



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

Regular Council Meeting

November 1, 2022

6:06 p.m.

County Square - Council Chambers

Council Members

Mr. Willis Meadows, *Chairman, District 19*

Mr. Dan Tripp, *Vice-Chairman, District 28*

Mrs. Xanthe 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

John Hansley, Deputy County Administrator

Regina McCaskill, Clerk to Council

Jessica Stone, Deputy Clerk to Council

Pam Gilliam, Administrative Assistant

Terrance Galloway, Information Systems

Marcus Angel, Information Systems

Hesha Gamble, Assistant County Administrator

Tee Coker, Assistant County Administrator

Nicole Wood, Assistant County Administrator

Meredith Papapieris, Director of Grants and Special Projects

Others Present

Sheriff Hobart Lewis

Call to Order

Chairman Willis Meadows

Invocation

Councilor Butch Kirven

Pledge of Allegiance

Item (4) *Approval of Minutes*

a. **October 18, 2022 – Regular County Council Meeting**

Action: Councilor Seman moved to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2022, Regular County Council meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (5) *Appearances – Current Agenda Items*

- *Susie Smith* - appeared regarding Item 8g Resolution Restricting Access to Inappropriate Materials in the Children’s Sections of the Greenville County Library System
- *Charlotte Grubbs* - appeared regarding Item 8g Resolution Restricting Access to Inappropriate Materials in the Children’s Sections of the Greenville County Library System
- *Susan Ward* - appeared regarding Item 8g Resolution Restricting Access to Inappropriate Materials in the Children’s Sections of the Greenville County Library System
- *Pamela Benson* - appeared regarding Item 8g Resolution Restricting Access to Inappropriate Materials in the Children’s Sections of the Greenville County Library System
- *Susana Saravia* - appeared regarding Item 8g Resolution Restricting Access to Inappropriate Materials in the Children’s Sections of the Greenville County Library System
- *Sid Cates* - appeared regarding Item 8g Resolution Restricting Access to Inappropriate Materials in the Children’s Sections of the Greenville County Library System
- *James Dotson* - appeared regarding Item 8g Resolution Restricting Access to Inappropriate Materials in the Children’s Sections of the Greenville County Library System
- *Barbara Evans* - appeared regarding Item 8g Resolution Restricting Access to Inappropriate Materials in the Children’s Sections of the Greenville County Library System
- *Carey White* - appeared regarding Item 8g Resolution Restricting Access to Inappropriate Materials in the Children’s Sections of the Greenville County Library System
- *Ashley Snelgrove* - appeared regarding Item 8g Resolution Restricting Access to Inappropriate Materials in the Children’s Sections of the Greenville County Library System

Item (6) *Public Hearings*

a. **Project Graham / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement**

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the County at this time as Project Graham, with respect to certain economic development property in the County, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto.

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

b. Cell Tower Lease Renewal

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance to authorize the Chairman of County Council and the County Administrator to execute a lease with SBA Site, LLC, of approximately 10,000 square feet of space at the Twin Chimneys Landfill for the continued operation of a wireless telecommunications tower.

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

c. Project Bullseye 1 / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the County at this time as Project Bullseye 1, with respect to certain economic development property in the County, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto.

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

d. Project Bullseye 2 / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the County at this time as Project Bullseye 2, with respect to certain economic development property in the County, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto.

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

e. Project Bullseye 3 / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the County at this time as Project Bullseye 3, with respect to certain economic development property in the County, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto.

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

f. Greenville / Anderson Multi County Industrial Business Park (2010 Park) Agreement Amendment – Projects Bullseye 1, 2 and 3

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving 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.

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

g. Project SRPF D/Greenville Park 25 LLC / Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and SRPF D/Greenville Park 25, LLC, with respect to certain economic development property in the County, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto.

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

h. Greenville / Anderson Multi County Industrial Business Park (2010 Park) Agreement Amendment – SRPF D/Greenville Park 25, LLC

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving 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.

