



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes
Committee of the Whole Meeting
May 19, 2026
4:33 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

None

Staff Present

Joe Kernell, *County Administrator*
Ted Lambrecht, *Deputy County Administrator*
Jason Martin, *Assistant County Administrator*
Chris Antley, *County Attorney*
Regina McCaskill, *Clerk to Council*
Jessica Stone, *Deputy Clerk to Council*
Julie Wallace, *Administrative Assistant*
Bob Mihalic, *Governmental Affairs Officer*

Others Present

None

Call to Order

Chairman Blount

Invocation

Vice-Chairman Bradley

Item (3)

Approval of Minutes

a. May 5, 2026 – Regular Committee Meeting

Action: Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman moved to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2026, Regular Committee meeting.

Motion carried.

Item (4)

Opportunity Zone Discussion

Max Stewart, CEO, Greenville Area Development Corporation

Mr. Stewart stated when he originally presented information regarding Opportunity Zones in Greenville County, he had indicated a June 1 deadline for submission. During a recent meeting with Secretary of Commerce Harry Lightsey, the deadline was moved to June 15. Mr. Stewart stated, in light of the change, the follow-up presentation would be given in two weeks. He had read several legal briefs on opportunity zones and the creation of qualified opportunity funds. GADC was still compiling data and had reached out to the Appalachian Council of Governments and the Small Business Administration.

Mr. Stewart stated they were in the process of identifying local opportunity zone investments already in place, as well as the infrastructure investments. GADC was in the process of developing the narrative for Greenville County's opportunity zones.

Councilor Farmer stated a local branch of Huntington Bank had just opened in the downtown area. They were the largest supplier of SBA loans; therefore, the timing was incredible.

Mr. Stewart stated GADC was reviewing data from SBA loans, infrastructure credits, and EDA grants to provide the information the Council needed. Both ACOG and SBA had provided additional insights, as well

Chairman Blount asked whether there was still time for Council Members to submit suggestions on possible areas to consider.

Mr. Stewart stated it was based on the eligible tracks, as outlined on the PDF and on the website link. Councilor Russo had mentioned one of the zones in the Marietta area. He stated that Duncan Township, located in the extreme lower portion of the county, was also eligible. GADC had found quite a bit of information in the rural designation. Mr. Stewart stated if a Council Member had a zone they wanted GADC to look at, they could certainly do so; however, they had to stay within the guidelines set by the Department of Commerce and the Governor's Office.

Mr. Blount thanked Mr. Stewart for the update and stated they looked forward to his report in two weeks.

Item (5)

Greenville County Hazard Mitigation Resolution

Pierce Womack, Director of Emergency Management Services, stated they had been working for approximately one year to update the County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan, which included all the municipalities. He stated any type of public service entity was part of the plan. Mr. Womack stated they had met with a number of municipalities over the last two years. Hazard Mitigation was essentially about identifying the hazards the County may face, from buying back land that flooded periodically to purchasing emergency equipment and staging it in certain areas of the County. He stated the plan addressed all hazards and the County’s response. To remain compliant and continue receiving FEMA disaster funding and grants, the plan had to be updated. Regarding stormwater, the County hired a vendor, Woolpert; that update was approved by the State and FEMA, and had been quite a process. He stated, if approved, the resolution would then be sent to the municipalities for approval. Mr. Womack stated Emergency Management Services had hosted a number of meetings on the plan to obtain public input. The plan was originally created in 2005, with an update required every five years. There had been a delay on the most recent update due to the recent FEMA shutdown. They were finally ready to adopt the updated plan. He stated the County had applied for several grants that were on hold pending approval.

Action:

Councilor Collins moved to approve a resolution approving an update to the Greenville County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan.

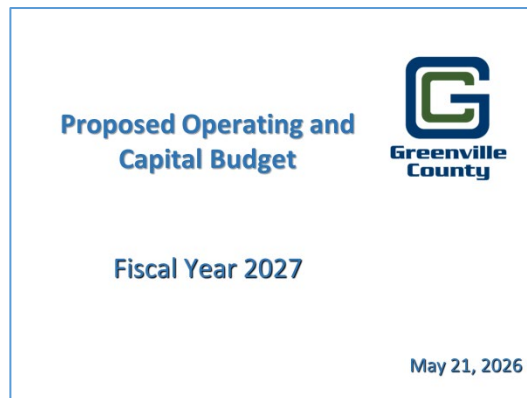
Motion carried.

