



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes
Regular Council Meeting
May 18, 2021
6:01 p.m.

County Square - Council Chambers

Council Members

Mr. Willis Meadows, *Chairman, District 19*
Mr. Dan Tripp, *Vice-Chairman, District 28*
Mrs. Xanthene Norris, *Chairman Pro Tem, District 23*
Mr. Joe Dill, *District 17*
Mr. Mike Barnes, *District 18*
Mr. Stephen Shaw, *District 20*
Mr. Chris Harrison, *District 21*
Mr. Stan Tzouvelekas, *District 22*
Mrs. Liz Seman, *District 24*
Mr. Ennis Fant, Sr., *District 25*
Mr. Lynn Ballard, *District 26*
Mr. Butch Kirven, *District 27*

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted online and 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*

Dean Campbell, *Deputy County Attorney*

Kim Wunder, *Assistant County Attorney*

John Hansley, *Deputy County Administrator*

Sheriff Hobart Lewis, *Sheriff's Office*

Regina McCaskill, *Clerk to Council*

Jessica Stone, *Deputy Clerk to Council*

Pam Gilliam, *Administrative Assistant*

Bob Mihalic, *Governmental Affairs Officer*

Paula Gucker, *Assistant County Administrator, Public Works*

Shannon Herman, *Assistant County Administrator*

Others Present

None

Call to Order

Chairman Willis Meadows

Invocation – *introduced by Councilor Tzouvelekas*

Pastor Chad Flint
Grace Baptist Church
Greenville

Pledge of Allegiance

Item (4) **Approval of Minutes**

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2021, Regular Council Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (5) **Proclamation**

a. Recognizing May 16 – 22, 2021 as EMS Week

Councilor Mike Barnes presented a proclamation to the Greenville County Emergency Medical Services Department. Greenville County EMS provided a vital public service, delivering emergency care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year; and, was the sole provider for medical 9-1-1 calls, responding to more than 65,000 calls per year. The department operated an internationally honored high performance, tiered system that provided exceptional care.

Greenville County EMS employed more than 300 talented and dedicated staff members including paramedics, EMTs, communication specialists, operational support techs, and administrators. The members of the emergency medical services team engaged in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills.

Greenville County Council honored the incredible talent, purpose and passion of all Greenville County EMS staff, and acknowledged their essential role in public health by declaring May 16-22, 2021 to be Emergency Medical Services Week in Greenville County.

Item (6) **Appearances – Current Agenda Items**

- **T.J. Rumler** - appeared regarding Item 8.a. Accommodations Tax Recommendations
- **Jessica Saravia** - appeared regarding Item 8.a. Accommodations Tax Recommendations
- **Nicholas Hollingshad** - appeared regarding Item 12.b. Land Development Regulations Amendment / Tiny Homes
- **Jessica Piedrahita** - appeared regarding Item 8.a. Accommodations Tax Recommendations
- **Milka Plumblee** - appeared regarding Item 8.a. Accommodations Tax Recommendations

Item (7) **Public Hearings**

a. Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict Annexation / 148 Cooper Lake Road

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding a resolution to enlarge the boundaries of the Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict to include the real property located at 148 Cooper Lake Road, and to provide for public notice thereof.

There being no speakers, Councilor Seman declared the public hearing closed.

b. Greenville / Anderson Multi-County Industrial Business Park (2010 Park) Agreement Amendment to Include Anderson Solar Farm, LLC

A public hearing was held to receive comments from the public regarding an ordinance authorizing the amendment of the 2010 Greenville Anderson multi-county industrial park agreement with Anderson Solar Farm, LLC; and other matters related thereto.

There being no speakers, Vice-Chairman Tripp declared the public hearing closed.

c. Greenville / Anderson Multi-County Industrial Business Park (2010 Park) Agreement Amendment to Include Fitesa Parcels

A public hearing was held to receive comments from the public regarding an ordinance to amend an agreement for the development of a joint county industrial and business park (2010 Park) of Anderson and Greenville Counties so as to enlarge the park to include the Fitesa Parcels.

There being no speakers, Vice-Chairman Tripp declared the public hearing closed.

d. Tigerville Fire District / Issuance of General Obligation Bonds

A public hearing was held to receive comments from the public regarding an ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of (i) a not exceeding \$175,000 Greenville County South Carolina General Obligation Refunding Bond (Tigerville Fire District Project), Series 2021a and (ii) a not exceeding \$1,035,000 Greenville County, South Carolina General Obligation Bond, Series 2021b; to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds should be expended; to provide for the payment thereof; and other matters thereto.

