



# GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes  
Committee of the Whole  
October 1, 2019  
5:19 p.m.

County Square – Conference Room D  
301 University Ridge  
Greenville, South Carolina 29601

#### **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

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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.

#### **Council Members Absent**

None

#### **Staff Present**

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

#### **Others Present**

None

#### **Call to Order**

Chairman Kirven

#### **Invocation**

Councilor Mike Barnes

**Item (3)      Approval of Minutes**

**Action:** Councilor Norris moved to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2019, Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

**Item (4)      Board and Commission Appointments / Nominations**

**a.      Committee on Finance**

**i.      Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee (3 vacancies)**

**Action:** Councilor Taylor moved to close nominations and elect Penny Kay Cooper, Victoria Fernandez and Joyce McCarrell to fill three of five vacancies on the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee and to forward the names to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

**b.      Planning and Development Committee**

**i.      Historic Preservation Commission (3 vacancies)**

**Action:** Councilor Dill moved to close nominations and elect Robert Forister, Dan Goodwin and Rebekah Lawrence to fill three vacancies on the Historic Preservation Commission and to forward the names to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ii.     Board of Zoning Appeals (1 vacancy)**

**Action:** Councilor Dill moved to close nominations and elect Stephen Shaw to fill one vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals and to forward his name to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

**c.      Public Works and Infrastructure Committee**

**i.      Library Board of Trustees (6 vacancies)**

**Action:** Councilor Seman moved to close nominations and elect Miles Dame, Allan S. Hill, Tommy Hughes, Kathryn Lentz, Tiffany Santagati and Barbara Yonce to fill six vacancies on the Library Board of Trustees and to forward the names to full Council.

**Action:** Councilor Dill moved to add Sunny Wiegand to the list of nominees.

**Action:** Councilor Barnes moved to add Dan Wooster to the list of nominees.

**Action:** Councilor Cates moved to add William Pinkston to the list of nominees.

**Action:** Councilor Fant moved to add Laura Baker to the list of nominees.

**Action:** Councilor Taylor moved to add Joe Poore to the list of nominees.

**Action:** Councilor Seman moved to close nominations and send forward the names of Miles Dame, Allan S. Hill, Tommy Hughes, Kathryn Lentz, Tiffany Santagati, Barbara Yonce, Sunny Wiegand, Dan Wooster, William Pinkston, Laura Baker and Joe Poore to full County Council for a ballot vote on October 15, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ii. Museum Commission (3 vacancies)**

**Action:** Councilor Seman moved to close nominations and elect James Campbell, Natalie Crews and Scott Kilgore to fill three vacancies on the Museum Commission and to forward the names to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

**iii. Parks, Recreation and Tourism Advisory Committee (1 vacancy)**

**Action:** Councilor Seman moved to close nominations and elect Tamara Dwyer to fill one vacancy on the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Advisory Committee and to forward her name to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

**d. Public Safety Committee**

**i. Airport Environs Planning Commission (2 vacancies)**

**Action:** Councilor Roberts moved to close nominations and elect Brad Medcalf and Van Swafford to fill two vacancies on the Airport Environs Planning Commission and to forward the names to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ii. Greater Greenville Sanitation Commission (1 vacancy)**

**Action:** Councilor Roberts moved to close nominations and elect Ken Ledford to fill one vacancy on the Greater Greenville Sanitation Commission and forward his name to full Council.

**Action:** Councilor Fant moved to add Christel Brown to list of nominees.

**Action:** Councilor Seman moved to close nominations and send forward the names of Ken Ledford and Christel Brown to full County Council for a ballot vote on October 15, 2019.

**Item (5)      Special Tax District Appointments**

**a.      Chanticleer Community Commission (4 vacancies)**

**Action:**      Councilor Seman moved to close nominations and elect Emile Pazdan, Jamie Pimentel, Peter Schwartz and Alan Shusterman to fill four vacancies on the Chanticleer Community Commission and to forward the names to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Chairman Kirven turned the gavel over to Vice-Chairman Meadows*

**b.      Clear Spring Fire and Rescue District (3 vacancies)**

**Action:**      Councilor Kirven nominated Aaron Dix, Robert LeConey and Timothy Scott to fill three vacancies on the Clear Spring Fire and Rescue District.

**Action:**      Councilor Norris moved to close nominations and elect Aaron Dix, Robert LeConey and Timothy Scott to fill three vacancies on the Clear Spring Fire and Rescue District and to forward the names to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Vice-Chairman Meadows returned the gavel to Chairman Kirven.*

**c.      Devenger Tax District (1 vacancy)**

**Action:**      Councilor Roberts moved to close nominations and elect Buddy McCombs to fill one vacancy on the Devenger Tax District and to forward his name to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

**d.      Lake Forest Special Tax District (1 vacancy)**

**Action:**      Councilor Taylor moved to close nominations and elect John Austin to fill one vacancy on the Lake Forest Special Tax District and to forward her name to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

