



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

Organizational Meeting

January 8, 2019

6:13 p.m.

County Square – Council Chambers

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

None

Staff Present

Joe Kernell, County Administrator
Mark Tollison, County Attorney
Dean Campbell, Deputy County Attorney
John Hansley, Deputy County Administrator
Regina McCaskill, Clerk to Council
Jessica Stone, Deputy Clerk to Council
Pam Gilliam, Administrative Assistant, County Council Office
Paula Gucker, Assistant County Administrator, Public Works
John Vandermosten, Assistant County Administrator, Public Safety
Shannon Herman, Assistant to the County Administrator
Nicole Wood, Assistant to the County Administrator
Conway Belangia, Director, Election Commission

Others Present

Beverly James, Director, Greenville County Library System

Chairman Kirven stated Councilor Seman had been involved in a minor car accident. She was still waiting on Law Enforcement to arrive and planned to attend the meeting as soon as she was able to do so. Mr. Kirven stated Council could choose to wait for Ms. Seman or proceed without her.

Councilor Tripp asked if Ms. Seman specifically asked for Council to wait.

Chairman Kirven stated Ms. Seman did not request Council wait.

Councilor Dill suggested Council enter into session and a motion to recess could be made, if Council deemed it necessary.

Call to Order

Chairman Kirven

Invocation – *Introduced by Councilor Joe Dill*

Marty O’Gwynn, Vice President
Advancement and University Engagement
North Greenville University

Pledge of Allegiance

Item (4) Election of Council Chairman

Chairman Kirven inquired if Council should wait for Councilor Seman or take nominations.

Councilor Dill and Councilor Fant suggested Council take nominations for Chairman.

Chairman Kirven opened the floor for nominations for County Council Chairman.

Councilor Cates stated he had worked with Councilor Kirven for approximately eight (8) years and had learned a great deal from him. He stated he appreciated Mr. Kirven’s balance and it was the key to his leadership; he had seen Mr. Kirven in good days and in challenging days and he had handled them well.

ACTION: Councilor Cates nominated Councilor Butch Kirven for County Council Chairman.

ACTION: Councilor Taylor moved to close nominations.

POINT OF ORDER: Councilor Ballard stated he notified all of his colleagues that he was putting his name out for Council Chairman. He added it was not in order to close nominations until someone had the opportunity to nominate him.

Councilor Taylor stated it was his understanding there would be no additional nominations.

ACTION: Councilor Taylor withdrew the motion to close nominations.

Chairman Kirven stated the floor was open for nominations.

ACTION: After no further nominations were made, Councilor Taylor moved to close nominations.

Motion to close nominations carried by a vote of ten (Dill, Barnes, Meadows, Cates, Roberts, Taylors, Norris, Fant, Kirven and Tripp) in favor, one (Ballard) in opposition and one absent (Seman).

Chairman Kirven was elected Chairman by a unanimous roll call vote of all members in attendance.

Item (5) Transferring the Gavel

There was no need to transfer the gavel.

Chairman's Statement:

Chairman Kirven stated he was very humbled by the nomination and election as Council Chairman. Over the years, Council had come through a lot together; they had learned from each other, served with each other, laughed with each other, cried with each other and met challenges with each other. Council now had an opportunity to put their best foot forward when debating the issues, looking at the vision for the future, deciding what the priorities were and reflecting the wishes and desires of the citizens of Greenville County. Mr. Kirven stated he pledged to work with each and every Council member constructively and to listen, learn and share.

Item (6) Election of Council Vice-Chairman

Chairman Kirven stated the floor was open for nominations for County Council Vice-Chairman.

ACTION: Councilor Barnes nominated Councilor Willis Meadows for County Council Vice-Chairman.

Councilor Taylor asked how many votes did Mr. Meadows need in order to be elected, given the fact that Ms. Seman was absent.

Chairman Kirven stated it was his understanding from the County Attorney, Mark, Tollison, that a majority of the number of members present would be needed. At this time, six (6) votes were needed.

ACTION: Councilor Taylor moved to recess for approximately 15 minutes in order to wait for Ms. Seman.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present and the meeting was recessed at 6:20 p.m.

Councilor Seman arrived at 6:39 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 6:40 p.m.

ACTION: Councilor Norris nominated Councilor Liz Seman for County Council Vice-Chairman.

ACTION: Councilor Fant moved to close nominations.

Motion to close nominations carried unanimously.

Roll call vote was tied with six voting for Ms. Seman (Roberts, Norris, Seman, Fant, Ballard and Tripp) and six voting for Mr. Meadows (Dill, Barnes, Meadows, Cates, Taylor and Kirven).

Mark Tollison stated the effect of a tie vote was as if it had not occurred and it would be appropriate to open the floor for nominations.

ACTION: Councilor Barnes nominated Councilor Willis Meadows for County Council Vice-Chairman.

ACTION: Councilor Norris nominated Councilor Liz Seman for County Council Vice-Chairman.

ACTION: Councilor Fant moved to close nominations.

Motion to close nominations carried unanimously.

By a vote of seven for Mr. Meadows (Dill, Barnes, Meadows, Cates, Taylor, Fant and Kirven) and five for Ms. Seman (Roberts, Norris, Seman, Ballard and Tripp), Councilor Willis Meadows was elected County Council Vice-Chairman.

Item (7) **Adjournment**

ACTION: Councilor Dill moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina G. McCaskill, Clerk to Council

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