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

i. Road Maintenance Fee Ordinance

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance to impose and collect an increase to the Greenville County Road Maintenance Fee pursuant to Title 6, Chapter 1, Article 3, of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended.

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

j. Willcoll Land, LLC (formerly Project Mila) / Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement Amendment

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding ordinance authorizing the amendment of that fee agreement between Willcoll Land, LLC, dated April 6, 2021, as previously partially assigned, by adding additional land and economic development area to the fee agreement.

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

k. Berea Public Service District / General Obligation Bond

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance finding that Berea Public Service District, South Carolina may issue not exceeding \$3,000,000 of general obligation bonds; to authorize Berea Public Service Commission to issue such bonds and to provide for the publication of notice of the said finding and authorization.

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

I. **Greenville - Anderson Multi County Industrial Business Park (2010 Park) Agreement Amendment / Project Iceberg / Lifeboat**

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance approving an amendment for the enlargement of the joint county industrial and business park by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and Anderson County, South Carolina (2010 Park); and other matters related thereto.

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

Item (7) **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Upstate Regional WMD Bomb Squad Homeland Security Grant** *(Finance)*
- b. **Upstate Regional WMD SWAT Team Homeland Security Grant** *(Finance)*
- c. **FY2022 VOCA Grant** *(Finance)*
- d. **Community Project Application / Textile Heritage Park \$11,000.00** *(Finance)*
- e. **Community Project Application / Greenville County Public Works Department – Stormwater Cleanup \$800.00** *(Finance)*

Action: Councilor Seman moved approval of the Consent Agenda items.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (8) **Resolutions**

- a. **Project EV Pack / Inducement Resolution**

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for adoption a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of an inducement agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and Project EV Pack, whereby, under certain conditions, Greenville County would execute a fee in lieu of tax and special source credit agreement with respect to a project in the county whereby the project would be subject to payment of certain fees in lieu of taxes, and whereby Project EV Pack would be provided certain credits against fee payments in reimbursement of investment in related qualified infrastructure; and providing for related matters.

Motion carried unanimously.

- b. **Project Ahold Delhaize / Inducement Resolution**

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for adoption a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of an inducement agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and Retail Business Services LLC and ADUSA Distribution, LLC, whereby, under certain conditions, Greenville County would execute a fee in lieu of tax agreement with respect to a project in the county whereby the project would be subject to payment of certain fees in lieu of taxes and providing for related matters.

Motion carried unanimously.

c. Project President / Inducement Resolution

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for adoption a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of an inducement agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and Project President, whereby, under certain conditions, Greenville County would execute a fee in lieu of tax agreement with respect to a project in the county whereby the project would be subject to payment of certain fees in lieu of taxes, and providing for related matters.

Motion carried unanimously.

d. Greenville County SC250 Committee

Action: Councilor Seman moved for adoption a resolution supporting the South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission and recognizing and approving of the Greenville County 250 Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

e. Greater Greenville Sanitation District Annexation / 11 Greenwood Avenue and 1240 Altamont Road – Request for Public Hearing

Action: Councilor Seman moved for adoption a resolution to hold a public hearing to consider enlarging the Greater Greenville Sanitation District to include 11 Greenwood Avenue and 1240 Altamont Road.

Motion carried unanimously.

f. Paris Mountain State Park Traffic Concerns

Action: As noticed on the County Council agenda, Vice-Chairman Tripp moved to suspend Council Rule IV (A) in order to allow for immediate consideration of a resolution concerning traffic issues at Paris Mountain State Park.

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated there had been traffic concerns raised by the residents of Altamont Road in regards to the Shiloh Ridge at Paris Mountain Project. The site was located in Councilor Shaw's district; he had expressed his concerns as well. The purpose of the proposed resolution was to address those concerns. He had suggested Councilor Shaw contact the State Delegation in an effort to put Council's views on record. Mr. Tripp requested his colleagues suspend Council Rules in order to adopt the resolution.

