



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

Regular Meeting
September 1, 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. 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

Sid Cates, District 20

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
Nicole Wood, Assistant County Administrator

Others Present

None

Call to Order

Chairman Kirven

Invocation

Councilor Lynn Ballard

Pledge of Allegiance

Item (4) Approval of Minutes

Action: Councilor Norris moved to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2020, Regular Council Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

Item (5) Public Hearings

a. Lighthouse Greenville LLC (formerly Project McClaren) / Fee in Lieu of Tax and Special Source Credit Agreement

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and Lighthouse Greenville, LLC 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.

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

b. Greenville / Anderson Multi County Industrial Park Agreement Amendment (210 Park) / Lighthouse Greenville LLC (formerly Project McClaren)

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance to amend an agreement for the development of a joint county industrial park (2010 Park) of Anderson County and Greenville County so as to enlarge the park.

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

Item (6) Appearances - Current Agenda Items

There were no speakers.

Item (7) Resolutions

a. Master Lease Resolution

Action: Councilor Seman moved for adoption a resolution to authorizing a Master Lease Agreement in the principal amount of not exceeding \$7,000,000 related to the financing of equipment for public purposes; authorizing the execution and delivery of various documents; and other matters related thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (8) Ordinances – Third Reading

a. Project Tuesday / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement

Action: Councilor Seman 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 Tuesday 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 Seman moved to hold the item until the next County Council meeting at which time the public hearing for this item was scheduled.

Motion to hold carried unanimously by Council Members present.

Item (9) Ordinances – Second Reading

a. Zoning Ordinances

- i. **CZ-2020-47:** Withdrawn by applicant
- ii. **CZ-2020-48:** Property of Silver Hawk, LLC, located at 18 New Circle Road, requesting rezoning from C-2 to S-1. 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 by Council Members present.

b. Zoning Text Amendment / Section 6:2. Condition 28 (CZ-2020-45)

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to amend Section 6:2 (28) of the Greenville County Zoning Ordinance, “Use Conditions (Single-family and Multifamily Residential in C-1, C-2, and C-3, Commercial, districts)” to clarify that Single-family development may be allowed to be reviewed and approved under Section 7.2 “Open Space Residential Development.” The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval of the amendment.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

c. Zoning Text Amendment / Section 7:2.4-4 and 7:2.5-4. Open Space Residential Development Options #1 and #2 (CX-2020-46)

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to amend Section 7:2.4-4 “A” of the Greenville County Zoning Ordinance, “Open Space Residential Development, Option #1 – Single Family Attached” and 7:2.5-4 “A” of the Greenville County Zoning Ordinance, “Open Space Residential Development, Option #2 – Single Family Attached” to remove the 15% and 20% limitation for Single-family Attached developments. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval of the amendment.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

c. Foothills Fire Service Area / Millage Reduction

Action: Councilor Seman moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to provide for the millage rate to be levied by the Foothills Fire Service Area.

Chairman Kirven stated the request was for a reduction in the millage rate.

Councilor Dill stated Foothills Fire Service Area contracted with the City of Tryon, NC, to deliver fire protection to the community. They were requesting to reduce the current millage rate and return monies that were not needed; he appreciated all their hard work.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

e. Sterling Special Tax District / Millage

Action: Councilor Seman moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to provide for the millage rate to be levied in the Sterling Special Tax District.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

f. Greenville County Code Amendment / Hours of Fireworks Discharge

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Vice-Chairman Meadows moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to amend the County Code at Chapter 15: Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, to add Article VII, Fireworks.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

Item (10) Committee Reports

a. Committee of the Whole

i. Board and Commission Appointments

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Vice-Chairman Meadows moved to approve the following appointments:

Alcohol and Drug Abuse (1 vacancy)	Stacey Owens
Board of Tax Assessment and Appeals (1 of 3 vacancies)	Veronica Knack
Greenville County Redevelopment Authority (4 vacancies)	Lawrence Black Barry Coleman David Doser Melody Harris
Human Relations Commission (4 vacancies)	Dorothy Baumwaft Nono Henderson Nyroba Leamon Jamika Nedwards
Thrive Upstate (4 vacancies)	James Baucom Paul Hamberis Ben Mebane Joseph Nixon

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

Item (11) Administrator's Report

Joe Kernell stated staff participated with the Greenville Chamber of Commerce earlier in the day in an effort to promote the Small Business Portion of the CARES Program; the Chamber agreed to reach out to all of its members and encourage them to apply. Mr. Kernell stated it was hoped the applications would increase.

