



## GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes  
Regular Council Meeting  
June 15, 2021  
6:00 p.m.

County Square - Council Chambers

### Council Members

Mr. Willis Meadows, *Chairman, District 19*  
Mr. Dan Tripp, *Vice-Chairman, District 28*  
Mrs. Xanthe 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*

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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*  
Dean Campbell, *Deputy County Attorney*  
Kim Wunder, *Assistant County Attorney*  
John Hansley, *Deputy County Administrator*  
Regina McCaskill, *Clerk to Council*

Jessica Stone, *Deputy Clerk to Council*  
Pam Gilliam, *Administrative Assistant*  
Bob Mihalic, *Governmental Affairs Officer*  
Paula Gucker, *Assistant County Administrator, Public Works*  
Shannon Herman, *Assistant County Administrator*

### Others Present

None

### Call to Order

Chairman Willis Meadows

Invocation – introduced by Councilor Xanthe Norris

Derrick Quarles

### Pledge of Allegiance

**Item (4)**      **Approval of Minutes**

**Action:**      Vice-Chairman Tripp moved to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2021, Regular Council Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

There were no speakers.

**Item (6)**      **Public Hearings**

**a. Land Development Regulations Amendment / Tiny Homes**

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance to amend the Greenville County Land Development Regulations for the County of Greenville, South Carolina, as amended, to include provisions for regulations of tiny homes.

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

**b. Greenville County Library System / Budget**

A public hearing was held to receive comments from the public regarding an ordinance to approve the appropriation of funds for the Greenville County Library System for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022; and to authorize the annual ad valorem property tax millage levy for library purposes.

There being no speakers, Vice-Chairman Tripp declared the public hearing closed.

**c. Slater – Marietta Fire District / Millage Request**

A public hearing was held to receive comments from the public regarding a resolution to provide for the millage rate to be levied by the Slater-Marietta Fire District.

There being no speakers, Vice-Chairman Tripp declared the public hearing closed.

**d. Fountain Inn Fire District / Millage Request**

A public hearing was held to receive comments from the public regarding an ordinance to provide for the millage rate to be levied by the Fountain Inn Fire Service Area; to reauthorize execution of a contract with the City of Fountain Inn for the continued provision of fire protection services in the fire service area, and to endorse a ten-year capital improvement plan.

There being no speakers, Vice-Chairman Tripp declared the public hearing closed.

**e. Project Stella / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement**

A public hearing was held to receive 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 a company known to the County as Project Stella 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, Vice-Chairman Tripp declared the public hearing closed.

**f. County of Greenville / FY2022 Budget**

A public hearing was held to receive comments from the public regarding an ordinance to adopt the County of Greenville FY2022 Budget.

- **Ed Paxton** – appeared in opposition to the proposed.

There being no other speakers, Vice-Chairman Tripp declared the public hearing closed.

**g. County of Greenville / FY2023 Budget**

A public hearing was held to receive comments from the public regarding an ordinance to adopt the County of Greenville FY2023 Budget.

There being no speakers, Vice-Chairman Tripp declared the public hearing closed.

**Item (7)**

**Consent Agenda**

- a. Community Project Application / Piedmont Park Fire District \$2,972.41 – Community Risk Reduction** *(Finance)*
- b. Community Project Application / Canebrake Fire District \$3,500.00 – Thermal Imaging Camera** *(Finance)*
- c. Community Project Application / Duncan Chapel Fire District \$4,500.00 – Traffic Control Equipment** *(Finance)*
- d. Community Project Application / Berea Fire District \$5,000.00 – Rescue Boat and Swift Water Equipment** *(Finance)*
- e. Community Project Application / Greenville County Parks and Recreation \$3,000.00 – Replace Historical Marker at Old Berea High School** *(Finance)*
- f. Community Project Application / Greenville County Parks and Recreation \$25,412.00 – Swamp Rabbit Trail Tunnel at Highway 253** *(Finance)*
- g. Community Project Application / Greenville Textile Heritage Park \$4,500.00 – Construction of Park Dedicated to History of the Textile Industry** *(Finance)*

**h. Community Project Application / Slater-Marietta Fire District \$4,020.00 – River Falls Community Welcome Signs** *(Finance)*

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (8) Resolutions**

**a. Project Stagecoach I / Inducement Agreement**

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for adoption a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of an inducement agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and Project Stagecoach I, 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 Stagecoach II / Inducement Agreement**

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for adoption a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of an inducement agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and Project Stagecoach II, 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.

