



# MINUTES GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Committee of the Whole

June 7, 2016

4:30 p.m.

County Square – Conference Room D

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

*Mr. Bob Taylor, Chairman*

*Mr. Butch Kirven, Vice Chairman*

*Mr. Joe Dill*

*Mr. Joe Baldwin*

*Mr. Willis Meadows*

*Mr. Sid Cates*

*Mr. Jim Burns*

*Mrs. Xanthene Norris*

*Mrs. Liz Seman*

*Mrs. Lottie Gibson* **Absent**

*Mr. Lynn Ballard*

*Mr. Fred Payne*

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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.*

## 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*

## OTHERS PRESENT

None

## CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bob Taylor

## INVOCATION

Councilor Liz Seman

**Item (3)                    APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:**                    Councilor Dill moved to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2016 Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

**Item (4)                    EXECUTIVE SESSION (Boards and Commissions Matter)**

**ACTION:**                    Councilor Kirven moved to go into Executive Session for discussion of the appointment of persons to County boards and commissions.

Councilor Ballard requested, without objection, that Clerk to Council, Theresa Kizer, and Deputy Clerk to Council, Regina McCaskill, remain during the Executive Session.

Motion carried and the Committee of the Whole entered into Executive Session at 4:32 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 5:11 p.m.

**Item (5)                    REMOVAL OF CURRENT BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS**

**ACTION:**                    On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Cates moved to vacate the Board and Commission positions whose members did not respond to the request by County Council to explain their absences.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

**ACTION:**                    On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Cates moved to accept the responses provided by the Board and Commission members who responded to County Council's request to explain their absences.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

**Item (6)                    BOARD AND COMMISSION POLICY CHANGE**

Chairman Taylor announced the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to assist in the Board and Commission Policy changes. Chairman Taylor appointed Councilor Liz Seman as Chairman, and asked Councilor Xanthene Norris, Councilor Sid Cates and Councilor Dill to serve on the committee along with the Clerk to Council, Theresa Kizer.

Councilor Burns stated there should not be an unlimited amount of excused or unexcused absences. He added valid excused absences should be enumerated and specific. Councilor Burns stated the Chairman of each board or commission should report attendance to Council on a regular basis.

Theresa Kizer stated each board or commission was to report attendance on a quarterly basis but this had not always been the case. Mrs. Kizer stated Jessica Stone, Administrative Assistant to the Clerk, would follow up with each Chairman.

Chairman Taylor stated boards were different in character and could possibly be categorized as "Action Boards" vs. "Advisory Boards". Some boards, such as the Planning Commission, made crucial decisions affecting the citizens of Greenville County while others were policy-making boards. Chairman Taylor suggested categorizing boards and commissions in order to determine an acceptable level for excused and unexcused absences. He added the Construction Board of Appeals and the Board of Zoning Appeals, along with the Planning Commission, would fall into the "Action Boards" category.

Councilor Ballard suggested Greater Greenville Sanitation, Greenlink, Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict, Thrive Upstate and the Greenville County Redevelopment Authority be categorized as "Action Boards". He added the Ad Hoc Committee should take this into consideration when discussing Board and Commission Policy changes. Councilor Ballard stated boards changing meeting dates and times needed to be addressed in regards to the attendance policy as well. He stated some boards were "joint boards" and he was not sure if Council alone could make policy changes to those boards.

Councilor Cates stated Council needed to determine what rules or policies a board or commission could make for themselves or if Council had final approval.

Councilor Dill stated a board's rules and policies could not supersede Council's.

Councilor Cates stated some boards' rules superseded those set forth by Council. He stated some boards allowed the Chairman to excuse absences.

Councilor Dill stated Council had not been aware some boards were setting their own rules but now that it was apparent, it was up to Council to rectify the situation.

Theresa Kizer inquired about changing rules and policies for joint boards.

Chairman Taylor suggested consulting with the City of Greenville in regards to joint boards.

**Item (7)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION:**

Councilor Kirven moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:22 p.m.

Motion to adjourn carried unanimously by Council Members present.

Respectfully submitted:

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Theresa B. Kizer, Clerk to Council