



## GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

Regular Meeting

January 20, 2026

6:01 p.m.

Council Chambers

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*

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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*

**Regina McCaskill**, *Clerk to Council*

**Jessica Stone**, *Deputy Clerk to Council*

**Pam Gilliam**, *Administrative Assistant*

### **Council Members Remote Participation**

**Dan Tripp**, *Council District 28*

**Julie Wallace**, *Administrative Assistant*

**Bob Mihalic**, *Governmental Affairs Officer*

**Terrence Galloway**, *Information Systems*

**Hesha Gamble**, *Assistant County Administrator*

**Ronald Hollister**, *Assistant County Administrator*

### **Others Present**

**Jay Gresham**, *Clerk of Court*

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Blount

**Invocation** – *Introduced by Vice-Chairman Bradley*

Chief Zac Terry  
Canebrake Fire Department

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

- a. **January 6, 2026 – Regular County Council Meeting**
- b. **January 8, 2026 – Special Called County Council Meeting**

**Action:** Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman moved to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2026, Regular County Council Meeting and the January 8, 2026, Special Called County Council Meeting.

Motion carried.

**Item (5)**      **Proclamation**

- a. **National Medicolegal Death Investigation Professionals Week**

Councilor Russo presented a proclamation to the Greenville County Coroner’s Office in recognition of National Medicolegal Death Investigation Professionals Week.

**Item (6)**      **Appearances – Current Agenda Items**

- **Sergey Tsushko** – appeared regarding Item 12.a. ii. CZ-2026-002.

County Council recognized Pam Gilliam, Administrative Assistant for the County Council Office, on her retirement and thanked her for her years of service to Greenville County.

**Item (7)**      **Public Hearings**

- a. **Project Cherry / Special Source Credit Agreement**

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance authorizing execution and delivery of a special source credit agreement between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the County as Project Cherry, whereby certain special source credits against payment in lieu of taxes would be granted to the company to offset certain investment in qualifying infrastructure; and other matter related to the foregoing.

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

- b. **Anderson – Greenville Multi-County Industrial Business Park Agreement Amendment / Project Cherry**

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 and business park (2010 Park) of Greenville and Anderson Counties so as to enlarge the park to add a certain parcel in Anderson County.

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

- c. **Project Pioneer / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement**

Councilor Collins stated the public hearing was cancelled at the request of the company’s attorney and rescheduled for February 17, 2026.

**Item (8)**      **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Commissioning of Code Enforcement Officers**
- b. **Grant Application / EMS Grant-in-Aid**
- c. **SC Opioid Relief Fund Grant Request**
- d. **Community Project Application / City of Mauldin Native Fence Garden \$5000**
- e. **Community Project Application / Berea Public Service District – AED \$2,000**

**Action:** Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman moved to approve the Consent Agenda items.

Motion carried.

**Item (9)**      **Resolutions**

- a. **Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing Regarding the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds of the Greenville Arena District**

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Bradley moved for adoption a resolution calling for a public hearing to be held upon the question of the issuance of not exceeding \$40,000,000 of general obligation bonds of Greenville Arena District, South Carolina and to provide for the publication of the notice of such hearing.

Motion carried.

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

- a. **Zoning Ordinances**
  - i. **CZ-2025-067,** Property of Maruti Four LLC, located at 1035 S. Batesville Road, requesting rezoning from S-1 to C-3.

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Bradley moved adoption of the ordinance at third reading.

Councilor McGahhey stated the parcel was located in his district; he encouraged his colleagues to vote in favor of the request.

Motion carried.

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

- a. **Project Cherry / Special Source Credit Agreement**

**Action:** Councilor Collins moved for approval at second an ordinance authorizing execution and delivery of a special source credit agreement between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the County as Project Cherry, whereby certain special source credits against payments in lieu of taxes would be granted to the company to offset certain investment in qualifying infrastructure; and other matters relating to the foregoing.

Motion carried with Councilor Shaw and Councilor Collins voting in opposition.

**b. Anderson – Greenville Multi-County Industrial Business Park Agreement Amendment / Project Cherry**

**Action:** Councilor Collins moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to amend an agreement for the development of a joint county industrial and business park (2010 Park) of Greenville and Anderson Counties so as to enlarge the park. *(Project Cherry)*

Motion carried.

**c. Project Pioneer / Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement**

**Action:** Councilor Collins 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 an entity or entities identified by the County as Project Pioneer with respect to certain economic development property in the County, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes, including the provision of certain special source credits; authorizing the assignment and amendment of an existing fee in lieu of tax agreement applicable to a portion of the project, whereby such portion of the project would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes, including the provision of certain special source credits; and other matters related thereto.

Motion carried.

Councilor Collins indicated he failed to request the item be held until February 17, 2026, per the request of the company's attorney.

Ms. McCaskill stated the item needed to be reconsidered in order to allow for additional motions.

**Action:** Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman moved to reconsider the item.

Motion to reconsider carried.

**Action:** At the request of the company's attorney, Councilor Collins moved to hold the item until the February 17, 2026, meeting at which time the public hearing was scheduled.

Motion to hold carried.