**c. Project Bingham / Inducement Resolution**

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for adoption a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of an inducement agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and Project Bingham, whereby, under certain conditions, Greenville County would execute a fee in lieu of tax and special source credit 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 whereby the project would be provided certain credits against fee payments in reimbursement of investment in related qualified infrastructure; and providing for related matters.

Motion carried unanimously.

**d. Slater-Marietta Fire District / Millage Request**

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for adoption a resolution to provide for the millage rate to be levied by the Slater-Marietta Fire District.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

**a. Tigerville Fire District / Millage Request**

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance to provide for the millage rate to be levied by the Tigerville Fire District.

Motion carried unanimously.

**b. Chanticleer Special Tax District / Millage Request**

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance to provide for the millage rate to be levied by the Chanticleer Community Tax District.

Motion carried unanimously.

**c. Slater-Marietta Fire District / General Obligation Bond Issuance**

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance finding that the Slater-Marietta Fire District may issue not exceeding \$3,000,000 of general obligation bonds; to authorize the Board of Fire Control of the Slater-Marietta Fire District, South Carolina to issue such bonds and to provide for the publication of notice of the said finding and authorization.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

**a. Transfer of County-owned Property / 48 Ridgeway Drive**

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading at ordinance to authorize the transfer of county-owned property located at 48 Ridgeway Drive, the former Woodfield Community Center site, to the Greenville County Redevelopment Authority, and to authorize the execution of a quitclaim deed related thereto.

Councilor Fant requested Joe Kernell clarify the County’s position with regards to the Woodfield Community Center, in order for all Council Members to have the same consistent answer he had received of the past five (5) years. Mr. Fant stated he would then offer a substitute motion.

Mr. Kernell stated Greenville County inherited the property when it acquired the former Recreation District; the building was already in disrepair at that time and had been closed for the past five (5) years. There were a number of similar facilities being evaluated to determine the best course of action for each. Mr. Kernell stated staff had determined that it was not prudent to invest additional funds into the property. There was another community center close by, as well as Upstate Circle of Friends that was open from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. daily.

Councilor Fant asked if there had been any discussion about repairing the building prior to 2016.

Mr. Kernell confirmed there had been prior discussions regarding the possible repair of the building. The building was now condemned.

**Action:** Councilor Fant offered a substitute motion to request the County Administrator locate the necessary funding to rebuild the Woodfield Community Center, with modern standards, and re-establish the programming that was in place from 2013 until 2016.

**Point of Order:** Vice-Chairman Tripp raised a point of order. He stated Councilor Fant's amendment was not germane to the motion on the floor. The substitute motion involved the appropriation of funds; the motion on the floor was in regards to the transfer of property.

Chairman Meadows asked Councilor Fant if he wanted to reword his amendment to "make it germane."

Councilor Fant amended his substitute motion to state "verses transferring property, look at rebuilding it."

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated as "one who respects order", he did not think that would be appropriate. Mr. Tripp stated the item could be held.

Councilor Fant stated, "No."

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated Senator Karl Allen had talked about the possibility of using "state money" for the site.

Councilor Seman stated Councilor Fant had requested Mr. Kernell address the County's efforts in regards to the property; he had clearly indicated the site had been in ill repair as well as recently condemned. She questioned Mr. Fant's motion, given the information provided and the fact that the County had no money to rebuild the center.

Councilor Fant stated he had asked Mr. Kernell to rebuild the center in 2017, 2018, and 2019; the answer had been "no" each time. He had asked again in 2020 and 2021; the answer had been and "emphatic no" and "don't ask me anymore."

Councilor Seman asked Mr. Fant why would he request the rebuilding of the center again.

