



## GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Minutes

Regular Meeting  
April 7, 2020  
2:00 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. Xanthene 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 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*  
**John Hansley**, *Deputy County Administrator*  
**Regina McCaskill**, *Clerk to Council*  
**Jessica Stone**, *Deputy Clerk to Council*  
**Paula Gucker**, *Assistant County Administrator, Public Works*  
**Bob Mihalic**, *Governmental Relations Officer*  
**Shannon Herman**, *Assistant County Administrator*  
**Nicole Wood**, *Assistant County Administrator*

#### **Others Present**

None

Chairman Kirven welcomed everyone to the meeting. The last regular County Council meeting was held on March 3, 2020; the meeting scheduled for March 17, 2020, was cancelled due to COVID-19. He stated that Greenville County was in the process of preparing future Council and Committee meetings to be viewed via livestream at [www.greenvillegov.org](http://www.greenvillegov.org).

**Call to Order**

Chairman Kirven

**Invocation**

Councilor Sid Cates

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Item (4)      Approval of Minutes**

**Action:** Councilor Norris moved to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2020 Regular Council Meeting, the March 11, 2020, Special Called Meeting and the April 2, 2020 Special Called Remote Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (5)      Public Hearings**

- a. **Property Transfer to Greenville Transit Authority (GTA) - Cancelled**

**Item (6)      Consent Agenda**

- a. **Request for Extension to File Agricultural Special Assessment** *(Finance)*
- b. **Community Project Application / Greenlink (GTA) - Bus Stop Lighting \$5,000.00** *(Finance)*
- c. **Community Project Application Woods Road Sidewalk \$14,000.00** *(Finance)*

**Action:** Councilor Seman moved approval of the Consent Agenda items.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (7)      Resolutions**

- a. **Project Gill / 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 Gill, whereby, under certain conditions, Greenville County would execute a fee in lieu of tax agreement with respect to a Project in the County whereby the Project would be subject to payment of certain fees in lieu of taxes and providing for related matters.

Motion carried unanimously.

- b. **Project Spear / 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 Spear, whereby, under certain conditions, Greenville County will execute a fee in lieu of tax agreement with respect to a Project in the County whereby the Project would be subject to payment of certain fees in lieu of taxes, and providing for related matters.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

**a.    Zoning Ordinances**

- i.      **CZ-2019-83:**    Property of William C. Johnson, located at 2956 New Easley Highway, requesting rezoning from C-2 to S-1.

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

Councilor Fant stated the request was previously held; the residents in Riverdale had planned to attend the March 17 meeting but had decided not to attend due to COVID-19. Staff had recommended denial of the request along with the Planning Commission and the Planning and Development Committee. Mr. Fant requested denial of the request.

Councilor Taylor asked if a different zoning category had been suggested to the applicant.

Councilor Cates stated he had spoken to the applicant earlier in the day. The owner had indicated he simply wanted a decision, one way or another.

Councilor Norris stated she was also in agreement with denial of the request.

Motion was denied by a roll call vote of one (Cates) in favor and eleven (Dill, Barnes, Meadows, Roberts, Taylor, Norris, Seman, Fant, Ballard, Kirven and Tripp) in opposition.

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

**a.    Zoning Ordinances**

- i.      **CZ-2020-12:**    Property of KVP Five Forks, LLC, located at 2615 Woodruff Road, requesting rezoning from S-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.

Councilor Roberts stated the C-2 zoning category was necessary due to changes that were needed in order to accommodate restaurant parking. He had received positive feedback from the community and was in support of the project.

Motion carried unanimously.

- ii.     **CZ-2020-13:**    Property of New Generation Daycare and Learning Center LLC, located at 110 Old Grove Road, requesting rezoning from R-12 to FRD. The Planning Commission 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 conditions outlined in the February 7, 2020, staff letter to the applicant that was published with the agenda packet.

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

**Action:**            Councilor Dill moved approval of the ordinance as amended.

Councilor Seman stated the property was located in her district and she was in favor of the request. The applicant was in agreement with the conditions.

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

**b. Greenville / Anderson Multi County Industrial Business Park Agreement Amendment – Vermeer Corporation**

**Action:** Councilor Seman 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.

**c. Property Transfer to Greenville Transit Authority (GTA)**

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Meadows moved for approval at second reading ordinance to authorize the donation of County-owned land consisting of approximately 26.58 +/- acres, with a site address of 205 Arcadia Drive, Greenville, South Carolina, 29609, to the Greenville Transit Authority, and to authorize the execution of deeds and any other appropriate documents and agreements related thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

**a. Zoning Ordinances**

Councilor Dill presented for first reading Zoning Dockets CZ-2020-14 through CZ-2020-17 and CZ-2020-19 through CZ-2020-22.