Councilor Shaw stated, as a body, Council should make it clear that the project was supported; however, all access should be internally from the existing entrance with no access from Altamont Road.

Motion to suspend Council Rule IV (A) in order to allow for immediate consideration of a resolution concerning traffic issues at Paris Mountain State Park carried unanimously.

Motion to approve a resolution concerning traffic issues at Paris Mountain State Park carried unanimously

g. Resolution Restricting Access to Inappropriate Materials in the Children’s Sections of the Greenville County Library System

Action: As noticed on the County Council agenda, Councilor Dill moved to suspend Council Rule IV (A) in order to allow for immediate consideration of a resolution restricting access to inappropriate materials in the Children’s Sections of the Greenville County Library System. Councilor Dill requested a roll call vote.

Councilor Kirven stated the Library Board had taken steps for immediate action in order to address the issue.

Action: Councilor Kirven moved to hold the item in order to determine what steps the Library Board had taken to address the issue.

Chairman Meadows stated he agreed with Mr. Kirven’s motion. It was not the prerogative of County Council to tell another body how to handle a situation. Council could relay its thoughts on the issue and make recommendations.

Councilor Dill stated the proposed resolution supported the Library Board’s decision; it was important for Council to show that support. He recommended moving forward.

Vice-Chairman Tripp inquired as to how long the books in question had been in the library.

Councilor Dill stated that question was included in the requirements as outlined in the resolution.

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated his family used the library often; he did not want his young children to view pornographic materials. Parents had to take responsibility for the books their children checked out of a library. At the same time, parents had to make sure the proper precautions were put in place to ensure children were not subjected to inappropriate materials. Mr. Tripp suggested his colleagues vote to deny the motion to suspend Council Rules, and, let the members of the Library Board do their job. If they failed to do so, Council could revisit the issue.

Councilor Kirven withdrew the motion to hold.

Action: Councilor Kirven moved to refer the item to the appropriate Council Subcommittee.

Chairman Meadows stated the proposed resolution was a directive for the Library Board; they would have no choice in the matter. He felt if approved, Council would be overstepping its bounds.

Councilor Kirven withdrew the motion to refer the item to the appropriate Council Subcommittee.

Councilor Fant stated that a book presented to Council during the previous week’s County Council Citizen Comment Session was allegedly found in the Children’s Section of one of the library branches. The book was never in the Children’s Section. Sexually explicit material should never be included in those areas. Mr. Fant stated the Library Board already had a policy in place for sexually explicit material. Greenville County had a large number of boards and commissions. Approval of the item would set a precedence of micro-managing those entities.

Councilor Ballard stated on the previous Saturday, he visited two branches of the library; he found no books of concern in the Children’s Section on either branch. There were a few books in those areas that discussed family situations, but nothing sexually explicit.

Councilor Dill stated the issue was presented to him at a meeting of the Greenville County Republican Party; it was the first time he had been made aware of it. He viewed some of the books in question on display at one of the local branches and it caused him great concern. Mr. Dill stated it was important to support the Library Board.

Action: Councilor Ballard called for the question.

Without objection, the motion to call for the question carried.

Motion to suspend Council Rule IV (A) in order to allow for immediate consideration of a resolution restricting access to inappropriate materials in the Children’s Sections of the Greenville County Library System was denied by a roll call vote of three (Dill, Shaw and Tzouvelekas) in favor and nine (Barnes, Meadows, Harrison, Norris, Seman, Fant, Ballard, Kirven and Tripp) in opposition.

Item (9) Ordinances – Third Reading

a. Zoning Ordinances

i. **CZ-2022-076:** Property of SF Capital Investments, LLC, located at 101 and 105 Fedex Way, Greenville, requesting rezoning from R-M20 to S-1.

Action: Councilor Dill moved adoption of the ordinance at third reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

ii. **CZ-2022-078:** Property of Robert Jones, Jr., located at 20 Draper Street, Greenville, requesting rezoning from O-D to NC with conditions.

