

**MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**March 14, 2017
5:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM D - COUNTY SQUARE**

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted on the bulletin board at the entrance of the Council Office and mailed to the newspapers, radio stations and television stations.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Lynn Ballard
Vice Chairman Xanthene Norris
Councilor Mike Barnes
Councilor Fred Payne

COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) ABSENT:

Councilor Bob Taylor

STAFF PRESENT:

Jeffrey D. Wile, Assistant County Attorney
John E. Vandermosten, Assistant County Administrator
Helen E. Wood, Clerk to Public Safety Committee

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Eldridge, Chief Deputy, Greenville County Sheriff's Office
David McCraw - Citizen

CALL TO ORDER:

Lynn Ballard
Chairman

INVOCATION:

Fred Payne
Councilor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Councilor Payne moved to approve the minutes of the Committee on Public Safety and Human Services' meeting of February 14, 2017. Motion carried unanimously by all Council members present.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS INTERVIEWS AND NOMINATIONS

*Metropolitan Sewer Sub-District (1 Vacancy)
Evan Ruggiero (D21-new)*

NOTE: This agenda item was held until the end of the meeting

ACTION: Councilor Barnes moved to forward the nomination of Evan Ruggiero to the Committee of the Whole for approval to fill the one vacancy on the Metropolitan Sewer Sub-District Board. Motion carried with Ballard, Barnes, Payne in favor and Norris in opposition.

DISCUSSION REGARDING COMPLAINTS ABOUT AFTER HOURS BARS

Chairman Ballard stated that the purpose of this discussion is to have both Mr. David McCraw, former owner of some of these establishments and now currently in the hospitality business and John Eldridge, Chief Deputy, Greenville County Sheriff's Office to discuss the complaints about after hours bars and the impact on the Sheriff's Department as well as the citizens of Greenville County.

The goal of the discussion is to determine if an ordinance needs to be prepared to address this issue. At present, the city bars are closed at 2:00 A.M., but there are several establishments outside the cities, but within the county, that open around 11:00 P.M. and stay open all night. It has been noted that the clientele that frequent these types of establishments migrate from the cities to the county for a continuation of night life. State law allows the sale of beer/wine 24 hours a day Monday through Saturday until midnight.

Various issues were discussed that require law enforcement back-up regarding these establishments in the unincorporated areas of the county.

It was also noted that the National News stated that South Carolina leads the United States in DUI fatalities.

Mr. Wile, County Attorney, stated that if an ordinance is drafted it would only affect the unincorporated areas of the county not the cities. Counselor Payne stated that he would be in favor of one ordinance that would cover the entire County not individual ordinances for the city and unincorporated area.

ACTION: Counselor Payne made a motion that we invite other municipalities to join the Public Safety Committee in a discussion of the issue of after hour bars with the idea that we move toward developing an ordinance that would cover the entire county. Motion carried unanimously by all Council members present.

Chairman Ballard stated he would take the lead in contacting the Mayors and City Managers of the municipalities to attend the May 9th Public Safety Meeting for discussion of this matter. There will be no April meeting unless there is an urgent need.

DISCUSSION REGARDING STREET LIGHTING

Chairman Ballard stated that this discussion regarding street lighting was to advise Chief Eldridge that at the last County Council Meeting on March 7th, Ms. Tracy Fant, one of the community organizers to prevent pedestrian deaths, was speaking about the number of recent deaths by automobiles striking people on dark roads and was wanting to address either sidewalks, lights or some type of illumination on dark roads. Chairman Kervin forwarded this request to the Public Safety Committee for review.

As a follow-up, Chairman Ballard has an appointment with Ms. Fant on Thursday, March 16th. She is going to drive Chairman Ballard around to visually show these areas of concern. Counselor Dill has been on local TV regarding this issue and does not know if the county can do much of anything due to the fact these are State roads.

Mr. Ballard stated that the South Carolina Highway Department will relate very quickly that if is a five lane road with a median they will not install sidewalks – however, there may be a possibility of street lights. Chairman Ballard will bring a report to the committee meeting in May.

Counselor Payne asked Chairman Ballard to run the meeting dates by the committee members so that the committee members could have some flexibility on meeting dates - it is a standing committee but it does not have to meet on a regular date at the same time.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Chairman Barnes moved to adjourn the meeting of the Committee on Public Safety and Human Services. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen E. Wood, Clerk to Public Safety Committee