

GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

AUDIT AD HOC COMMITTEE

February 11, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Committee Meeting Room

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted online and on the bulletin board at County Square and made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Committee Members Present:

Kelly Long, *Chairwoman*
Garey Collins, *Vice-Chairman*
Steve Shaw
Garey Collins
Curt McGahhey
Frank Farmer

Committee Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Joe Kernell, *County Administrator*
Chris Antley, *County Attorney*
Regina McCaskill, *Clerk to Council*
Jessica Stone, *Deputy Clerk to Council*

Call to Order:

Chairwoman Long

Innovation:

Councilor Collins

Item (3)

Welcome to Committee Members

Chairwoman Long welcomed everyone in attendance and asked each committee member to introduce themselves and give their expectations for the committee.

Councilor Farmer stated he was excited to be part of the committee and thanked Councilor Long for choosing him. He stated he was looking to make the County more efficient and transparent.

Councilor McGahhey stated his deepest commitment to the citizens of Greenville County was transparency regarding how public funds were spent, especially with what was currently going on with the Federal government. He stated that the committee members wanted to ensure the public that their money was in good hands and used correctly. He stated he looked forward to working with the staff, the County Administrator, the County Attorney, and the public.

Councilor Collins thanked the Administrator and staff for getting them settled in; he recognized the deputies and members of the public who were in attendance. Mr. Collins stated he liked the idea of oversight. As professionals and elected members of the community, the committee members would do all they could to support the Chairman and would exhaust every minute she allowed.

Chairwoman Long stated the four newly elected Council members ran on transparency and working to make the County more efficient and effective in a financial realm. She stated she appreciated being able to serve with her fellow committee members. Ms. Long stated she wanted to be more transparent, to hear from and work with the public and with the staff.

Item (4) Discussion – Mission Statement

Councilor Long stated she wanted to remove the word a and change the word Audit to Oversight so the statement would read:

To provide a professional ~~audit~~ oversight in order to promote transparency and fiscal responsibility, improve efficiency and effectiveness of financial operations, make appropriate changes where needed, and report the findings to all taxpayers, residents, and stakeholders of Greenville County.

Action: Councilman McGahhey moved to amend the committee’s Mission Statement as suggested by Chairwoman Long.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (5) First Steps

Chairwoman Long stated she wanted to change the name of the committee from *Audit Ad Hoc Committee* to *Oversight Ad Hoc Committee*. She stated the word oversight included an audit, as well as efficiency and ways to save money that did not require an audit.

Chairwoman Long stated she wanted to adopt Mason’s Rules as the committee rules. She stated it would be less confusing and would align with Council and its standing committees.

Chairwoman Long stated the committee would be interviewing audit firms in the near future. The Committee would discuss what needed to be audited and would come up with some ideas.

Mr. Antley asked if the Committee would also use the Council rules along with Mason’s Rules.

Chairwoman Long answered in the affirmative.

Action: Councilman McGahhey moved to approve changing the *Audit Ad Hoc Committee* name to the *Oversight Ad Hoc Committee*.

Motion carried unanimously.

Action: Councilman McGahhey moved to approve the adoption of Mason’s Rules and Council Rules.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kernell stated there was a process to go through to select an audit firm.

Mr. Antley stated that a motion was not required to move ahead with the interview process.

Item (6) Public Comment Session

- **Amelia Sanders** - appeared regarding audit guidelines.

Chairwoman Long responded that the Committee’s Mission Statement held them to what they were doing at the County level, which was different at the Federal level. The committee would handle everything professionally and respect the employees of the County. She stated the goal was only to do what the Committee was asked to do; there was not an ulterior motive. Ms. Long stated the Committee would communicate to the public throughout the process.

Councilman Farmer asked Mr. Kernell if the County funded FEMA at the County level.

Mr. Kernell stated that the County actually received money from FEMA.

Councilor Farmer asked if the County had a risk mitigation plan in place.

Mr. Kernell stated there was a risk mitigation plan in place and that was why the County was ready for the storm.

Councilor Shaw asked Mr. Kernell if the County's Finance Office would be able assist in the process in order to save time and money.

Mr. Kernell stated there were a couple of different things that could be done. The Budget Office worked forward in terms of the budget and the Accounting Office worked from behind. The Budget office looked at different operations throughout the year and would be the most knowledgeable about them He stated that office was currently gathering information for the upcoming budget, which would be ready in the near future. Mr. Kernell stated there was very limited staff available to assist

Councilor Collins asked Mr. Kernell if the Finance Office wrote the checks.

Mr. Kernell explained that Accounts Payable wrote checks and the Budget Office was the programming side; those two divisions had to coordinate with each other.

Councilor McGahhey encouraged the public and fellow Council Members to share ideas and plans. He asked for input and constructive criticism; it was more than just the Committee's job to make sure the County had a good financial plan for the future. He stated that things would tighten up from the Federal level, which will affect the County.

Item (7) Adjournment

Action: Councilman McGahhey moved to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jessica M Stone
Deputy Clerk to Council