



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes
Committee of the Whole
October 6, 2020
4:00 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*
Regina McCaskill, *Clerk to Council*
Jessica Stone, *Deputy Clerk to Council*
Pam Gilliam, *Administrative Assistant, Council Office*
Paula Gucker, *Assistant County Administrator, Public Works*

Others Present

None

Call to Order

Chairman Kirven

Invocation

Councilor Dan Tripp

Item (3) Approval of Minutes

Action: Councilor Norris moved to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2020, Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (4) Board and Commission Appointments

a. Committee on Finance

i. Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee – 3 vacancies

B.J. Koonce - District 22
Brian Crowne - Large hotel

Action: Councilor Taylor moved to close nominations and elect B.J. Koonce and Brian Crowne to fill two of three vacancies on the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee and to forward the names to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Planning and Development Committee

i. Historic Preservation Commission – 5 vacancies

Angela Clark - District 21
Alexander Evans - District 22
Anne Peden - District 26
Derenda Ropp - District 20
Jason Smit - District 23

Action: Councilor Dill moved to close nominations and elect Angela Clark, Alexander Evans, Anne Peden, Derenda Ropp and Jason Smit to fill five vacancies on the Historic Preservation Commission and to forward the names to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

ii. Board of Zoning Appeals – 2 vacancies

Laura Godfrey - District 21
Nick Hollingshad - District 20

Action: Councilor Dill moved to close nominations and elect Laura Godfrey and Nick Hollingshad to fill two vacancies on the Board of Zoning Appeals and to forward the names to full Council.

Action: Councilor Cates moved to add Arthur Smith to the list of nominees.

Councilor Tripp stated he found it troubling that neither of the incumbents showed up to address the committee personally. He received a call from the Chairman of the Board of Zoning Appeals berating him for the committee's choice of nominees. He informed the caller that board members running for reelection should attempt to contact Council either by showing up for the interview or by contacting them personally. Mr. Tripp stated he had heard

from one of the incumbents since that time; the member's secretary contacted him and requested a vote to remain on the committee. He urged caution in supporting incumbents who were arrogant enough to think they could get reelected without asking for Council's support.

Chairman Kirven stated he had also been contacted regarding the committee's choice of nominees. One of the incumbents had informed him that the idea of showing up for the video interviews was "oversold" to the applicants; they had been told that the interview would in no way affect their application. The situation was further complicated by the fact an error had been made regarding the number of vacancies for the board; there were only two vacancies but four vacancies had been erroneously advertised. The two incumbents had served a number of years on the board with exemplary records. Mr. Kirven stated there was a convoluted mix of circumstances; Council needed to be open-minded enough to find the most equitable and fair way to resolve the issue.

Councilor Taylor stated he had been approached regarding an adjustment to a zoning request. Staff walked the individual through the process, step by step. The committee then advised the applicant it was done incorrectly. Councilor Taylor stated staff and the committee needed to learn to get along.

Councilor Ballard stated he had been informed by other applicants that board appointments were a perfunctory function of Council; incumbents were usually reappointed by Council. During his tenure on Council, there had been instances of fewer applicants than vacancies on boards; currently, there were normally more applicants than vacancies, due to the fact that the population of Greenville County continued to grow. There was a misconception in the community that a board member could remain on a board for as long as they desired. Council's job was to pick the best candidates to serve.

Councilor Seman stated it was concerning that some board members in leadership roles on their respective boards were not being reappointed by Council. She stated that just because a member was in a leadership role did not necessarily mean they should be reappointed; however, it did speak about the person's ability to serve. She reminded her colleagues to pay attention to the details on the applications, especially if an applicant was unable to attend the interview. Ms. Seman recommended encouraging applicants to show up for the interview, if possible.

Councilor Taylor stated County staff had indicated the interviews did not affect the election process; however, it appeared that attending the interviews did have an effect on reappointment.

Chairman Kirven stated he would like to see William Powers be added to the list of applicants; he asked if there was any objection.

Councilor Roberts suggested sending the applications back to the Planning and Development committee for reconsideration.

Chairman Kirven stated it would take a bit longer to complete the process if the applications were sent back to the committee; his suggestion was based on the knowledge of the long and good service of the incumbents. He would prefer the applicants be given the opportunity to address the full Council.

Action:

Councilor Roberts moved to send all applications for the Board of Zoning Appeals back to the Planning and Development Committee.

Councilor Seman stated it may be necessary for boards to set term limits.

Chairman Kirven stated the current Board and Commission Policy stated in the event of more applicants than vacancies, Council elected the members by ballot vote. He inquired if sending the applications back to the committee violated the current policy.

Councilor Roberts stated the applications would be sent back to the Planning and Development Committee; the applicants would be given the opportunity to address the committee.

Mr. Tollison stated it would be a decision for the Committee of the Whole to make, if they wanted to give the Planning and Development Committee the opportunity to re-open the interviews.

Motion as presented by Councilor Roberts to send all applications for the Board of Zoning Appeals back to the Planning and Development Committee carried by a roll call vote of nine (Dill, Barnes, Meadows, Roberts, Taylor, Seman, Fant, Ballard and Tripp) in favor and three (Cates, Norris and Kirven) in opposition.

c. Public Safety Committee

i. Airport Commission – 1 vacancy

Ronald Tamaccio - District 19

Action: Councilor Roberts moved to close nominations and elect Ronald Tamaccio to fill one vacancy on the Airport Commission and to forward the name to full Council.

