



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MAY 2, 2017

4:49 P.M.

COUNTY SQUARE – CONFERENCE ROOM D

COUNCIL MEMBERS

MR. BUTCH KIRVEN, CHAIRMAN
MR. WILLIS MEADOWS, VICE CHAIRMAN
MRS. XANTHENE NORRIS, CHAIRMAN PRO TEM
MR. JOE DILL
MR. MIKE BARNES
MR. SID CATES
MR. RICK ROBERTS
MR. BOB TAYLOR
MRS. LIZ SEMAN
MR. ENNIS FANT, SR.
MR. LYNN BALLARD
MR. FRED PAYNE

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
Mark Tollison, County Attorney
Jeff Wile, Assistant County Attorney
John Hansley, Deputy County Administrator
Theresa Kizer, Clerk to Council
Regina McCaskill, Deputy Clerk to Council
Bob Mihalic, Governmental Relations Officer
Shannon Herman, Assistant to the County Administrator
Rick Blackwell, E-911 Director

OTHERS PRESENT

None

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Butch Kirven

INVOCATION

Councilor Xanthene Norris

Item (3) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

ACTION: Councilor Seman moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2017, Regular Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (4) **ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2474 / ROAD MAINTENANCE FEE**

ACTION: Councilor Seman moved to approve an ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 2474, as amended, so as to increase the County Road Maintenance Fee.

Motion to amend carried by a roll call vote of seven (Roberts, Taylor, Norris, Seman, Fant, Kirven and Payne) in favor and five (Dill, Barnes, Meadows, Cates and Ballard) in opposition.

Item (5) **ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A UNIFORM CHARGE FOR COUNTY-WIDE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION SERVICES**

ACTION: Councilor Seman moved to approve an ordinance to establish a uniform charge for the provision of upgraded County-wide public safety communication services to all real property within Greenville County.

Motion carried by a roll call vote of nine (Barnes, Cates, Roberts, Taylor, Norris, Seman, Ballard, Kirven and Payne) in favor and three (Dill, Meadows and Fant) in opposition.

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

ACTION: Councilor Ballard moved to amend Section 6(B) of the Greenville County Council Policy for Board and Commission appointments as follows:

Each Committee is responsible for interviewing and nominating applicants for the boards and commissions as assigned above, ~~but applicants are not required to interview.~~ New applicants must appear before the Committee to be interviewed; incumbents have the option of appearing. On an "as needed" basis and with the consent of the chairperson of each affected Committee, the Chairman of County Council may delegate the responsibility to interview and nominate applicants for a particular board or commission to a non-assigned Committee. Prior to the Committees interviewing and nominating applicants, the Committee Chairmen shall convene to establish a standardized process for interviewing applicants at the Committee level.

Councilor Ballard stated he found it difficult to nominate an applicant without meeting the individual first. He stated the Public Safety Committee recently chose to postpone nominations to a board with only one applicant as the individual did not attend the interview. Councilor Ballard stated none of the Committee members knew the applicant and he had not contacted them to discuss his qualifications.

Councilor Norris stated she knew an applicant who was unable to attend the interview and was not nominated. She added that she agreed with the proposed changes but also felt there were issues to be worked on in regards to Board and Commission appointments. Councilor Norris stated board members who have proven themselves and have reapplied should not be kicked off a board just because they were unable to attend the interview.

Councilor Cates stated he had no problem with the proposed changes but felt it made the application process more difficult. He added it was difficult to get people to serve on some boards, especially Special Purpose Districts. He asked if it would be possible for a Council Member to vouch for an applicant who was unable to attend the interviews.

Councilor Ballard stated he would accept that suggestion as an amendment and added he had not considered the Special Purpose Districts in the amendment. He suggested the Special Purpose Districts be exempt from the proposed amendment.

Mark Tollison stated Special Purpose Tax Districts were in a different category and not subject to the policy or the proposed amendment.

Councilor Fant stated during the last round of interviews, it appeared that an applicant who was unable to attend the interviews was not nominated, whether they were an incumbent or a new applicant.

Councilor Taylor stated he did not think that was the general feeling of Council.

Chairman Kirven stated perhaps some applicants felt an interview was unnecessary if there were more seats available than applicants.

Councilor Ballard stated the number of vacancies was a factor in regards to the situation with the Public Safety Committee. He stated he had met with the applicant and explained it was in no way personal. Councilor Ballard stated if a Council Member or someone else had known the applicant and his qualifications, it would have carried weight with the Committee.

Chairman Kirven asked if the nominating Committees were obligated to continue with nominations, even if none of the members were familiar with the applicant(s).

Theresa Kizer stated Committees were not obligated to continue with nominations if none of the members were familiar with the applicant(s). She added that Council Office protocol was to advise any applicant unable to attend the interview to contact Council in writing to explain their absence.

Councilor Taylor asked if a board had the same number of applicants as vacancies and one of the applicants received no votes, would that individual automatically be elected to the board.

Mark Tollison stated the applicant would not automatically be elected to the board unless a motion by Council to elect all applicants by acclamation was approved.

Chairman Kirven asked if applicants would be informed of the interview requirement.

Theresa Kizer stated if the amendment was approved, the applications would be revised to inform potential candidates that an interview with the nominating Committee was mandatory.

Councilor Roberts stated he would hate to see qualified applicants fail to be nominated because they were unable to attend the interviews. He stated applicants had reached out to Council Members prior to the nominations and were, unfortunately, unable to attend the interviews for a variety of reasons.

Chairman Kirven suggested the applications indicate if an emergency prevented the individual from attending the interview, the applicant should contact the Clerk's Office or a Council Member.

Councilor Ballard stated he agreed the amendment could indicate it was preferable for a first time applicant to appear before the nominating Committee for an interview, but, if unable to do so, the applicant should contact Council directly in writing.

Councilor Norris asked if an applicant was not nominated, could the individual reapply.

Theresa Kizer stated the individual could reapply during the next application cycle.

Councilor Barnes asked if the application deadline could be extended if Council had elected not to fill all the vacant seats.

Chairman Kirven stated the application period was re-opened only if special circumstances existed, however, the action would have to be approved by Council on a case by case basis.

ACTION: Councilor Fant suggested a friendly amendment to the policy as follows:

Each Committee is responsible for interviewing and nominating applicants for the boards and commissions as assigned above, ~~but applicants are not required to interview.~~ It is preferable that new applicants appear before the Committee to be interviewed; incumbents have the option of appearing. On an "as needed" basis and with the consent of the chairperson of each affected Committee, the Chairman of County Council may delegate the responsibility to interview and nominate applicants for a particular board or commission to a non-assigned Committee. Prior to the Committees interviewing and nominating applicants, the Committee Chairmen shall convene to establish a standardized process for interviewing applicants at the Committee level.

ACTION: Councilor Ballard stated he accepted Councilor Fant's friendly amendment.

Councilor Dill stated new applicants should be required to interview with the Committee. He added that Council was already familiar with incumbents and the interview should be optional for those individuals. Councilor Dill stated using the term "preferable" was no different than the current policy wording.

Councilor Seman called for the question on the amendment as modified.

Motion as modified carried unanimously.

Item (7) **ADJOURNMENT**

ACTION: Councilor Roberts moved to adjourn.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Theresa B. Kizer, Clerk to Council