

**MINUTES  
GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL  
MARCH 17, 2015  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
6:13 p.m.**

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  
JOE BALDWIN

WILLIS MEADOWS  
SID CATES  
JIM BURNS  
XANTHENE NORRIS

LIZ SEMAN  
LOTTIE GIBSON  
LYNN BALLARD  
FRED PAYNE

**COUNCIL MEMBER(S) ABSENT:**

NONE

**STAFF PRESENT:**

JOE KERNELL, County Administrator  
MARK TOLLISON, County Attorney  
JEFF WILE, Assistant County Attorney  
DEAN CAMPBELL, Deputy 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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

JOHN ELDRIDGE, Chief Deputy, Sheriff's Office

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bob Taylor

**INVOCATION**

Councilor Willis Meadows

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Item (4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Councilor Norris moved to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2015, Regular Council Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (5) PROCLAMATION**

**(a) St. Baldrick's Day**

This item was postponed until April 7, 2015.

**Item (6) APPEARANCES – CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no speakers.

**Item (7) CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. **2015 Proposed Grievance Committee**
- b. **Community Project Application / Dunklin Fire District / \$5,500.00**
- c. **Mutual Aid Assistance Agreement / City of Greer**

**ACTION:** Councilor Seman moved to approve the Consent Agenda items.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (8) RESOLUTIONS**

**(a) Confluence Outdoor, LLC / FILOT**

**ACTION:** Councilor Kirven moved for adoption a resolution consenting to an assignment of interests under a fee in lieu of tax and incentive agreement with Greenville County, South Carolina, by Confluence Real Estate Holdings, LLC, CH Holdings Corp., and Confluence Holding Corp. to Confluence Outdoor, LLC, and other matters related thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

**(b) Mutual Aid Assistance Agreement / Florence County**

**ACTION:** Councilor Semen moved for adoption a resolution approving a Law Enforcement Assistance and Support Agreement between the Greenville County Sheriff's Office and the Florence County Sheriff's Office.

Motion carried unanimously.

(c) **Mutual Aid Assistance Agreement / Darlington County**

**ACTION:** Councilor Semen moved for adoption a resolution approving a Law Enforcement Assistance and Support Agreement between the Greenville County Sheriff's Office and the Darlington County Sheriff's Office.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (9) ORDINANCES – THIRD READING**

(a) **Zoning Ordinances**

1. **CZ-2014-50**, Property of Ann Vaughn Stephens and Betsy Vaughn Lancaster, located at 15 Five Forks Road requesting rezoning from R-S to R-15.

**ACTION:** Councilor Dill moved adoption of the ordinance at third reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. **CZ-2015-01**, Property of Randall S. Edwards, William M. Edwards, V. Wayne Edwards and Judith Edwards, located at Elaine Court and Elaine Avenue requesting rezoning from R-20 to R-6.

**ACTION:** Councilor Dill moved adoption of the ordinance at third reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. **CZ-2015-02**, Property of Rocky K. Smith located at Highway 14 requesting rezoning from R-S to C-2.

**ACTION:** Councilor Dill moved adoption of the ordinance at third reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. **CZ-2015-05**, Property of First Citizens Bank located at 508 State Park Road requesting rezoning from O-D to R-12.

**ACTION:** Councilor Dill moved adoption of the ordinance at third reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. **CZ-2015-06**, Property of Ketty M. Ramirez located at 907 S. Buncombe Road requesting rezoning from R-15 to C-1.

**ACTION:** Councilor Dill moved adoption of the ordinance at third reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

**(b) Text Amendment / Home Occupation (CZ-2014-53)**

**ACTION:** Councilor Dill moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance to amend Article 6, Use Regulations, Section 6:2.13 Home Occupation, of the Greenville County Zoning Ordinance, to provide a more comprehensive list of allowable home occupations which accurately reflect current conditions.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (10) ORDINANCES – SECOND READING**

**(a) Sunday Alcohol Sales Referendum Ordinance**

**ACTION:** Councilor Kirven moved for approval at second reading an ordinance calling for a referendum at the next general election to determine whether the South Carolina Department of Revenue may issue temporary permits to allow for the sale of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption and beer and wine at permitted off-premises locations on Sundays in the unincorporated area of the County of Greenville.

**AMENDMENT:** Councilor Kirven moved to amend Section 1. Referendum. to change the wording “Greenville County Election Commission” to read “Greenville County Voter Registration and Election Board”.

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

By vote of eight in favor (Burns, Norris, Seman, Gibson, Kirven, Payne, Dill, Baldwin) and 4 opposed (Cates, Taylor, Ballard, Meadows), the motion as amended carried.

