



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

Committee of the Whole

March 5, 2019

4:00 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. Dan Tripp

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 Absent

Rick Roberts, District 21

Staff Present

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

Others Present

None

Call to Order

Chairman Kirven

Invocation

Vice-Chairman Meadows

Item (3) **Approval of Minutes**

Action: Councilor Norris moved to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

Item (4) **Appalachian Council of Governments Update**

Presented by: Steve Pelissier, Director
 Appalachian Council of Governments

Mr. Pelissier thanked County Council for its support over the years. Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG) was now 53 years old as an agency; Mr. Pelissier stated he had been with ACOG for 29 years. He thanked Mr. Dill for his service on the board as well as Mr. Kirven, Mr. Fant and Mr. Meadows.

Mr. Pelissier stated one way to view performance was to look at the return on investment. In 2018, Greenville County invested a little over \$180,000 into ACOG and the return on investment was approximately \$2.7 million; \$15 for every \$1 invested. Mr. Pelissier stated the figure was down from previous years which could be attributed to the Rural Transportation Program and the Highway 11 Interchange Project. He added the numbers would probably be back up when the North Greenville County Project resumed in a few years. Mr. Pelissier stated funds from the Rural Transportation Program could only be used in the "non-GPATS" areas of the county.

In 2018, ACOG provided \$1.67 million in funding for Senior Services to include over 47,000 meals, shelter and homehealth care as well as medical transportation; critical services that allowed the recipients to remain in their homes as opposed to placement in a facility. ACOG also provided \$675,000 in funding for the Berea Senior Center, scheduled to open soon, and the Mauldin Senior Center. Mr. Pelissier stated ACOG was also able to secure a \$350,000 Appalachian Regional Commission grant for the Poe Mill Revitalization Project.

Mr. Pelissier stated there were more participants in the Workforce Data Collaborative. ACOG worked to identify workforce obstacles, especially in the downtown area, along with GADC, SC Works and the Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce. The Infomentum Program provided the data and narrative necessary for GADC to continue to respond to inquiries from industry and business as well as to keep Greenville County moving forward. Mr. Pelissier stated technical assistance was also provided to area fire districts involved in the Taylors Town Square Initiative. ACOG continued to operate the state-mandated education program for Planning Commission and Board of Appeals board members as well as planning staff for municipalities throughout the county. Mr. Pelissier stated ACOG had been working very closely lately with Fountain Inn and Travelers Rest as both cities had relatively new Administrators.

Moving forward, ACOG would continue most of its current programs with increased funding to the Aging Program. Updates were planned for the Infomentum Program to make it more flexible and usable for the staff at GADC and Greenville County.

Councilor Cates inquired as to how successful the Infomentum Program had been in regards to bringing industries and businesses to the County.

Mr. Pelissier stated the program had been very successful; the area continued to get utilized and stayed on the leading edge compared to other regions of of the State and the Southeast.

Councilor Taylor inquired if ACOG worked with the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging Department.

Mr. Pellisier stated in January, the Office on Aging was moved out of the Lieutenant Governor's office and was now a Cabinet Position with the Governor's Office. He stated ACOG worked closely with the Office on Aging.

Councilor Ballard stated he had a problem in his district; one bridge over a main road was no longer able to accommodate school buses. Mr. Ballard stated it was a "state road" and Greenville County had no jurisdiction. School buses were being redirected which added five (5) miles to the routes.

Mr. Pellisier stated there were a few options that may or may not be beneficial and requested Mr. Ballard contact him after the meeting.

Chairman Kirven thanked Mr. Pellisier for the presentation.

Item (5) Board and Commission Application Reviews

1. Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (5 vacancies)

The following individuals appeared before the Committee of the Whole and gave their personal presentations:

1. Adriene Atkinson - District 25
2. Mary Callaghan - District 21
3. Heather Currie - District 21
4. Ernest Hamilton - District 22
5. Chris Hogan - District 24
6. Jorge Llopis - District 19
7. Sara McCreary - District 21
8. Chad Prashad - District 21
9. Herman Roberts - District 25
10. Zachary Wilson - District 22

By ballot vote, Adriene Atkinson, Heather Currie, Ernest Hamilton, Herman Roberts and Zachary Wilson were elected to fill five vacancies on the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission.

2. Board of Tax Assessment and Appeals (4 vacancies)

1. William Kelley - District 21

Action: Councilor Cates moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation William Kelley to fill one of four vacancies on the Board of Tax Assessment and Appeals.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Greenville Technical College Area Commission (1 vacancy)

The following individuals appeared before the Committee of the Whole and gave their personal presentations:

1. Tomeika Bennett - District 23
2. Jeffrey Cima - District 27
3. Jo Hackl - District 20

By ballot vote, Jo Hackl was elected to fill one vacancy on Greenville Technical College Area Commission.

Action: Councilor Dill moved to close nominations and forward the name of Jo Hackl to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

Thrive Upstate (1 vacancy)

The following individuals appeared before the Committee of the Whole and gave their personal presentations:

1. Sarah Burdeshaw - District 27
2. Joseph Nixon - District 24
3. Tiffany Scott - District 28

By ballot vote, Joseph Nixon was elected to fill one vacancy on Thrive Upstate.

Action: Councilor Dill moved to close nominations and forward the name of Joseph Nixon to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

Item (6) **Adjournment**

Action: Councilor Seman moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina G. McCaskill, Clerk to Council