



**MINUTES**  
**GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Committee of the Whole –Special Called Meeting**  
*June 9, 2015*  
*6:07 p.m.*  
*County Square – Conference Room D*

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

<p><i>Mr. Bob Taylor, Chairman</i> <i>Mr. Butch Kirven, Vice Chairman</i> <i>Mr. Joe Dill</i> via conference call <i>Mr. Joe Baldwin</i> <i>Mr. Willis Meadows</i> <i>Mr. Sid Cates</i> left @ 7:18 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Mr. Jim Burns</i> <i>Mrs. Xanthe Norris</i> left @ 7:54 p.m. <i>Mrs. Liz Seman</i> <i>Mrs. Lottie Gibson</i> left @ 7:53 p.m. <i>Mr. Lynn Ballard</i> <i>Mr. Fred Payne</i> Absent</p>
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*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 MEMBER(S) ABSENT:**

**Fred Payne**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

**Joe Kernell**, County Administrator  
**John Hansley**, Deputy County Administrator  
**Mark Tollison**, County Attorney  
**Theresa Kizer**, Clerk to Council  
**Regina McCaskill**, Deputy Clerk to Council  
**Paula Gucker**, Assistant County Administrator, Public Works  
**Bob Mihalic**, Governmental Relations Officer

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bob Taylor

**INVOCATION**

Councilor Jim Burns

**Item (3)**

**BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

Councilor Kirven stated Councilor Gibson had been interested in the Staunton Bridge Community Project for quite some time and money was designated in the proposed budget for the project. Councilor Kirven inquired as to how the project could be accelerated.

Joe Kernell stated funding for the Staunton Bridge Community Project was actually included in the budget for FY 2017. He added it would take time for the engineering and the design to be completed. After that, the County would receive bids for the project which would take about 8 months. He assured Council the project would start as soon as possible.

Councilor Burns requested a review of the FILOT (Fee-In-Lieu of Tax) process and asked if the process was an ordinance or a policy.

John Hansley stated the ordinance regarding the FILOT process was passed in 1996 which was the Master Ordinance for the Infrastructure Bank. The intention of the Master Ordinance was the issuance of special source revenue bonds for the Road Program. FILOT money received by the County was subject to a formula in which Greenville County received 21-23% of the money. That money went into the Infrastructure Bank. The balance of the money was allocated to tax entities based on millage rates. GADC received a percentage based on projects brought to Greenville County. Upstate Alliance received funds as well as NEXT Operations and Esurance.

Councilor Gibson asked how much tax money went to GADC.

Chairman Taylor stated GADC was primarily funded by FILOT funds. Businesses in Greenville County also gave money to GADC which was used for marketing and similar needs.

Councilor Burns inquired about current bonds and payoff schedules, Esurance, and Upstate Alliance. Councilor Burns was provided information from Joe Kernell and John Hansley regarding the bond and payoff schedules as well as the Infrastructure Bank Fund Balance. Councilor Burns asked if Upstate Alliance had requested additional money and he was advised that they were being allotted the same amount of money as was in the current budget.

Councilor Cates asked if the \$4 million from the Infrastructure Bank was included in the \$8.5 million budgeted for the Roads Program. He then stated his understanding was that the added license and registration fees amounted to \$4 million.

Joe Kernell stated registration fees were actually \$6.3 - \$6.5 million.

John Hansley stated part of the license and registration fees were used for operations.

Councilor Burns stated in the past the budget reflected Policy and Procedures. He requested quarterly updates as mandated by ordinances.

John Hansley stated the Policy and Procedures aspect of the budget would be included in the final version.

Councilor Burns stated when ordinances were passed, most stipulated Council was to receive updates on a regular basis.

Mark Tollison stated he would review any ordinance questioned to determine the update to Council aspect of the ordinance.

Councilor Burns stated money budgeted for Animal Care increased from the last budget and asked if the increase was due to unforeseen expenses.