Councilor Fant stated he could not "get anything from him"; therefore, he was asking Council to make a decision regarding the building. Mr. Fant stated a number of people wanted the building to be rebuilt.

Chairman Meadows asked if programs were provided at the center, after it was given to the County.

Mr. Kernell stated there had not been a program offered at the center since 2016.

Chairman Meadows asked if the County had looked into the cost of refurbishing the building.

Mr. Kernell stated he had not looked into the issue; he could inquire if the Recreation Department had done so. The building was shut down five (5) years ago due to unsafe conditions. The floors were buckling along with other structural issues. Mold was present in the building. There was no way to keep the building open safely, when those issues were discovered. The building had been empty for the past five (5) years. Greenville County inherited the building from the Recreation District. The center was in close proximity to Pleasant Valley Connection and Upstate Circle of Friends. Mr. Kernell stated there had been a number of requests for community centers over the years, including the one in Dunean. The County did not have the wherewithal to put a center in every community. The center in question was clustered close to other centers; there were other parts of the County that had been neglected.

Chairman Meadows stated he would like to vote in favor of Mr. Fant's motion; however, he could not justify supporting it. He was aware that Mr. Fant wanted to help the community. It appeared that the building could not be repaired; it would have to be rebuilt.

Councilor Ballard stated the item in question reminded him of the Old Berea School located in District 19. A group of citizens had "tried every way possible" to convince County Council to save the building, even though it was "literally falling down." Mr. Ballard stated some people were under the impression that "government had all the money in the world." Greenville County had an obligation to utilize its tax revenues, in the best possible manner, for the good of the County as a whole. He could not support Mr. Fant's substitute motion; he did not see it as a wise investment.

Councilor Dill stated he had seen a news interview with a resident who said that children played on the ballfields. Mr. Dill said the discussion had only been about the building, not the land itself. He asked about the possibility of having a playground on the site.

Mr. Kernell stated there had been conflicting stories regarding the activities that were occurring on the property. Some of the residents living directly across from the site had reported it was not actually being utilized very often by children. They reported people loitering in the parking lot, backing in and shining their headlights into the residents' home. They did not feel safe. Mr. Kernell stated the County had created a nuisance by keeping the property. The possibility of installing playground equipment amongst the new homes planned for the property had been discussed with GCRA; however, Upstate Circle of Friends had a beautiful playground located close by, open daily from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Cameras were installed at the playground to ensure safety. If the request to transfer the property was approved by Council, John Castile was committed to meeting with the neighborhood residents to discuss their concerns and needs. GCRA always ensured they were "good neighbors." Mr. Kernell stated Greenville County had not been a good neighbor since it inherited the property; the County owed it to the residents to make improvements.

Councilor Dill requested to hear from Senator Karl Allen. He had heard Senator Allen was willing to try and secure some "state money" to make improvements on the property.

Chairman Meadows stated the next regular Council meeting would be held in four (4) weeks. Senator Allen could certainly bring information to Council regarding possible "state money."

Councilor Dill stated Senator Allen was present. He would like to know if Senator Allen was willing to work on the issue.

Chairman Meadows stated Mr. Dill's request was "out of order." He was unaware how things were done at the State House; he asked if allowances were made for people to address the body or not. If so, Senator Allen would be allowed to address Council.

