



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes
Committee of the Whole
February 4, 2020
5:04 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. Xanthe 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*
John Hansley, *Deputy County Administrator*
Jeff Wile, *Assistant County Attorney*
Regina McCaskill, *Clerk to Council*
Tina Belge, *Planning and Code Enforcement*
Paula Gucker, *Assistant County Administrator, Public Works*
Nicole Wood, *Assistant County Administrator*
Bob Mihalic, *Governmental Relations Officer*
Keith Brockington, *GPATS Transportation Planning Manager*

Others Present

Call to Order

Chairman Kirven

Invocation

Councilor Bob Taylor

Item (3) Approval of Minutes

Action: Councilor Meadows moved to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2019, Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (4) Palmetto Pride / Keep Greenville Beautiful Update

Ms. Belge stated the County had taken many steps to keep the area beautiful; native plantings, litter pickups, community gardens and the *Grab a Bag SC* initiative. Greenville County was currently the county with the most litter pickups statewide. The County had also partnered with Palmetto Pride and the Lieutenant Governor's Office to do environmental sculptures.

Ms. Belge introduced Mallory Coffey, *Keep South Carolina Beautiful* State Leader.

Mallory Coffey stated *Keep South Carolina Beautiful* was one of the largest state networks in the nation; her job was to work with approximately 35 affiliates from across the state. There were more than 600 local *Keep America Beautiful* affiliates nationwide; it was a great organization to be a part of. The state office was very proud of *Keep Greenville Beautiful* and all of its efforts since 2009. The focus of *Keep South Carolina Beautiful* was to "do beautiful things" in the state.

In 2019, *Keep America Beautiful* picked up 12 million volunteer hours nationally, which was close to 1,360 years. Close to 66 million pounds of recyclables, litter and debris were collected; approximately the weight of 5,500 Asian elephants. The agency worked in more than 218,000 thousand acres of parks, public lands, playgrounds and trails which was equivalent to working in Central Park for 260 consecutive days. *Keep America Beautiful* affiliates provided \$305 million back to local communities in economic benefits.

Ms. Coffey stated *Keep Greenville County Beautiful* was established about eleven years ago with a focus on litter prevention, recycling and waste reduction. Unlike many national and state affiliates, it worked in every pillar of *Keep America Beautiful* which included litter, beautification and recycling.

Keep Greenville County Beautiful hosted many programs to include recycling education and awareness, litter prevention and cleanup on an ongoing basis.

Since 2009, *Keep Greenville County Beautiful* had well over 2500 volunteer hours, one of the highest in the state. In regards to grant funds, *Keep Greenville County Beautiful* received over \$62,000. For every hour a volunteer worked, the County saved close to \$146.00, which was a phenomenal number. In 2010, forty trees were received through a grant and were planted by volunteers. More than 25 recycling education programs were implemented. Within a three month time period in 2019, six hundred (600) pounds of litter were picked up during the *Great American Cleanup*.

Approximately 1000 cigarette butt receptacles were installed throughout the County; *Keep Greenville County Beautiful* was the leading affiliate in the state for tackling cigarette litter. The most commonly littered item in the country; it took five (5) years for each cigarette butt to decompose.

Councilor Cates asked about the penalty for throwing out a cigarette butt.

Ms. Coffey stated the penalty was \$25.00; litter laws were changed recently and used weight to determine penalties.

Cigarette litter was reduced by 85% when the cigarette butt receptacles were installed, which proved there was less litter when a receptacle was available. The *Keep Greenville County Beautiful* cigarette receptacle program was used to demonstrate effectiveness.

Keep Greenville County Beautiful increased beautification projects around the County by 200%. Many local government affiliates and non-profits did not have available funding; *Keep Greenville County Beautiful* was able to “make it happen.” An area was cleaned, items were recycled and then it was beautified; areas were not just cleaned but were beautiful.

Keep South Carolina Beautiful required a “Litter Index” on a yearly basis. A minimum of 50 sites throughout the County were surveyed; the litter was rated on a 1 to 4 basis. A rating of 1 was the best with 4 being the worst. Trouble areas were used to determine where programs were needed. *Keep Greenville County Beautiful* was able to improve 55% of sites needing cleanup within the past year.

Keep Greenville County Beautiful was award winning and was used as an example to other affiliates. Ms. Coffey expressed her appreciation for all the hard work *Keep Greenville County Beautiful* was doing.

Chairman Kirven inquired about the referral process for an area needing cleanup.

Tina Belge stated the County had a Litter Prevention Program and would be the main contact. For cleanup purposes, it depended on whether it was a county road, a state road or if the road belonged to another municipality.

Chairman Kirven requested the Clerk’s Office to provide Council Members the contact information for the Litter Prevention Program.

Ms. Belge offered to supply brochures with contact information as well as a way to report litter via an app. Citizens were able to get points for reporting an area in need of cleanup as well as picking up litter.

Councilor Ballard stated Representative Ashley Trantham had discovered a design flaw in tractor trailers hauling trash to the landfill; she was in the process of setting up a meeting with the Lieutenant Governor and area trucking companies to address the issue. Once the trucks dumped a load, small items remained in the truck bed; a piece hit Ms. Trantham’s windshield.

