GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE May 9, 2022 5:00 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.

None

Committee Members Present:

Committee Members Absent:

Dan Tripp, Chairman Liz Seman, Vice-Chairman Ennis Fant Willis Meadows Stan Tzouvelekas

Others Present:

Xanthene Norris, Council District 23 Lynn Ballard, Council District 26 John Hansley, Deputy County Administrator Mark Tollison, County Attorney Regina McCaskill, Clerk to Council Jessica Stone, Deputy Clerk to Council

Jessica Stone, Deputy Clerk to Council
John Castile, Executive Director, Greenville County Redevelopment Authority
Imma Nwobodu, Program Director, Greenville County Redevelopment Authority
Kevin Landmesser, Senior Vice President, Greenville Area Development Corporation
Tavia Gaddy, Project Manager, Greenville Area Development Corporation

Call to Order: Chairman Tripp

Invocation: Chairman Tripp

Item (3) Approval of Minutes

a. April 11, 2022 - Regular Committee Meeting

Action:

Councilor Meadows moved to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2022, Regular Committee on Finance meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (4) <u>Boards and Commissions – Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee</u> (3 vacancies)

Chairman Tripp stated during the Finance Committee meeting held on April 11, 2022, Councilor Meadows expressed concerns regarding the fact the Brian Crowne failed to fully complete the board and commission application. Mr. Meadows had indicated during that meeting he planned to contact Mr. Crowne.

Councilor Meadows stated he had not been in contact with Mr. Crowne. He still had concerns about the issue.

Chairman Tripp stated he spoke with Ms. McCaskill about the application. Given the fact that Mr. Crowne was an incumbent, a previous application for the board was submitted on his behalf.

Vice-Chairman Seman stated there were three vacancies and only two applicants. Mr. Crowne was a reappointment to the board; his attendance on the board was good.

Action:

Councilor Seman moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation **Brian Crowne and Jason Price** to fill two of three vacancies on the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (5) Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area – Millage Request

Presented by: Chief Robert Staples, Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area

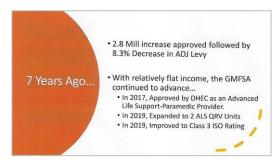
Dwight Hammack, Chairman, Glassy Mountain Board of Commissioners

Kelley Murphy, Administrative Manager

Jim White, Treasurer, Glassy Mountain Board of Commissioners

Adoption of an Ordinance approving a millage increase in the District's tax levy of three and five-tenths (3.5) mills from 21.5 to 25.0 which represents CPI and population growth plus a "lookback" of three years as allowed per Section 6-1-320 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

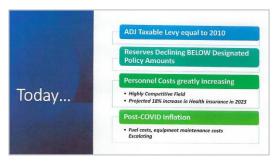




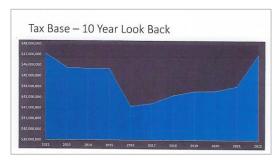
Dwight Hammack stated Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area was requesting a millage increase in the amount of 3.5 mills. The department had hoped to rely on growth to fund its operations; unfortunately, it had not experienced any growth in the past few years.

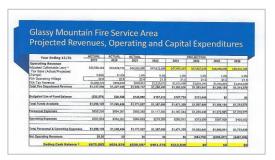
In 2015, Glassy Mountain FSA requested a 2.8 millage increase. A reassessment was completed which resulted in a decrease in the levy. Even with a relatively flat income, GMFSA was able to continue its operations. In 2017, GMFSA was approved by DHEC as an Advanced Life Support-Paramedic Provider. Mr. Hammack stated GMFSA had expanded two (2) of its five (5) locations to ALS QRV units in 2019. Also in 2019, GMFSA improved to a Class 3 ISO rating.





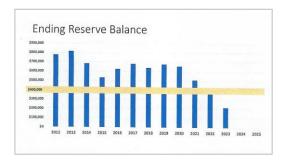
Mr. Hammack stated service delivery was the top priority for GMFSA. The department had experienced a 70% growth in call volume during the past 10 years; a 150% growth in age the 60+ population. There were three (3) retirement communities located in the fire service area. Overlapping calls had more than doubled in the past seven (7) years. The complexity of calls had increased due to fact that the department offered paramedic services. There was also a competitive hiring environment.





