



## GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL Minutes

Special Called Meeting  
April 2, 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, District 27  
Mr. Willis Meadows, Vice Chairman, District 19  
Mrs. Xanthene Norris, Chairman Pro Tem, District 23  
Mr. Joe Dill, District 17  
Mr. Mike Barnes, District 18  
Mr. Sid Cates, District 20  
Mr. Rick Roberts, District 21  
Mr. Bob Taylor, District 22  
Mrs. Liz Seman, District 24  
Mr. Ennis Fant, Sr., District 25  
Mr. Lynn Ballard, District 26  
Mr. Dan Tripp, District 28

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 by remote participation**

**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**

None

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Kirven welcomed everyone to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to consider an emergency ordinance which would enable County Council to operate under modified procedures during the declared State of Emergency as provided for under South Carolina law. The meeting was live-streamed on the Greenville County website. Council planned to resume regular business on Tuesday, April 7. It would take some time to reinstate public hearings, committee meetings and other related matters; however, Council was making plans to put them back in place in soon as possible.

**Item (3)      Emergency Ordinance**

Councilor Tripp requested clarification regarding the proposed expiration of the ordinance as being the sixty-first day following the effective date. Mr. Tripp asked if an “escape clause” was needed in case the State of Emergency was lifted prior to the expiration date.

Mark Tollison stated Council could reconvene and either rescind or modify the ordinance. The expiration date of sixty-one days was state law as to the length of an emergency ordinance.

Councilor Seman stated she appreciated the effort in Section I of the proposed ordinance regarding public comment. She was aware this would not be easy; she appreciated everything staff was doing to ensure the public would have the opportunity to speak. Some of the surrounding municipalities had struggled with public comments. Greenville County was doing everything possible to get back to handling business as normal which included hearing from its citizens, especially regarding items on the agendas.

**Action:** Councilor Dill moved to adopt an ordinance to suspend the regular operating rules of County Council meetings to provide for the continuation of Council and County related meetings the COVID-19 pandemic; and to maintain the current declaration of a local state of emergency.

Councilor Taylor stated it would be the citizens’ responsibility to figure out which rules were part of the Governor’s edict and which were not.

Chairman Kirven stated Greenville County was currently abiding by the declarations as dictated by the Governor and County Council had made no adjustments.

**Action:** Councilor Dill called for the question.

Chairman Kirven asked Mr. Dill if he would allow a concession for Mr. Tripp to ask a question.

Councilor Dill stated he would allow Mr. Tripp’s question.

Councilor Tripp asked if the proposed ordinance would broaden any of the emergency guidelines already set in place.

Chairman Kirven stated it would not; Council could do so in the future, if needed. The first step was to modify Council Rules in order to allow electronic meetings.

Without objection, the motion to call for the question was approved.

The motion as presented was carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

**Item (4)      Adjournment**

Councilor Barnes moved to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Regina G. McCaskill  
Clerk to Council