Senator Karl Allen stated he was honored to have the opportunity to address Council. As far as the actual closing of the facility in question, he was under the impression it had been three (3) years, not five (5). He had heard the building was in bad condition and had been condemned; however, he had visited the site the preceding week and there was no evidence it had been condemned. Once the media became aware of the situation, the building was "posted" as condemned. Senator Allen stated an audience member had shown him a picture of children playing at the site. He had spoken to the children who were in attendance; they had indicated a desire to continue to utilize the property. He had spoken with GCRA; there was no commitment to build housing on the property. GCRA indicated that the County had approached them about transferring the land. He asked if there was any type of contract, site study or site design in place. Senator Allen inquired about the number of homes planned for the site; he had heard less than ten (10) homes would possibly be built, as determined by the area available for a retention pond. There was no engineering study in place. GCRA had indicated if more of the existing homes would be upset than the number planned, they would seek land elsewhere in the County. Senator Allen stated the quality of more than 70 homes in the Belle Meade area would be upset if due diligence was not done. He requested Council determine if the building was repairable; a licensed, commercial builder had indicated it could be repaired. Mold had been reported in the building which could be eradicated for approximately \$4000. He inquired as to why the County had allowed access to the building and had only condemned the building just recently, if it was such a danger. The dirt cost nothing and provided a place for the children to play. He asked if GCRA would allow the children to continue to play there. The State was working hard to prevent pedestrian fatalities on White Horse Road; he could not support the suggestion that the area's children walk to nearby facilities, via White Horse Road or Crestfield Road. Upstate Circle of Friends may be a great place; however, no one could tell them to stay open and allow children to utilize the facility. It was not county-owned or state-owned. There were no recreation fields at Pleasant Valley Connection. The only recreation fields in the area were located at the center on Ridgeway. He was committed to partnering with the County to identify the necessary funding to repair or replace the building. He had requested any reports regarding the possible costs; he had received no information thus far.

Chairman Meadows requested Mr. Kernell submit information regarding the cost to either repair or replace the building by the next regular Council meeting. Mr. Meadows invited members of the community to provide information, as well.

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated he had requested John Castile attend the Council Workshop scheduled for Thursday, June 17, in order to speak on the item in question. He attended a meeting with GCRA and was told they had built several playgrounds; it may be possible to work things out. He suggested the item be held.



Chairman Meadows stated the item would be on the floor anyway, until the next meeting. If the requested information was submitted prior to the next meeting, Council could take care of it at third reading.

Vice-Chairman Tripp asked if a motion to allow amendments at third reading was necessary.

Chairman Meadows stated Mr. Tripp could make that motion, if he chose to do so.

Councilor Fant inquired if the motions to hold and to allow amendments at third reading were in regards to the original motion or his substitute motion.

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated he had raised a point of order that Councilor Fant's substitute motion was not germane.

Councilor Fant stated he insisted Council consider his substitute motion.

Chairman Meadows stated the situation could be handled two (2) different ways. The best way would be to vote on Mr. Fant's substitute motion.

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated Chairman Meadows would have to rule that Councilor Fant's substitute motion was germane, another Council Member would have to appeal the ruling of the Chair and then Council could vote on Mr. Fant's motion. Mr. Tripp asked if the item could be held until the next meeting.

Councilor Fant stated he wanted Council to vote on his substitute motion.

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated the substitute motion was not germane.

Councilor Fant stated Chairman Meadows had already ruled that his substitute motion was germane.

Chairman Meadows stated Council had the opportunity to agree with his ruling or not.

Councilor Harrison stated he appreciated Mr. Fant's substitute motion; however, he could not support it. The motion was a good start and a good effort. He would like to see a new community center even though it was a "big money ask." Mr. Harrison stated it would be better to complete the necessary due diligence as outlined by Senator Allen to see if the building could be saved or not.

Councilor Kirven stated if Council voted on Mr. Fant's motion and it failed, the motion to hold was still on the floor.

Chairman Meadows stated if Councilor Fant's substitute motion failed, the original motion to approve the transfer of property at second reading would be on the floor.

Councilor Kirven stated Council was looking for an opportunity to obtain more information about the property, as requested by Senator Allen.

Chairman Meadows stated he had requested Mr. Kernell to gather the needed information and present it to Council.

Councilor Norris stated she had the same problem in New Washington Heights. The residents of that area had nothing; they were so angry that they hardly spoke to her any longer. She had to ask Paul Guy to accompany her to New Washington Heights. There was no facility nor were there any parks, in most of the communities located in District 23. There were no funds available and the children in those areas were just sitting there with nothing to do. Ms. Norris stated things were a bit better in her neighborhood as it was located near the City of Greenville.

**Action:**

Councilor Fant called for the question.

Councilor Dill requested clarification of the motion; he was under the impression that there was a motion to hold on the floor.

Chairman Meadows stated the motion to hold was out of order.

Councilor Kirven requested restatement of the motion on the floor.

