



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

Committee of the Whole Meeting

October 15, 2024

4:48 p.m.

Committee Meeting Room

301 University Ridge

Greenville, South Carolina

Council Members

Mr. Dan Tripp, Chairman, District 28

Mrs. Liz Seman, Vice-, 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

Council Members Remote Participation

Staff Present

Joe Kernell, County Administrator

Dean Campbell, Deputy County Attorney

Chris Antley, Assistant County Attorney

Andrew Price, Assistant County Attorney

Jessica Stone, Deputy Clerk to Council

Pam Gilliam, Administrative Assistant Clerk to Council

Terrance Galloway, Information Systems

Ted Lambrecht, Deputy County Administrator

Nicole Wood, Assistant County Administrator

Tee Coker, Assistant County Administrator

Hesha Gamble, Assistant County Administrator

Bob Mihalic, Governmental Affairs Officer

Others Present

None

Call to Order

Chairman Dan Tripp

Invocation

Councilor Bradley

Item (3) **Approval of Minutes**

a. October 1, 2024 – Regular Committee Meeting

Action: Councilor Seman moved to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2024, Regular Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (4) **Council Rules Amendment – County Council Employees**

Action: Councilor Seman moved to add new subsection (E) to Section II to require a two-thirds vote of the Members of Council to hire the three named Council employees; a three-fourths vote of the Members of Council to terminate a Council employee without cause; and provide for a majority vote of the Members of Council to terminate for cause.

Councilor Tripp stated the rationale for the proposed rule change “late in the game” was due to the fact that Council had a number of pending personnel items that needed to be taken up with regards to the employees it hired; some may happen during the current year and others in 2025. Mr. Tripp stated he wanted continuity and consensus in terms of Council coming together as a body; in regards to hiring, he did not want those decisions to be political.

Action: Councilor Blount moved to amend the request to state a three-fourths vote of Council was required to hire and fire its employees.

Chairman Tripp asked Mr. Blount if the proposed amendment would change the number of votes needed to fire with cause.

Councilor Blount stated it would not. He added his intent was to balance out firing without cause and hiring.

Motion to amend carried.

Action: Councilor Blount moved approval of the ordinance as amended.

Motion carried.

Item (5) **Executive Session** *(Personnel Matter)*

Action: Councilor Seman moved to go into Executive Session for the discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee regulated by the County Council, or the appointment of a person or persons to a public body.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee of the Whole entered Executive Session at 4:51 p.m.

Reconvened

Deputy Council Attorney Dean Campbell reported the Committee of the Whole went into Executive Session for the discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee regulated by the County Council, or the appointment of a person or persons to a public body. Mr. Campbell stated no action was taken.

The regular Committee of the Whole reconvened at 5:25 p.m.

Item (6) **Interim County Attorney Appointment**

Action: Councilor Seman moved to authorize the Chairman of County Council to negotiate and execute a contract with Christopher Antley for the position of Interim County Attorney under the terms discussed in executive session.

Councilor Kirven stated Greenville County was in a unique situation given the rather quick departure of Mark Tollison. The County was fortunate to have Mr. Antley in place with his vast experience in both the governmental and private sector. Mr. Kirven stated Council had been afforded the opportunity to observe Mr. Antley and see the results of his work. The proposed contract was short-term; it provided Council the option to make the decision final or go another way.

Action: Councilor Kirven moved to remove the word “Interim” from the proposed employment contract and appoint Mr. Antley the County Attorney.

Councilor Tzouvelekas inquired about any legal consequences in removing the work “Interim.”

Mr. Kernell stated the County normally put an “interim tag” on a position when there were plans to search for a permanent employee to fill a position. In the case of the County Attorney, there were no plans to conduct a search; therefore, there was no reason to include the word Interim.

Motion to amend carried.

Action: Councilor Kirven moved to approve the employment contract as amended of Christopher Antley.

Item (7) **Board and Commission Policy**

a. **Waiver of Interview Requirement for Uncontested Vacancies**

Chairman Tripp stated approximately half of the upcoming board and commission appointments were uncontested. He inquired if Council wanted to waive the interview requirement for the uncontested seats.

Action: Councilor Kirven moved to waive the interview requirement for uncontested vacancies.

Motion was denied.

Item (8) **Adjournment**

Action: Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jessica Stone
Deputy Clerk to Council