

GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

December 14, 2021

4:10 p.m.

County Square – Conference Room D

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.

Committee Members Present:

Dan Tripp, *Chairman*
Ennis Fant
Willis Meadows
Stan Tzouvelekas

Committee Members Absent:

Liz Seman, *Vice-Chairman*

Others Present:

Joe Kernell, *County Administrator*
Mike Barnes, *Council District 18*
Chris Harrison, *Council District 21*
Lynn Ballard, *Council District 26*
Butch Kirven, *Council District 27*
John Hansley, *Deputy County Administrator*
Mark Tollison, *County Attorney*
Regina McCaskill, *Clerk to Council*

Jessica Stone, *Deputy Clerk to Council*
Pam Gilliam, *Administrative Assistant, Council Office*
Nicole Wood, *Assistant County Administrator*
Meredith Papapieris, *Director of Grants and Special Projects*
Paula Gucker, *Assistant County Administrator, Public Works*
Bob Mihalic, *Governmental Affairs Officer*
Hesha Gamble, *Engineering*

Call to Order:

Chairman Tripp

Invocation:

Councilor Fant

Item (3) Road and Bridge Improvements Funding

An ordinance to direct additional funding for road and bridge improvements for the current and next two fiscal years.

Action: Councilor Tzouvelekas moved to approve an ordinance to direct the County Administrator to provide funding, in addition to the normal amounts allocated to road maintenance amounts, for FY2022, FY2023 and FY2024 in the amount of \$30,000,000 (\$10,000,000 for each year).

Action: Councilor Meadows moved to amend the ordinance to indicate the \$30 million may be used for roads and/or the Woodruff Road Congestion Relief Project.

Mr. Meadows stated Greenville County was expected to give \$30 million to the State Infrastructure Bank for the Woodruff Road Congestion Relief Project. The SIB had indicated that the County had to use the \$30 million to pay for the bonds. With his amendment, the funds would not have to be used until 2023; the \$30 million that Mr. Tzouvelekas had proposed to be used for roads and bridges could be paid to the SIB for the Woodruff Road Congestion Relief Project. The County would not have to borrow any money or pay any interest. It would also free up the \$15 road maintenance fee on each vehicle, a total of approximately \$7.5 million per year, to be used on a continuous basis.

Mr. Kernell stated if Mr. Meadows' amendment was approved, the County would not have to pay any interest and would reduce future road maintenance funding.

Councilor Fant inquired as to where the County would obtain the \$30 million, if it was not borrowed.

Mr. Kernell stated it was the same \$30 million that was to be used for road maintenance. Greenville County received recovery money from the Federal Government related to the pandemic. Those funds could be used to capture lost revenue; the amount available was \$31,425,244. The road maintenance fees would remain intact.

Chairman Tripp asked if the ARP (American Rescue Plan) still contained restrictive language in regards to the funds being used for roads.

Mr. Kernell stated the restrictive language was still in place. There had been some proposed legislation that could "soften" those restrictions; however, up to \$10 million could be used for roads.

Chairman Tripp asked if using the \$31,425,244 was on "solid ground."

Mr. Kernell stated those funds could be used to replace lost revenue; staff was comfortable using the money in the manner outlined. Greenville County had received \$50 million thus far; the \$31 million was now "county money" and could be used as Council deemed appropriate.

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

Item (15)

Adjournment

Action:

Councilor Meadows moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously the meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jessica M. Stone
Deputy Clerk to Council