**e.      Sterling Community Special Tax District (2 vacancies)**

**Action:**      Councilor Norris moved to close nominations and elect Henry Black and Martha Black to fill two vacancies on the Sterling Community Special Tax District and to forward the names to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

f. **Terra Pines Estates Special Tax District** (1 vacancy)

**Action:** Councilor Taylor moved to close nominations and elect Anne Holden to fill one vacancy on the Terra Pines Estates Special Tax District and to forward her name to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (6)** **Resolution of Support for the Development of the South Carolina Art and Cultural Center / Downtown Convention and Event Center**

Councilor Taylor stated the proposed center could be very positive for Greenville. The unique event center, with art galleries for both Greenville County and Bob Jones University, would bring people to the downtown area. Mr. Taylor stated he was in favor of the proposed and urged his colleagues to support the resolution. Councilor Taylor stated other people were becoming aware that the money was available; he proposed acting quickly in order to take advantage of the situation.

Councilor Tripp stated he spoke with Knox White about the project a couple of months ago. He was impressed with the scope of the project; however, the resolution talked about “partnering with the City of Greenville.” Mr. Tripp stated that, in his opinion, the City had not been a very good partner to the County in regards to the redevelopment of County Square; they were trying to hold the County hostage on the issue of affordable housing. He added that he was not prepared to vote on the item until a clearer understanding of what the intentions of the Mayor of Greenville and the City Planning Commission were in regards to the redevelopment project.

**Action:** Councilor Tripp moved to hold the item until further clarification was obtained.

Councilor Taylor asked if Mr. Tripp was referring to the County Square Redevelopment Project or the Downtown Convention and Event Center.

Councilor Tripp stated both; he asked if the Downtown Convention and Event Center Project had any associated affordable housing.

Councilor Taylor stated there was no affordable housing associated with the project.

Councilor Tripp asked if the developer had air rights above the convention center; if so, could the space be used for affordable housing.

Councilor Taylor stated it was his understanding that the city had plans to meet the affordable housing needs on another piece of property.

Councilor Tripp stated “what’s good for the goose is good for the gander.” The County was redeveloping County Square in order to maximize the tax revenues back to the citizens of Greenville County. Mr. Tripp asked how the City of Greenville could ask for \$26 million for the project before they agreed to work with the County on the redevelopment project.

Councilor Taylor stated it appeared that Councilor Tripp had the two projects intertwined; they were two, totally separate projects.

Councilor Tripp stated the two projects were intertwined in his opinion.

Chairman Kirven stated it was his understanding that the resolution was not a binding commitment; it was subject to state appropriations and the City of Greenville doing likewise. If neither were applied, the resolution was “null and void”; it was simply a statement of good faith to move forward.

Councilor Tripp asked would it not be fair to get a statement of good faith from the City of Greenville in regards to the redevelopment project.

Chairman Kirven agreed it would; the time was coming up for the project to come before the City’s Planning Commission. If things did not go well, the proposed resolution was linked to the redevelopment project and the situation could change.

Councilor Tripp stated the concept of the convention center was great; the “pure politics” that have been hoisted on the redevelopment project were unconscionable.

Councilor Fant stated he was totally in favor of the convention center project; it was much needed with the rapid progression of the City of Greenville and Greenville County. However, he was unhappy with the heavy-handedness of the city; they acted as if they owned County Square and were trying to dictate what the County could do with it. Mr. Fant stated it was Council’s fiduciary responsibility to maximize the sale of the property to generate as much revenue as possible to ensure the new building could be built without having to find additional ways to raise revenue. The City of Greenville should not dictate to the County how to develop its own property; smaller buildings would have less value and would generate less revenue. He recommended holding the convention center resolution to send a message to the city; if it was a partnership, it needed to be one and not a one-way street.

Councilor Cates stated the City of Greenville had worked well with the County as far as Greenlink was concerned. The issue involved the City of Greenville and Greenville County as well as the State of South Carolina and local businessmen. The property where the convention center was to be built was once owned by Greenville County; the individual who had bought the property was willing to donate the land for the project. Councilor Cates suggested approving the resolution as a way to let the city know the county was willing to work with them.

Councilor Dill stated Greenville County gave the Bi-Lo Center (Bon Secours Wellness Center) to the City of Greenville and helped pay for it. Mr. Dill stated the County had also made generous donations to the Peace Center and built the Library at Heritage Green. Greenville County also gave money to the Cancer Survivor’s Park and the Children’s Art Theater; the County just kept giving and giving. Mr. Dill stated permits for the County Square redevelopment were being held up by the City of Greenville. If the County was not allowed to develop County Square as it wanted, the \$26 million that was being requested would not be available.

**Action:** Councilor Dill called for the question.

Motion to call for the question carried unanimously.

Motion to hold the item was carried by a vote of seven (Dill, Barnes, Meadows, Fant, Ballard, Kirven and Fant) in favor and five (Cates, Roberts, Taylor, Norris and Seman) in opposition.

**Item (7)     Adjournment**

**Action:**     Vice-Chairman Meadows moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Regina G. McCaskill  
Clerk to Council