Chairman Meadows stated the motion currently on the floor was for the County Administrator to secure the necessary funding, possible using "COVID funds", to rebuild or repair the community building located at 48 Ridgeway Drive.

Councilor Kirven asked if the motion referred to a "research report" or a commitment.

Councilor Fant stated the motion referred to a commitment.

Councilor Kirven stated it was a commitment, no matter how much it cost or how much it would take away from other community centers.

Chairman Meadows stated that was the intent of Mr. Fant's motion.

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated he had raised a point of order that Mr. Fant's substitute motion was not germane as the original motion referred to the transfer of property. It was not "fair" for Chairman Meadows to overrule without giving some reason as to why Mr. Fant's motion was germane. Mr. Tripp stated the substitute motion was clearly not germane.

Councilor Kirven stated a challenge to the rule of the Chairman was subject to a vote of Council.

Chairman Meadows stated he had ruled the motion was germane as it referred to whether the County kept the building or transferred the property, dependent on whether the necessary funds were available. It was Council's privilege to overrule his decision.

Councilor Kirven stated the challenge was to Chairman Meadows' germane ruling; the challenge was entitled to a Council vote to determine if the ruling of the Chair was sustained or overturned.

Chairman Meadows requested a roll call vote, stating "yes" would be a vote in favor of Mr. Fant's substitute motion; "no" would indicate opposition to the motion.

Councilor Kirven stated the vote was to determine if Council agreed with Mr. Meadows' ruling of germaneness.

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated the issue in question was whether Chairman Meadows ruling of germaneness was "right or wrong."

Chairman Meadows stated that Mr. Tripp was "correct." A vote of "yes" meant agreement with the Chair's ruling and a vote of "no" meant opposition to the ruling.

Councilor Harrison asked if the County would be responsible for the building or would it be transferred to GCRA if Councilor Fant's substitute motion was approved by Council.

Councilor Fant stated Greenville County would retain ownership of the property; it would remain with the Parks and Recreation Department. The issue at hand was whether the County should retain control of the property or not; therefore, the motion was germane.

Motion regarding the Chairman's ruling on the germaneness of Councilor Fant's substitute motion was denied by a roll call vote of six (Meadows, Shaw, Tzouvelekas, Norris, Fant and Ballard) in favor and six (Dill, Barnes, Harrison, Seman, Kirven and Tripp) in opposition.

Councilor Fant stated his substitute motion was now on the floor.

Chairman Meadows agreed that Mr. Fant's motion was now on the floor.

Councilor Dill stated he could not vote to give an open-ended check and direction to the County Administrator. He wanted to know if the ballfield was actually being used by the neighborhood children, if it was accessible and if it was useful. He needed some assurance. Mr. Dill stated the appropriate motion would be to hold the item to gather the information needed to make an informed decision.

**Action:**

Councilor Dill moved to hold the item as presented by Vice-Chairman Tripp in order to gather the additional information.

Councilor Fant stated he had a "compromise." He suggested Council pass his substitute motion and he would agree to hold it until the requested information was made available.

Councilor Seman suggested holding the original motion on the floor.

Councilor Harrison stated he agreed with Ms. Seman; he could not understand the dilemma.

Councilor Kirven stated Council had overturned Chairman Meadows' ruling on the germaneness of Mr. Fant's substitute motion. The item on the floor was the original motion as presented by Councilor Tripp.

Councilor Fant agreed that Council had overturned the ruling of the Chair and the motion on the floor was the original motion. A motion to hold was in order to keep the item at second reading.

Councilor Dill stated he had made a motion to hold.

Chairman Meadows agreed and requested a roll call vote.

Motion to hold the original motion as presented as Vice-Chairman Tripp was carried by a roll call vote of eight (Dill, Harrison, Norris, Seman, Fant, Ballard, Kirven and Tripp) in favor and four (Barnes, Meadows, Shaw and Tzouvelekas) in opposition.

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated Council Rule, Section IV.B.4. states the following:

*Votes Required for Passage*

(a) *A Majority of all Council Members shall be required to pass ordinances, amendments, and resolutions, except as provided herein.*

(b) *A vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Members of Council shall be required for passage of:*

(i) *Any ordinance of amendment authorizing a supplemental appropriation*

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated that in his opinion, the rule would apply if Council was to vote on Councilor Fant's substitute motion.

