



## GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes

Regular Meeting

July 16, 2024

6:03 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*

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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**

**Joe Kernell**, County Administrator  
**Mark Tollison**, County Attorney  
**Kim Wunder**, Assistant County Attorney  
**Jessica Stone**, Deputy Clerk to Council  
**Pam Gilliam**, Administrative Assistant  
**Terrance Galloway**, Information Systems

### **Council Members Remote Participation**

None

**Caleb Steele**, Information Systems  
**Nicole Wood**, Assistant County Administrator  
**Hesha Gamble**, Assistant County Administrator  
**Ronald Hollister**, Assistant County Administrator, Public Safety  
**Bob Mihalic**, Governmental Affairs Officer

### **Others Present**

None

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Dan Tripp

### **Invocation**

Councilor Alan Mitchell

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Item (4)**                    **Approval of Minutes**

**a.     June 18, 2024 – Regular County Council Meeting**

**Action:**                Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved approval of the minutes from the June 4, 2024, Regular County Council Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (5)**                    **Proclamations and Special Recognition**

**a.     Momentum Bike Club**

Councilor Blount recognized members of the Momentum Bike Club who were in attendance.

**Item (6)**                    **Appearances – Current Agenda Items**

- *Jill Hood – appeared regarding Item 12.d. Greenville Arena District – General Obligation Bonds*
- *Tom Anderson – appeared regarding Item 12.d. Greenville Arena District – General Obligation Bonds*
- *Robert Bullock – appeared regarding Item 12.d. Greenville Arena District – General Obligation Bonds*
- *Phyllis Garrett – appeared regarding Item 12.d. Greenville Arena District – General Obligation Bonds*
- *Jillian Semrau – appeared regarding Item 12.d. Greenville Arena District – General Obligation Bonds*
- *Talon Hawthorne – appeared regarding Item 12.d. Greenville Arena District – General Obligation Bonds*
- *Ronald Bowlin – appeared regarding Item 12.d. Greenville Arena District – General Obligation Bonds*
- *Michael Desrochers – appeared regarding Item 12.d. Greenville Arena District – General Obligation Bonds*
- *Jason Gillespie – appeared regarding Item 12.d. Greenville Arena District – General Obligation Bonds*
- *Thomas Dashell – appeared regarding Item 12.d. Greenville Arena District – General Obligation Bonds*

**Item (7)**                    **Public Hearings**

**a.     Gower Corporation (formerly Project Anchorage) / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement**

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance authoring the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and Gower Corporation, a company formerly known to the County as Project Anchorage, 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 matters related thereto.

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

**b.     Capital Projects Sales Tax Referendum Ordinance**

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance enacted pursuant to the Capital Project Sales Tax Act, Title 4, Chapter 10, Article 3 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, providing for the imposition of a one percent sales and use tax upon referendum approval; the form of the ballot to be used in connection therewith; the authorization of the issuance of general obligation bonds of Greenville County, subject to such referendum, to defray costs of projects and issuance costs; and other matters related thereto.

- *Carolina Mahaffey – appeared in favor of the proposed*
- *Jeffrey Lee Hildebran – appeared in favor of the proposed*
- *Gaye Sprague – appeared in favor of the proposed*

- *G.P. McLeer – appeared in favor of the proposed*
- *Brandy Amidon – appeared in favor of the proposed*
- *Terry Merritt – appeared in favor of the proposed*
- *Diana Olga – appeared in favor of the proposed*
- *Charles McCune – appeared in favor of the proposed*
- *Dianne Vreeland – appeared in opposition to the proposed*
- *Jill Hood – appeared in opposition to the proposed*
- *Charisse Krieger – appeared in opposition to the proposed*
- *Garey Collins – appeared in opposition to the proposed*
- *Derrick Quarles – appeared in opposition to the proposed*
- *Lisa Bracewell – appeared in opposition to the proposed*
- *Joe Dill – appeared in opposition to the proposed*

There being no other speakers, Vice-Chairwoman Seman declared the public hearing closed.

