

Greenville County Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission Minutes
April 8, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
Committee Meeting Room at 301 University Ridge Greenville, SC 29601

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted online, at 301 University Ridge, Greenville, SC 29601 and made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members Present: R. Lattimore; T. Epting; L. Stevens; K. Smith; H. Howard; G. Sprague

Members Absent: None.

Councilors Present: D. Tripp; L. Seman; E. Fant; M. Barnes; A. Mitchell

Staff Present: K. Wunder; H. Gamble; T. Coker; J. Kernell; B. Mihalic; M. Tollison; R. Jeffers-Campbell; K. Brockington; A. Price; N. Miglionico

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Invocation

Ms. Sprague provided the invocation.

3. Introductions

Commission members and staff introduced themselves.

4. Staff Presentation and Proposed Meeting Schedule

Tee Coker, Assistant County Administrator for Community Planning and Development, detailed the roadway conditions and stated Greenville County had more vehicle crashes and fatalities than any other county in the state. Mr. Coker explained roadway improvement projects were not being completed due to the lack of available funding.

Kim Wunder, Assistant County Attorney, explained the Capital Projects Sales Tax state law, how it is applied, and how it is initiated. Ms. Wunder stated that twenty-two South Carolina counties currently utilize a Capital Projects Sales Tax, and three counties use it for roadway projects. Ms. Wunder explained the Capital Projects Sales Tax could only be applied for a maximum of eight years, used only for projects listed on the ballot, and would exclude unprepared food, prescription medication, and fuel.

Ms. Wunder stated that the Commission's duties were to consider proposals for funding projects, formulate the ballot question, and submit it to County Council.

Hesha Gamble, Assistant County Administrator for Engineering and Public Works, outlined the proposed meeting schedule.

Discussion: Ms. Sprague asked if the conditions for the sales tax were listed on the ballot or in a separate document. Ms. Wunder stated it could be done either way.

Mr. Epting asked if the Commission had the authority to call an executive session. Ms. Wunder stated yes, it could be called for the purpose of receiving legal advice.

5. Election of Officers

Ray Lattimore was elected Chairman by ballot vote.

Hunter Howard was elected Vice-Chairman by ballot vote.

Gaye Sprague was elected Secretary by ballot vote.

6. Questions

Mr. Howard asked how the staff would compile the proposal for the next meeting. Ms. Gamble stated that staff had worked with local municipalities and SCDOT to compile a list of high-priority projects that would be compiled into a comprehensive package and presented to the Commission. Mr. Howard asked if staff would recommend a list of priorities or if it would only be a list of all projects. Ms. Gamble stated the list would be prioritized in a way that made sense but the Commission's purview was to prioritize the projects as they see fit.

Mr. Smith asked if the Commission would receive the information before the next meeting. Ms. Gamble stated yes.

Mr. Lattimore asked if staff would send the Commission the minutes for this meeting and the presentation. Ms. Gamble stated yes. Ms. Gamble explained the minutes would be up for approval at the next meeting.

Mr. Epting asked where the public meetings would be held. Ms. Gamble stated that the locations have yet to be determined; however, they would occur in the nearby municipalities with one centrally located meeting.

Ms. Stevens asked what time the Commission meetings would be held. Ms. Gamble stated 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Sprague asked if there would be a Zoom option for members who cannot attend the meeting. Ms. Gamble stated yes.

Mr. Howard stated staff did a wonderful job and looks forward to working with staff over the next few months.

7. Adjourn

Chairman Lattimore asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Howard made the motion. Mr. Epting seconded, and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Miglionico

Nicole Miglionico
Recording Secretary