Item (6)

County of Greenville FY2027 Budget Ordinance

Chairman Blount stated the proposed budget had been presented to Council a few weeks prior, giving them all a chance to review it.

Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman inquired about the timeline for approval of the budget.



Mr. Kernell stated first reading was scheduled for the Council meeting later in the evening, provided it was approved during the Committee of the Whole. He noted there was no discussion at first reading. Two meetings were scheduled for June, and they wanted the budget in place by July 1. The purpose of the presentation was to “get the ball rolling.” A Budget Workshop was scheduled for Thursday, May 21, at 4:00 pm.

Councilor Collins stated he appreciated all the work that had been done on the budget. He asked about scheduling additional workshops, as he would not be able to attend the one on Thursday. Mr. Collins stated he had many questions about the budget and the public deserved more insight and discussion on the matter.

Chairman Blount stated several Council Members were unable to attend the upcoming workshop and additional workshops would be scheduled to answer everyone’s questions.

Councilor McGahhey stated, per Council Rules, amendments should be made at second reading. He suggested Council Members submit their questions and amendments to Mr. Kernell in advance so he will know what avenues of discussion they want to pursue. Mr. McGahhey stated he wanted his colleagues to commit to having amendments at second reading.

Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman suggested they submit their questions in writing, which would make it much easier for staff to respond. Doing so created a record of the responses they could refer back to, if necessary. Ms. Seman stated seeing where each had concerns would be helpful and could help identify other issues that may need to be addressed.

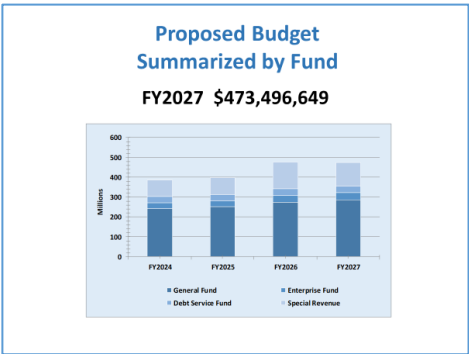
Chairman Blount suggested submitting questions a week in advance to give staff time to review them and be prepared to answer.

Councilor McGahhey inquired how proposed amendments for the same item were handled.

Mr. Kernell stated when talking numbers, there could be no conflicts. He requested Council submit any questions, amendments and requests to him. Staff would review them and identify any duplicates or opportunities to combine requests into a single request. Mr. Kernell stated that approach tended to work a bit cleaner. If there was a major amendment with a material effect, they had to “cost it all out.” For example, one Council Member may want to add 100 positions and another cut a large number of positions; staff had to ensure the numbers fit together.

Budget Proposal Meets Council Priorities

- **Transparent and Responsive Government:** strengthen public trust through accessible, timely, and transparent communication
- **Strategic Growth and Land Use Planning:** guide responsible growth while preserving Greenville County’s character and natural resources
- **Targeted Economic Development:** attract high-quality jobs and investment while supporting existing businesses
- **Fiscal Stewardship and Core Services, including Public Safety:** maintain strong financial health while prioritizing essential government services
- **Infrastructure and Capital Planning:** address current infrastructure needs while preparing for future growth



Highlights of Proposed Budget

- Reflects Council Priorities
- Intentional focus on maintaining sound fiscal condition
- Maintains adequate reserves and meets standards to maintain Triple A bond ratings
- Maintains average General Fund Balance of \$71.8 million
- Provides average 2.5% increase for all employees with additional 2.5% increase for public safety and law enforcement positions

Highlights of Proposed Budget

- 6 additional deputy positions for the Sheriff’s Office
- 2 additional deputy coroner positions for the Coroner’s Office
- 4 additional administrative positions for the Clerk of Court’s Office
- 1 additional governmental affairs support position
- \$7 million for vehicle/equipment replacements and additions
- Grant matching funds of \$200,000 per year