**Item (12)      Ordinances – First Reading**

**a. Zoning Ordinances**

Vice-Chairman Bradley presented for first reading Zoning Dockets **CZ-2026-001 through CZ-2026-004**.

Chairman Blount referred the items to the Planning and Development Committee.

**b. Greenville Arena District / General Obligation Bonds**

Vice-Chairman Bradley presented for first reading an ordinance finding that Greenville Arena District, South Carolina may issue not exceeding \$40,000,000 of General Obligation Bonds in one or more series; to authorize the Board of Trustees of the Greenville Arena District, South Carolina to issue such bonds and to provide for the publication of notice of the said finding and authorization.

Chairman Blount stated the item would remain on the floor.

**c. Greenville Arena District - Intergovernmental Agreement Amendment / Accommodations Fee Revenues**

Vice-Chairman Bradley presented for first reading an ordinance approving an amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement related to the County's Accommodations Fee Revenues among Greenville County, Greenville Arena District, the City of Greenville and an escrow agent; approving an amendment to an escrow agreement among Greenville County, the City of Greenville and an escrow agent; and other matters related thereto.

Chairman Blount stated the item would remain on the floor.

**d. Hospitality Tax Revenue Bonds / Second Supplemental Ordinance**

Vice-Chairman Bradley presented for first reading a second supplemental ordinance providing for the issuance and sale by Greenville County, South Carolina of not exceeding \$100,000,000 Hospitality Tax Revenue Bonds in one or more series and the issuance and sale of Hospitality Tax Revenue Bond Anticipation Notes in one or more series, and other matters relating thereto.

Chairman Blount stated the item would remain on the floor.

**Item (13)      Committee Reports**

There were no reports.

**Item (14)      Public Comments**

- **Ed Paxton** – appeared regarding Organization Responsibility Chart
- **Jeffrey Lawson** – appeared regarding Performance Audit

**Item (15)      Administrator's Report**

Mr. Kernell stated the current penny shortage was affecting the County's Tax Office. The office was required to provide change if an individual paid in cash. He stated they had enough pennies to last approximately two months and were in the process of determining what action(s) could be taken to resolve the issue.

Mr. Kernell stated the County was preparing for the winter storm scheduled to hit the area over the upcoming weekend. The County no longer had an "in-house" meteorologist and had to rely on outside sources for weather information.

Regarding one of the speaker's reference to the lack of an Organizational Chart, Mr. Kernell stated the County did have one and that it could be found in the financials.

Councilor Shaw asked Mr. Kernell to clarify whether the \$24 million surplus mentioned in the earlier Committee of the Whole meeting referred to Hospitality Tax or Accommodations Tax.

Mr. Kernell confirmed it referred to a \$24 million Hospitality Tax fund balance at the end of the current fiscal year (June 30, 2026).

**Item (16)**      **Requests and Motions by Council Members**

**a. Resolution Requesting the South Carolina Department of Transportation Restrict Heavy Truck Traffic on Old Grove Road**

As noticed on the County Council agenda, Councilor Fant introduced a resolution requesting the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) restrict heavy truck traffic on Old Grove Road and requested the item be referred to the appropriate committee.

Councilor Fant provided a short video showing the issues along Old Grove Road. He stated

Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman stated, if her colleagues agreed, she would be open to waiving Council rules and taking up the item immediately.

Councilor Collins stated at least Grove Road looked good and the vehicles slowed down. He had 972 vehicles pass by his house, and there were no sidewalks. Mr. Collins stated he had been informed by SCDOT that he could put up any sign he wanted on his road, but could not enforce it. Everyone in Greenville County felt the pain of traffic congestion. Mr. Collins stated, "Welcome to the club of Greenville County," and suggested putting up another subdivision.

Councilor McGahhey stated if the item was referred to the RIPW Committee, he would like to speak with SCDOT to determine how many children walked to school on Grove Road, as it definitely made a difference.

Councilor Fant stated the number was approximately 50.

Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman stated she was actually thinking Council could consider the item immediately, rather than sending it to a committee. She stated if approving the resolution could get a handful of trucks to slow down, it would be better than none.

Councilor Collins stated in South Carolina, the Department of Education required students living less than 3/10 of a mile from their school to walk, regardless of whether there were sidewalks. It was a parental choice. He stated that was the reason there were school buses.

**Action:** Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman moved to suspend Council Rule IV.A., requiring consideration by a standing committee, in order to take the item up immediately.

Motion carried.

**Action:** Chairwoman Pro Tem Seman moved for adoption a resolution requesting the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) restrict heavy truck traffic on Old Grove Road.

Councilor Collins stated he did not understand why the road in question was any different than 80% of the state roads within the County. He reiterated that the South Carolina Department of Education required students living at least 3/10 of a mile from their school to walk.

Councilor McGahhey stated the proposed resolution formally requested SCDOT evaluate Old Grove Road and implement appropriate restrictions, if any. There was no guarantee any signs would be erected.

Motion as presented carried.

**Item (17)**      **Adjournment**

**Action:**      There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Bradley moved to adjourn.

The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Regina McCaskill  
Clerk to Council