



# GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

## Special Called Meeting

January 31, 2019

11:01 a.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

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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**

Ennis Fant, District 25

### **Staff Present**

Joe Kernell, County Administrator  
Mark Tollison, County Attorney  
Regina McCaskill, Clerk to Council  
Bob Mihalic, Governmental Relations Officer

### **Others Present**

None

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Kirven

### **Invocation**

Councilor Dill

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Item (3)**      **Executive Session**

**ACTION:**      Vice-Chairman Meadows moved to go into Executive Session for the following:

- Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee regulated by the County Council, or the appointment of a person to a public body. *(Personnel Matter)*
- Discussion and receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the County in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the County of a claim. *(Legal Matter)*

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present and the Special Called Meeting entered Executive Session at 11:03 a.m.

**Reconvene**

County Attorney Mark Tollison reported the Special Called Meeting out of Executive Session stating no action was taken during that session. The Special Called Meeting reconvened at 12:33 p.m.

**Item (4)**      **EMS Update**

Joe Kernell stated since the last Committee of the Whole meeting, County staff had been working diligently to identify the operational issues as well as to improve employee morale and system performance. Dr. Blackwell, Dr. Lutz and Dr. Hoffman had assisted in looking at different areas within EMS that could be immediately improved, and more importantly, improved for the long term. Mr. Kernell stated additional staffing and enhanced deployment of part-time staff had been discussed. There were some barriers put in place in the past that limited the traction to part-time employment with EMS; Mr. Kernell stated some major changes would be made. Mr. Kernell stated communication was the biggest barrier encountered between EMS Senior Administration and Field Staff.

Staff would be used to roll out the new Marvlis System which would indicate where to place resources to meet the need. Although the Marvlis System worked well, there were opportunities to tweak it in order to provide better coverage across the County.

Mr. Kernell stated the biggest improvement would be the ability to provide a clearer vision of the future of EMS to the employees. The system was wonderful and the County had the best paramedics and EMT's. He stated it was important to provide a clear vision of EMS so that the employees understood and continued to look to the future to remain a top EMS system. He was very confident this could be accomplished in a short period of time. The paramedics and EMT's were in the field everyday doing a wonderful job taking care of the residents of Greenville County.

Mr. Kernell stated he would keep Council up-to-date.

Chairman Kirven asked about the report received from the major professional health care organizations in the community.

Mr. Kernell stated both health systems, Bon Secours and Prisma, had pledged to provide needed expertise and had designated three (3) emergency room physicians to assist.

**ACTION:** Councilor Taylor moved to show a Vote of Confidence to Mr. Kernell in light of how he had approached the EMS issues at hand in such a professional way.

Chairman Kirven stated Council would be looking for better ways to communicate with the Administrator and better ways to provide evaluation opportunities between Council and the Administrator in the future.

Councilor Ballard stated that in support of Dr. Taylor's motion, Council had two situations; what was discussed in the Executive Session and the Vote of Confidence in how Mr. Kernell had approached dealing with the EMS situation. Mr. Ballard stated it was prudent to let Mr. Kernell know that Council supported him in dealing with the EMS issue as it stood.

Councilor Taylor stated he concurred with Mr. Ballard.

Motion as presented carried unanimously by Council Members present.

**Item (5)**      **Adjournment**

**ACTION:** Councilor Ballard moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present and the meeting was adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Regina G. McCaskill, Clerk to Council