



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes
Committee of the Whole Meeting
July 18, 2023
5:04 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*

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*
Regina McCaskill, *Clerk to Council*
Jessica Stone, *Deputy Clerk to Council*
Terrence Galloway, *Information Systems*
Shannon Herman, *Assistant County Administrator*

Others Present

Sheriff Hobart Lewis, *Greenville County Sheriff's Office*
Steve Noonan, *South Carolina Department of Veteran Affairs*
Mike Stahl, *Senior Advisor, Representative William Timmons' Office*
Paul Howell, *Constituent Services Representative, Senator Lindsey Graham's Office*

Call to Order

Chairman Dan Tripp

Invocation

Councilor Alan Mitchell

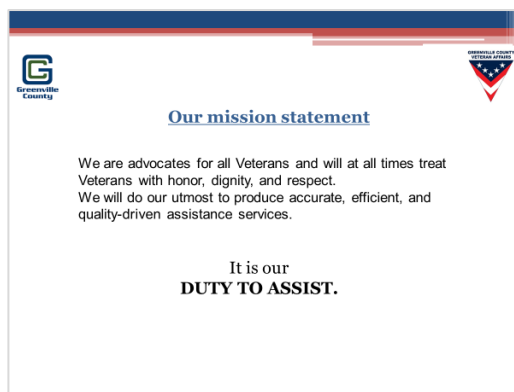
Item (3) Approval of Minutes

Action: Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting.

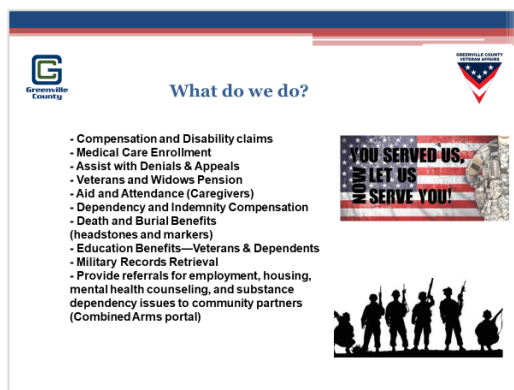
Motion carried unanimously.

Item (4) Veteran Affairs Presentation

Presented by: **Alan Dabney**, *Greenville County Veteran Affairs Officer*
Cindy Gosnell, *Greenville County Veteran Affairs*
Annette Spigner, *Greenville County Veteran Affairs*
Julie Smith, *Greenville County Veteran Affairs*
Lauren Foster, *Greenville County Veteran Affairs*
Denis O'Halloran, *Greenville County Veteran Affairs*



Mr. Dabney stated the Mission Statement of the County Veteran Affairs Office was to advocate for all Veterans, treating them at all times with honor, dignity and respect. The staff had a duty to assist, while providing accurate, efficient and quality-driven assistance services.



Some of the services provided:

- *Compensation and Disability claims*
- *Medical care enrollment*
- *Assist with Denials and Appeals*
- *Veterans and Widows Pension*
- *Aid and Attendance*
- *Death and burial benefits*
- *Education benefits*
- *Military records retrieval*
- *Referrals to other agencies*

Greenville County

Veterans impact in Greenville County


We serve **30,880+** Veterans in Greenville County

Economic Impact

- Disability Compensation and Pension: **\$222,362,000**
- Medical Care to VA Clinic and Community Care: **\$101,666,000**
- Education (Vocational and colleges) **\$14,649,000**
- Total Expenditure: **\$340,093,000**

Comparison:

- Spartanburg – 18,595 Veterans
- Anderson – 13,588
- Pickens – 7,419
- Laurens – 4,694
- Richland – 37,083 (Fort Jackson)
- Charleston -33,702 (Joint Base Charleston)



The Greenville Office served approximately 30,880 veterans. There were a number of economic impacts totaling more than \$340,000,000 yearly.