**Item (8)**                    **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Grant Application / Duke Energy Foundation Grant**
- b. **Grant Application / FY2024 DNA Grant**
- c. **Commission of Code Enforcement Officer – Joshua Henderson**
- d. **Community Project Application / Sigal Music Museum – Building Upgrades \$20,456**
- e. **Community Project Application / Greenville County Recreation – Staunton Bridge Scholarships \$3,956**
- f. **Community Project Application / Clear Spring Fire and Rescue – Smoke Evacuation Fan \$5,240**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (9)**                    **Resolutions**

- a. **Greenville Arena District – General Obligation Bonds / Request for Public Hearing**

**Action:** Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved for adoption a resolution calling for a public hearing to be held upon the question of the issuance of not exceeding \$70,000,000 of General Obligation Bonds of Greenville Arena District, South Carolina and to provide for the publication of the notice of such hearing.

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

- b. **Opioid Lawsuit Settlement**

**Action:** Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved for adoption a resolution approving Greenville County’s participation in the proposed settlement of opioid-related claims against Kroger.

Motion carried unanimously.

- c. **Abandon and Close 72,162 sq. ft. (1.657 acres) of the Right-of-Way of University Ridge**

**Action:** Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved for adoption a resolution to initiate the abandonment of 72,162 square feet (1.657 acres) of the right-of-way of University Ridge in connection wit Greenville County’s University Ridge Redevelopment Project.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (10)**      **Ordinances – Third Reading**

**a.    Zoning Ordinances**

- i.    CZ-2024-029,    Property of 106 Camden Dr., LLC, located at 106 Camden Drive, Greenville, requesting rezoning from R-7.5 to S-1.**

**Action:**            Councilor Fant moved adoption of the ordinance at third reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

- ii.    CZ-2024-030,    Property of Daryl Renshaw, located at 103 Alco Street and Hallcox Street, Greenville, requesting rezoning from R-12 to R-6.**

**Action:**            Councilor Fant moved adoption of the ordinance at third reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Vice-Chairwoman Seman left the meeting at 7:17 p.m. after having recused herself from discussion and voting on the following item.*

**b.    Gower Corporation (formerly Project Anchorage) / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement**

**Action:**            Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and Gower Corporation, formerly known as Project Anchorage, 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 sources credits; and other matter related thereto.

Motion carried. *(Councilor Seman recused)*

*Vice-Chairwoman Seman returned to the meeting at 7:18 p.m.*

**Item (11)**      **Ordinances – Second Reading**

**a.    Zoning Ordinances**

- i.    CZ-2024-021,    Property of Nancy Guadalupe Reyes-Guigou, located at 2222 & 2224 E. Lee Road, Taylors, requesting rezoning from R-20 to R-10. The Planning Commission recommended approval and the Committee recommended denial.**

**Action:**            On behalf of the Committee, Councilor Fant moved to deny the ordinance at second reading.

**Action:**            Councilor Shaw moved to hold the item.

Motion to hold carried unanimously.

**b. Capital Projects Sales Tax Referendum Ordinance**

**Action:**

Councilor Seman moved for approval at second reading an ordinance enacted pursuant to the Capital Project Sales Tax Act, Title 4, Chapter 10, Article 3 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, providing for the imposition of a one percent sales and use tax upon referendum approval; the form of the ballot to be used in connection therewith; the authorization of the issuance of general obligation bonds of Greenville County, subject to such referendum, to defray costs of projects and issuance costs; and other matters relating thereto.

Councilor Blount stated none of his constituents had indicated to him that they did not care if a road belonged to the County or the State. He stated every person he had spoken to about the Capital Projects Sales Tax referendum had told him that they did not want tax monies to be used to pave the state roads. Council Members were supposed to listen to their constituents; therefore, he was unable to support the item in question.

Councilor Harrison stated Council was not being asked to impose a tax. If the item in question eventually passed, it would be put on a ballot and the citizens of Greenville County would be given the opportunity to vote. Mr. Harrison state he was having a hard time understanding the fear of putting it on a ballot.

Councilor Blount stated he had agreed to vote in favor of the proposed if the commission focused on paving County roads; he did not feel that was the case.