**Item (11) ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

**(a) Zoning Ordinances**

Councilor Dill presented for first reading Zoning Dockets CZ-2015-17 through CZ-2015-25.

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

**(b) Towing Ordinance**

Councilor Seman presented for first reading an ordinance to amend the non-consent towing ordinance to provide that the provisions of the ordinance apply to parking areas for apartment complexes.

Chairman Taylor stated the item would remain on the floor until second reading.

**Item (12)**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(a) Committee of the Whole**

**1. Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (4 vacancies)**

**ACTION:** On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Kirven moved to elect by acclamation the following:

- 1. Renita Barksdale (District 28)**
- 2. Jane Daniel (District 21)**
- 3. Audrey Pasin (District 20)**
- 4. Louise Poole (District 26)**

Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Greenville County Planning Commission (3 vacancies)**

**ACTION:** On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Kirven moved to elect by acclamation the following:

- 1. J. Metz Looper (District 19)**
- 2. Jay Rogers (District 22)**
- 3. Milton Shockley (District 21)**

Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Greenville Area Development Corporation / Council Member Seat**

**ACTION:** On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Kirven moved to elect by acclamation Councilor Jim Burns to fill the Council Member seat on the Greenville Area Development Corporation.

Motion carried unanimously..

**Item (13)**

**APPEARANCES – non agenda items**

- Geneva Lawrence, 207 Beattie Street, Simpsonville – appeared regarding Greenville County Animal Care
- Jack Logan, 5051 Old Augusta Road, Greenville – appeared the Swamp Rabbit Trail / Afterschool programs
- Deb Long, 1 St. Francis Drive, Greenville – appeared regarding City View
- Daniel Dugean, 10 Kingsway Court, Greer – appeared regarding EMS

Joe Kernell, County Administrator, replied there was a Memorandum of Understanding being put together for the oversight of the medical side of the issue. The memorandum

was not about the business side or the transfer of ownership of the system. It was an attempt to get the three parties (Greenville County, GHS, and St. Francis) to agree on the oversight to insure patients were treated the way they should be treated.

Councilman Burns stated he was worried that they have had productive conversations or productive talks and were at the point where GHS takes over and wraps the vehicles and puts logos on shirts/uniforms. He stated if they were at that point, they have covered a lot of ground.

Joe Kernell stated they were not at that point. St. Francis (Bon Secours) had requested those issues be included in the agreement. Mr. Kernell added he has been opposed to that being in the agreement as that would be a business decision between the County and the contracted agency. However, St. Francis had taken the stand that the issue should be included and has refused to go any further. Mr. Kernell stated they were a long way away from a business deal and this was simply an attempt to get the three parties together to look at the patient care side and to establish seats on a board. It has been said all along there would be representation from both hospitals to look at opportunities for patient care and similar issues. He agreed there would be a value for anybody to put their logo on ambulances. He advised they must pay attention to the business aspect and make sure they were not doing something that they should not be. He added there was an opportunity to reunite the parties but the logo issue has been a sticking point for St. Francis. GHS has agreed to hold off changing any logos for a period of time, 3-5 years, as long as they received subsidy for operation of the system.

Councilman Burns stated if GHS had agreed to hold off on the logo issue for a period of 3-5 years in order to offset a subsidy, then there had been business points discussed and conversations about business cases made at the meetings. He inquired if those conversations had been presented to the Public Safety Committee.

Joe Kernell replied the County and the two hospital systems were not at that point yet in their discussions.

Daniel Dugean replied the Memorandum of Understanding had been written to state they were not at that point but there had been enough conversation to easily get to that point. St. Francis had asked to protect the viability of its own organization in the course of negotiations. GHS had agreed to hold off on the logos for 3-5 years but at the end of that period, they would have a competitive advantage in the community. St. Francis had agreed for GHS to operate the system but not to wrap the buses with their logo.

Councilor Norris stated she had concerns about the vehicles. She stated when a vehicle transported a person it would be important to know which hospital the vehicle was associated with. If the GHS logo was on all the vehicles, the community would not know where they were being sent. She suggested the Memorandum of Understanding should clearly state people had a choice of hospitals and there would be nothing confusing about the process.

Joe Kernell responded that patient choice was not negotiable. It has always been in place and would continue to be in place. St. Francis stated people would not be given a choice if the logos were in place on the vehicles and the uniforms. He stated EMS workers have always asked which hospital was preferred. Mr. Kernell added the intent of the Memorandum of Understanding had been an attempt to keep the County, GHS and St. Francis together but he was doubtful this would occur and there would be future conversations regarding the matter.

Daniel Dugean stated there had been a suggestion for GHS to take the right side of the vehicles, St. Francis take the left side and the County take the front and the back for logo purposes. He added there would be a way to do that in a collaborative effort.