Action: Councilor Dill moved adoption of the ordinance at third reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

iii. **CZ-2022-82:** Property of S & H Enterprise LLC, located on St. Mark Road, Taylors, requesting rezoning from R-20 to R-M10.

Action: Councilor Dill moved adoption of the ordinance at third reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment / To Amend Section 3:2.11 to Include Stay of Enforcement Action (CZ-2022-077)

Action: Councilor Dill moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance to amend the Greenville County Zoning Ordinance to add additional language to Article 3 Section 3:2.11 Stay of Proceedings.

Motion carried unanimously.

c. **Greenville County Historic and Natural Resources Trust (HNRT) / Shiloh Ridge (formerly Project Legacy)**

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance authorizing the Greenville County Historic and Natural Resources Trust (HNRT) to provide funding for the Shiloh Ridge at Paris Mountain Project.

Chairman Meadow stated Councilor Shaw would like to suspend Council Rules in order to allow for amendments at third reading.

Councilor Shaw stated the crux of his amendment was very simple. Council's approval was required for any disbursements in excess of \$200,000 from the trust. Mr. Shaw stated he wanted to propose no access to the park from Altamont Road.

Action: Councilor Shaw moved to suspend Council Rule IV (A) in order to allow for immediate consideration of an amendment to the Greenville County Historic and Natural Resources Trust / Shiloh Ridge.

Vice-Chairman Tripp requested his colleagues deny the request to suspend Council Rules. He had suggested the resolution that was approved earlier in the meeting because he did not feel the proposed amendment was within Council's purview. The State of South Carolina was the primary source of funding for the project; County Council could not dictate to the State what could or could not be done on the project.

Councilor Seman stated she was not in favor of suspending the rules. The proposed project was a "once in a lifetime opportunity" for the County to be a part of a transformational project at Paris Mountain; she would hate to see it jeopardized by imposing restrictions.

Councilor Fant stated the proposed amendment would be an "uphill battle." Councilor Shaw had been a stalwart on behalf of the residents of Altamont Road; he had worked tirelessly to find a solution for them. Mr. Fant encouraged his colleagues to vote against suspension of the Council Rules.

Chairman Meadows stated Upstate Forever owned land in the same area. He asked if that property was subject to the same rules as far as access via Altamont Road. Mr. Meadows stated Greenville County was to give \$400,000 towards the project; to prohibit access to the site via Altamont Road was a good recommendation. He planned to vote in favor of suspending Council Rules.

Councilor Tzouvelekas stated he was in favor of the proposed amendment and would vote in favor of the motion to suspend Council Rules. The property was "gorgeous" and he was in favor of the project; however, he could not understand making 500 citizens angry due to increased traffic. Altamont Road was already a dangerous road; he preferred to listen to the residents and what they wanted. Mr. Tzouvelekas stated the residents would probably purchase the property if the developer refused to abide Mr. Shaw's amendment.

Councilor Kirven stated the resolution passed earlier in the evening confirmed Council's support of the expansion of the Paris Mountain State Park using the existing entrance and internal network of roads and trails so as to not create public entry or access from Altamont Road. Mr. Kirven stated the Director of State Parks had issued a statement acknowledging that any plans for the property would include environmental studies and community involvement, if that department gained control.

Action: Councilor Ballard called for the question.

Without objection, the motion to call for the question carried.

Chairman Meadows stated Council had a “gentlemen’s agreement” to defer to the representative of an affected district. That agreement had not been followed in regards to the Grove Road issue; and it had “split” Council.

Motion to suspend Council Rule IV (A) was denied by a roll call vote of five (Dill, Barnes, Meadows, Shaw and Tzouvelekas) in favor and seven (Harrison, Norris, Seman, Fant, Ballard, Kirven and Tripp) in opposition.

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated Greenville County was a party to the transaction, but, had no control over the transaction. There were parties to it that could help, such as the state legislation. The easiest way to attack the issue was a budget proviso. He was sympathetic to the concerns; however, the issue was too big.