Highlights of Proposed Budget

- \$27.5 million for the Road Program
- \$1 million for Affordable Housing
- \$1.5 million for the Historic and Natural Resources Trust
- \$3.1 million for economic development programs
- \$21.937 million for capital projects to support technological enhancements, equipment replacement, facility improvements, and Parks and Recreation projects

Capital Projects Included in FY2027 Budget

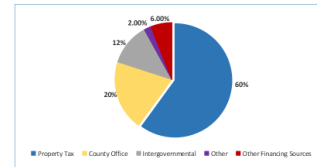
- **Technological Improvements**
 - Enhancements to operating systems and GIS Orthophotography
 - Historical Document Preservation for Register of Deeds
 - Replacement of Body-Worn and In-Car Cameras for Sheriff's Office
- **Facility/Construction Projects**
 - Flooring Replacements for the Courthouse, Law Enforcement Center, and Detention Center
 - Roof Replacements at Animal Care Services Facility and Central Records Facility
- **Equipment Projects**
 - Funding for vehicle replacements and additions
 - Replacement of EMS stretchers and computers
 - Replacement of Legacy Radios for Public Safety Offices

Capital Projects Included in FY2027 Budget

- **Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Projects**
 - Repaving of roads, parking lots, and sidewalks at Northside Park
 - Replacement of court and athletic lighting at Southside and Northside Parks
 - Replacement of playground equipment at Pittman Park
 - Master plan and construction documents for Oakland Plantation development and Lakeside Park renovations
- **Infrastructure Projects**
 - Road improvements
- **Stormwater Projects**
 - Neighborhood Drainage Projects, Flood Mitigation Program and Water Quality Retrofit/Stream Stabilization
- **Solid Waste Projects**
 - Twin Chimneys Landfill Cell Construction and Equipment Replacement

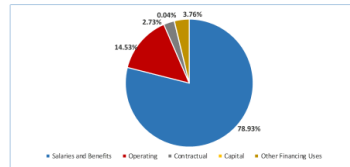
General Fund Revenues

	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
Property Tax	\$ 1,815,788,804	\$ 1,848,465,411	\$ 1,848,467,000	\$ 1,711,181,141
County Office Revenue	48,780,096	51,182,367	52,972,537	57,887,593
Intergovernmental	76,204,678	38,000,901	29,644,843	32,896,486
Other	11,409,756	15,609,986	6,772,389	6,895,656
Other Financing Sources	16,541,576	15,117,395	21,474,993	15,345,223
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 2,078,735,810	\$ 2,078,376,060	\$ 2,069,962,762	\$ 1,824,406,099

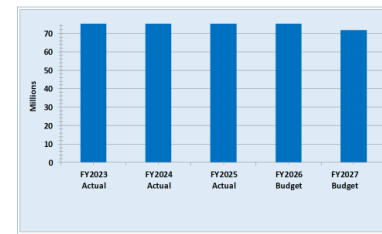


General Fund Expenditures

	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 192,816,284	\$ 203,478,000	\$ 217,490,383	\$ 226,302,265
Operating Expenses	27,565,088	40,460,769	42,889,453	43,650,034
Contractual Agreements	5,493,711	5,951,397	7,740,025	7,887,085
Capital Outlay	572,000	572,000	439,457	116,492
Total Recurring Expenditures	\$ 236,977,073	\$ 250,862,576	\$ 268,759,318	\$ 278,955,876
Other Financing Uses	8,861,389	10,469,036	8,502,046	10,382,254
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 345,838,462	\$ 361,331,612	\$ 377,261,364	\$ 289,338,130



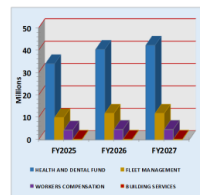
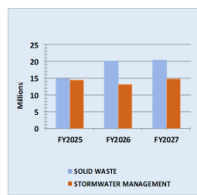
Fund Balance Projection



Proprietary Funds

ENTERPRISE FUND
FY2027 \$35,125,277

INTERNAL SERVICE FUND
FY2027 \$58,848,557



Action:

Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman moved to approve the County of Greenville FY2027 Budget Ordinance as presented.

Motion carried.

Item (7)

Adjournment

Action:

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

Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina McCaskill
Clerk to Council