



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 6, 2024
6:00 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
Phillip Simmons, Information Systems

Bob Mihalic, Governmental Relations Officer
Shannon Herman, Assistant County Administrator
Nicole Wood, Assistant County Administrator
Ronald Hollister, Assistant County Administrator, Public Safety
Hesha Gamble, Assistant County Administrator
Tee Coker, Assistant County Administrator

Others Present

Sheriff Hobart Lewis, Greenville County Sheriff's Office
Steve Cole, Greater Greenville Sanitation

Call to Order

Chairman Dan Tripp

Invocation – introduced by Councilor Mike Barnes

Reverend Joe Price

Pledge of Allegiance

Item (4) Approval of Minutes

a. January 16, 2024 – Regular County Council Meeting

Action: Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved approval of the minutes from the January 16, 2024, Regular County Council Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (5) Proclamations and Special Recognition

Chairman Tripp wished Ms. Seman a Happy Birthday.

Item (6) Appearances – Current Agenda Items

There were no appearances.

Item (7) Public Hearings

a. Anderson – Greenville Joint County Industrial Business Park (2010 Park) Agreement Amendment / Project Austin

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance to amend an agreement for the development of a joint county industrial and business park (2010 Park) of Anderson and Greenville Counties so as to enlarge the park to add certain property in Anderson County (Project Austin).

There being no speakers, Chairman Pro Tem Kirven declared the public hearing closed.

Item (8) Consent Agenda

- a. Grant Application / Hazards Material Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP)**
- b. Community Project Application / Boy Scouts of America – Flag Retirement Box \$1,000**
- c. Community Project Application / Greenville Textile Heritage Society – Picnic Shelter \$5000**
- d. Community Project Application / Les Mullinax Park – Ceiling and Roof Repair \$2,400**
- e. Reappointment of Current Members to the County Square Redevelopment Corporation**

Action: Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved approval of the Consent Agenda items.

Action: Councilor Shaw requested Item 8.e. Reappointment of Current Members to the County Square Redevelopment Corporation be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Chairman Tripp stated the item was removed; the motion on the floor was approval of the Consent Agenda Items 8.a. through 8.d.

Motion carried.

Chairman Tripp stated Item 8.e. Reappointment of Current Members to the County Square Redevelopment Corporation would be taken up during Committee Reports.

Item (9)

Resolutions

- a. **Project Tango / Octagon Industrial Park Master Lease Amendment – Addition of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC Property (Laurens County)**

Action:

Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved for adoption a resolution to amend that certain master agreement governing the Octagon Industrial Park by and between Laurens County, South Carolina, and Greenville County, South Carolina, dated September 1, 2010, to enlarge the park to add certain property of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, located in Laurens County.

Motion carried unanimously.

- b. **Project Cranberry Sauce / Inducement Resolution**

Action:

Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved for adoption a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of an inducement agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and Project Cranberry Sauce, whereby under certain conditions, Greenville County would execute a fee in lieu of tax and special source credit agreement with respect to a project in the County whereby the project would be subject to payment of certain fees in lieu of taxes, and whereby the company would be provided certain credits against fee payments in reimbursement of investment in related qualified infrastructure; and providing for related matters.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (10)

Ordinances – Third Reading

- a. **Anderson - Greenville Joint County Industrial Business Park (2010 Park) Agreement Amendment / Project Austin**

Action:

Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance to amend an agreement for the development of a joint county industrial and business park (2010 Park) of Anderson and Greenville Counties so as to enlarge the park to add certain property in Anderson County (Project Austin).

Motion carried unanimously.

- b. **Project Eagle / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement**

Chairman Pro Tem Kirven stated the item was inadvertently placed on the agenda. At the last Council meeting, the project was held until the public hearing was scheduled. That public hearing had not yet been scheduled.