Councilor Harrison stated the park was for all the residents of Greenville County. It was impossible to determine what may happen “down the road.” The resolution was all Council could do; there were a number of issues at play.

Action: Councilor Ballard called for the question.

Without objection, the motion to call for the question carried.

Motion as presented carried by a roll call vote of nine (Dill, Meadows, Harrison, Norris, Seman, Fant, Ballard, Kirven and Tripp) in favor and three (Barnes, Shaw and Tzouvelekas) in opposition.

Item (10) Ordinances – Second Reading

a. Project Graham / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the county at this time as Project Graham with respect to certain economic development property in the county, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Cell Tower Lease Renewal

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to authorize the Chairman of County Council and the County Administrator to execute a lease with SBA Site, LLC, of approximately 10,000 square feet of space at the Twin Chimneys Landfill for the continued operation of a wireless telecommunications tower.

Motion carried unanimously.

c. Project Bullseye 1 / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the county at this time as Project Bullseye 1, with respect to certain economic development property in the county, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

d. Project Bullseye 2 / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the county at this time as Project Bullseye 2, with respect to certain economic development property in the county, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

e. Project Bullseye 3 / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the county at this time as Project Bullseye 3, with respect to certain economic development property in the county, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

f. Greenville / Anderson Multi County Industrial Business Park (2010 Park) Agreement Amendment – Projects Bullseye 1, 2 and 3

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second 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.

Motion carried unanimously.

g. Project SRPF D/Greenville Park 25 LLC / Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and SRPF D/Greenville Park 25, LLC, with respect to certain economic development property in the county, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

h. Greenville / Anderson Multi County Industrial Business Park (2010 Park) Agreement Amendment – SRPF D/Greenville Park 25, LLC

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second 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.

Motion carried unanimously.

i. Road Maintenance Fee Ordinance

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to impose and collect an increase to the Greenville County Road Maintenance Fee pursuant to Title 6, Chapter 1, Article 3, of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended.

Action: Chairman Meadows ruled the item out of order. He stated the ordinance that the Supreme Court struck down, *Burns vs. Greenville County*, was an alleged amendment to the 1993 Road Maintenance Fee ordinance. The Supreme Court treated it as if it was an entirely new fee because it was an increase in the amount. Mr. Meadows stated the ordinance was a new Road Maintenance Fee, as a matter of law. It was improper to characterize it as an amendment to the 1993 Road Maintenance Fee. Mr. Meadows stated the Supreme Court had implicitly found that any increase to the Greenville County Road Maintenance Fee was a new fee. He suggested sending the item back to Committee and start the process again.

Action: Councilor Ballard appealed the ruling of the Chair.

Vice-Chairman Tripp asked if all the proceeds from the additional \$10.00 would be used for roads.

Mr. Kernell confirmed all of the monies would be used for roads.

Councilor Harrison stated the proposed was not a long-term solution; however, the County's roads were crumbling. Currently, Greenville County was on a 30-year road paving program due to "pure funding."

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated he supported the motion to appeal the Chairman's ruling. The proposed item would add a \$10.00 to the Road Maintenance Fee; he did not understand the Chairman's ruling.

Chairman Meadows stated the proposed item set up the increase as an amendment to fee that the Supreme Court had ruled against. Greenville County was in the process of fighting a \$330 million lawsuit as those funds were not refunded. Mr. Meadows stated he was not opposed to the \$10.00 fee; however, he wanted it done the correctly as a stand-alone fee, not as an amendment.

Vice-Chairman Tripp asked Mr. Tollison to weigh-in on the discussion.

Mr. Tollison stated the Supreme Court only overruled the increase based on the 1997 law. The Supreme Court never overruled the original fee, and the current fee increase was based on compliance with the new law that recently passed by the General Assembly.

Councilor Tzouvelekas stated interest rates were increasing and inflation was rampant; Greenville County was hurting. He agreed that roads were an issue and inquired about the amount of money allotted for roads in the County's budget.

