

**GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2015
5:02 p.m.
County Square - Conference Room D**

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted on the bulletin board at the County Square and made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned Citizens.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN BOB TAYLOR
VICE CHAIRMAN BUTCH KIRVEN
JOE DILL (*arrived at 5:06 p.m.*)

WILLIS MEADOWS
SID CATES
JIM BURNS
XANTHENE NORRIS

LIZ SEMAN
LOTTIE GIBSON
LYNN BALLARD
FRED PAYNE

COUNCIL MEMBER(S) ABSENT:

JOE BALDWIN

STAFF PRESENT:

JOE KERNELL, County Administrator
MARK TOLLISON, County Attorney
JOHN HANSLEY, Deputy County Administrator
THERESA KIZER, Clerk to Council
REGINA MCCASKILL, Deputy Clerk to Council
PAULA GUCKER, Assistant County Administrator, Public Works
BOB MIHALIC, Governmental Relations Officer
DEAN CAMPBELL, Deputy County Attorney
SANDRA YUDICE, Assistant to the County Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT:

DR. YVONNE DUCKETT, Executive Director, Human Relations Department
ANGELA REEDER, Human Relations Department
JAMES SPEED, Chairman, Human Relations Commission

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bob Taylor

INVOCATION

Councilor Lottie Gibson

Item (3)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Councilor Gibson moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2014, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (4)

INTRODUCTION AND CONFIRMATION OF THE NEW HUMAN RELATIONS DIRECTOR – DR. YVONNE DUCKETT

James Speed, Chairman of the Human Relations Commission, stated the Commission began looking for a new Executive Director when Ms. Smathers announced her plans to retire. He stated out of 75 applications, the Search Committee narrowed the decision to a final three applicants who were presented to the full Board. Mr. Speed stated Dr. Duckett was overwhelming chosen by the Board to be the next Executive Director. Dr. Duckett brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge from her career as CEO and President of 2001 Staffing Inc., which was a company she owned and operated whose purpose was to help find jobs for people in the upstate. He stated Dr. Duckett went on to work at Southern Wesleyan University where she gained her Doctorate Degree in Leadership. There she developed a career services program that was still in place. He stated Dr. Duckett had also worked with Greenville Technical College for a period of 12 years. It was with great pleasure and honor that Mr. Speed introduced Dr. Yvonne Duckett.

Chairman Taylor welcomed Dr. Duckett to Greenville.

Councilor Gibson stated she has had the pleasure of working with Dr. Duckett at Greenville Technical College where Ms. Duckett was her supervisor. Ms. Gibson highly recommended her for the position of director; stating she was a person of integrity and a person who realized there were people in the community that needed their help.

Dr. Duckett thanked the Committee for giving her the opportunity. She stated she was very excited about her new position.

Councilor Payne thanked Dr. Duckett for her willingness to serve.

Councilor Gibson stated the Human Relations Division had not been fulfilling its original goals, she stated it was her hope that Dr. Duckett would review those original goals and work to that end.

ACTION: Councilor Norris moved to confirm the recommendation of the Human Relations Commission in naming Dr. Yvonne Duckett as Director of the Human Relations Department.

Motion carried unanimously by all members present.

Item (5)

EXECUTIVE SESSION - (Legal Advice)

ACTION: Councilor Kirven moved to go into Executive Session for discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual agreements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the public agency of a claim.

Motion carried and the Committee of the Whole entered into Executive Session at 5:09 p.m.

RECONVENE

Mr. Tollison reported Greenville County Committee of the Whole out of Executive Session stating no action was taken during the session.

The meeting reconvened at 5:32 p.m.

Item (6)

DSN LEGISLATION

ACTION: Councilor Seman moved to modify the length of members' terms on the Greenville County Disabilities and Special Needs Board to be in line with State law.

Councilor Kirven felt three-year staggered terms were preferred to four-year terms, therefore he would be voting against the motion.

Motion as presented carried with one in opposition (Kirven).

ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Taylor announced the Council Rules would be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting which would begin around 2:00 p.m. and run to about 5:00 p.m.

Item (7)

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Councilor Burns moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously by all County Council Members.

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa Kizer, Clerk to Council