



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

Committee of the Whole Meeting

February 6, 2024

5:01 p.m.

Council Chambers
301 University Ridge
Greenville, South Carolina

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, at 301 University Ridge, Greenville, and made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Council Members Absent

None

Staff Present

Mark Tollison, County Attorney

Chris Antley, Assistant County Attorney

Regina McCaskill, Clerk to Council

Jessica Stone, Deputy Clerk to Council

Pam Gilliam, Administrative Assistant Clerk to Council

Phillip Simmons, Information Systems

Bob Mihalic, Governmental Affairs Officer

Nicole Wood, Assistant County Administrator

Others Present

None

Call to Order

Chairman Dan Tripp

Invocation

Councilor Mike Barnes

Item (3) Approval of Minutes

a. November 7, 2023 – Regular Committee Meeting

Action: Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2023, Regular Committee Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (4) Citizens' Academy Appointments

Nicole Wood stated there were ten (10) nominees for the Greenville County 2024 Citizens' Academy. As there were fewer applicants than anticipated, the agenda would be condensed; however, staff would try and offer the best classes possible.

Action: Without objection, Council approved the appointees to the Greenville County 2024 Citizens' Academy:

- Martin Hunt D. 17
- Lee Vining D. 17
- Dennis Gibson D. 18
- Rhonda Tucker D. 19
- Peter Sperry D. 19
- Jonelle Phillips D. 21
- David Mitchell D. 23
- Eric Mitchell D. 24
- Kathy Williams D. 26
- Phillis Johnson D. 26

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (5) Board and Commission Update

Ms. McCaskill stated each Council Member had been given a copy of the 2023 Board and Commission Attendance report. Letters were sent to each board chairperson who had a member in violation of the policy, requesting a letter of retention, if they felt the individual should remain on their respective board. Copies of those letters were given to Council Members. Ms. McCaskill stated on the cover letter, only those board members whose chairperson had requested they remain on the board had an asterisk beside their name. All others would be subject to removal per an action by Council. She stated if that was Council's intent, the item would be included on a future agenda.

Ms. McCaskill stated a list of those boards lacking a quorum had also been provided. As a new application period was scheduled to open up on March 1, many of those boards may be able to fill vacancies and avoid the lack of a quorum. She stated some of the boards in question had rolled over several cycles while lacking of quorum.

Vice-Chairwoman Seman inquired as to how Ashwicke, Lake Forest and Sterling (special tax districts) had been conducting business, if at all.

Ms. McCaskill stated it was very likely those boards were on auto-pay. The monies were still collected and deposited to the account that supported the tax district.

Councilor Harrison asked how the County's Board and Commission Policy addressed those individuals whose chairperson did not respond.

Ms. McCaskill read the policy as follows:

Once a board member has been deemed to be in violation of the County's attendance requirement, the Clerk to Council will forward a letter to the board chairperson alerting them of the offense and of the pending removal. If the board wishes to retain the board member, the chairperson must submit a written request of their decision to the Clerk to Council's office within two (2) weeks of the date of the notification letter. If no such request is made by the chairperson within the allotted time, and upon County Council approval, the member's term will be suspended.

Councilor Shaw stated it was remarkable to him that the chairperson of the Human Relations had asked to retain 5 of the 6 board members in violation of the policy. He inquired about a conflict of interest for the Human Relations Director to make an opinion about the board, given the fact that the board selected and retained the director.

Vice-Chairwoman Seman stated it was the chairperson of the board, not the Human Relations director, who made the recommendation to retain those board members.

Councilor Shaw stated he did not feel that chairperson should have that authority. He stated he had reviewed the rules and regulations of the Human Relations Commission and was unable to understand why and director would want to retain any board member in violation of the policy. There were some people who simply did not want to serve or they thought it was a joke to serve.

Chairman Tripp stated the letter regarding attendance violations was sent to the chairperson for each board, not the director. Council was responsible for appointing members to those boards. The boards elected one of its members to serve as chairperson and the board hired the director.

Vice-Chairwoman Seman stated she felt those individuals in violation of the policy, who did not receive a recommendation from their chairperson to be retained, should be removed in accordance with the policy.

Chairman Tripp stated no action was needed at that time.

Item (6) **Executive Session**

Action: Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved to go into Executive Session for the receipt of legal advice and discussion of the position of the County in the two legal cases listed on this meeting's agenda.

Motion carried unanimously and the Committee of the Whole entered Executive Session at 5:07 p.m.

Reconvened

County Attorney Mark Tollison reported the Committee of the Whole out of Executive Session stating no action was taken during that session. The regular Committee of the Whole meeting reconvened at 5:27 p.m.

Item (7) **Appellate Case No. 2023-000699 and Civil Action No. 2023-CP-23-03785**

Action: Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved to approve the settlement of Appellate Case No. 2023-000699 and Civil Action No. 2023-CP-23-03785 pursuant to the terms discussed in Executive Session.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (8) **Adjournment**

Action: Councilor Barnes 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