



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL Minutes

Regular Meeting
June 2, 2020
4:00 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 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*
John Hansley, *Deputy County Administrator*
Regina McCaskill, *Clerk to Council*
Jessica Stone, *Deputy Clerk to Council*
Paula Gucker, *Assistant County Administrator, Public Works*
Shannon Herman, *Assistant County Administrator*
Nicole Wood, *Assistant County Administrator*

Others Present

None

Call to Order

Chairman Kirven

Invocation

Councilor Xanthene Norris

Pledge of Allegiance

Item (4) Approval of Minutes

Action: Councilor Taylor moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2020, Regular Council Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (5) Public Hearings

a. Mauldin Fire Service Area Project / General Obligation Bond 2020

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$3,500,000 Greenville County, South Carolina, General Obligation Bonds (Mauldin Fire Service Area Project), Series 2020; to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds shall be expended; to provide for the payment thereof; and other matters relating thereto.

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

b. Mauldin Fire Service Area / Millage Request

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance to provide for the millage rate to be levied by the Mauldin Fire Service Area consistent with the state law limits for operations and maintenance as well as for the maintenance of a Capital Improvement Plan.

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

Item (6) Appearances - Current Agenda Items

- Audrey Pasin, 136 Old Altamont Ridge Rd Greenville – appeared regarding the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission

Item (7) Emergency Ordinance

a. Greenville County Council / Operating Rules Suspension

Action: Vice-Chairman Meadows moved for approval an ordinance to maintain a temporary suspension of the regular operating rules of County Council meetings to provide for County Council and other County related meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vice-Chairman Meadows stated the proposed ordinance indicated an expiration date on the sixty-first day following the effective date which would fall after the July Council meeting and prior to the meeting scheduled for August; this could potentially affect some of the committee meetings. Mr. Meadows stated if the proposed expiration date was changed to the fiftieth day following the effective date, the ordinance would expire on July 21. Council was scheduled to meet on July 21 and could extend the ordinance, if needed.

Action: Vice-Chairman Meadows moved to amend the ordinance to reflect expiration on the fiftieth day following the effective date.

Councilor Tripp stated he was struggling with the proposed ordinance. Looking across state and local agencies, there was an insidious belief that market forces should not drive the conduct of government. Council Members represented the taxpayers of Greenville County; to extend closure practices and not help reopen the state, fed the fear as well as the notion that Council was above people and too good for them. He wondered how long was long enough. Mr. Tripp inquired about Council's ability to hold in-person meetings in Chambers given the fact that playgrounds could be opened for children. He inquired how long Council anticipated the County being under emergency rules.

Chairman Kirven stated Council should have the answer sometime around the middle of July. At that point, state and/or federal requirements should be known as well as how those requirements would affect the

County's facilities; it was his belief the situation was in its "final stages." If the proposed ordinance was not approved, the County would revert back to standard operations immediately; he felt that was not the wise thing to do. Approval of the ordinance would provide the flexibility for the County to return to its "regular routine" at any time it was considered reasonable.

Councilor Tripp inquired about the Governor's Emergency Orders that the County was currently under as they related to social distancing; he asked if the phrase "social distancing" was a social term or a legal term. Mr. Tripp asked if there were any other ramifications of the Governor's Emergency Orders that the County was under, as a body.

Mark Tollison stated the Governor had issued an Executive Order on the preceding Friday which extended the existing orders; the state was still adhering to CDC guidelines. The County's existing ordinance which allowed for remote meetings expired effective June 3; passage of the proposed ordinance, in some form, was necessary if Council wished to continue to meet remotely. The County was still under the Governor's orders and recommendations, relative to social distancing; the County was trying to comply with those orders and recommendations. Mr. Tollison stated he hoped more would be known shortly; he had been in conversation with Mr. Kernell, and other staff members, as to what it would take to facilitate an in-person Council meeting.

Councilor Dill stated he had been reviewing the information regarding COVID-19 in Greenville County; there had been a tremendous growth in the past few days. He would like for Council to meet in-person as well as allow the public the opportunity to attend meetings; however, he would hate to be the one to spread the virus. He knew people who had the virus but only found out after they took the test. Mr. Dill felt it was important to continue remote meetings; Council could start in-person meetings when the numbers began to decrease.