Mr. Kernell stated approximately \$14 million was budgeted for roads on an annual basis.

Mr. Tzouvelekas stated the County had assets that could be sold and leased back; those funds could be used for road maintenance. He stated the County was not being creative in regards to its roads. Mr. Tzouvelekas stated he was not in favor of the item in question.

Action: Councilor Seman called for the question regarding the motion to appeal the Chairman's ruling.

Without objection, the motion to call for the question carried.

Motion to appeal the ruling of the Chairman carried by a roll call vote of seven (Harrison, Norris, Seman, Fant, Ballard, Kirven and Tripp) in favor and five (Dill, Barnes, Meadows, Shaw and Tzouvelekas) in opposition.

Councilor Fant stated Council Members involved themselves in social issues with no jurisdiction, dividing the community with anger. Council was tasked with three responsibilities; roads and infrastructure, public safety and land management. South Carolina had the second worst roads in the country. Mr. Fant stated citing inflation was an expedient excuse and poor leadership.

Councilor Dill stated the County roads were in good condition; it was the State roads that were in bad condition. The proposed fee would do nothing for State roads. Mr. Dill stated subdivisions were impacting the wear and tear on roads. A better way to address the road issue was needed. Mr. Dill asked if any of the proposed monies would be used for State roads.

Councilor Harrison stated none of the funds would be used for State roads. He agreed that the State roads were in bad condition.

Vice-Chairman Tripp stated the State raised gas taxes for road maintenance and to fund big gateway projects. The funds collected from the proposed fee would go straight to County roads. It was estimated that 250,000 new residents would move to Greenville County in the next 20 years. Roads were a founding principle for County governments.

Chairman Meadows stated approximately 20 years ago, Council approved the Prescription for Progress program to address the need for road funding. He inquired about the possibility of the County securing a bond for the funds and using the increased fee to repay the bond.

Mr. Kernell stated the Prescription for Progress program ended about 10 years ago. A variety of financing techniques were employed, including bonds and other repayment sources, such as the Infrastructure Bank. As far as the suggestion to sell assets and lease them back was concerned, there was a question as to where the funding source would come from to pay the leases. Greenville County issues tax-exempt debt and was able to cover it at a much lower rate. If the County issued \$60 million in debt and used the proposed increase to pay that debt back at a rate of \$6 million per year; it would take 10 years to repay. There would be no additional funding once the \$60 million was spent until the bond was paid. Mr. Kernell stated staff always attempted to balance things out in order to keep the funds flowing. He suggested looking at several different techniques to address the issue.

Chairman Meadows inquired about the possibility of holding the item in an attempt to gather additional information.

Councilor Seman stated the average OCI (Overall Condition Index) for Greenville County roads was 62 and they were failing fast. She was in favor of moving forward and offered for the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee to take up the item for additional discussion.

Action: Councilor Seman called for the question.

Motion to call for the question carried by a roll call vote of seven (Harrison, Norris, Seman, Fant, Ballard, Kirven and Tripp) in favor and five (Dill, Barnes, Meadows, Shaw and Tzouvelekas) in opposition.

Motion as presented carried by a roll call vote of seven (Harrison, Norris, Seman, Fant, Ballard, Kirven and Tripp) in favor and five (Dill, Barnes, Meadows, Shaw and Tzouvelekas) in opposition.

j. Willcoll Land, LLC (formerly Project Mila) / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement Amendment

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading an ordinance authorizing the amendment of that fee agreement between Willcoll Land, LLC dated April 6, 2021, as previously partially assigned, by adding additional land and economic development area to the fee agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

k. Greenville - Anderson Multi County Industrial Business Park (2010 Park) Agreement Amendment / Willcoll Land, LLC (formerly Project Mila)

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second 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.

Motion carried unanimously.

l. Berea Public Service District / General Obligation Bond

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading an ordinance finding that Berea Public Service District, South Carolina may issue not exceeding \$3,000,000 of general obligation bonds; to authorize Berea Public Service Commission to issue such bonds and to provide for the publication of notice of the said finding and authorization.

