



## GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes  
Committee of the Whole  
July 21, 2020  
3:30 p.m.

County offices closed for public meetings  
Meeting conducted by remote participation

### **Council Members present by remote participation**

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 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*  
**Jessica Stone**, *Deputy Clerk to Council*  
**Shannon Herman**, *Assistant County Administrator*  
**Nicole Wood**, *Assistant County Administrator*

### **Others Present**

**John Castile**, *Executive Director – Greenville County Redevelopment Authority*

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Kirven

### **Invocation**

Councilor Ennis Fant

**Item (3) Approval of Minutes**

**Action:** Councilor Barnes moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2020, Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting and the June 12, 2020, Special Called Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously by Council Members present.

**Item (4) Greenville County Redevelopment Authority / Urban County Requalification – Cooperative Agreement with Municipalities**

Presented by: John Castile, Executive Director  
Greenville County Redevelopment Authority

Since 1978, Greenville County had joined with five of its six municipalities (Fountain Inn, Greer, Mauldin, Simpsonville and Travelers Rest) in executing a three-year cooperative agreement in order to obtain Urban County Status with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The status allowed Greenville County to have access to entitlement funds, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Funds and the Emergency Solutions Grant.

Mr. Castile stated that included in the information packet were executed resolutions from all five participating municipalities; each resolution indicated an agreement to move forward. Greenville County Redevelopment Authority was requesting Council's appointment as the agent for the purpose of administering grant funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Vice-Chairman Meadows stated the proposed resolution indicated the agreement would be automatically renewed for participation in successive three year qualification periods. He would prefer Council review the agreement upon pending expiration in 2023, as opposed to an automatic renewal.

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Meadows moved to amend the resolution to state the Cooperative Agreement would be approved for three years; but, at the end of 2023, the agreement would be presented to Council for renewal.

Mr. Castile stated GCRA had no problem presenting the renewal to Council at the end of 2023.

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

**Action:** Councilor Cates moved for adoption a resolution, as amended and approved by the Committee of the Whole, to approve the extension of the Cooperative Agreement between Greenville County and the municipalities of Fountain Inn, Greer, Mauldin, Simpsonville, and Travelers Rest to obtain Urban County status with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and appoint the Greenville County Redevelopment Authority (GCRA) as its agent for the purpose of administering any grant funds received as a result of said agreement.

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

**Item (5)**

**Greenville County Sheriff's Office Citizen Advisory Board Creation**

Presented by: Sheriff Hobart Lewis

Sheriff Lewis stated there had been numerous discussions regarding the creation of the Sheriff's Office Citizen Advisory Board; after deliberation, it was determined that each district in the County was to be represented. Each Council Member would submit nominations of individuals living in their respective districts who were interested in serving on the board; the nominees would be qualified with a background check. Known activists or politicians should not be nominated.

Sheriff Lewis stated board members would be a bridge between the citizens and the Sheriff's Office; they would be the line of communication between the public and the Sheriff's Office. Each board member would serve a two-year term; however, terms could not be consecutive.

Sheriff Lewis stated there was no better time to form the board, given the current climate of Greenville County, as well as nationwide. Sheriff Lewis stated they had been working on the idea for several months; it took quite a bit of input from Wes Vorberger, Attorney with the Sheriff's Office and Mark Tollison, County Attorney.

Councilor Tripp inquired about the amount of time a board member would have to devote to the board.

Sheriff Lewis stated the minimal amount of time would be for monthly meetings. As the board members began the process, they would attend the Citizen's Academy, which would take a full day. The board members could elect to attend the Academy during the week, on a Saturday or in the evening, if necessary. Sheriff Lewis stated his office wanted to be as accessible and accommodating as possible to the board members.

Councilor Ballard asked if there were any particular types of backgrounds they were seeking in potential board members

Sheriff Lewis stated he hoped board members were active in their communities; he felt they should be approachable and accessible to the public. Board members should not be isolated; they would be expected to go out into their communities and relay, as well as gather, information. They would also need to be open and verbal; not afraid to participate in discussions.

Councilor Seman thanked Sheriff Lewis for all of his hard work and for being so responsive over the past few months. It had been great seeing him out in the community; he had expressed himself very well. She appreciated his humility, honesty and transparency.

**Action:**

Councilor Barnes moved to approve a resolution to create a Greenville County Sheriff's Office Citizen Advisory Board and set out the board's appointment and responsibilities.

Mark Tollison stated an amended version of the proposed resolution was provided to Council via email earlier in the day; that was the recommended version to move forward. Mr. Tollison stated an additional clause was added to read, as follows:

*WHEREAS, Greenville County Council, in cooperation with Sheriff Lewis, seeks to establish a new board to provide advice, and to review and educate the community on law enforcement policies and practices at the Greenville County Sheriff's Office.*

Chairman Kirven stated Council appreciated Sheriff Lewis being present for the meeting; he was new on the job and was very impressive. Council wanted to give Sheriff Lewis everything he needed to succeed for the citizens of Greenville County.

Motion as presented carried unanimously.

**Item (6)      Adjournment**

**Action:** Councilor Cates moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Regina G. McCaskill  
Clerk to Council