Councilor Seman stated part of Council's role was the health of the community, both physically and economically. It was also Council's role to be responsible, set the tone and set an example. She had no problem extending the ability to meet remotely, in the short term. The numbers did not look good and would continue to not look good; however, things could not stay closed forever. The community was looking to Council for leadership, inspiration and continued work. Council had to think about being together and continuing social distancing; whether it was law or not, it was the County's responsibility to continue to follow the Governor's recommendations and emergency orders. A blend of in-person and online meetings would be best. Greenville County was the largest county in the state; it should have the ability to conduct blended meetings where the public could watch and participate from the safety of their own homes. Council's attendance could also be "blended"; some could meet in-person and others could attend the meetings remotely. It would require everyone to get creative and not conduct "business as usual."

Chairman Kirven stated Greenville County had not exceeded the Governor's orders. Unlike some other local jurisdictions, the County had not shut down any businesses or closed any offices. Greenville County supported reviving the economy; the proposed ordinance only applied to Council's internal rules and not any other businesses or private operations.

Councilor Dill stated during public meetings, anyone could attend. Until there was some change, he did not want to be responsible for bringing people together and possibly spreading the virus.

Councilor Fant stated that as a chemical engineer, he followed science and not political expedience. He would love to resume in-person meetings; however, with leadership comes responsibility. To rush back to Chambers looked somewhat irresponsible and a failure to show adequate leadership, while the numbers were escalating precipitously. The majority of Council Members were in the age group of those individuals who were highly susceptible to the virus; he was especially concerned about Councilor Norris, given the fact she was 91 years old. While he was not fond of virtual meetings, it would show poor leadership to resume in-person meetings now. He would like to wait until the end of July to reassess the situation.

Councilor Barnes stated he was in favor of continuing social distancing. With the recent riots, there was speculation that the numbers of infected persons would rise. Mr. Barnes stated there was no problem waiting another month or so.

Action: Vice-Chairman Meadows restated the motion to amend the ordinance to reflect expiration on the fiftieth day following the effective date.

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

Action: Vice-Chairman Meadows moved for approval of the ordinance as amended.

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

Item (8) Ordinances – Third Reading

a. Zoning Ordinances

- i. **CZ-2020-14:** Property of Raymond P. and Sue S. Clement, located at 125 Oak Place, requesting rezoning from R-S to I-1.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- ii. **CZ-2020-15:** Property of Raymond P. and Sue S. Clement, located at 559 E. Suber Road, requesting rezoning from I-1 to R-S.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- iii. **CZ-2020-17:** Property of Furman Square, LLC, located at 5205 Old Buncombe Road, requesting rezoning from C-2 to S-1.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- iv. **CZ-2020-20:** Property of Homes of Hope, Inc., located at 200 Honour Street, requesting rezoning from R-M20 to FRD as amended.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- v. **CZ-2020-21:** Property of RFJ, LLC, Bell Industrial Park, LLC, Rose Water Investments, LLC, and Jack Foster, located on Henry Street and McKoy Street, requesting rezoning from I-1 to FRD as amended.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- vi. **CZ-2020-22:** Property of Martha Diane Hubbard and Rebecca Lynn White, located at 846 and 900 Fairview Road, requesting rezoning from R-S to R-10.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- vii. **CZ-2020-24:** Property of Dorothy Lila Moore, located at 309 Worley Road, requesting rezoning from R-12 to R-6.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- viii. **CZ-2020-25:** Property of Thomas M. Gilstrap Revocable Trust, located at 3518 Old Buncombe Road, requesting rezoning from I-1 and R-10 to C-3.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- ix. **CZ-2020-27:** Property of Ambria Properties, LLC, located on Piedmont Golf Course Road, requesting rezoning from R-S to R-M20.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- x. **CZ-2020-29:** Property of Gray Development and Construction, located on Green Avenue and Parris Avenue, requesting rezoning from R-7.5 to R-FRD as amended.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- xi. **CZ-2020-30:** Property of Gray Development and Construction, located on Parris Avenue and Tremont Avenue, requesting rezoning from R-7.5 to R-FRD as amended.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- xii. **CZ-2020-31:** Property of Gray Development and Construction, located on Beacon Street and Orr Street, requesting rezoning from NC to NC-MC as amended.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Mauldin Fire Service Area Project / General Obligation Bond 2020

Action: Councilor Taylor moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$3,500,000 Greenville County, South Carolina, general obligation bonds (Mauldin Fire Service Area Project), Series 2020; to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds shall be expended; to provide for the payment thereof; and other matters relating thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

c. Mauldin Fire Service Area / Millage Request

Action: Councilor Taylor moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance to provide for the millage rate to be levied by the Mauldin Fire Service Area consistent with the state law limits for operations and maintenance as well as for the maintenance of a Capital Improvement Plan.