Item (12) Requests and Motions by Council Members

- Chairman Kirven stated there were currently 12,132 positive cases of COVID-19 in Greenville County, which was 2.3% more than the population of Travelers Rest. There were approximately 6,000,000 cases in the United States.

Mr. Kirven announced a virtual Public Comment Session to be held on Wednesday, September 9 at 4:00 p.m., ending at the conclusion of the speakers or at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the session was to offer citizens the opportunity to address Council Members regarding any subject over which Council had authority or jurisdiction. The Public Comment Session would be conducted under County Council Rule 3.F. Citizens wishing to speak must notify Regina McCaskill, Clerk to Council, 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Mr. Kirven stated the speakers would receive an invitation to join the session and speak when their names were called; each speaker would have three minutes to address Council. He encouraged all Council Members to participate and give the citizens an opportunity to address items not included on current agendas.

Councilor Ballard asked if the sessions would be set up by the Council office in the same fashion as the current virtual Council meetings.

Mr. Kirven confirmed the sessions would be conducted in the same manner.

Councilor Tripp inquired about the possibility of extending the sessions longer than one hour. There was some “pent-up demand” for Council’s ears; he was in favor of allowing as much time as needed.

Mr. Kirven stated that 30 minutes was normally allowed during regular Council meetings; however, if more time was needed, that would be acceptable.

Councilor Seman stated she liked the idea of having a separate meeting in order to concentrate on citizen engagement; however, the topics covered needed to be germane to County Council. Setting clear expectations upfront was important in order to ensure the topics covered were within Council’s authority or jurisdiction.

- Councilor Norris remembered Hayne Hipp, who recently passed. He had done so many beautiful things for Greenville County; Mr. Hipp was a great person and would certainly be missed.
- Councilor Ballard stated Canebrake Fire Department recently dedicated its new fire station with a ribbon cutting; the citizens in the area were overjoyed about the new building.
- Councilor Seman thanked Mr. Fant for working with her on the fireworks ordinance; it was always good to bring things before Council that citizens had requested.

Ms. Seman stated she had listened to the CARES Act presentation with the Greenville Chamber of Commerce - Community Matters Program; she was hopeful the additional exposure would encourage more business owners to apply. She had been contacted by a couple of business owners in her district with questions; the CARES Act staff had been very responsive in answering questions. During the presentation, several questions arose regarding exhaustion of the full \$75 million allocated for small business owners. She was glad to see staff was open to reallocating some of the funds, if necessary. Ms. Seman inquired about the timeline to address the possibility that the funds would not be depleted by small businesses.

- Councilor Roberts stated it was good to have Dr. Taylor back.

- Councilor Dill asked about small business owners who were denied reimbursement through the CARES Act; could they find out why they were denied and be able to correct the problem.

Mr. Kernell stated all applicants received notification of either approval of their application or denial, with an explanation for the denial. Business owners could contact staff in an effort to submit the information needed to approve the application. Very basic information was needed; the application looked quite a bit longer than it actually was. The most important information needed was receipts verifying expenses.

Mr. Dill inquired about individual schools requesting assistance. He asked if individual schools could apply for assistance or were they required to apply through the school system.

Mr. Kernell stated individual schools would need to apply through the Greenville County Schools System; the school system had access to money through the state. Greenville County was partnering with various groups to provide for school-age childcare as well as access to WI-FI for students.

Mr. Dill stated some in-person classes had in excess of 20-25 students; this appeared to be an unsafe situation. He was glad to report that Slater Hall Community Center now had full-day after-school care available for elementary students; he thanked Mr. Kernell and staff for making it possible.

- Councilor Tripp welcomed Dr. Taylor back; it was good to see him doing well.

He requested Mr. Kernell elaborate on the timeline to address the possibility that the CARES Act funds would not be depleted by small businesses.

Mr. Kernell stated staff was in the process of assessing additional needs that had been identified and the different pots of money that had almost been exhausted, such as Community Health. The Small Businesses aspect was not going as fast as anticipated; there had been so many opportunities to apply for assistance through other federal programs. Mr. Kernell stated the issues Greenville County was experiencing were being felt throughout other parts of the country; it was difficult to get small businesses interested in the program. The CARES Act Program had only been in operation for two months; within the next week to 10 days there should be some recommendations forthcoming. Mr. Kernell stated he welcomed input and direction from Council Members; allocation of the monies had to fit within the parameters and guidelines set forth by the Federal Government. There was concern across the country that some communities may have to pay money back if the guidelines were not followed.

Mr. Kirven wished Councilor Tripp a Happy Birthday.

Item (13) Adjournment

Action: Councilor Dill moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina G. McCaskill
Clerk to Council