There being no speakers, Vice-Chairman Tripp declared the public hearing closed.

e. Greenville County Land Development Regulations Amendment / Repeal Article 3.1

A public hearing was held to receive comments from the public regarding an ordinance to amend the Greenville County Land Development Regulations for the County of Greenville, South Carolina, to repeal Article 3.1, Review Criteria of Article 3, General Subdivision Requirements.

- **Richard Hubble** - appeared in opposition to the proposed
- **Melanie Ruhlman** - appeared in opposition to the proposed
- **Heather Collins** - appeared in opposition to the proposed
- **Michelle Grover** - appeared in opposition to the proposed
- **Andrea Cooper** - appeared in opposition to the proposed
- **Michael Martinez** - appeared in opposition to the proposed
- **Claire Kellett** - appeared in opposition to the proposed
- **James Moore** - appeared in opposition to the proposed
- **Carol Gilley** - appeared in opposition to the proposed
- **Thomas Stitt** - appeared in opposition to the proposed
- **Taylor Lyles** - appeared in opposition to the proposed

Item (8) **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Accommodations Tax Allocation Recommendations** *(Finance)*
- b. **Community Project Application / Slater Hall Community Center – Benches and Marketing Materials \$500.00** *(Finance)*

Action: Councilor Fant moved to approve the Consent Agenda items.

Action: Councilor Seman moved to remove Item (8)a. Accommodations Tax Allocation Recommendations from the Consent Agenda.

Chairman Meadows stated there was already a motion to approve both items.

Councilor Seman stated that under Council Rules, any member may ask for the removal of an item from the Consent Agenda.

Chairman Meadows stated the motion to remove an item must be stated before the motion to approve.

Councilor Seman stated that Chairman Meadows had probably pre-planned to call on Mr. Fant for the motion to approve when the item was up for consideration. Ms. Seman stated she did not appreciate being looked over. She would appreciate the opportunity to remove Item (8)a. from the Consent Agenda.

Chairman Meadows stated Councilor Seman was out of order. Mr. Fant had a motion on the floor to approve the Consent Agenda items, as presented.

Point of Order: Vice-Chairman Tripp raised a Point of Order. He asked if the motion to remove an item from the Consent Agenda took precedence over the simple motion to approve. The point of the Consent Agenda was to approve non-controversial items; the item in question was clearly controversial. As a body, Council should not try to overlook or mask a procedure. Mr. Tripp stated the item was controversial and should be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Chairman Meadows requested direction from Mark Tollison.

Mr. Tollison read part of Council Rule IV.(C) *Consent Agenda* as follows:

Any item placed on the Consent Agenda shall be removed and considered as a separate matter upon the request of any Council or Committee member, otherwise all items on the Consent Agenda will be voted on with one motion.

Mr. Tollison stated there was a motion on the floor to approve as well as a request to remove one of the items. Chairman Meadows could abide by Council Rules and honor Ms. Seman's request or treat the motion as an amendment to the Consent Agenda. Mr. Tollison added that Chairman Meadows had the option to make any ruling he deemed appropriate.

Chairman Meadows stated his ruling to allow the motion to approve would stand.

Action: Councilor Dill called for the question.

Vice-Chairman Tripp asked whether the motion to call for the question pertained to Mr. Fant's motion or Ms. Seman's motion.

Councilor Dill stated it was his understanding that Chairman Meadows had not accepted Ms. Seman's motion.

Chairman Meadows requested a roll call vote.

Councilor Dill stated the roll call vote was for his motion to call for the question.

Councilor Fant stated Council was "just adopting the Consent Agenda." Normally, Council voted on the Consent Agenda by a voice vote.

Vice-Chairman Tripp inquired if a motion to amend the Consent Agenda was out of order.

Chairman Meadows stated the motion on the floor took precedence.

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved to amend Councilor Fant's motion by removing Item (8)a. Accommodations Tax Allocation Recommendations from the Consent Agenda.

Point of Order: Councilor Kirven raised a Point of Order. When Council adopted the policy to allow the Consent Agenda, it was made abundantly clear that doing so was a courtesy. Any Council Member could request the removal of an item, which had been exercised many times. The intent was not to "railroad" the Consent Agenda through, as he and others had been accused of doing so many times by Chairman Meadows. It appeared there was a "set up job" between Mr. Meadows and Mr. Fant to pass the Consent Agenda quickly, not allowing Council Members the opportunity to speak regarding the item. Mr. Kirven stated he "strenuously objected" to the procedure; it was "just wrong."