Comparison:

- *Spartanburg – 18,595*
- *Anderson – 13,588*
- *Pickens – 7,419*
- *Laurens – 4,694*
- *Richland – 37,083 (Fort Jackson)*
- *Charleston – 33,702 (Joint Base Charleston)*

Greenville County

Organizations that we participate as members

- American Legion Post 3 – Executive Committee
- Greenville Community Action Board
- Marine Corp League – Owens-Kennemore Post 1103
- Upstate Veterans Alliance Network (UVAN) – Steering Committee
- Upstate Honor Flight – Veteran Guide
- Vets Helping Vets
- VFW Post 1845 – Simpsonville, Trustee / Service Officer
- Vietnam Veterans of America - Chapter 523

Mr. Dabney stated the Veteran Affairs Office participated as members with local organizations to include American Legion Post 3, Greenville Community Action Board, Marine Corp League, Upstate Veterans Alliance Network, Upstate Honor Flight, Vets Helping Vets, VFW Post 1845, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

Our local community partners "Thank you!"





The office partnered with a number of local community partners in order to provide services to veterans and their families.

Significant events - September 2019 thru June 2023

- Rebranded our office and created new logo
- Entire office being fully accredited thru the American Legion and the South Carolina Department of Veteran Affairs
- Staff has completed the Living Works Suicide Awareness training
- Established Facebook presence for Veteran-centric announcements
- Economic Impact – Increased Total Expenditure to Veterans from **\$204.9M to \$340M**
- Produced a Standard Operating Procedures Manual (first EVER for GCVa and one of only three in the state, Greenwood and Laurens)
- Because of 3rd party referrals, we have served Veterans in 18 counties of SC and Veterans in California, Colorado, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington
- Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (first ever in South Carolina)
- Korean Veterans **National** Memorial announcements (x2) (State Senator Lewis Vaughn)
- Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event Downtown Airport 2022 and Greenville Shrine Club 2023 (March 29)
- Awarded 'Partner of Excellence' by National Vietnam Veteran Foundation
- Hosted Lt. Governor Pamela Evette twice for events
- Hosted two Free Legal Clinics in Greenville County (Councilman Steve Shaw)
- Conducted three Annual 'Stuff the Duffel' campaigns contributing over \$7500 in clothing and hygiene items to Veterans in need
- We maintain close working relationships with the offices of Federal legislators Senator Lindsey Graham, Senator Tim Scott, and Congressman William Timmons for Veteran assistance.

During the time period from September 2019 thru June 2023, a number of significant events took place. The local office was rebranded and a new logo was created. The total expenditure to veterans increased from \$204.9 million to \$340 million. Due to third party referrals, the Greenville Office served veterans in 18 South Carolina counties, along with California, Colorado, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Washington. Mr. Dabney stated the office was very proud of its other accomplishments as indicated on the attached slide.

Comparison by year 2018-2022

Year	County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	Medical Care
2018	GREENVILLE	31099	\$ 204,969,000	\$ 129,171,000	\$ 15,280,000	\$ 57,634,000
2019	GREENVILLE	30704	\$ 234,167,000	\$ 154,095,000 (\$24.1M)	\$ 14,767,000	\$ 65,301,000
2020	GREENVILLE	30442	\$ 261,569,000	\$ 167,930,000 (\$12.9M)	\$ 15,159,000	\$ 76,799,000
** 2021	GREENVILLE	30241	\$ 249,102,000	\$ 178,531,000 (\$10.6M)	\$ 15,171,000	\$ 83,126,000
2022	GREENVILLE	30880	\$ 340,093,000	\$ 222,362,000 (\$43.8M)	\$ 14,849,000	\$ 101,666,000

** Total expenditure decreased, but Compensation increased

Mr. Dabney stated the veteran population had actually decreased in Greenville County since 2018. While total expenditures decreased, compensation had increased. Medical care for veterans had increased drastically.

**Special Thanks to our
dedicated staff**

Cindy Gosnell
Annette Spigner
Julie Smith
Lauren Foster
Dennis O'Halloran

Mr. Dabney thanked his staff who was presented. He and Councilor Kirven honored each of them with a plaque and thanked them for their dedicated service to all veterans.

Item (5) Adjournment

Action: Councilor Bradley moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina G. McCaskill
Clerk to Council