Chairman Meadows requested Attorney Tollison weigh in on Mr. Tripp's statement.

Mr. Tollison stated he would research the issue and report back to Council.

Councilor Norris stated she was angry; she had asked for money for community centers and had been told there was none available. If Council approved money for the Woodfield Community Center, she would ask funds be made available for New Washington Heights.

Chairman Meadows advised Councilor Norris to put the request on the Council agenda.

**b. Greenville County Library System / Budget**

**Action:**

Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to approve the appropriation of funds for the Greenville County Library System for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022; and to authorize the annual ad valorem property tax millage levy for library purposes.

Motion carried unanimously.

**c. Fountain Inn Fire District / Millage Request**

**Action:**

Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to provide for the millage rate to be levied by the Fountain Inn Fire Service Area; to reauthorize execution of a contract with the City of Fountain Inn for the continued provision of fire protection services in the fire service area, and to endorse a ten-year capital improvement plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

**d. Project Stella / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement**

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Tripp 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 as Project Stella 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.

**e. County of Greenville / FY2022 Budget**

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to adopt the County of Greenville FY2022 Budget.

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated Council was in an awkward position. The Budget Workshop was scheduled for Thursday, June 17. Because the workshop was being held after second reading of the item, Council was essentially approving the budget without knowing what was included. Greenville County was struggling with growth issues as well as the need for affordable housing. Mr. Tripp stated he wanted to offer a couple of amendments to the budget in order to spark conversation among Council in regards to the priorities.

Chairman Meadows stated a motion to allow amendments at third reading would give Council the chance to discuss the budget at length during the workshop; any amendments could be brought back at third reading.

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated he would agree to Chairman Meadows' suggestion as long as Council had the opportunity to present amendments to the budget.

**Action:** Councilor Kirven moved to allow amendments at third reading.

Without objection, the motion carried.

**Action:** Councilor Barnes moved to amend the County of Greenville FY2022 and FY2023 Budgets by removing the following items and transferring them to the Greenville County Sheriff's Office Budget. The listed items are:

<i>Forensics</i>	<i>FY2022 - \$3,277,951</i>	<i>FY2023 - \$3,362,100</i>
<i>Records</i>	<i>FY2022 - \$2,797,365</i>	<i>FY2023 - \$2,874,817</i>

Chairman Meadows stated he was under the impression that both divisions were already included in the Sheriff's Office Budget.

Councilor Ballard stated those divisions had never been included in the Sheriff's Office. There were good reasons to not include them; chain of custody, quality of evidence, appraisability and accountability. Evidence was collected and turned over through chain of custody to an uninvolved party, who maintained control of the evidence until the case went to court. Lost or misplaced evidence would put undue burden on the County, the Sheriff's Office and the County

Attorney. Mr. Ballard stated he was not in favor of the proposed transfer. Forensics provided services for the municipalities in addition to Greenville County. If the Sheriff's Office controlled Forensics, he was concerned there would be situations where the decision would be made to put the County's needs over the municipalities.

Councilor Tzouvelekas asked how other counties in the State handled the situation.

Chairman Meadows stated 43 of the State's 46 counties had the divisions under the Sheriff's Office. Those departments were under the Horry County Police Department. There was only one other county in the state where the departments were not under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff.

Vice-Chairman Tripp asked if the item could be held and discussed at the upcoming Budget Workshop.

Councilor Kirven stated he was in agreement with Councilor Ballard. Regardless of how other counties handled the situation, the way it was handled in Greenville County was more accountable and more transparent. He stated there was no need to change; however, the issue could be discussed at the workshop.

Councilor Barnes moved to hold the item for discussion at the Budget Workshop scheduled for Thursday, June 17, 2021.

**Action:**

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Meadows inquired about the County Square Project and where information regarding the project could be reviewed in the proposed budget document.

Mr. Kernell stated it was listed under Capital Projects as University Ridge Development Project.