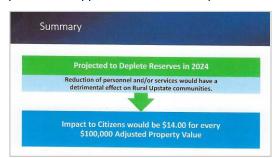
Jim White stated the department's adjustable levy was at the same level as 2010. The levy dropped for several years and had steadily starting coming back up. GMFSA's reserves had been declining below its designated policy, which was 30% of its operating rate. Currently, it was above that limit but would more than likely decrease in the very near future.

Personnel costs were the department's biggest expense, given the competitive hiring environment. They were having to pay "a higher dollar" to retain and recruit new employees. Health insurance costs were increasing 18% in 2023. All salaries and "people-related costs" were increasing. Mr. White stated rising fuel costs were hitting the department along with the rising cost of equipment maintenance. If the requested millage increase was not approved by Council, GMFSA would deplete its reserves by 2024 and services would decline.





Mr. White stated GMFSA's strategic financial outline included a millage increase in 2022 to reduce the use of reserves for operations; another smaller millage increase could be requested in 2023 in order to avoid the use of reserves for operations. He stated the first opportunity to refinance the bond for the purchase of apparatus and station repairs would be in 2025.





Mr. White stated it was projected that GMFSA's reserves would be depleted in 2024. A reduction in personnel and/or services would have a detrimental effect on rural communities; however, the department would opt to reduce personnel. If granted, the millage increase would equate to approximately \$14.00 for every \$100,000 of a homeowner's adjusted property value.

Councilor Meadows inquired about the average cost of a house in the service area.

Mr. Hammack stated there was a huge range in terms of housing costs in the area.

Councilor Meadows asked what were the issue involved with false alarms.

Mr. Hammack stated the cost of diesel and overlapping calls.

Councilor Meadows stated the presentation indicated that 25% of all calls were actually false alarms. He asked if GMFSA penalized callers for false alarms.

Chief Staples stated false alarms did not make up 25% of all the calls received by GMFSA. Actually, approximately 6%-7% of all call were false alarms. There was no penalty for false alarms.

Councilor Fant asked if the residents had been notified of the requested millage increase.

Mr. Hammack stated the public had not been notified but, would be as soon as the request was approved using a combination of written communication, social media and town hall meetings. Fire departments typically had a low interest level by the public.

Councilor Tzouvelekas asked if the proposed increase in money for salaries would be used to actually increase salaries or to hire additional personnel.

Mr. White stated those monies would be used for both. In 2021, GMFSA entered into a contract with the Cliffs at Glassy to fund three (3) firefighter positions. Also included in the contract was the replacement of a security guard with a fourth firefighter/EMT (24 hours per day). The position actually served the entire district, not just the Cliffs at Glassy.

Councilor Tzouvelekas asked if the department was "okay on equipment."

Mr. White stated the figure indicated on the budget for "equipment" included both equipment and maintenance.

Action:

Councilor Meadows moved to adopt an ordinance approving a millage increase in the District's tax levy of three and five-tenths (3.5) mills from 21.5 to 25.0 which represented CPI and population growth plus a "lookback" of three years as allowed per Section 6-1-320 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (6) <u>Donaldson Fire Service Area</u>

Presented by: Chief Mark Pittman, Donaldson Fire Service Area

Brad Love, Attorney, Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, PA

Adoption of an Ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$4,100,000 in General Obligation Bonds. Bond proceeds would allow for the replacement of a 1991 pumper, repair and upgrade of the existing fire station built in 1968, and station improvements including new living quarters, office space, and conference rooms.

Action:

Councilor Fant moved to adopt an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$4,100,000 in General Obligation Bonds.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (7) <u>Greenville County Redevelopment Authority – Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Action Plan</u>

Presented by: John Castile, Executive Director, Greenville County Redevelopment Authority

Approval of Greenville County Redevelopment Authority Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Action Plan.





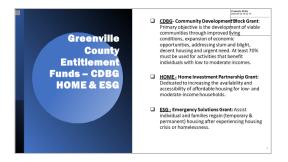
- Established in 1974. The Greenville County
 Redevelopment Authority (GCRA) takes a holistic
 approach to revitalize communities. GCRA works to
 improve the living conditions of the county's residents by
 building new homes, rehabilitating existing homes and
 improving the infrastructures within communities.
- Designated as the Administrator of Greenville County Entitlement Funds from HUD.
- Cooperative Agreement with Greenville County and five participating municipalities: Fountain Inn, Greer, Mauldin, Simpsonville and Travelers Rest. This is renewed every 3 years as required by HUD.
- Governed by a 12-member Board appointed by Greenville County Council.