Ms. Coffey stated she was aware of the situation with Representative Trantham and would follow-up.

Ms. Belge stated that in 2018, the Litter Prevention Office worked with the Sheriff’s Office with the “Tarp It or Ticket It” and reduced some of the debris. Representative Trantham had been in contact with the Litter Prevention Office about the issue; she also was very active in getting volunteer groups together for the *Grab a Bag SC* initiative. Ms. Belge stated she would keep Council up-to-date on the issue.

Ms. Coffey stated Palmetto Pride also had tarps that were available for free.

Councilor Cates asked what could be done if an individual was observed throwing trash out of a vehicle.

Ms. Coffey suggested calling the Litter Busters Hotline at 1-877-7LITTER or by downloading the app and reporting the license plate as well as the make, model and color of the vehicle.

Councilor Dill commended the speakers and the work they were doing. He stated the laws needed to be strengthened so it would be worthwhile for an officer of the law to enforce them; the County had tried to get the court system to enforce the laws. He inquired how members of the board were appointed.

Ms. Belge stated members of the *Keep Greenville County Beautiful* board were volunteers.

Ms. Coffey stated some members of the *Keep South Carolina County Beautiful* board were appointed by the Governor, others were recommended by Senators and House Representatives. She suggested contacting Sarah Lyles, Director of *Keep South Carolina Beautiful*. Ms. Coffey stated the focus for *Palmetto Pride* was awareness, enforcement, pickup and education. If one of the links messed up, the whole thing messed up. There was a constant struggle to keep all the links strong.

Councilor Dill asked if there was some way to instill in children the desire not to litter.

Ms. Coffey stated she conducted training in schools; she was amazed at the number of children who would tattletale on parents for littering.

Chairman Kirven thanked the presenters for the information provided. He suggested the County may be able to find a way to contribute to rewarding and recognizing the volunteers.

Item (5) Board and Commission Policy Review

Chairman Kirven stated the idea to place the item on the agenda was prompted by the Attendance Report submitted to Council by the Clerk's Office. The intent was not to make changes; it was to bring it to Council's attention for future review. Each Council Member was provided a copy of the current policy. Mr. Kirven suggested a review of Section 17 of the policy to determine if Council's intent was being met. He also suggested Council consider each Chairperson be given the opportunity to offer mitigating circumstances of those volunteers who may fall short on attendance but were otherwise effective board members.

Regina McCaskill reviewed suggested changes to the current board policy:

- **Page 3:** *Disabilities and Special Needs Board was now to be named Thrive Upstate.*
- **Page 4:** *Finance Committee – Greenville County Economic Development Corporation and Research and Technology Development Corporation were both abolished by Council and should be removed.*
- **Page 4:** *Planning and Development Committee – Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals was now named Construction Board of Appeals per County Ordinance 4475.*
- **Page 4:** *Finance Committee – Greenville Area Development Corporation (GADC) requested the terms of its board members begin July 1 so as to run simultaneously with their fiscal year. There was nothing written in their enabling ordinance that stipulated when board members' terms were to begin.*
- **Page 5:** *Section 7 Voting Process – Indicated ballots distributed on the "Friday prior to" Council meetings. Ms. McCaskill requested the policy reflect ballots distributed "no later than Friday prior to" Council meetings as packets were no longer delivered by deputies.*
- **Page 5:** *Section 8 Chairman's Appointments – Indicated the Chairman would announce his appointments "at" the second Council meeting April for the Spring Cycle and October for the Fall Cycle. Ms. McCaskill requested the policy reflect "no later than" the second meeting.*

Councilor Dill stated there had been a suggestion to make the Planning Commission a 12 member board with each Council district represented. Currently, there were a number of members from the same district; Mr. Dill requested the suggested change be made to the board.

Mark Tollison stated the change suggested by Councilor Dill would require an amendment to the enabling ordinance.

Chairman Kirven stated the districts with the most of the zoning cases were not represented on the board.

Councilor Dill stated the growth occurring in the County affected both the southern and northern areas.

Action: Councilor Dill moved to approve the suggested amendments to the Board and Commission Policy.

Councilor Seman stated Council should consider some updates to the application process as well or perhaps other ways to streamline the process.

Motion to approve amendments carried unanimously.

Mark Tollison stated he would prepare the necessary paperwork to ratify the proposed changes.

Chairman Kirven stated the attendance issue would be carried forward to a future meeting. Currently, if a board member was in violation of the attendance policy, they “were out.”

Councilor Cates stated the policy indicated Council “may” remove a board member.

Chairman Kirven stated the Attendance Report was a “statistical sheet” and offered no insight into a board member’s personal situation. He suggested the report contain notes from the Chairpersons when there were mitigating circumstances regarding a board member’s attendance; Council should take those circumstances into consideration before voting to remove.

Item (6) Adjournment

Action: Councilor Dill moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Regina G. McCaskill
Clerk to Council