Item (11)

Ordinances – First Reading

- a. **Laurens – Greenville / Octagon Industrial Park Agreement Amendment – Project Tomahawk (Laurens County)**

Chairman Pro Tem Kirven presented for first reading an ordinance to amend the master agreement governing the Octagon Industrial Park between Laurens and Greenville Counties so as to enlarge the park to add a certain parcel in Laurens County (Project Tomahawk).

Chairman Tripp stated the item would remain on the floor.

b. Anderson – Greenville / Industrial and Business Park (2010 Park) Agreement Amendment – Project Colorful (Anderson County)

Chairman Pro Tem Kirven presented for first reading an ordinance to amend an agreement for the development of a joint county industrial and business park (2010 Park) of Anderson and Greenville Counties so as to enlarge the park to add certain parcel(s) in Anderson County (Project Colorful).

Chairman Tripp stated the time would remain on the floor.

c. Greenville County General Obligation Bonds / Twin Chimneys Landfill Project

Chairman Pro Tem Kirven presented for first reading an ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$11,500,000 Greenville County, South Carolina, General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024A; to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds shall be expended; to provide for the payment thereof; and other matters relating thereto.

Chairman Tripp stated the time would remain on the floor.

d. Project Cranberry Sauce / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement

Chairman Pro Tem Kirven presented for first reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the County at this time as Project Cranberry Sauce with respect to certain economic development property in the County, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes, including the provision of certain special source credits; and other matter related thereto.

Chairman Tripp stated the time would remain on the floor.

Item (12) Committee Reports

a. Committee of the Whole

i. Citizens' Academy Appointments

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved to appoint the following to the Greenville County 2024 Citizens' Academy:

- Martin Hunt
- Lee Vining
- Jonelle Phillips
- Dennis Gibson
- Rhonda Tucker
- Peter Sperry
- David Mitchell
- Eric Mitchell
- Kathy Williams
- Phillis Johnson

Motion carried unanimously.

ii. Appellate Case No. 2023-000699 and Civil Action No. 2023-CP-23-03785

Action: On behalf of the Committee, 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.

b. Finance Committee

i. Item 8.e. Reappointment of Current Members to the County Square Redevelopment Corporation

Councilor Shaw stated he was under the impression Council was being asked to vote on the individuals on the County Square Redevelopment Corporation. He stated it seemed to be very important and consequential board. Mr. Shaw asked if the board “has to do with County Square Redevelopment.” He stated he had reviewed the board’s previous meeting minutes and it appeared as if they had approved a \$120 million bond. Mr. Shaw asked if the bond had to do with the redevelopment.

Chairman Tripp asked Mr. Tollison to give a brief overview of the item in question.

Mr. Tollison stated the board was the financing corporation for the County Square Redevelopment Project. The board had no property or development oversight for the project, it was simply the financing mechanism group put in place to approve issuances on behalf of the County.

Councilor Shaw asked if the board would be making decisions about the development of the property on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Tollison stated the board was tasked with making decisions only about debt, as it related to the project.

Chairman Tripp stated only Council had the authority to approve monetary issues regarding the project.

Action: Councilor Shaw moved to hold the item in order to give Council the opportunity to hear from the board members.

Councilor Shaw stated it appeared as if all three candidates were government employees; one was even an employee of Greenville County. He suggested Council interview the candidates.

Action: Councilor Fant moved to table Councilor Shaw’s motion to hold.

Motion to table carried.

Action: Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved to approve Item 8.e. Reappointment of Current Members to the County Square Redevelopment Corporation.

Motion carried by a roll call vote of ten (Russo, Barnes, Blount, Harrison, Mitchell, Seman, Fant, Bradley, Kirven and Tripp) in favor and two (Shaw and Tzouvelekas) in opposition.

Item (13) Administrator’s Report

There was no report.

Item (14) Requests and Motions

a. Reconsideration of the Waste Tire Haulers Ordinance

Councilor Barnes stated during the December 5, 2023 meeting, Council adopted the Waste Tire Haulers Ordinance #5574. Since that time, the County and the Sheriff’s Office had determined that the Sheriff’s Office should administrate the ordinance. Mr. Barnes stated the ordinance would have to be brought back to Council floor and oversight for administering the ordinance be given to the Sheriff’s Office.