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated he was on the opposite side of the issue. He voted to remove the funding for the item in question. He suggested taking a "vote, up or down." Mr. Tripp stated Chairman Meadows would "win the vote" but should not put a Council Member out over a procedural tie-up. The purpose of the Consent Agenda was to consider non-controversial issues and move them forward together. Mr. Tripp stated he "strenuously" objected to Chairman Meadows' action, even though he was opposed to funding of the item.

Councilor Ballard stated the Consent Agenda, by definition, indicated that all Council Members were in agreement with the approval of all the items. He inquired if the Consent Agenda could be passed without the consent of the entire body.

Mr. Tollison stated approval of the Consent Agenda did not require a unanimous vote of Council.

Vice-Chairman Tripp requested Mr. Tollison read Council Rule IV.(C) Consent Agenda.

Mr. Tollison read Council Rule IV.(C) *Consent Agenda* in its entirety:

Several items of business may be considered together by County Council and/or County Council committees. Such items, to be considered together, must be listed on the agenda under the general heading "Consent Agenda." Any item placed on the Consent Agenda shall be removed and considered as a separate matter upon the request of any Council or Committee member, otherwise all items on the Consent Agenda will be voted on with one motion.

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated he appealed the ruling of the Chairman and demanded a voice vote.

Councilor Kirven stated from a historical perspective, when the Consent Agenda was incorporated by Council, the Chairman would routinely ask if any Member wanted to remove an item, prior to any motions. That courtesy was extended for a long time, but appeared to no longer be the case.

Chairman Meadows rescinded his ruling and recognized Councilor Seman's motion to remove Item (8)a. Accommodations Tax Allocation Recommendations from the Consent Agenda. The item would be considered under Item (13) Committee Reports.

Action: Councilor Seman moved approval of the Consent Agenda Item 8.(b) Community Project Application / Slater Hall Community Center – Benches and Marketing Materials \$500.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (9) Resolutions

a. Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict / 148 Cooper Lake Road

Action: Councilor Seman moved for adoption a resolution to enlarge the boundaries of the Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict to include the real property located at 148 Cooper Lake Road, and to provide for public notice thereof.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Slater Marietta Fire District / General Obligation Bond Issuance – Request for Public Hearing

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for adoption a resolution calling for a public hearing to be held upon the question of the issuance of not exceeding \$3,000,000 of general obligation bonds of the Slater-Marietta Fire District and to provide for the publication of the notice of such hearing.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (10) **Ordinances – Third Reading**

- a. **Greenville / Anderson Multi-County Industrial Business Park (2010 Park) Agreement Amendment to Include Anderson Solar Farm, LLC**

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance authorizing the amendment of the 2010 Greenville Anderson multi-county industrial park agreement with Anderson Solar Farm, LLC; and other matters related thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

- b. **Greenville / Anderson Multi-County Industrial Business Park (2010 Park) Agreement Amendment to Include Fitesa Parcels**

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance to amend an agreement for the development of a joint county industrial and business park (2010 Park) of Anderson and Greenville Counties so as to enlarge the park to include the Fitesa parcels.

Motion carried unanimously.

- c. **Ordinance Repealing the Sewer Sub-District Consolidations for Berea Public Service District; Gantt Fire, Sewer and Police District; Marietta Water, Fire, Sanitation, and Sewer District; and Wade Hampton Fire and Sewer District; and to Provide for an Agreed to Enlargement of the Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict Boundary in those Four Districts**

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance (1) repealing provisions of Ordinance No. 5248 authorizing the consolidation of Berea Public Service District; Gantt Fire, Sewer and Police District; Marietta Water, Fire, Sanitation, and Sewer District; and Wade Hampton Fire and Sewer District into Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict; (2) providing for the enlargement of the boundaries of the Metropolitan Sewer Subdistrict within the areas of Berea, Gantt, Marietta, and Wade Hampton; and (3) amending the plan of consolidation in connection therewith; and (4) other matters related thereto.

- d. **Ordinance Repealing the County Establishment of the Berea Fire Service Area; Gantt Fire Service Area; and Wade Hampton Fire Service Area**

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 5249 to repeal the provisions establishing the Berea Fire Service Area, the Gantt Fire Service Area, and the Wade Hampton Fire Service Area from those fire service areas established thereby, and other matters relating thereto.

