportunities or overcome challenges. There were several ongoing projects in Greenville County. The Appalachian Regional Commission was working on several projects in Greenville County; a \$350,000 grant project for the Poe Mill Revitalization Project, a \$500,000 grant project for infrastructure at SCTAC and another \$500,000 for the Simpsonville Art Center.

ACOG administered the Rural Transportation Improvement Program; Councilor Kirven was the Council representative for that committee. Mr. Pelissier stated ACOG assisted the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) in the long-range planning of rural transportation improvements including highway infrastructure, public transit, planning studies, and other needs as appropriate. There were currently no system improvement projects in place; the last one was the safety project for the interchange at Highway 11 and US 25.

Other services, such as benefits counseling and Medicare counseling, were provided for senior citizens. Staff was able to explain Medicare and senior health insurance to people in an objective way, with no commissions involved for staff. ACOG staff also assists with reconciling issues with Medicare. They recently assisted an individual obtain a motorized wheelchair. Medicare had refused to pay and the person had been trying for three (3) months to obtain assistance. Five days after ACOG became involved, a wheelchair was delivered.

The InfoMentum Program was ACOG’s flagship economic development program. GADC, Upstate Alliance and the other five county economic development organizations utilized the system. Technical assistance such as board training, hiring and budgeting was provided to several of the fire districts and municipalities across Greenville County. ACOG also provided state-mandated Planning Commission / Board of Zoning Appeals training.

ACOG was working with the three (3) MPO’s, including GPATS, to administer an Upstate Transportation Model. In the past, the modeling was all done on a jurisdictional basis. The regional model was more accurate.

Mr. Pelissier thanked Council for the opportunity to speak.

Item (5)

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission / Interviews and Nominations (4 vacancies)

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

1. Ernest Hamilton - District 22
2. Martine Helou - District 28
3. Veeral Oza - District 26
4. Herman Roberts - District 25
5. Theresa Thompson - District 27
6. Hubert Yarborough - District 24

Action: By ballot vote, **Ernest Hamilton, Martine Helou, Veeral Oza and Theresa Thompson** were elected to fill four (4) vacancies on the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (6) **Historic and Natural Resources Trust / Interviews and Nominations** (1 vacancy)

1. Nannette latesta - District 18

By acclamation, **Nannette latesta** was elected to fill one (1) vacancy on the Historic and Natural Resources Trust.

Item (7) **Planning Commission / Interviews and Nominations** (3 vacancies)

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

1. John Bailey - District 21
2. Jim Barbare - District 17
3. Natalie Crews - District 23
4. Oliver Duty - District 20
5. Ellis Forest - District 22
6. Alester Gregory - District 27
7. Marcus Griffis - District 26
8. JeVarus Howard - District 19
9. Richard Matthews - District 20
10. James Moore - District 26
11. Sean Rusnak - District 24
12. Barry Strohl - District 17
13. David Thomas - District 19
14. Martha White - District 19

Action: By ballot vote, **John Bailey, Jim Barbare and JeVarus Howard** were elected to fill three (3) vacancies on the Planning Commission.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (8) **Adjournment**

Action: Councilor Dill moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina G. McCaskill
Clerk to Council