Councilor Taylor commended the Mauldin Fire Service Area for submitting an excellent package of information for its millage request.

Motion carried unanimously.

d. Postponement of 2020 County-Wide Reassessment

Action: Councilor Taylor moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance to postpone for one property tax year, the implementation of reviewed values resulting from the Countywide Appraisal and Equalization Program provided pursuant to S.C. Code Annotated Section 12-43-217, as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

e. Project San Diego / 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 presently identified by the county as Project San Diego 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.

Action: Councilor Taylor moved to hold the item until a public hearing could be scheduled.

Motion to hold carried unanimously.

Item (9) Ordinances – Second Reading

a. Zoning Ordinances

- i. CZ-2020-10:** Property of Ryan Foster, located at 2702, 2704, 2500 and 2400 Pelham Road, requesting rezoning from FRD to FRD Major Change. The Planning Commission recommended approval with conditions and the 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. During committee, he voted in opposition to the plan presented by the developer. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the developer indicated they would like to present another plan with less density.

Action: Councilor Roberts moved to hold the item.

Motion to hold carried unanimously.

- ii. CZ-2020-32:** Property of TBR Greenville Lofts Property, located at 201 Smythe Street, requesting rezoning from PD to PD-MC with the conditions approved at the May 19th Council meeting. 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, as amended. Vice-Chairman Meadows stated the group had met with the owners and had made quite a bit of progress working things out.

Action: Vice-Chairman Meadows moved to allow amendments at third reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Dill moved approval of the ordinance as amended.

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

b. Greenville County Library System – FY21 Budget

Action: Councilor Taylor moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to approve the appropriation of funds for the Greenville County Library System for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021; and to authorize the annual Ad Valorem property tax millage levy for library purposes.

Chairman Kirven stated it was his understanding there was no millage increase.

Councilor Taylor confirmed Mr. Kirven's statement.

Councilor Tripp inquired about a plan to reopen the libraries.

Joe Kernell stated the main library reopened June 1 for curbside pick-up / drop-off of books; the other branches were scheduled to reopen soon.

Councilor Tripp asked if any of the employees had been furloughed.

Mr. Kernell stated the employees of the libraries were not considered "county employees". He added that Greenville County had not furloughed any employees.

Councilor Tripp stated small businesses, across the state and the country, had been devastated by the COVID 19 pandemic; he wanted to see government deal with the same issues that small businesses have faced. Government entities were no different than businesses; they had limited funds. If small businesses had to "tighten their belts" and suffer through, government should do the same.

Councilor Roberts stated he agreed with most of Mr. Tripp's comment. He asked about the County's oversight of the Library System.

Mark Tollison stated it would be best for Beverly James to address Council's questions regarding the Library System's operations. By Home Rule, when County government was established under the present format in the 1970's, a Library Board of Trustees was created in each county to operate the libraries. County Council had the authority to set millage as well as review capacity over the budget; the day-to-day operations of the libraries were left to the Board of Trustees and the Executive Director.

Councilor Tripp stated he was not trying to "monkey" with any entity's operating system. Council had the right to ask questions about the Library System's operations and funding, given the fact they were voting on the proposed budget. Mr. Tripp stated that was the purpose of his questions. If there was ever a time to ask questions or have a leverage point over an independent agency, it was now.

Chairman Kirven stated he agreed; however, there was no one present qualified to answer questions regarding the Library System's budget. It may be best to have Beverly James and some of the board member's to address Council.

Councilor Dill recommended direct contact with either Beverly James or members of the Library Board of Trustees to discuss the reopening of the libraries; he planned to do so as he had some concerns. Mr. Dill stated he had a good relationship with all of them; he would not hesitate to contact them with questions or concerns. Mr. Dill felt it would not be a good idea to have Beverly James attend a Council meeting to ask her questions about the operations of the library. He had received some phone calls and e-mails from some of his constituents with concerns about the libraries.

Councilor Seman stated she had discussed staffing with Ms. James during a Finance Committee meeting; most staff members were part-time employees. A savings in the budget should be apparent when actual expenditures were submitted by Ms. James.