Item (12) **Ordinances – Second Reading**

- a. **Zoning Ordinances**

- i. **CZ-2021-28:** Property of Isaac Quintana, located on Charles Drive and Conestee Road, requesting rezoning from C-2 to R-MA. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval.

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved approval of the ordinance at second reading.
Motion carried unanimously.

- ii. **CZ-2021-29:** Property of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Inc., located at 2820 and 2824 Woodruff Road, requesting rezoning from R-S to R-M16. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval.

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved approval of the ordinance at second reading.
Motion carried unanimously.

- iii. **CZ-2021-30:** Property of Chandler Revocable Trust, Linda Gayle Porter and Foothills Presbytery, located on W. Georgia Road and Rocky Creek Road, requesting rezoning from R-S to R-MA. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended denial.

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved approval of the ordinance at second reading.
Councilor Ballard stated he was under the impression the request had been withdrawn; he had inquired with staff and had received no reply.

Councilor Dill stated he had received no information from staff to indicate he request had been withdrawn.

Motion was unanimously denied.

- iv. **CZ-2021-31:** Property of Ryland Properties, LLC, located at 2400, 2500, 2702 and 2704 Pelham Road, requesting rezoning from FRD to FRD-MC (major change). The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval with conditions.

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved approval of the ordinance at second reading.

Action: Councilor Dill moved to amend the ordinance to include that the developer must submit a site plan for review and approval prior to the issuance of any land development or building permits.

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

Action: Councilor Dill moved approval of the ordinance as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

- v. **CZ-2021-32:** Property of Janice Holliday-Chandler, located at 9185 Augusta Road, requesting rezoning from R-R3 to C-3. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval.

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved approval of the ordinance at second reading.
Motion carried unanimously.

- vi. **CZ-2021-33:** Property of Martyn Harris and Samantha Harris, located on E. Suber Road, requesting rezoning from R-S to S-1. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval.

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved approval of the ordinance at second reading.
Motion carried unanimously.

- vii. **CZ-2021-34:** Property of Karren D. Garrett Long, Jeffrey Neal Garrett, Cynthia Lee Garrett Farmer, Donald Gregory Garrett, and Kem George Lynn, located at 219 and 231 Corn Road, requesting rezoning from R-12 to R-M26. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval.

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved approval of the ordinance at second reading.
Motion carried unanimously.

- vii. **CZ-2021-35:** Property of Julia Louise Barker, Linda Marilyn Howard, Gail Elizabeth Tucker, and Frank J. Ayers, III & Carol B. Ayers, located on Michelin Road, requesting rezoning from R-S to R-15. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval.

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved approval of the ordinance at second reading.
Motion carried unanimously.

- ix. **CZ-2021-37:** Withdrawn
- x. **CZ-2021-38:** Property of Kimberly Knight Wright and West Georgia Holdings, LLC, located on W. Georgia Road and Sullivan Road, requesting rezoning from C-3, R-S and S-1 to FRD. The Planning Commission and Committee recommended approval with conditions.

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Dill moved approval of the ordinance at second reading.

Action: Councilor Dill moved to amend the ordinance to include that the developer must submit a site plan for review and approval prior to the issuance of any land development or building permits.

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

Action: Councilor Dill moved approval of the ordinance as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Transfer of County-owned Property / 48 Ridgeway Drive

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading ordinance to authorize the transfer of county owned property located at 48 Ridgeway Drive, the former Woodfield Community Center site, to the Greenville County Redevelopment Authority, and to authorize the execution of a quit-claim deed related thereto.

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved to hold second reading of the item until its scheduled public hearing on June 1, 2021.

Motion to hold carried unanimously.

c. Tigerville Fire District / Issuance of General Obligation Bonds

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of (i) a not exceeding \$175,000 Greenville County, South Carolina General Obligation Refunding Bond (Tigerville Fire District Project), Series 2021a and (ii) a not exceeding \$1,035,000 Greenville County, South Carolina General Obligation Bond, Series 2021b; to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds should be expended; to provide for the payment thereof; and other matters relating thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

d. Tigerville Fire District / Millage Request

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to provide for the millage rate to be levied by the Tigerville Fire District; and request that second reading of the item be delayed until the consumer price index and population calculations were released.

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved to hold second reading of the item until its scheduled public hearing on June 1, 2021.

Motion to hold carried unanimously.

e. Chanticleer Special Tax District / Millage Request

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to provide for the millage rate to be levied by the Chanticleer Community Tax District.

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved to hold second reading of the item until its scheduled public hearing on June 1, 2021.

Motion to hold carried unanimously.