Councilor Seman stated she wanted to make sure that enough money had been set aside in the budget for maintenance of the Swamp Rabbit Trail and trail extensions, especially the Laurens Road extension. She also requested information regarding the amount of money allocated for trail safety, intersection agreements and other safety concerns. Ms. Seman stated she wanted to know how much money from the Parks and Recreation budget had been allocated for facility maintenance, future enhancements and capital projects, especially related to pickle ball courts. As Council talked about quality of life and economic development, good support for Parks and Recreation was important. Councilor Ballard had done some good research on road funding; she wanted to make sure it was included in upcoming budget discussion. Additional funding for affordable housing was also important. Ms. Seman stated she was also in favor of funding for the Historic and Natural Resources Trust.

Chairman Meadows stated other Council Members also had topics they wished to be discussed during the Budget Workshop. He suggested they share them with their colleagues prior to the workshop.

Vice-Chairman Tripp thanked Mr. Kernell, Mr. Hansley and staff for all of their hard work in preparing the budgets. Mr. Tripp stated there had been some discussion about putting together a policy statement to lay out a roadmap of the budget process. From a budget prospective, staff

liked to hold the budget as long as possible in order to have surety in the numbers. It was incumbent upon Council to have a “priority meeting” early in the year to allow staff to assist Council in meeting its priorities. Mr. Tripp stated he hoped to formulate a budget policy document in the next few months. The policy would provide direction as Council started the budget process.

Councilor Tzouvelekas thanked Mr. Kernell and his staff for their hard work. He agreed with the speaker who had requested the budget be made available to the public, prior to final approval by Council.

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

**f. County of Greenville / FY2023 Budget**

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to adopt the County of Greenville FY2022 Budget.

**Action:** Councilor Seman moved to allow amendments at third reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

Without objection, motion as amended carried unanimously.

Mr. Tollison stated Council Rules were amended earlier in the year to state that amendments at third reading must be in written form and included in the Council packet, prior to third reading. He added that amendments to the FY2022 budget must be received by the Clerk’s Office by Thursday, June 24.

**Item (11) Ordinances – First Reading**

**a. Zoning Ordinances**

Councilor Dill presented for first reading Zoning Dockets **CZ-2021-51** through **CZ-2021-53**, **CZ-2021-55**, **CZ-2021-56** and **CZ-2021-26**.

Chairman Meadows referred the items to the Planning and Development Committee

**b. Project Stagecoach I / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement**

Vice-Chairman Tripp presented for first reading an authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement inducement agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the County at this time as Project Stagecoach I with respect to certain economic development property in the county, where by such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto; and delayed second reading until a public hearing could be scheduled.

Chairman Meadows stated the item would remain on the floor.

**c. Project Stagecoach II / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement**

Vice-Chairman Tripp presented for first reading an authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement inducement agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the County at this time as Project Stagecoach II with respect to certain economic development property in the county, where by such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto; and delayed second reading until a public hearing could be scheduled.

Chairman Meadows stated the item would remain on the floor.

**Item (12) Committee Reports**

**a. Committee of the Whole**

**i. Human Relations Commission Appointments *(5 vacancies)***

**Action:** On behalf of the Committee, Vice-Chairman Tripp moved to appoint Tabatha **Crawford**, Meagan **Ingersoll**, Tobe **Sizemore**, Keyisha **Smith** and Ronald **Smith**, Sr. to fill five (5) vacancies on the Human Relations Commission.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (13) Appearances – Items not on the Current Agenda**

- **David Sclar** – appeared regarding pickleball
- **Sandra Halkett** – appeared regarding pickleball
- **Jenny McCord** – appeared regarding pickleball
- **Bruce Wilson** – appeared regarding respect for the community
- **Lisa Sweeney** – appeared regarding honesty
- **Mary Lue Bryant** – appeared regarding budget for Belle Meade community

**Item (14) Administrator’s Report**

Joe Kernell provided an update to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). To date, a total of \$3.3 million had been paid, providing assistance to 749 households in Greenville County. Mr. Kirven stated 64% of the households funded were at or below the 30% Area Median Income (AMI). An average of 20-30 new cases were received daily. County staff and local non-profits continued to develop a strategy to ensure the community’s most vulnerable population was able to gain access to the program. Mr. Kernell stated the program would continue for the next several months.