Motion as presented carried unanimously.

c. Project Goal Line / 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 known to the County at this time as Project Goal Line 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.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (10) Committee Reports

a. Committee on Planning and Development

i. Initiate Text Amendment / Amendment to Section 6:2 – Condition 28

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved to initiate a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to Section 6:2 – Condition 28.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ii. Initiate Text Amendment / Amendment to Section 7:2.4 and 7:2.5
Open Space Residential Development, Option 1 and Option 2**

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved to initiate a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to Sections 7:2.4 and 7:2.5 – Open Space Residential Development, Option 1 and Option 2.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (11) Administrator's Report

Joe Kernell stated he wanted to update Council on two issues.

Mr. Kernell provided an update on construction of the new county building. Construction fencing was currently being installed; the parking lot was being reconfigured in order to accommodate both public parking and employee parking. Various state and county vehicles were being moved to the far reaches of the parking lot; parking in the back of the building was being gated off for employees only. There should be plenty of parking for the public in the front of the building, with the exception of special events which would be an issue while construction was going on. Mr. Kernell stated the heavy equipment would be moved in on June 15; footings and walls were the next step.

The County was in the process of getting the CARES Act Program finalized to be submitted to Council for review. Mr. Kernell stated it had been a daunting task; staff tried to utilize resources from throughout the country and other counties that also received funds from the program. The process was new to everyone; staff received information from other recipients. The proposed plan would be ready for submittal very soon to Council and implementation would then follow.

Councilor Seman asked if someone had been hired to manage the funds.

Mr. Kernell stated no one had been hired at this point; however, there were plans to do so in order to have someone in-house. It depended on what was meant by "manage"; the task would be divided up among several individuals. There were already systems in place to manage any funds coming through the County. Mr. Kernell stated there were plans to have someone identified to administer the technical issues and record-keeping; funds from the CARES Act would pay the salary.

Councilor Seman stated that "word on the street" was someone had already been hired for the position; the individual had been "very vocal" about the fact. Ms. Seman stated the position was related to the funds; would the position be temporary until the funds were depleted or would the individual then become a "regular" employee.

Mr. Kernell stated the county had FTE positions available; the individual hired would also write and administer grants. He and Councilor Roberts had discussed the possibility of hiring someone specifically for grant writing; the County was now in a position to do so. Mr. Kernell stated he anticipated the position continuing after the funds were depleted.

Chairman Kirven stated he had received a number of calls regarding disbursement of the money; he suggested getting Council involved as soon as possible.

Mr. Kernell stated he agreed and that was why Council had been invited to give input on disbursement of the money.

Councilor Tripp stated he also been contacted regarding the money; people wanted Council to vote to spend the money certain ways as opposed to others. He felt the public was getting levels of details about programs that Council was unaware of; this made Council Members look "foolish" when having conversations about the money with their constituents. It would be helpful to get details about the issue "posthaste."

Councilor Cates inquired about the timeline, "starting time and deadline", regarding disbursement of the money.

Mr. Kernell stated the "starting time" was when the County received the money the first part of May. The funds had to be committed by the end of 2020; nothing had been spent to date. Staff was in the process of identifying the various "pots of money"; there were a number of organizations that had talked to other groups throughout the country regarding how they had spent the money.

Councilor Cates if any other groups in the County had received CARES Act money.

Mr. Kernell stated Greenville County was the only entity, in addition to the State of South Carolina, that had received funds. No one knew what they were doing; however, things were starting to come together across the country. Projects and programs were being identified as possible recipients; there was a difference of opinion regarding what the money could be used for. Staff had been researching that aspect to ensure the County did not "get off the straight and narrow" regarding Federal funds.

Councilor Ballard stated SHARE had received a significant amount of money to be used for Head Start; there were other organizations throughout the County that had also received funding. He was not sure if GCRA or United Way had received any money.

Chairman Kirven stated GCRA received money directly from HUD.

Councilor Ballard stated he received at least 2 – 3 inquiries a week regarding what Council was doing with the money and when it would be disbursed. He suggested a meeting, in the very near future, with the County Administrator to discuss the issue in order to be able to give correct information. Several non-profits organizations had contacted him about possibly receiving assistance.

Councilor Dill stated he wanted to clarify what had been said. He inquired about the individual hired to manage the CARES Act money and wanted to know if the individual was currently working for the County.

Mr. Kernell stated the individual had not started working for the County. There was a position to be filled that would be involved with the administrative end of the disbursement; the person hired would not manage the program. Mr. Kernell stated that he would be managing the program; the person hired would assist record-keeping as part of the infrastructure needed in order to manage the program.

Councilor Dill stated he had received a number of people about the program; they told him that Councilor Ballard and Councilor Fant had been giving out information about the program. Mr. Dill inquired about which Council Members had been involved in plans for the program.