Action: Councilor Taylor moved to add Stanley Mays to the list of nominees.

Without objection, the motion to add Stanley Mays to the list of nominees carried unanimously.

ii. Greater Greenville Sanitation – 1 vacancy

Amanda Cass - District 25

Action: Councilor Cates moved to add David Armstrong to the list of nominees.

Councilor Fant stated District 25 was the only Council district to sit in its entirety within the boundaries of the Greater Greenville Sanitation District; Council Districts 19, 23 and 25 comprised over 80% of the district. However, District 25 had no representation on the board; District 22 had two representative on the board with very little of its area located within the district's boundaries. Mr. Fant stated Ms. Cass, a member of District 25, was a qualified applicant. He stated the nomination of David Armstrong to the board was totally offensive and highly disrespectful to the citizens of District 25, as well as the citizens of Greenville County. Mr. Fant added that the nomination was a violation of Council's rule stating there should not be two members from the same district on a board when other districts were not represented.

Councilor Cates stated there was no rule stating that there should not be two members of a board from the same district.

Councilor Fant asked if it was appropriate to have two members of a board from the same district when other districts were not represented. He had asked his colleagues to support Ms. Cass in an email, as the citizens of his district were dying for representation; now it appeared that her nomination was being blocked.

Councilor Cates stated he was not trying to block Ms. Cass' nomination.

Vice-Chairman Meadows echoed Mr. Fant's concerns; District 19 and 25 took in over 75% of the Greater Greenville Sanitation District's boundaries. It seemed odd to have a district, with very few customers, represented by two (2) board members. He received a letter from David Armstrong suggesting Ms. Cass wait to be put on the board, as there would be another vacancy in the next cycle; Mr. Meadows wanted to know why Mr. Armstrong could not wait.

Chairman Kirven stated he felt the concerns expressed by Mr. Fant and Mr. Meadows would weigh heavily on Council's decision.

Councilor Roberts stated he agreed with Mr. Fant and Mr. Meadows. An area serviced tremendously by an entity should have fair representation; failure to ensure that representation was not a good reflection on Council.

Vice-Chairman Meadows stated historically there had been very few applicants for the board from District 25 in the past; Mr. Fant had secured a qualified applicant and it was important to keep that in mind. He urged his colleagues to vote for Ms. Cass.

Councilor Barnes suggested a review of the Board and Commission Policy. The committees would make the final decision; nominations from the floor would not be allowed.

Chairman Kirven stated Council could certainly review the Board and Commission Policy.

Without objection, the two nominees were forwarded to a ballot vote.

iii. Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict – 2 vacancies

Caleb Freeman - District 26
Evan Ruggiero - District 21

Action: Councilor Roberts moved to close nominations and elect Caleb Freeman and Evan Ruggiero to fill two vacancies on the Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict and to forward the names to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

d. Public Works and Infrastructure

i. Museum Commission – 2 vacancies

Julie Garrett - District 24
Mary Johnston - District 24

Action: Councilor Seman moved to close nominations and elect Julie Garrett and Mary Johnston to fill two vacancies on the Museum Commission and to forward the names to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (5) Special Tax District Appointments

a. Ashwicke Tax District Commission – 3 vacancies

David Cook - District 22
Andrew Floyd - District 22

Action: Councilor Taylor moved to close nominations and elect David Cook and Andrew Floyd to fill two of three vacancies on the Ashwicke Tax District Commission and to forward the names to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Chanticleer Community Commission – 2 vacancies

Hunter Murphy - District 24
Peter Schwartz - District 24

Action: Councilor Seman moved to close nominations and elect Hunter Murphy and Peter Schwartz to fill two vacancies on the Chanticleer Community Commission and to forward the names to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

c. Devenger Pointe Special Tax District – 3 vacancies

Michael Ballenger - District 21
Peggy Ballenger - District 21
Brad Toulson - District 21

Action: Councilor Roberts moved to close nominations and elect Michael Ballenger, Peggy Ballenger and Brad Toulson to fill three vacancies on the Devenger Point Special Tax District and to forward the names to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

d. Donaldson Fire Service Area – 1 vacancy

Phil Misklow - 3M

Action: Councilor Seman moved to close nominations and elect Phil Misklow to fill one vacancy on the Donaldson Fire Service Area and to forward the name to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

e. Old Mill Estates Tax District – 1 vacancy

David Dalby - District 20

Action: Councilor Cates moved to close nominations and elect David Dalby to fill one vacancy on the Old Mill Estates Tax District and to forward the name to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

f. Sterling Community Special Tax District - 1 vacancy

Vicky Ashley - District 23

Action: Councilor Norris moved to close nominations and elect Vicky Ashley to fill one vacancy on the Sterling Community Special Tax District and to forward the name to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

g. Terra Pines Estates Special Tax District – 2 vacancies

Jerrald Dempsey - District 22

Bob Hollis - District 22

Action: Councilor Taylor moved to close nominations and elect Jerrald Dempsey and Bob Hollis to fill two vacancies on the Terra Pines Estates Special Tax District and to forward the names to full Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (6) Adjournment

Action: Councilor Dill moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Regina G. McCaskill
Clerk to Council