**Item (15) Requests and Motions**

- Vice-Chairman Tripp stated the meetings had provided a raucous couple of hours; however, a bit of levity had been brought into the situation. He liked when Council had vigorous disagreements but were still agreeable. Mr. Tripp stated he was “hyper technical” about the rules and quick to call out the failings of others; he was working on that.



- Councilor Dill stated he was intrigued by pickleball and Frisbee golf. As Chairman of the Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC) for the *Appalachian Council of Governments*, he stated the committee had found that as people aged, they did not want to attend the area's Senior Citizens Centers. Instead, they wanted to remain active and learn things such as plumbing and computer skills. Mr. Dill stated he hoped that the Recreation Department could create more pickleball leagues.

Mr. Dill recognized Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Means on their 36th wedding anniversary.

- Councilor Shaw congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Means on their anniversary. He had taken a cruise and pickleball was played on the ship by all ages.
- Councilor Harrison stated he was enjoying the positivity; it felt good to laugh.

Mr. Harrison stated Devenger Subdivision had recently experienced some issues with its tax district in regards to the neighborhood's pool, playground and basketball courts. They were working with Clemson University to develop a capital improvements plan to ensure the funds were spent appropriately.

- Councilor Tzouvelekas stated in future discussions regarding the County's budget, he planned to ask for \$30 million for road improvements.

Mr. Tzouvelekas commented on Councilor Barnes' motion about funding for the Sheriff's Office. He was under the impression that Sheriff Lewis was in favor of the items in question to be included in the budget for the Sheriff's Office.

- Councilor Norris stated she attended the event on Monday featuring Vice-President Kamala Harris at the Phillis Wheatley Center. Ms. Norris stated she represented County Council well.

Ms. Norris encouraged her colleagues to work together for the citizens of Greenville County.

- Councilor Seman stated she attended the Habitat for Humanity Breakfast earlier in the day. Even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Habitat for Humanity managed to close on seven (7) houses in 2020 and its volunteers gave over 5000 hours. One homeowner gave her personal testimony and it was very touching. Ms. Seman stated she was so glad that Greenville County had received the CARES Act monies to assist needy families.

Ms. Seman stated she recently visited the Center for Creative Arts. The center now offered art programs at the Freetown Community Center and the Sterling Community Center.

Sheryl Lang was recently named the new President and CEO at *VisitGreenvilleSC*. Ms. Seman stated she hoped Ms. Lang could address Council in the near future about the future of *VisitGreenvilleSC*.

Ms. Seman stated Pop's Cabin Creamery recently opened in the Gosnell Cabin located at the Cultural Center of Mauldin.

- Councilor Fant stated that while the evening’s meetings had been somewhat contentious, he was glad to see that Council had reached some common ground.

The International Transportation Innovation Center at SCTAC was now featured in the SC Department of Commerce online database of South Carolina automotive assets. The database was designed to increase collaboration between higher education institutions, such as Clemson University and USC, with other industry testing facilities throughout the state.

- Councilor Ballard stated he was pleased to announce a ribbon-cutting to be held in the near future for a new business in District 26. The business, Modern Roofing, was opening in a building that had been vacant for quite some time.
- Councilor Kirven stated he supported pickleball courts throughout the County.

Mr. Kirven stated he recently attended a ribbon-cutting for the new fire station on Jonesville Road in Simpsonville. Several elected officials, including Mr. Ballard, were also in attendance.

Mr. Kirven also recognized Master Deputy David Bendig on his upcoming retirement. Deputy Bendig was always prepared for the Council meetings and had a plan in place to ensure the safety and security of Council, as well as staff and the audience members. Mr. Kirven thanked Sheriff Lewis for always sending his finest deputies to the Council meetings. He stated Mr. Bendig had served Greenville County faithfully and he appreciated all of his hard work.

**Item (16)**

**Adjournment**

**Action:**

Councilor Kirven moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Regina G. McCaskill  
Clerk to Council