



## GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
April 18, 2023  
5:03 p.m.

County Square - Council Chambers

### Council Members

**Mr. Dan Tripp**, *Chairman, District 28*  
**Mrs. Liz Seman**, *Vice-Chairwoman, District 24*  
**Mr. Butch Kirven**, *Chairman Pro Tem, District 27*  
**Mr. Joey Russo**, *District 17*  
**Mr. Mike Barnes**, *District 18*  
**Mr. Benton Blount**, *District 19*  
**Mr. Stephen Shaw**, *District 20*  
**Mr. Chris Harrison**, *District 21*  
**Mr. Stan Tzouvelekas**, *District 22*  
**Mr. Alan Mitchell**, *District 23*  
**Mr. Ennis Fant, Sr.**, *District 25*  
**Mr. Rick Bradley**, *District 26*

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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

**Steve Shaw**, District 20

### Staff Present

**Joe Kernell**, County Administrator  
**Mark Tollison**, County Attorney  
**Regina McCaskill**, Clerk to Council  
**Jessica Stone**, Deputy Clerk to Council  
**Terrence Galloway**, Information Systems  
**Phillip Simmons**, Information Systems

### Others Present

None

### Call to Order

Chairman Dan Tripp

### Invocation

Chairman Dan Tripp

*Item (3)            Approval of Minutes*

**Action:** Vice-Chairman Seman moved to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Item (4)            Sheriff's Office Citizen Advisory Committee Appointments*

**Action:** Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved to appoint **James Speed** (D.22) and **Mark Caligaris** (D.23) to the Sheriff's Office Citizen Advisory Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Item (5)            Linkside Special Tax District*

Vice-Chairwoman Seman presented the name of **Les Burns** (D.20) to fill one of three vacancies on the Linkside Special Tax District Board.

**Action:** Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved to close nominations and elect **Les Burns** by acclamation to the Linkside Special Tax District Board.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Item (6)            Board and Commission Policy Revisions*

Chairman Tripp stated there would be no voting on the item during the evening's meeting; however, any revisions to the policy would need to be finalized prior to the next board and commission application period. Mr. Tripp asked Regina McCaskill to outline the proposed revisions.

Ms. McCaskill stated a number of items had been provided for Council's review:

- Current board list effective June 1, 2023
- 2022 Attendance Record for all current board members
- Sample applications incorporating the proposed policy changes, which would yield a more comprehensive application
- A red-lined version of the current policy outlining the proposed changes

Ms. McCaskill stated the main changes were the removal of the interview process, in its entirety, and placement of all boards under the Committee of the Whole, as opposed to the various standing committees. Implementing the proposed changes would shorten each board cycle by two (2) months. Ms. McCaskill stated a few "housekeeping" revisions were made and included in the red-lined version.

Vice-Chairwoman Seman stated she liked the idea of shortening the board cycles. Currently, applicants had to wait months after being elected to a board to be seated. She expressed concern regarding the fact that most applicants had not attended any meetings of the board to which they applied; she suggested making it mandatory for the application process. Councilor Seman stated she would like to explore specific qualifications for certain boards. Some boards already had qualifications depending on the nature of the board. There had been complaints about the number of developers and realtors on the Planning Commission. Ms. Seman stated while she would love to eliminate interviews, it could be beneficial in some situations. Some applicants

may “look good on paper”; however, the interview may reveal they were actually not a good fit. On the other hand, some applicants may not look good on paper and the interview may reveal a much different view of the individual. She suggested handling the applications like a regular job interview, especially when there were multiple applications for a limited number of vacancies. Council Members could narrow down the pool based on the information contained in the applications.

Councilor Harrison stated he was in favor of placing all board and commission appointments with the Committee of the Whole. It was necessary to look at each board in order to determine additional requirements for members, if applicable. For example, the Construction Board of Appeals had very specific occupational and skill set requirements for its members. Mr. Harrison stated Council should not over-regulate a board. He suggested setting “minimum” and “maximum” requirements.

Councilor Russo stated the interview process was necessary and he agreed with narrowing the number of applicants prior to any interviews taking place. He stated district representation was very important and he would like to see it addressed.

Councilor Mitchell stated when he was attempting to find a candidate from his district for the Sheriff’s Office Citizen Advisory Committee, several people complained about personal identifying information being requested on the application.

Chairman Tripp asked Ms. McCaskill if the County had the ability to do secure applications online.

Ms. McCaskill stated she would have to discuss the security level of the applications with the IT Department. She stated Social Security Numbers were not requested on the current applications. Ms. McCaskill stated she included date of birth on the sample applications as they were required for Voter Registration searches. Appointees to the Sheriff’s Office Citizen Advisory Committee were required to submit their Social Security Number for background checks.

Councilor Tzouvelekas suggested background checks for all applicants. Mr. Tzouvelekas stated he would like to keep the interview process. He liked the idea of the Committee of the Whole handling all board and commission appointments.

Chairman Tripp stated he would like for Ms. Seman to chair an ad hoc committee to further research the issue. He advised that any Council Member interested in serving on the committee should let him know. Mr. Tripp stated the goal was to finalize the process prior to the next application cycle.

Vice-Chairwoman Seman suggested Council review the attendance report. At first glance, there were several people whose attendance fell well below the policy threshold for service.

Councilor Harrison stated he agreed with reviewing the attendance report. He suggested a standing rule regarding attendance. For example, if a board member’s attendance was below a specified amount, they should automatically be taken off the board.

Chairman Tripp asked Mr. Tollison if a board could take on the responsibility of removing a member due to attendance issues.

Mr. Tollison stated Council would need to be responsible for removing a board member due to attendance issues. The County’s current board and commission policy addressed attendance in specific terms. The ad hoc committee may want to explore a more automatic system to remove a board member based on attendance, based on the terms of the policy.

*Item (7)*      *Adjournment*

**Action:**      Councilor Russo moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Regina G. McCaskill  
Clerk to Council