Motion carried unanimously.

m. Greenville - Anderson Multi County Industrial Business Park (2010 Park) Agreement Amendment / Project Iceberg / Lifeboat

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for approval at second reading an ordinance approving an amendment for the enlargement of the joint county industrial and business park by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and Anderson County, South Carolina (2010 Park); and matters relating thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (11) *Ordinances – First Reading*

a. Project EV Pack / Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement

Vice-Chairman Tripp presented for first reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the county at this time as Project EV Pack, with respect to certain economic development property in the county, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes, including the provision of certain special source credits; and other matters related thereto.

Chairman Meadows stated the item would remain on the floor for a public hearing.

b. Project Ahold Delhaize / Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement

Vice-Chairman Tripp presented for first reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and Retail Business Services LLC and ADUSA Distribution, LLC, with respect to certain economic development property in the county, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto.

Chairman Meadows stated the item would remain on the floor for a public hearing.

c. Project Dolphin / Fee In Lieu of Tax and Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement

Vice-Chairman Tripp presented for first reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the county at this time as Project Dolphin, with respect to certain economic development property in the county, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes, including the provision of certain special source credits; and other matters related thereto.

Chairman Meadows stated the item would remain on the floor for a public hearing.

d. Greenville – Anderson Multi County Industrial Business Park (2010 Park) Agreement Amendment / Project President

Vice-Chairman Tripp presented for first 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.

Chairman Meadows stated the item would remain on the floor for a public hearing.

e. Project President / Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement

Vice-Chairman Tripp presented for first reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the county at this time as Project President, with respect to certain economic development property in the county, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto.

Chairman Meadows stated the item would remain on the floor for a public hearing.

Item (12) **Committee Reports**

There were no reports.

Item (13) **Administrator's Report**

Mr. Kernell provided an update on the Greenville County – Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail. A new segment of the trail was now open, just in time for spectacular fall views. The one-mile segment off Laurens Road, located Holland Park and Think Tank Brew Lab, had been paved. Greenville County Roads and Bridges staff completed all the work. In the future, it would connect to the downtown area and extend to Verdae Boulevard. Mr. Kernell thanked Heshia Gamble and her staff for a job well done.

Chairman Meadows requested an update on the upcoming budget at the next meeting.

Item (14) **Requests and Motions**

a. Open Special Application Period for the Lake Forest Special Tax District

Action: As noticed on the County Council agenda, Councilor Tzouvelekas moved to open a special two-week application period for the Lake Forest Special Tax District. He stated it was a three-member board and was currently without a quorum.

Motion carried unanimously.

- Councilor Tzouvelekas stated the County had not been creative enough in dealing with the road issue. Developers were given a break on taxes but citizens were not; it was inconsistent.
- Councilor Seman stated Heith Dillard was recently named as President and CEO for Visit Greenville.
- Councilor Fant thanked his colleagues for a good meeting; the debate was spirited and healthy.

Mr. Fant stated the Slope Hill Track at ITIC was now open. It was already being heavily used by the automotive industry.

- Councilor Ballard recognized the staff and volunteers from SHARE (Sunbelt Human Advancement Resources) who were in attendance. He stated SHARE was one of the largest non-profits in the area. Pam Gibbs, President and CEO, addressed Council regarding the programs and services offered by SHARE.
- Councilor Dill stated Council dealt with many social issues, such as affordable housing and the mask issue that was raised during the pandemic.

Mr. Dill requested the formation of a task force to address the issue of homelessness.

Councilor Dill stated the need for an emergency department at North Greenville Hospital was still a problem. A friend of his recently experienced a medical emergency and was transported to Prisma Health. He waited in the emergency room for more than seven (7) hours.

- Councilor Barnes thanked his colleagues and staff for their thoughts and prayers during the recent passing of his father-in-law.

Item (15) ***Adjournment***

Action: Councilor Harrison moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina G. McCaskill
Clerk to Council