



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

Committee of the Whole Meeting

April 2, 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

Chris Harrison, District 21

Council Members Remote Participation

None

Staff Present

Joe Kernell, County Administrator

Mark Tollison, County Attorney

Regina McCaskill, Clerk to Council

Jessica Stone, Deputy Clerk to Council

Pam Gilliam, Administrative Assistant Clerk to Council

Phillip Simmons, Information Systems

Caleb Hudson, Information Systems

Bob Mihalic, Governmental Affairs Officer

Others Present

Beverly James, Executive Director, Greenville County Library System

Derek Lewis, Executive Director, Greenville County First Steps

Call to Order

Chairman Dan Tripp

Invocation

Chairman Dan Tripp

Item (3) Approval of Minutes

a. March 19, 2024 – Regular Committee Meeting

Action: Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2024, Regular Committee Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (4) Greenville First Steps Board of Directors / Appointment

Ms. McCaskill stated, in 1999, the South Carolina General Assembly created South Carolina First Steps and local partnership boards in each of the State's 46 counties to ensure that all children had access to quality early childhood programs. That legislation included sunset provisions requiring repeated reauthorization.

During the summer of 2023, the General Assembly unanimously passed a bill that permanently authorized First Steps; it also included changes regarding how members were appointed to local partnership boards.

Under the prior legislation, the Greenville County Library designated an employee to serve on the local partnership board. Ms. McCaskill stated under the new law, Greenville County Library staff nominated an employee to serve on the board. County Council had the authority to either approve or reject the nomination. In the event of rejection, Council could request the library staff to propose another employee for consideration.

Ms. McCaskill stated Greenville County Library staff had nominated children's librarian Amy Fowlkes to serve. Letters from Mr. Derek Lewis, Executive Director of Greenville County First Steps, and Ms. Beverly James, Executive Director of the Greenville County Library System were included in the Council packet regarding the nomination.

Ms. McCaskill stated Derek Lewis and Beverly James were in attendance to answer any questions Council may have regarding the new legislation or the nomination.

Action: Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved to appoint Amy Fowlkes to fill the Greenville County Library System seat on the Greenville County First Steps Partnership Board.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (5) Executive Session (legal matter)

Action: Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved to go into Executive Session for discussion of the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim regarding the old County Square demolition process and records.

Motion carried unanimously and the Committee of the Whole entered Executive Session at 5:05 p.m.

Reconvened

County Attorney Mark Tollison reported the Committee of the Whole went into Executive Session for discussion of the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim regarding the old County Square demolition process and records. The regular Committee of the Whole meeting reconvened at 5:42 p.m.

Item (6) **Adjournment**

Action: Councilor Bradley moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina G. McCaskill
Clerk to Council