



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes
Regular Council Meeting
February 2, 2021
6:08 p.m.

County Square - Council Chambers
Remote Participation by Council Members

Council Members

Mr. Willis Meadows, *Chairman, District 19*
Mr. Dan Tripp, *Vice-Chairman, District 28*
Mrs. Xanthene Norris, *Chairman Pro Tem, District 23*
Mr. Joe Dill, *District 17*
Mr. Mike Barnes, *District 18*
Mr. Stephen Shaw, *District 20*
Mr. Chris Harrison, *District 21*
Mr. Stan Tzouvelekas, *District 22*
Mrs. Liz Seman, *District 24*
Mr. Ennis Fant, Sr., *District 25*
Mr. Lynn Ballard, *District 26*
Mr. Butch Kirven, *District 27*

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.

Council Members Absent

None

Staff Present

Joe Kernell, *County Administrator*
Mark Tollison, *County Attorney*
John Hansley, *Deputy County Administrator*
Regina McCaskill, *Clerk to Council*
Jessica Stone, *Deputy Clerk to Council*

Pam Gilliam, *Administrative Assistant*
Paula Gucker, *Assistant County Administrator, Public Works*
Shannon Herman, *Assistant County Administrator*
Nicole Wood, *Assistant County Administrator*
Meredith Papapieris, *Greenville County CARES Program, Director*

Others Present

None

Call to Order

Chairman Willis Meadows

Invocation

Janice Butler
Christian Learning Center

Pledge of Allegiance

Item (4) Approval of Minutes

Action: Councilor Seman moved to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2021, Regular Council Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (5) Appearances – Current Agenda Items

There were no speakers.

Item (6) Public Hearings

a. Kostwein Corporation (formerly Project Backyard) / Fee in Lieu of Tax and Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and Kostwein Corporation (formerly known as Project Backyard) with respect to certain economic development property in the County, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto.

There being no speakers, Vice-Chairman Tripp declared the public hearing closed.

b. Greenville / Anderson Multi County Industrial Business Park (2010 Park) Agreement Amendment – United Community Bank (formerly Project Spruce)

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding and ordinance to amend an agreement for the development of a joint county industrial park (2010 Park) of Anderson and Greenville Counties so as to enlarge the park

There being no speakers, Vice-Chairman Tripp declared the public hearing closed.

c. United Community Bank (formerly Project Spruce) / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding and ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Greenville County, South Carolina and United Community Bank (formerly known as Project Spruce) 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, Vice-Chairman Tripp declared the public hearing closed.

Item (7) Consent Agenda

- a. **SC DHEC – EMS Grant-in-Aid 2020-2021** *(Finance)*
- b. **Maddie’s Fund Grant – Pet Resource Fairs** *(Finance)*
- c. **SC Park and Recreation – Recreational Trails Program Grant** *(Finance)*
- d. **Community Project Application – Lloyd Street Lighting \$7,259.31** *(Finance)*
- e. **Community Project Application – Gantt District Fire Department \$5,000.00** *(Finance)*
- f. **Community Project Application – Mauldin Cultural Center Renovations - \$30,000.00** *(Finance)*

Action: Councilor Kirven moved approval of the Consent Agenda items.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (8) Resolution

- a. **Abandoned Building Site Certification – 33 Stevens Street**

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved for adoption a resolution to certify property at 33 Stevens Street as an abandoned building site (Tax Map Number 0109.00-07-001.02).

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (9) Ordinances – Third Reading

- a. **Greenville / Anderson Multi County Industrial Business Park Agreement Amendment – Project Underwood**

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp 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 Greenville and Anderson Counties so as to enlarge the park to include certain parcels owned by an entity identified by the County as Project Underwood.

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved to hold the item until the February 16, 2021, Council meeting, at which time the public hearing was scheduled for this project.

Motion to hold carried unanimously.

b. Greenville / Anderson Multi County Industrial Business Park Agreement Amendment – Project Ammo

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp 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 Greenville and Anderson Counties so as to enlarge the park to include certain parcels owned by an entity identified by the County as Project Ammo.

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp moved to hold the item until the February 16, 2021, Council meeting, at which time the public hearing was scheduled for this project.

Motion to hold carried unanimously.

c. Kostwein Corporation (formerly Project Backyard) / Fee in Lieu of Tax and Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp 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 Kostwein Corporation with respect to certain economic development property in the County, whereby such property would be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

d. Greenville / Anderson Multi County Industrial Business Park (2010 Park) Agreement Amendment – United Community Bank (formerly Project Spruce)

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp 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.

