



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes
Committee of the Whole Meeting
April 7, 2026
4:16 p.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

Dan Tripp, *Council District 28*

Staff Present

Joe Kernell, *County Administrator*
Chris Antley, *County Attorney*
Ted Lambrecht, *Deputy County Administrator*
Regina McCaskill, *Clerk to Council*
Jessica Stone, *Deputy Clerk to Council*

Council Members Remote Participation

Curt McGahhey, *Council District 21*
Alan Mitchell, *Council District 23*

Terrence Galloway, *Information Systems*
Bob Mihalic, *Governmental Affairs Officer*
Hesha Gamble, *Assistant County Administrator*
Ronald Hollister, *Assistant County Administrator*

Others Present

Rivers Stillwell, *Attorney*

Call to Order

Chairman Blount

Invocation

Councilor Russo

Item (3) **Approval of Minutes**

a. March 17, 2026 – Regular Committee Meeting

Action: Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman moved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2026, Regular Committee meeting.

Motion carried.

Item (4) **Citizens’ Academy**

Councilor Farmer requested Joe Martinez be added to the list of applicants.

Mr. Kernell stated that would be fine.

Action: Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman moved to approve the following individuals to participate in the Citizens’ Academy and move the names to full Council.

- Patricia Baucom* (D.17)
- Sarah Cody* (D.17)
- Victor Edens* (D.19)
- Elizabeth Samples* (D.19)
- Monique Damiano* (D.19)
- Audrey Pasin* (D.20)
- Darin Thomas* (D.21)
- Joe Martinez* (D.22) - Added
- Alexandra Van Dyke* (D.22)
- Darlene Pace* (D.25)
- Stacey Mars* (D.25)
- Peter Sullivan* (D.26)
- Kyle Gilley* (D.26)
- Joseph Turner* (D.26)
- Dianne Vreeland* (D.27)
- Laird Minor* (D.27)

Motion carried.

Item (5) **Setting Council Priorities**

Action: Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman stated, in terms of priorities, she would like to put the following suggestions on the table for Council’s review:

- 1. Transparent & Responsive Government**
To strengthen public trust through accessible, timely, and transparent communication.
- 2. Strategic Growth & Land Use Planning**
To guide responsible growth while preserving Greenville County’s character and natural resources.
- 3. Targeted Economic Development**
To attract high-quality jobs and investment while supporting existing businesses.

4. **Fiscal Stewardship and Core Services Including Public Safety**

To maintain strong financial health while prioritizing essential government services.

5. **Infrastructure and Capital Planning**

To address current infrastructure needs while preparing for future growth.

Chairman Blount stated Councilor Long contacted him earlier in the day and wanted to ensure funding for the performance reviews was prioritized on the list.

Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman stated, in her opinion, funding for the performance reviews would fall under Item 1 - Transparent and Responsive Government. She was not sure it should be added specifically, as Council may find itself bogged down in the minutiae of adding specific items under each item. Ms. Seman stated her intent was to present an overall strategy. As the budget was presented, the list could serve as a framework for determining where specific items fit. She stated that if an item did not appear to fit into one of the proposed categories, Council may want to consider either not funding it or gathering additional information about the item to support funding.

Chairman Blount stated that approach made more sense in the context of the discussion. He asked his colleagues whether there were any additional priorities they wanted to include on the list.

Councilor Farmer suggested Public Safety; however, he stated it could be included under Core Services.

Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman stated she had no problem calling out Public Safety specifically and including it with Fiscal Stewardship and Core Services.

Councilor Collins asked if Fiscal Stewardship was just a “nice-looking phrase” and whether it could be quantified. Mr. Collins stated both Fiscal Stewardship and Infrastructure had to be quantified. There had to be a “method of measurement” as opposed to “just a nice sentence.”

Chairwoman Pro Tem stated she appreciated Mr. Collins’ comments. In compiling the list, she did not attempt to define anything per se. Ms. Seman stated, regarding the Economic Vitality piece, Council had discussed the types of jobs they wanted companies to recruit for, as well as good pay and benefits. She stated for Fiscal Stewardship, she would include the County’s Triple A bond rating, possibly lowering taxes, and ensuring Council was a good steward of the taxpayers’ dollars. For Infrastructure Excellence, the body should consider how it was with its utility partners, ReWa and Metro. Ms. Seman stated the specifics for each category would be fleshed out through the process, and Council should rely on staff for assistance. During the budget process, there would be some narrative, and that was the place to discuss each category and have input on specific items.

Councilor Farmer stated County’s grading system for its roads and bridges was quantifiable.

Councilor Russo stated, year to year, staff provided information on how the roads were rated and whether the County was moving in a better direction. Looking at those figures, Council could see how the roads were improving. The list Ms. Seman provided served as a strategic umbrella, and it was up to Council to determine how to quantify the metrics.

Chairman Blount stated the list was more like a “mission statement of the priorities” and it would be up to Council to determine the specific items under each priority.

Action: Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman moved to approve the list of Strategic Priorities.

Motion carried.

Item (6) **Executive Session**

Action: Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman moved to go into Executive Session for the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice related to pending, threatened, or potential claims or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the County in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the County of a claim concerning the following: cases with Civil Action Numbers 2023-CP-23-04287, 6:26-cv-00134, 2018-CP-23-01294; and potential participation in a class action against ultra-processed food manufacturers and distributors.

Motion carried and the Committee of the Whole entered Executive Session at 4:27 p.m.

Councilor Long arrived at 4:45 p.m.

Councilor Shaw arrived at 5:07 p.m.

Reconvened

The regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole reconvened at 5:23 p.m.

Mr. Antley reported the Committee of the Whole, on April 7, 2026, went into Executive Session for the receipt of legal advice related to pending, threatened, or potential claims or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the County in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the County of a claim concerning the following: cases with Civil Action Numbers 2023-CP-23-04287, 6:26-cv-00134, 2018-CP-23-01294; and an unfiled potential participation in a class action against ultra-processed food manufacturers and distributors.

Mr. Antley stated no action was taken during the Executive Session.

Item (7) **Civil Action: 2018-CP-23-01294**

Action: Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman moved to adopt a resolution approving Greenville County’s participation in the proposed settlements of Opioid-Related Claims against Associated Pharmacies, Inc.; American Associated Pharmacies; J.M. Smith Company; Louisiana Wholesale Drug Company, Inc.; Morris and Dickson; North Carolina Wholesale Drug Company, Inc.; United National Foods, Inc. / SuperValu; and their related corporate entities; authorizing the County Attorney and the County Administrator to execute any and all documents necessary to the County’s participation in the proposed settlements; and instructing the County Attorney to authorize the County’s litigation counsel to sign any documents and take any action necessary to obtain court approvals or court orders necessary to complete these settlements.

Motion carried.

Item (8) **Civil Action: 2023-CP-23-04287**

Action: Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman moved to approve the settlement of Civil Action: 2023-CP-23-04287 based on the terms presented to the Committee; to authorize the Council Chairman, the County Administrator, and the County Attorney to execute any and all documents necessary to the County’s participation in the proposed settlement; and to instruct the County Attorney to authorize the County’s litigation counsel to sign any documents and take any action necessary to obtain court approvals or court orders necessary to complete the settlement.

Motion carried.

Item (9) **Adjournment**

Action: There being no further business, Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman moved to adjourn.

Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina McCaskill
Clerk to Council