Councilor Harrison stated it was confusing for Council Members to state they wanted to give their constituents a voice, but, also speak for them. He stated Council could not have it both ways. Mr. Harrison inquired about the fear in putting the item on the ballot.

Councilor Blount stated his constituents did not want a voice nor did they want the item on a ballot.

Councilor Tzouvelekas stated he did not agree with using the projected revenue for state roads, when the state had "billions of extra" dollars. It was his understanding that all the roads to be paved would be listed on the ballot; however, he was now under the impression that was not true. Mr. Tzouvelekas stated Council was not being transparent and honest to the citizens.

Chairman Tripp stated there were state laws that had to be followed regarding the item in question. He stated that every road to be paved would be listed on the ballot. That was not an issue of transparency; it was a "red herring."

Councilor Harrison stated every resident in Greenville County should be given the opportunity to vote on the issue.

Councilor Shaw asked if the County had paid any lobbyist or public relations firm to campaign in favor of the proposed. He stated he had seen "some things that looked coordinated, as far as campaigning for the tax."

Mr. Kernell stated, under state law, the County was not allowed to pay for a lobbyist or PR firm to campaign in favor of the proposed.

Councilor Shaw stated part of the confusion was the difference between congestion and condition. He stated it was his opinion that if the County prioritized correctly, it could handle the condition of its roads. Congestion could not be handled by "throwing some billions of dollars at it"; it had to be done through land use and responsible development.

Councilor Blount asked if the ballot in November would include all the roads to be paved.

Mr. Tollison stated all the roads were listed in the ordinance; however, the list was too long to include them all on the ballot. The ordinance could be viewed online.

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

**Item (12) Ordinances – First Reading**

**a. Zoning Ordinances**

Councilor Fant presented for first reading Zoning Dockets **CZ-2024-038 and CZ-2024-040 through CZ-2024-46**.

Chairman Tripp referred the items to the Planning and Development Committee.

**b. Fountain Inn Fire Service Area / General Obligation Bond**

Chairman Pro Tem Kirven presented for first reading an ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of not exceeding three million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$3,800,000) Greenville County General Obligation Bonds (*Fountain Inn Fire Service Area Project*), Series 2024C; 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 item would remain on the floor.

**c. Project Dragon Fire / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement**

Chairman Pro Tem Kirven presented for first reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a second amendment to an existing fee in lieu of tax agreement between Greenville County, South Carolina and a company known to the County as Project Dragon Fire; to provide for, under certain circumstances, certain additional special source revenue credits in connection with additional investment in certain manufacturing and related facilities in the County; and other matter related thereto.

Chairman Tripp stated the item would remain on the floor.

**d. Greenville Arena District / General Obligation Bonds**

Chairman Pro Tem Kirven presented for first reading an ordinance finding that Greenville Arena District, South Carolina may issue not exceeding \$70,000,000 of General Obligation Bonds in one or more series; to authorize the Board of Trustees of the Greenville Area District, South Carolina to issue such bonds and to provide for the publication of notice of the said finding and authorization.

Chairman Tripp stated the item would remain on the floor.

**e. Special Tax Districts / Millage Increase for Maintenance of Lighting**

Chairman Pro Tem Kirven presented for first reading an ordinance to provide for the millage or fee rate to be levied by certain Special Tax Districts established for lighting purposes; including the Brutontown, Monaghan, River Oak, Woodside Mills, Broadmoor, and Washington Heights Special Tax Districts.

Chairman Tripp stated the item would remain on the floor.

**Item (13)      Committee Reports**

**a.      Committee of the Whole**

**Action:**      Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved to authorize the County Attorney to settle the following lawsuit according to the terms discussed in Executive Session – Case Number C.A. 2:22-cv-02389-JDA-MGB.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item (14)      Administrator’s Report**

There was no report.

**Item (15)      Requests and Motions by Council Members**

There were no requests or motions.

**Item (16)      Adjournment**

**Action:**      Councilor Bradley moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Jessica M Stone  
Deputy Clerk to Council