Motion carried unanimously.

e. United Community Bank (formerly Project Spruce) / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement

Action: Vice-Chairman Tripp 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 United Community Bank (formerly known as Project Spruce) 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.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (10) Ordinances – First Reading

a. Supplemental Appropriation / E911 Special Revenue Fund

Vice-Chairman Tripp presented for first reading an ordinance to authorize a supplemental appropriation from the E911 Special Revenue Fund – Fund Balance to increase Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budgeted E911 revenues \$1,051,142.00 and to increase Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budgeted E911 expenditures \$1,051,142.00 to cover the cost of upgrades and maintenance to the Vesta 9-1-1 call handling and computer aided dispatch systems.

Chairman Meadows stated the item would remain on the floor.

Item (11) Committee Reports

There were no reports.

Item (12) Appearances – Items not on the Current Agenda

- Todd Hackler, Taylors – appeared regarding County Council conduct

Item (13) Administrator’s Report

Joe Kernell provided an update on the status of the Greenville County CARES Program. He presented a Powerpoint presentation outlining the expenditures of the monies received in 2020 as well as the anticipated expenditures for a second round of money the County recently received. Mr. Kernell recognized Nicole Wood and Meredith Papapieris for their work in regards to the CARES Program. (Presentation attached)

Councilor Seman stated one “silver lining” of the pandemic was the fact that Council meetings were now live-streamed and more people could watch; she hoped this practice would continue. Ms. Seman requested information regarding the issue of the use of CARES Program monies and mental health.

Mr. Kernell stated the problems and hardships created by the pandemic had resulted in a 40% increase mental health issues. The County issued funding from the CARES Program to local mental health providers in order to provide additional mental health services to meet the growing needs of the community.

Councilor Harrison commended staff for the presentation; it was very user-friendly and showed tremendous pride in a job well done. Mr. Harrison asked if the \$15 million received for rental assistance was in addition to the original monies awarded to the County. He also inquired if the \$2 million received by GCRA for solely for its rental assistance program.

Mr. Kernell confirmed Mr. Harrison’s statements.

Mr. Harrison stated it was important to utilize the local residential property management companies for input regarding households that were possibly eligible for assistance through the program; he indicated he would be glad to assist with that process.

Mr. Kernell thanked Mr. Harrison for the offer and stated any assistance would be greatly appreciated. He recognized Bob Mihalic and Madeline Armstrong for creating the advertisement literature that was disseminated to the public.

Chairman Meadows requested information regarding where the public could access the presentation.

Mr. Kernell stated it was available for the public to view on the County's website.

Councilor Tzouvelekas commended Mr. Kernell and staff on a job well done. He thanked them for helping one of his constituents with an issue related to the CARES Program; the situation was resolved quickly and the recipient was very grateful for the assistance. Mr. Tzouvelekas stated it was amazing that so many people had been helped by the CARES Program.

Vice-Chairman Tripp asked if there was a count available for applications that were started but never completed.

Mr. Kernell stated approximately 5000 applications were actually started; however, many of those were never completed. Staff made numerous attempts to contact the applicants.

Vice-Chairman Tripp inquired about any "lessons learned" from the entire process.

Mr. Kernell stated more emphasis should be placed on the items that were addressed towards the end of the program. Initially, more money was set aside for small businesses but the need never materialized as anticipated. Also, working with community partners was crucial; they were very creative and open about addressing the actual needs of the community.

Item (14) Requests and Motions

- Councilor Norris asked for prayers for her good friend, Reverend Jesse Jackson; he was on the mend after being recently hospitalized. Ms. Norris stated she would continue to pray for Greenville County as well as the United States.
- Councilor Seman stated SCTAC was nearing completing of its new durability track, scheduled to open for business on March 1, 2021. She hoped Council would be able to view the track in the near future.
- Councilor Ballard stated the Committee of the Whole meeting held earlier in the day was very productive. They discussed several different items with no "feathers getting ruffled"; he hoped this was the beginning of many more opportunities for Council to deliberate and come to acceptable solutions.

- Vice-Chairman Tripp echoed Mr. Ballard’s comments. It was a “new night”; he was appreciative of the collegiality on display during the meetings.
- Councilor Shaw thanked the Council Office for the light refreshments served prior to the meeting.
- Councilor Harrison also echoed Mr. Ballard’s comments. He was very impressed and hoped Council had set a good bar for future meetings.
- Councilor Tzouvelekas stated Janice Butler was an amazing lady of integrity. Everyone at Christian Learning Centers loved her; Greenville County and the State of South Carolina was completely blessed by her leadership and her love. He thanked Ms. Butler for everything she had done for the community.
- Councilor Dill stated he had known Ms. Butler for a number of years and he agreed with Mr. Tzouvelekas’ statements.

Mr. Dill wished Ms. Seman a Happy Birthday.

Item (15) Adjournment

Action: Councilor Dill moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Regina G. McCaskill
Clerk to Council