Mr. Kernell stated that no numerical values had been assigned to any part of the program. Staff was in the processing of formulating the guidelines, restrictions, permitted uses and other aspects. Mr. Kernell stated he had no idea where any numbers that had been shared with the public had come from.

Councilor Roberts stated he had also received a number of phone calls; he had been very open if he did not agree with a process. He had spoken to Chairman Kirven about his concerns and was instructed to speak with Joe Kernell. After talking with some State Legislators, Mr. Roberts had suggested an ad hoc committee to make sure the County was not “double dipping.”

Chairman Kirven stated he spoke with Representative Garry Smith, head of the Ways and Means Committee. They would be looking at the issue sometime in June.

Councilor Ballard stated he was sorry the individuals who had contacted Mr. Dill had misinterpreted the information given during his press conference along with Councilor Fant. The question was asked during the press conference about any meetings Council had been involved in regarding the \$91.5 million “Covid money.” Both gentlemen had indicated Council had not been involved in any meetings regarding the funds.

Item (12) Requests and Motions by Council Members

a. Alcohol and Drug Abuse Ballot Results / Motion to Recall from Committee

Action: Councilor Ballard moved to recall the nominees for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission from the Committee of the Whole in order for County Council to take up the appointments to the Board.

Councilor Tripp stated he had some concerns after hearing the speaker’s comments; he would now like to review the applicants’ information. Mr. Tripp asked about the urgency of the situation.

Chairman Kirven stated the item was actually procedural in nature. Council Members voted by ballot on the applicants prior to the meeting; taking up the item during the meeting avoided the necessity of having a Committee of the Whole meeting for one item. Mr. Kirven stated the ballots had been tabulated and the results were available.

Councilor Dill inquired about the need for an Executive Session to discuss the credibility of the information provided by the speaker, both during the meeting and via email.

Councilor Roberts felt Council Members should assess the information provided by the speaker as they would any other citizen addressing Council.

Chairman Kirven stated Council Members should vote based on the information they had received.

Motion as presented carried.

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Vice-Chairman Meadows moved to close nominations for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission and elect the following by acclamation: Jimmy Batson, Heather Currie, Cory Mitchell, Steve Sandlin and Laurel Shaler.

Councilor Tripp stated he objected to holding the vote by acclamation.

Action:

Councilor Tripp moved to hold the item in order to allow Council Members the opportunity to review the information provided by the speaker.

Chairman Kirven requested Mark Tollison clarify the situation as Council Members had already voted by ballot.

Mark Tollison stated he could not recall having a motion to hold during this stage in an election; he would need to research the situation and report back to Council. He asked Regina McCaskill to comment.

Regina McCaskill stated that in the time she had been in the Clerk's office, she could not recall there being a motion to hold after a ballot vote by Council had been taken.

Councilor Tripp stated he was not in favor of voting for any item by acclamation; as a matter of procedure, he felt Council should not have to do so. Although Council had voted on the item as a Committee of the Whole, the motion to hold it on the floor would be in order. This would allow time to review the information presented, given the fact that Council received it after they had voted. While the information may be "bunk"; he would like to review it prior to voting for some of the candidates who were caught up in the controversy. He stated personality conflicts arose on boards; he wondered if the reopening of the application period for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission stemmed from any conflicts. There were a number of questions that he would like to have answer to before voting.

Chairman Kirven stated he would have no problem deleting the phrase "by acclamation" and then voting on Mr. Meadows' motion; doing so may give a truer picture and would not violate any rules.

Mark Tollison stated he was fully aware of the reason for reopening the application period and it had nothing to do with the information Council received.

Councilor Dill stated he agreed with Regina McCaskill; he did not recall any board member ever addressing Council with complaints. He supported Councilor Tripp's motion; Council should stop and review the situation prior to proceeding.

Chairman Kirven stated he was trying to determine if there was a procedure within Council rules to deal with the situation.

Mark Tollison stated the motion on the floor to close nominations was open to an objection; the objection would effectively "freeze" the process and appeared more in order than a motion to hold. According to Mason's, once a motion to close nominations was in order, it yielded to privileged motions. Mr. Tripp may be able to object to closing nominations at this time; Council could then vote on the objection.

Action:

Councilor Tripp objected to closing nominations.

Councilor Ballard stated nominations had previously been closed and then reopened for a period of two (2) weeks; he asked if nominations were already closed.