Councilman Baldwin inquired about a previous proposal to hold a Council Workshop to discuss the issue.

Chairman Taylor responded any issues that would be discussed at a Council Workshop would be the same issues that had just been presented.

Councilman Baldwin asked when this would occur. He stated he had received questions from people regarding the EMS issues and he had been unable to answer their questions. He wanted to hear from the community as well as GHS.

Chairman Taylor advised he would look into setting up a Council Workshop to discuss the EMS issues.

Councilor Gibson asked what had started the division between the County, GHS and St. Francis and who had started the conversation regarding GHS having EMS under their umbrella.

Joe Kernell stated the discussion had been going on for quite some time and nothing had been brought to Council yet. He stated St. Francis approached Council in the fall about events which had supposedly occurred but have not.

Councilor Gibson asked again who started the discussion about giving EMS to Greenville Memorial (GHS).

Joe Kernell stated he has had several conversations about the issue and there had been discussions in the last two Council retreats but not in any meetings.

Councilor Gibson stated she felt the EMS issue should have come through a committee, hopefully the Committee of the Whole if not a standing committee. She expressed concerns about the safety of the ambulances on the road.

Councilor Seman stated she felt a proposal instead of another Council Workshop would be helpful to debate the issue with the three parties.

Joe Kernell stated there was an effort to make those arrangements and there have been quite a few distractions. He stated the Memorandum of Understanding would be completed soon and would be presented to Council, however, the business aspect of the proposal was still being drafted.

Councilor Seman inquired as to how the EMS issue would figure into budget negotiations.

Joe Kernell stated the EMS issue would have significant impact on the budget as it would be beneficial to both the County and the agency awarded the contract.

Councilor Ballard requested copies of Daniel Dugean's presentation.

Daniel Dugean agreed to provide copies to the Council members.

Councilor Ballard asked if the proposal would be presented to Council for review and/or debate prior to finalization.

Joe Kernell confirmed a proposal would be presented to Council to decide what direction to take, if any.

Councilor Ballard stated he has heard conversations which indicated the proposal could be approved without being presented to full Council.

Joe Kernell stated the proposal could be approved without presentation to full Council as County Code provided for the approval, but the proposal would be presented to full Council and no decision would be made without input from Council Members.

Councilor Dill asked if the County had studied any other county EMS services, such as Charleston.

Joe Kernell stated this information would be included in the proposal.

Appearances continued.

- Ray Cothran, 844 Cooley Bridge Road, Pelzer – appeared regarding crime and drug activity in South Greenville
- Jessica Monroe, 150 Fernwood Drive, Greer – appeared regarding animal welfare reform

**Item (14)**

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

There was no Administrator's Report.

**Item (15)**

**REQUESTS AND MOTIONS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

- Councilor Kirven commented about the efforts being made to clean up roadside litter. He encouraged everyone to get involved.
- Councilor Burns requested the Council Rules be placed on the next Committee of the Whole meeting agenda.
- Councilor Norris stated she had been on the Council for 19 years and District 23 still had the same problems it had 19 years ago: Tent City, women of the night, hidden communities, Boulder Creek where the children were not being picked up for school, Crestwood, and City View. She stated people were concerned and she wanted to know what could be done. She stated no other Council District had the types of problems she had and she encouraged her colleagues to go out and see what she was talking about. Poe



Mill, Brandon Mill, Brutontown and Freetown were coming along and she thanked Ms. Garrison for coming out to help in City View. She also thanked the Recreation District for their help last summer in giving the children someplace to go. She then thanked the Council for their help but stated it was not enough. Churches were contributing and the people were being satisfied but it was not the kind of help that was needed.

- Councilor Seman stated on March 1<sup>st</sup> Data Logistics became the 100<sup>th</sup> company to operate at SCTAC which was a historic number for the 50 year old park.
- Councilor Gibson stated the district lines needed to be worked on. She stated her district ran from Easley Bridge Road to Laurens Road, from Augusta Road to Georgia Road and then back up Augusta Road into the City. She requested they look again at the district lines and hopefully they would see where some of the problems areas were and shift some of them into other districts.
- Councilor Ballard stated litter was a County-wide problem. He thanked Ms. Kizer for getting the ball rolling. He then requested the issue of EMS be placed on the next Committee of the Whole meeting agenda.