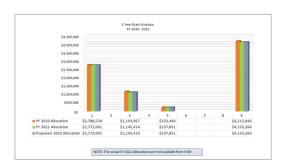
Who do we serve?

- Greenville County residents that meet income guidelines (Except those residents that live in the City of Greenville)
- Spartanburg County residents that live in the incorporated municipality of Greer that meet income guidelines
- Laurens County residents that live in the incorporated portion of Fountain Inn that meet income guidelines



- The Annual Action Plan is Greenville County's Application to the Federal Government (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) proposing the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).
- FY 2022 funds is for the period beginning July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.
- This funding period also marks the 3rd year allocation of funds and activities for the Greenville County's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

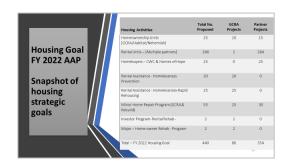






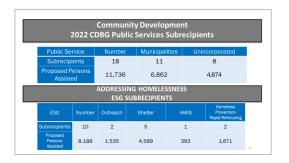






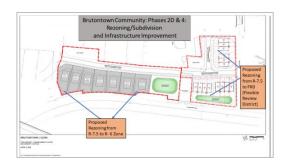






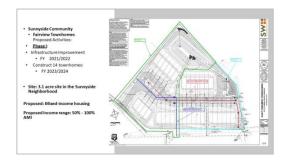
Economic Development Goal	
Economic Development Programs	Proposed #
ED – Business Loans	4
Façade Improvement Program	6
Proposed Total	10 Businesses and 10 jobs created or retained







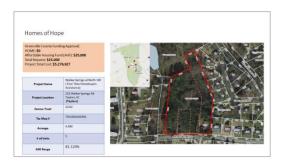
























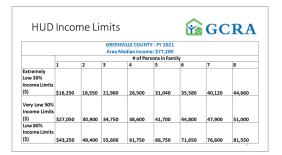


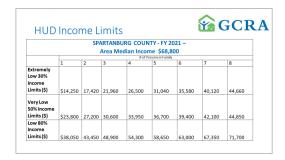


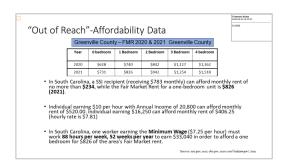














Questions? GCRA: 864-242-9801 for comments and questions

Action:

Councilor Seman moved to approve the Greenville County Redevelopment Authority Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Action.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (8) Greenville County Redevelopment Authority – HOME | American Rescue Plan Funding

Presented by: John Castile, Executive Director, Greenville County Redevelopment Authority

Authorize the Greenville County Redevelopment Authority to apply for and administer \$4,151,357 of HOME-ARP funding to address continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and provide homelessness assistance and supportive services.







Action:

Councilor Meadows moved to approve the Greenville County Redevelopment Authority HOME |

American Rescue Plan Funding.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (9) Laurens County MCIP - Project Dogwood

> Approval of an ordinance modifying the 2000 Joint-County Industrial Park Agreement with Laurens County to enlarge the Park so as to include certain parcels associated with Project Dogwood located in

Laurens County.

Action: Councilor Seman moved to approve an ordinance modifying the 2000 Joint-County Industrial Park

Agreement with Laurens County to enlarge the Park so as to include certain parcels associated with

Project Dogwood located in Laurens County.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (10) **Executive Session**

Action: Councilor Seman moved to go into Executive Session for the discussion of matters relating to the

proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body as it relates to Kiyatec an Project

Kane.

Motion carried unanimously and the Committee on Finance entered into Executive Session at 5:56 p.m.

Reconvened

County Attorney Mark Tollison reported the Committee on Finance was out of Executive Session stating no action was taken during that session. The Committee on Finance meeting reconvened at

6:04 p.m.

Item (11) **Kiyatec**

Action: Councilor Seman moved to approve Kiyatec.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (12) **Project Kane**

Action: Councilor Seman moved to approve Project Kane.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (13) **Adjournment**

Action: Councilor Meadows moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jessica M. Stone

Deputy Clerk to Council