Action: As noticed on the County Council agenda, Councilor Barnes moved to suspend County Council Rule III.D.9. to allow for Council to reconsider Third Reading of Ordinance No. 5574.

Motion carried unanimously.

Action: Councilor Barnes moved to suspend County Council Rule IV.B.3. to allow Council to take up amendments to the Ordinance at Third Reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

Action: Councilor Barnes moved to amend Ordinance #5574 to replace all references to the Solid Waste Division with Greenville Sheriff’s Office.

Motion carried unanimously.

Action: Councilor Barnes moved adoption of the ordinance as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Open Special Application Period for Greenville County Planning Commission.

Councilor Fant requested to make an important announcement regarding SCTAC.

Chairman Tripp allowed Mr. Fant to make the announcement.

Councilor Fant stated SCTAC President and CEO, Jody Bryson, joined Governor Henry McMaster.

Point of Order: Councilor Tzouvelekas inquired if Mr. Fant’s update regarding SCTAC was included on the evening’s agenda.

Chairman Tripp stated he had recognized Mr. Fant and he had the floor.

Councilor Shaw stated, historically, Council Members had been given the opportunity to “grandstand” at the end of each meeting regarding something they had done or something that was happening in their district. He requested continuing with the “business of the agenda.”

Chairman Tripp stated Councilor Shaw was overruled. Mr. Tripp stated he had recognized Mr. Fant; he had never said “I, me or myself” during the announcement regarding SCTAC’s meeting with Governor McMaster. Chairman Tripp stated he was again recognizing Mr. Fant.

Councilor Fant stated during the previous week, SCTAC President and CEO, Jody Bryson, joined Governor Henry McMaster, Lockheed Martin officials and other state dignitaries in Columbia to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Lockheed Martin F-16. During a statehouse ceremony, Governor McMaster issued a proclamation in honor of Lockheed Martin’s long-standing contribution to South Carolina. At the official press conference in the Governor’s Office, Lockheed Martin Vice-President of F-16 Production Programs Trish Pagan recognized Mr. Bryson and SCTAC for their incredible partnership over the past 15 years, leading to Greenville’s designation as the Global Home of the F-16.

Chairman Tripp thanked Mr. Fant for the announcement and recognized him to introduce Item 14.b. Open Special Application Period for Greenville County Planning Commission.

Action: As noticed on the County Council agenda, Councilor Fant moved to suspend Section 11 of the Greenville County Board and Commission Policy so as to allow for a motion to open a special application period for the Greenville County Planning Commission.

Councilor Blount stated he had been looking at the situation with the Planning Commission as the two board members who had resigned were from his district.

Chairman Tripp asked Mr. Blount if he had a motion to present as Mr. Fant had made a motion that needed to be addressed.

Councilor Blount stated his comments would be in consideration of whether or not to suspend Council Rules.

Chairman Tripp recognized Councilor Blount.

Councilor Blount asked if there was anything pressing that would warrant opening a special application period in order to fill the two vacancies.

Councilor Harrison stated the Chairman of the Planning Commission had indicated there may not be a quorum present at the next regularly scheduled meeting. One of the members of the board had unexpectedly resigned.

Motion to suspend the policy carried.

Action: Councilor Fant moved to open a special 10-day application period for the Greenville County Planning Commission in order to fill two vacancies due to recent resignations.

Councilor Blount suggested only filling the seat that was due to expire in 2025; the seat due to expire May 31, 2024, could be filled during the upcoming board and commission application period, unless there was a compelling reason to do so now.

Councilor Tzouvelekas stated the Planning Commission had been meeting regularly since one member had resigned a few months ago. Mr. Tzouvelekas stated he could not see why a special application period was needed, given the fact that the regular application period was coming up in May.