Mark Tollison stated it was his opinion that nominations had not been closed with the "new group" of applicants; he asked Regina McCaskill to comment.

Regina McCaskill stated there had not been a motion to close nominations; however, in all other circumstances, the ballot vote had been considered the "final act" from the Committee of the Whole. The next step was for the ballot vote to be ratified on the Council floor.

Mark Tollison stated this was "new territory"; he would be glad to research the situation and report back. This particular type of conflict had not previously been encountered relative to procedure on elections.

Chairman Kirven stated he would like to hear from Council Members regarding their thoughts on how to deal with the situation.

Councilor Ballard stated if Council Members wanted to discuss the situation in more detail, he would prefer to do so in Executive Session. As of May, three (3) members of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission “rolled off”; the new appointments would take effect in June. If the action was not completed now, the board would have five (5) vacancies.

Chairman Kirven asked how many seats were on the board.

Councilor Ballard stated there were twelve (12) seats on the board.

Chairman Kirven stated there shouldn’t be a quorum issue.

Councilor Ballard stated there would be no quorum issue, assuming that all current members showed up for meetings.

Councilor Seman asked if it would be possible for Vice-Chairman Meadows to withdraw his motion.

Vice-Chairman Meadows stated it would be possible to do so.

Councilor Roberts stated he did not see the situation as different from any other item Council voted on. There was always people who spoke to different issues; Council Members had to decide how they would vote based on the information gathered. The speaker was disparaging a colleague; Council had to decide how to vote on the issue.

Councilor Cates stated he would advise Mr. Meadows not to withdraw the motion; Council could then vote.

Councilor Tripp stated he just wanted more time to review the information; as a duly elected member of Council, he had the right to request more time.

Vice-Chairman Meadows inquired about this being an “unusual situation” to close the nominations and then reopen them for the purpose of getting Lance Crowe on the board. It appeared Council could have waited until the next application period to appoint new members to the board.

Mark Tollison stated Mr. Tripp objected to closing nominations and as part of the objection, was making a motion to keep nominations open for a period of time. He asked Mr. Tripp to comment and state how long he wanted nominations to stay open.

Councilor Tripp stated he would prefer nominations stay open until the next Council meeting; this would allow time to review the information and make an informed decision.

Mark Tollison stated it would appear Mr. Tripp’s motion was in order.

Objection to closing nominations until the next Council meeting carried.

Request and Motions continued

- Councilor Roberts stated he wanted everyone to pray for our community; it was a tough time for all.
- Chairman Kirven stated Greenville County had been approved for a *Mobility for All* pilot program federal grant in the amount of \$326,000. The Federal Transit Administration sought to improve mobility options through employing an innovative coordination of transportation strategies in building partnerships to enhance mobility and access to vital community services for older adults, individuals with disabilities and people with low incomes. The grant was coming through GPATS.

- Councilor Ballard stated all Council Members had received the information provided by the speaker. Council had voted to hold the appointment of new board members; the Drug and Alcohol Commission would continue to be able to meet as long as all current members attended the meeting.

Mr. Ballard thanked Sheriff Lewis and Chief Thompson for their handling of the various protests; he also complimented the citizens of Greenville County for showing the rest of the state and the country that protests could be peaceful.

- Councilor Dill he looked forward to meeting in person.
- Councilor Seman stated SCTAC was awarded a grant in the amount of \$135,000 from the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission to fund the relocation of the automated weather observing stations at Donaldson Field. The much needed project would open additional acreage for the development in the corporate hangar section.

Ms. Seman voiced her support for the formation of a county-wide commission to help with healing the community as suggested by the Chamber, United Way and the Urban League. She requested either Chairman Kirven or Mr. Kernell, on behalf of the County, reach out to offer support and leadership. Council needed to continue to lead during the difficult times our community was facing.

Councilor Seman thanked Joe Kernell for the update on the new building. She requested a special meeting with Roca, and any other partners involved with the building, to get an update; she would like for the meeting to be scheduled prior to the next Council meeting. She hoped they were all optimistic about the project coming to fruition as initially envisioned. It was important to know sooner, rather than later, if any pivots were necessary due to the economic impact from Covid-19.

Chairman Kirven stated there was a meeting of the University Ridge Public Facilities Corporation scheduled for June 18.

Councilor Seman wished Happy Birthday to Councilor Ballard and Council Fant.

- Councilor Norris stated, "No justice, no peace."

Item (13) Adjournment

Action: Councilor Seman moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina G. McCaskill
Clerk to Council