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

**b. Recreation System Revenue Bonds / Series 2015A and 2015B**

Councilor Seman presented for first reading a resolution providing for the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$7,010,000 Greenville County, South Carolina, Recreation System Revenue Refunding and/or Improvement Bonds, in one or more series, for the expenditure of the proceeds thereof, for the payment of said bonds, and other matters relating thereto.

Chairman Kirven stated the item would remain on the floor.

**c. Project Spear / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement Amendment**

Councilor Seman presented for first 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 Spear with respect to certain economic development property in the County, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto.

Chairman Kirven stated the item would remain on the floor.

**Item (11)****Comments by Council Members**

- Chairman Kirven stated staff was working on making arrangements to have public hearings and committee meetings via livestream. The next Council meeting scheduled for April 21, 2020, would be held at 4:00 p.m.
- Councilor Taylor commended the IT staff for all their hard work.
- Councilor Tripp thanked Joe Kernell, Regina McCaskill, Paula Gucker and all the staff members who were “keeping the County running.” He commended his Council colleagues for not over-reacting to the COVID 19 situation. While it was a serious situation, it caused more harm than good to prohibit people from leaving their homes for certain activities. He thanked Council for taking a safe but cautious route of protecting people’s liberties while protecting their health.
- Councilor Cates stated that staying at home had benefitted his relationship with his wife even though they had been married for almost 50 years; they were actually engaging in more conversations. Dr. Cates stated he took comfort on Psalm 91 to get through the tough times ahead.
- Chairman Kirven stated he appreciated daily updates from staff. It appeared that the next two weeks would be critical; everyone needed to continue safe practices and look to the future.
- Councilor Dill stated he was working with staff in regards to the Zoning Public Hearings; Council would be notified of upcoming dates for the hearings. Mr. Dill thanked Regina McCaskill and Paula Gucker for working on the issue; it was not an easy task.
- Councilor Fant thanked Joe Kernell, Regina McCaskill and Paula Gucker as well as staff for a job well done and for keeping things running smoothly.
- Councilor Norris stated Phillis Wheatley had been completed except for the kitchen as agreed upon. Councilor Roberts had pledged \$16,000 from his Community Projects account for the kitchen but more was needed. She suggested a conference with the City of Greenville in order to get the project completed.
- Vice-Chairman Meadows stated he was encouraged by the COVID 19 statistics supplied by Joe Kernell. It appeared that Greenville County had “peaked” 3-4 days ago in “new cases.”
- Councilor Ballard joined his colleagues in thanking Joe Kernell and staff members for their continued work and support. He thanked Sheriff Lewis and all the members of the Sheriff’s Office, Dr. Blackwell and the EMS staff as well as all the fire departments; they were on the front lines putting themselves in harm’s way every day. Mr. Ballard asked if there had been any consideration for Council Members actually attending the public hearings at County Square and livestreaming the meetings for the public.
- Councilor Dill stated that proposal had not been discussed.
- Chairman Kirven stated it might not be appropriate right now, but the idea was on the list for future consideration. He commended his colleagues for their positive approach to dealing with COVID 19.
- Councilor Roberts commended Jay Merritt and the staff at the Emergency Operations Center for all of their hard work. He also thanked the First Responders for dealing with such difficult times. From a public safety standpoint, everyone was doing a fantastic job. Some of the local food banks were unable to obtain items through normal routes; many citizens had stepped up to help. The blood banks were also in need of donors. Mr. Roberts encouraged everyone to support those organizations that helped take care of the needy.

- Councilor Cates stated he had spoken to Mr. Carr at Columbia Farms; they were working with Miracle Hill to supply them with chicken.
- Councilor Roberts stated U.S. Waffle, Tyson and many local restaurants had donated food; many other organizations had also stepped up.
- Councilor Dill stated he was working with Bob Mihalic, the Appalachian Council of Governments and Greenville County Schools to obtain toilet paper for senior citizens across the county. Mr. Dill stated he was still working with the County Attorney's office regarding a moratorium on "tiny houses."

**Item (12) Adjournment**

Councilor Dill moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina G. McCaskill  
Clerk to Council