Chairman Pro Tem Kirven stated the Planning Commission was responsible for making important decisions. It was important to fill vacancies on the commission as soon as possible, in order for it to represent the citizens of Greenville County. Mr. Kirven stated he supported filling both vacancies.

Action:

Councilor Tzouvelekas moved to amend the motion to indicate an application period of 45-days, in order to give Council the opportunity to look at the applicants carefully.

Motion to amend was denied.

Vice-Chairwoman Seman stated there was already a vacancy on the Planning Commission in addition to the two members that recently resigned.

Chairman Tripp stated it was his understanding there may be two additional vacancies in March, which would put the commission down by five (5) members.

Councilor Blount stated it appeared things had run smoothly since Judge Looper resigned. It would not be fair to appoint someone to his seat, as that individual would have to reapply in March.

Councilor Harrison stated the Chairman of the Planning Commission had told him numerous times that Judge Looper's seat needed to be filled. Mr. Harrison stated it was his understanding that in addition to the resignation, there may be some other conflicts at the next meeting involving current members. The commission had been trying to "make do" since Judge Looper resigned; however, there could possibly be a quorum issue due to Mr. Howard's recent resignation.

Councilor Blount inquired how would it be determined which member got the short term.

Councilor Harrison asked Ms. McCaskill if the commission would have a quorum if only one vacancy was filled now, as opposed to two.

Ms. McCaskill stated the Planning Commission was a nine (9) member board. There were currently two (2) vacancies. Filling one seat now would give the board eight (8) members.

Councilor Harrison stated, given that information, if two of the current members were not at the next meeting, there would still be six in attendance; no quorum issue would exist. He stated he had no problem with only filling one vacancy.

Councilor Fant advised Mr. Blount that the issue of minority representation on the Planning Commission had been discussed for some time. He assured Councilor Blount that the individual replacing Mr. Howard would be an African-American female, a "one-on-one" swap, as Mr. Howard was African-American.

Councilor Blount asked if the African-American female would get the longer term, by default.

Councilor Fant confirmed the African-American female would be taking Mr. Howard's seat.

Councilor Blount asked how the race and/or gender of an appointee determined their term length.

Councilor Tzouvelekas asked if Council Rules specified that race and/or gender was a factor in determining term length for board members. He stated if that was not the case, Mr. Fant's statement was not accurate.

Action: Councilor Fant called for the question.

Motion to call for the question was denied by a roll call vote of four (Russo, Fant, Kirven and Tripp) in favor and eight (Blount, Barnes, Shaw, Harrison, Tzouvelekas, Mitchell, Seman and Bradley) in opposition.

Action: Councilor Blount moved to amend the current motion to state, the special 10-day application period would be used to fill the vacancy that was due to expire May 31, 2025 (Mr. Howard's seat).

Councilor Fant stated he "could live with" filling only one vacancy. Having only eight seats could cause voting ties from time to time.

Councilor Kirven stated he disagreed with only filling one vacancy; the sooner all vacancies on the Planning Commission were filled the better it would be.

Councilor Bradley stated the Planning Commission had been operating for approximately one year with only eight members.

Councilor Shaw asked if Council would have the opportunity to consider and debate the applicant.

Chairman Tripp stated if the motion was approved, anyone could apply for the seat; Council would then vote on the applicants.

Councilor Tzouvelekas asked if the term for the appointee would start immediately and end in May.

Vice-Chairwoman stated the term would end in May of 2025, not 2024.

Action: Vice-Chairwoman Seman called for the question.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tripp stated the motion on the floor was to amend the motion to open a special 10-day application period for the Greenville County Planning Commission. The application period would fill one vacancy, not two, originally presented. The vacancy to be filled was due to expire May 31, 2025.

Motion to amend carried by a roll call vote of nine (Russo, Barnes, Blount, Shaw, Harrison, Tzouvelekas, Seman, Bradley and Tripp) in favor and three (Mitchell, Fant and Kirven) in opposition.

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

Item (15)

Adjournment

Action:

Councilor Bradley moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina G. McCaskill
Clerk to Council