Joe Kernell replied Animal Control Officers were moved from a different budget group to Animal Care. Additional funding was added to the Animal Care department for medications for the animals, staffing and services. Mr. Kernell added most over expenditures were within Public Safety and overtime requests. Mr. Kernell explained spending trends and habits of each department and emphasized the budget was monitored carefully. He stated some departments decreased actually in money allotted.

Councilor Meadows inquired about the Tiger Grant and the Swamp Rabbit Trail.

Joe Kernell stated money for those items were in the Recreation Fund and shown as a capital project for Swamp Rabbit Trail.

Councilor Burns stated the County spent \$750,000.00 per year on trails.

Joe Kernell stated the City of Greenville had promised money toward the Swamp Rabbit Trail with the stipulation that bridges would be built; however, the City has indicated the bridges may not be needed. The Tiger Grant would help cover the costs of the bridges if it was approved and if the County accepted the grant. Joe Kernell stated Clemson University was conducting a study on opportunities available. Money from municipalities for recreation and a comprehensive plan would be agreed upon by the County and the municipalities after the study was presented.

Councilor Ballard stated the County had collected approximately \$1.6 million yearly in the tax sales. He asked why a balance did not show in the second year.

John Hansley stated there were “over bids”. When a property was sold for unpaid back taxes, the taxes were paid with that money. If the bid was higher than the amount owed on the property, the owner got the over bid money.

Councilor Burns asked how the County knew when increases in the budget solved the problems they were intended to solve.

Chairman Taylor stated each department was aware of its problems and needs. Additional resources made available by budget increases were to be used to solve problems and meet needs. Council had the ability of follow-up with departments to track progress and determine if budget increases had resolved issues or if certain issues still plagued the departments. He added Council did not solve the problems but made needed resources available.

Councilor Burns stated County Council had a fiduciary commitment to the taxpayers to insure tax money was used to solve the problems and meet the needs of the County.

Councilor Ballard stated he agreed with Councilor Burns regarding the fiduciary commitment to the taxpayers of Greenville County. He stated each department did what they were charged to do but others were working against each other, especially in regards to Public Safety.

Councilor Baldwin asked if the measure of success of additional deputies was fewer arrests or more arrests and thus keeping the jail full.

Councilor Burns stated they would have to ask themselves were they safer today than yesterday and how did they measure success in terms of the budget. He added he was not just speaking about Public Safety but other taxing entities such as Greenville Tech and the Greenville County Museum of Art. Money was given to those entities but Council had no say in how the money was spent.

Councilor Norris stated Public Safety did not work for the people in District 23 and District 25. The residents of those districts were not being served.

Councilor Gibson stated the budget should meet community needs for alcohol and drug abuse; and 28-30 days for rehabilitation was not long enough.

Joe Kernell stated a total of \$291,000 had been allocated for Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Councilor Burns stated the Revenue Summary of the proposed budget listed Administrative Costs and he inquired if that was a shared cost.

Joe Kernell stated Administrative Costs were charged to the other departments for the management of fees.

Councilor Burns requested a copy of the Financial Procedures and Policy. Councilor Burns stated he would like more detail on the Accommodations Tax and the H Tax as well as details of revenue growth and the Fund Balance.

**ACTION:**

Councilor Kirven moved to refer the Greenville County FY 2016 Proposed Budget back to County Council to be considered on June 16, 2015.

Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Meadows inquired if money allocated for Fleet Management includes all repairs.

Joe Kernell stated all repairs and maintenance were done in-house, if possible. Fleet Maintenance did some work for other agencies and sold fuel and propane to outside entities.

John Hansley stated the Internal Service Fund was designed to break even on costs and revenue.

Councilor Meadows stated Capital Outlay for FY 2017 was less for the than for FY 2016.

Joe Kernell stated the difference was due to software expenses.

Councilor Meadows questioned non-departmental costs.

John Hansley stated non-departmental costs included insurance, outside audit services, and gas contingencies. Those items affected most departments. Mr. Hansley stated the final budget would include a glossary for terms used throughout the budget.

**Item (4)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION:**

Councilor Ballard moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

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Theresa Kizer, Clerk to Council