



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

Special Called Committee of the Whole Meeting

January 8, 2026

9:02 a.m.

Committee Meeting Room

301 University Ridge

Greenville, South Carolina

Council Members

Benton Blount, *Chairman, District 19*

Rick Bradley, *Vice-Chairman, District 26*

Liz Seman, *Chairwoman Pro Tem, District 24*

Joey Russo, *District 17*

Kelly Long, *District 18*

Stephen Shaw, *District 20*

Curt McGahhey, *District 21*

Frank Farmer, *District 22*

Alan Mitchell, *District 23*

Ennis Fant, Sr., *District 25*

Garey Collins, *District 27*

Dan Tripp, *District 28*

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted online, at 301 University Ridge, Greenville, and made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Council Members Absent

None

Staff Present

Joe Kernell, *County Administrator*

Ted Lambrecht, *Deputy County Administrator*

Chris Antley, *County Attorney*

Jessica Stone, *Deputy Clerk to Council*

Pam Gilliam, *Administrative Assistant*

Julie Wallace, *Administrative Assistant*

Council Members Remote Participation

Joey Russo, *District 17*

Bob Mihalic, *Governmental Affairs Officer*

Terrence Galloway, *Information Systems*

Hesha Gamble, *Assistant County Administrator*

Ronald Hollister, *Assistant County Administrator*

Lyndsey Sloane, *Director of Grants and Special Projects*

Nick Ragsdale, *Emergency Medical Services*

Others Present

None

Call to Order

Chairman Blount

Invocation

Vice-Chairman Bradley

Item (3)

Executive Session

Action:

Councilor Long moved to go into Executive Session for the discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee regulated by the County Council, or the appointment of a person to a public body, as it pertains to the employment contract of the County Administrator.

Motion carried and the Committee of the Whole entered Executive Session at 9:03 p.m.

Reconvened

The Special Called Committee of the Whole meeting reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

County Attorney Chris Antley reported the Committee of the Whole went into Executive Session for discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee regulated by the County Council, or the appointment of a person to a public body, as it pertains to the employment contract of the County Administrator.

Mr. Antley stated no action was taken during that session.

Item (4)

County Administrator Contract

Councilor Tripp thanked the body for the collegiality of the discussions for and against the extension of Mr. Kernell's employment contract. There was a path forward; Council just needed to be willing to sit down and discuss the issues while respecting each other's opinions. Mr. Tripp stated he was very heartened by the outcome of the discussion.

Action:

Councilor Tripp moved to approve the County Administrator's Employment Agreement as discussed in Executive Session and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract on behalf of County Council.

Motion carried by a roll call vote of ten (Russo, Long, Blount, McGahhey, Farmer, Mitchell, Seman, Fant, Bradley, and Tripp) in favor and two (Shaw and Collins) in opposition.

Councilor Russo participated remotely and indicated his vote in favor of the proposed to the Clerk via text message.

Item (5)

Adjournment

Action:

There being no further business, Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina McCaskill
Clerk to Council