Item (12) Ordinances – First Reading

a. Zoning and Planning Ordinances

Councilor Dill presented for first reading Zoning Dockets **CZ-2021-39** through **CZ-2021-50** and **CP-2021-01**.

Chairman Meadows referred the items to the Planning and Development Committee.

b. Land Development Regulations Amendment / Tiny Homes

Councilor Dill presented for first reading an ordinance to amend the Greenville County Land Development Regulations for the County of Greenville, South Carolina, as amended, to include provision for regulations of tiny homes; and requested the item be referred back to the Planning and Development Committee.

Chairman Meadows referred the item back to the Planning and Development Committee.

c. Greenville County Library System / FY2022 Budget

Vice-Chairman Tripp presented for first reading an ordinance to approve the appropriation of funds for the Greenville County Library System for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022; and to authorize the annual ad valorem property tax millage levy for library purposes.

Chairman Meadows stated the item would remain on the floor.

d. Slater-Marietta Fire District / General Obligation Bond Issuance

Vice-Chairman Tripp presented for first reading an ordinance finding that the Slater-Marietta Fire District may issue not exceeding \$3,000,000 of general obligation bonds; to authorize the Board of Fire Control of the Slater-Marietta Fire District, South Carolina to issue such bonds and to provide for the publication of notice of the said finding and authorization.

Chairman Meadows stated the item would remain on the floor.

e. Fountain Inn Fire Service Area / Millage Request

Vice-Chairman Tripp presented for first reading an ordinance to provide for the millage rate to be levied by the Fountain Inn Fire Service Area; to reauthorize execution of a contract with the City of Fountain Inn for the continued provision of fire protection services in the fire service area, and to endorse a ten-year capital improvement plan.

Chairman Meadows stated the item would remain on the floor.

Item (13)

Committee Reports

The item below was removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to Committee Reports:

Item (8) Consent Agenda

a. Accommodations Tax Allocation Recommendations *(Finance)*

Councilor Seman stated she appreciated the opportunity to discuss the item. Clearly, the item was controversial. Ms. Seman stated accommodations tax was collected from visitors to the community who stayed in local hotels. The purpose of the accommodations tax recommendations was to invest in events in order to bring more visitors to the area; therefore, more accommodations tax would be collected to allow for more opportunities. Council appointed members to the committee and approved the rules by which events were vetted. Those events were “scored” by the committee, using A, B, C or D rankings. The committee also considered the requested funding amounts and made recommended funding amounts.

Ms. Seman stated in funding *Artisphere*, Council did not dictate what type of artists could participate. For the *Scottish Games*, Council did not tell them what kind of games could be played. With the issue at hand, Council’s responsibility was to determine if the allocation presented was relevant to the accommodations tax rules; she would argue that it was. The event would bring to the community and garner more accommodations tax dollars for future use.

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Vice-Chairman Tripp moved to approve the Accommodations Tax allocations as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Action: Councilor Seman moved to approve the original Accommodations Tax Allocation recommendations, as presented to the Finance Committee, which would restore funding for the *Hispanic Alliance*.

Councilor Kirven stated the issue was a controversial topic and he had given it quite a bit of thought. Council should not decide which expressions of creativity were good and which were bad, within a reasonably broad range. There was a misconception about the source of the grant funds; none of the money came from the County’s general fund revenue. The South Carolina General Assembly approved the hotel room tax many years ago at the request of the hotel and hospitality industry. For the current recommendations, the grants totaled \$308,242 and were recommended by the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee for 18 local, non-profit organizations. The grants ranged from a high of \$63,750 to a low of \$225. South Carolina state law required that members of the committee objectively represent the hotel and travel industry in making grant recommendations; the law also stipulated the appointment of hotel and travel industry members to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee. The hotel and travel industry provided the funds needed for the grants; those funds were outside of the regular tax revenue collected by the counties.

Mr. Kirven stated the *Hispanic Alliance* was established over 10 years ago with a purpose to help the Hispanic community become a more vital part of the overall Greenville area community. The alliance’s work spanned many areas including personal financial stability, how to start a

business, obtain career qualifications, citizenship and better health practices. The *Hispanic Alliance* was a valuable organization. Councilor Kirven stated he supported Ms. Seman's motion.

Councilor Dill stated Greenville County's policy for Accommodations Tax grants was established in 2011. The policy stated that South Carolina law prohibited events from receiving accommodations tax funds if the event raised money and distributed funds for or to other non-profits or charitable entities. Mr. Dill inquired if the *Hispanic Alliance*, as well as the other proposed recipients, gave money to other organizations.