**(Per Councilman Willis Meadows' request, Councilman Fred Payne's comments are stated verbatim.)**

- Councilor Payne stated, "Thank you Mr. Chairman. I've listened to this conversation and I, and you know, we all want to live in a utopia. We want everything to be perfect and ideal and the best for everybody. We want to live in the place where, what was it the radio guy said, where all of our children are above average, the women are good-looking and the men are strong or whatever. We all want a perfect ideal. Whatever, wrong quote here. But what we ask our county to do. We set, we get together as a committee in a retreat or in workshops and we talk about our goals. We want to provide high quality services, we want to maintain our credit ratings and the lowest costs per thousand people for services in the state. We want to balance the budget and then, we get down to the budget process and we start looking at income projections and expense potential. And everybody understanding its' budget process. Everybody is saying our needs are very important and I agree they are. But here, tonight we've talked about the need for the problems with drugs and crimes in different spots in the County, but the fact that the Sheriff's Department needs more deputies. There's a need for better response times. I got an e-mail today that talked about the need for improved response times, which means more deputies, more vehicles, more equipment. We've got problems with EMS. We need to spend more money to reduce the times and improve the services there. We've got 911 requirements where we've got to move, we've got to improve the quality of communication equipment because they're going to do away with a lot of the stuff that we're using and we've got to be able to, and that's, I think, a 30 or 40 million dollar cost. We've got DHEC regs that we were told yesterday at GPATS. We need to be concerned about air quality and if we don't, it's going to cost us a lot of money to fix that. We've heard needs for animal control improvements. We don't treat the animals right. We need to spend more money in that area. We need to pick up the litter more and we've been talking about fixing roads for a couple of years. There's a whole litany of expenses all of which cost a lot of money and what's on the other side? The income. So, what does the income look like for next year? Well, we've had some population growth and so what

that hopefully means is a little more increase in sales taxes and maybe property taxes and things like that. But, what about income losses? Well, the State's having discussions now about Local Government Funds. Are they going to increase that or decrease it, Mr. Dill? They're going to decrease it. We're going to lose more money from the State on the Local Government Funds. They're going to move 450 miles of state roads to the County for us to fix because they have no intention of ever spending any money on them. And so, what we agree, we are against tax increases and none of us are going to vote for tax increase. We did allow a referendum to allow tax increase and that failed miserably so we got a strong message there, no tax increases and you know we haven't figured out how to print money. Washington manages to print money. We can't do that. So, how do we solve this? We tell our Administrator we don't care what it takes. You fix all the problems, improve the services and don't do it with any more money. As a matter of fact, we want you to save money. If you've got any ideas for saving money or making more money, we're not going to allow you to do those because we want an input, we want input on that. I'm a little bit frustrated. I can imagine our Administrator. We need to recognize the reality of our situation. I mean, we can't spend money and solve every problem by throwing money at it. As a matter of fact, I believe that a lot of our problems are not, will not, be solved by money. They're going to be charge, change, they're going to be fixed by changing the hearts of people. We need to strengthen families. In our hearing this afternoon, we asked one of the ladies who was a candidate for Alcohol and Drug Abuse 'Are you more for prevention or for fix, for treatment?' It costs a lot to treat alcohol and drug abuse. She said prevention. We've all heard let's don't be pound, pennywise and pound foolish and we know that to spend a little bit of money on prevention is going to fix it. There are some solutions that are lower costs. We can't just fix problems by throwing money at it. And I hear a lot of people saying 'throw money, throw money'" and I'm, you know, I think we've got a great community. Do we have problems? Absolutely. Every problem in America, every community in America has problems. So, you know, I've said more than I should have probably but thank you for letting me do it, Mr. Chairman."

- Councilor Dill reminded Council of an 80 year old woman who was put in jail for not cutting her grass after having been cited four times. He then stated he had asked staff why certain burned out, dilapidated houses in his district were allowed to exist, and why those people were not put in jail for it. The reply was the ordinance would not let them. He challenged the attorney; he wanted the County to have an ordinance that states if a person would not clean up their yard or a burned out house, then they needed to go to jail. He stated several districts had old buildings that needed to be dealt with and the owners were not afraid of the County. He wanted the County to put teeth in their ordinances. Mr. Dill stated in the past there has been money in the budget for waterlines and he encouraged the Administrator to replenish those monies because there were areas in the County that were hurting for water. He then stated the northern part of the County was also falling victim to daily break-ins. He stated he had talked with the Sheriff and they were doing all they could do to address those issues. He appreciated the work the Sheriff's Office was doing. Mr. Dill commented about the issue of killing dogs and cats, and he didn't like it either. He stated the County had an ordinance on the books where Council had voted against killing babies, but there was no teeth in it; they couldn't put anybody in jail for it; they couldn't put anybody out of business because they were doing it. He stated if they were going to talk about dogs and cats, then they needed to talk about babies, too. Mr. Dill expressed birthday wishes to Ms. Norris and Mr. Meadows.

**Item (16)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION:** Councilor Dill moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Theresa Kizer, Clerk to Council