

MINUTES
GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
REGULAR MEETING
May 7, 2019
5:00 p.m.
County Square – Conference Room D

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted on the bulletin board at County Square and made available to the newspapers, radio stations and television stations and concerned citizens.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

CHAIRWOMAN, LIZ SEMAN
LYNN BALLARD
SID CATES
ENNIS FANT
DAN TRIPP

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

TERESA BARBER, CODE ENFORCEMENT DIRECTOR
DEAN CAMPBELL, ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
PAULA GUCKER, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
HELEN HAHN, ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR
KIM WUNDER, ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairwoman Seman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

INVOCATION:

Mr. Tripp provided the invocation

Item (3) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of PWI Committee on April 2, 2019.

MOTION: By Mr. Ballard, to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2019 Committee meeting as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.

Item (4)

Ordinance Amendment relating to the Property Maintenance Code of the County of Greenville

Dean Campbell, Assistant County Attorney addressed the Committee members regarding an ordinance dealing with the County's Property Maintenance Code. He explained the Property Maintenance Code is adopted by Greenville County and was last adopted in 2016. He explained when County Council adopts codes, Building Code, Energy Code, Electrical Code and Plumbing Code, which are mandatory codes that Building Codes Council in Columbia has promulgated. If you want to have a Building Code in Greenville County you have to adopt basically what the State has adopted. He stated there are a couple of codes that are permissive and the Maintenance Code is one. The Property Maintenance Code deals with structures, interior and exterior sanitation, grass and weeds have to be less than 18 inches. It was up to individual jurisdictions who have adopted this code to determine how they are going to enforce it. Currently and what was adopted in 2016, the penalty provision for the Property Maintenance Code is a misdemeanor. Once cited an individual goes to court, they can have a jury trial. The current penalty provisions the violation is subject to the maximum fine in Magistrate Court, a base line of \$500.00 and when you add all the assessments the State mandates, the maximum fine could be \$1100.00 which is very rare or 30 days in jail. Mr. Campbell stated this ordinance changes the penalty structure and implements a civil penalty process for violations. How it works, you get a notice of violation; have a time to come into compliance. The code says a reasonable amount of time and staff thought seven (7) days was reasonable. If they do not come into compliance they then can be issued a civil citation. The penalty would be a \$200.00 first violation; second offense is a fine up to \$2000.00. If the citizen does not pay the fine and does not ask for a trial then the county can ask the case go through Magistrate Court.

Mr. Meadows spoke in favor of the ordinance.

After further discussion amongst staff and the Committee the following motion was made:

MOTION: By Mr. Tripp to hold the item until the next Committee meeting.

Mr. Tripp stated he would like to see some numbers on how many violations there are across the county, how many a habitual and what the money flow looks like.

The motion to hold failed by a vote of two in favor (Tripp and Seman) and three in opposition (Ballard, Cates and Fant).

MOTION: By Mr. Ballard to approve and send to full Council. The motion carried by a vote of three in favor (Ballard, Cates and Fant) and two opposed (Tripp and Seman).

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Without objection the meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helen Hahn
Administrative Coordinator