Action:

Councilor Dill moved to hold the item until the June 1, 2021, Council meeting in order to determine which of the proposed recipients distributed funds for or to other non-profits or charitable entities.

Councilor Seman stated she was certain that the *Hispanic Alliance* did not distribute funds for or to other non-profits or charitable entities; however, she was concerned that funds had been granted to organizations in the past that distributed monies to other organizations. Ms. Seman stated she was under the impression that both *Artisphere* and the *Scottish Games* distributed funds to other non-profits or charitable entities.

Councilor Dill asked if Council should "scrap" the policy.

Councilor Seman stated she would hate for some major events not to receive funding because they granted monies to other organizations.

Councilor Fant stated the *Hispanic Alliance* had been drawn into the situation unnecessarily and unfairly. Council Members had received numerous emails about the issue; it had caused them to become somewhat contentious with each other. Mr. Fant stated Council wanted what was in the best interest of the community and well as its future. He agreed that holding the item on the floor would give Council time to research the situation and come up with a solution they could all agree upon.

Motion to hold carried with Councilor Ballard voting in opposition.

Item (14)

Appearances – Items not on the Current Agenda

- **Ed Paxton** - appeared regarding Greater Greenville Sanitation
- **Nia Payne** - appeared regarding bike lanes

Item (15)

Administrator's Report

Joe Kernell provided an update on the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). The County recently received an additional \$12 million for the ERAP 2; those funds would be available through September of 2025. The current program continued to grow weekly. On Monday, May 17, a mass text initiative was launched to send reminders to those individuals with pending applications. To date, 435 households have received assistance for rent and utilities totaling \$1.9 million.

Item (16)

Requests and Motions

- Councilor Ballard stated an Open House was scheduled at the McCullough House on Saturday, May 22 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Several historical societies were in the process of restoring the house in order to make it a tourist attraction.

Mr. Ballard stated he attended an Emergency Management Training event hosted by Canebrake Fire Department on Saturday, May 15. Greenville County EMS was included in the training on a much larger scale than in the past.

- Councilor Kirven stated Council Members recently received a letter from Chief Gary Brock with the Berea Public Service District, expressing appreciation for Council's work regarding the consolidation of the sewer districts. Chief Brock stated Council had paved the way for the districts to move forward as stand-alone fire departments, continuing to serve their constituents while being unburdened by the added expenses and overhead of the sewer services.
- Councilor Dill stated the *National Society of the Colonial Dames* planned to unveil a monument at the Blythe-Goodwin-Hagood House on Saturday, May 22 at 2:00 p.m.
- Councilor Barnes thanked *Prisma Health* for recently holding a COVID-19 vaccination clinic at St. Mark's Methodist Church. Lunch was provided in appreciation to the medical staff by the church.
- Councilor Shaw stated he was glad to see the repaving of the *Swamp Rabbit Trail*. He added that it was nice to see young people addressing Council.
- Councilor Tzouvelekas thanked Pastor Flint for providing the invocation. He appreciated the support of his colleagues for his appointment on the Greenville Area Development Corporation.
- Councilor Norris stated she had a good holiday. She hoped everyone continued to work hard.
- Councilor Seman stated she had been contacted recently by a constituent regarding the burning ordinance; she requested the Public Safety Committee consider the issue. Chairman Meadows referred the request to the Public Safety Committee.

Councilor Seman stated she had appreciated the opportunity to represent Council on the SCTAC board. She reported that the repaving on Hercules Way at SCTAC was now complete and the refurbished road was now open for business. Hercules Way was a critically important road that served the north side of *Lockheed Martin* as a direct route through the *F-16 Global Center of Excellence* as well as customers on the *ITIC Automotive Test Track*. Jody Bryson sent a special thanks to Heshia Gamble and Paula Gucker for their leadership and support in the completion of the project in record time.

- Councilor Fant encouraged his colleagues to stop by *Oak Street Health*; the non-profit medical facility provided primary care health services to Medicare recipients. Transportation to medical appointments was also provided to patients residing in underserved communities. The facility was located in a former nightclub.

Mr. Fant stated *Bon Secours* would be launching a mobile health bus in June to provide health services for individuals who lacked adequate medical care.

Mr. Fant expressed his appreciation to both *Oak Street Health* and *Bon Secours* for their efforts to assist the underserved citizens of Greenville County.

Item (17) **Adjournment**

Action: Councilor Dill moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Regina G. McCaskill
Clerk to Council