



GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes
Regular Meeting
June 6, 2023
6:05 p.m.

County Square - Council Chambers

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 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
Dean Campbell, Deputy County Attorney
Chris Antley, Assistant County Attorney
John Hansley, Deputy County Administrator
Regina McCaskill, Clerk to Council
Jessica Stone, Deputy Clerk to Council
Pam Gilliam, Administrative Assistant
Phillip Simmons, Information Systems
Nicole Wood, Assistant County Administrator

Hesha Gamble, Assistant County Administrator
Tee Coker, Assistant County Administrator
Shannon Herman, Assistant County Administrator
Dr. Tom Blackwell, Medical Director, Emergency Management Services
Bob Mihalic, Governmental Relations Officer
Ted Lambrecht, Director; Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Ty Houck, Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Meredith Papapieris, Director of Grants and Special Projects
Rashida Jeffers-Campbell, Planning Director

Others Present

Sheriff Hobart Lewis

Call to Order

Chairman Dan Tripp

Invocation – introduced by Councilor Stan Tzouvelekas

Janice Butler, Executive Director
Christian Learning Centers of Greenville

Pledge of Allegiance

Item (4) **Approval of Minutes**

a. **May 16, 2023 – Regular County Council Meeting**

Action: Councilor Tzouvelekas moved approval of the minutes from the May 16, 2023, Regular County Council Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

a. **Senior Action Greenville / 55th Anniversary**

Chairman Tripp presented a proclamation to Senior Action Greenville. Established in 1968, Senior Action currently offered services to approximately 5,000 people each year, in eight locations throughout the County. Its flagship location, a renovated shopping center, opened in 2021; it was a model program for redefining aging services and has received local, state, and national recognition. In addition to providing expanded services, the center served as an innovative example of social entrepreneurship, with retail tenants helping to support the mission of the organization. Senior Action’s services extend far beyond the walls of its centers, with programs like medical transportation, lawn care assistance, home delivered meals (in partnership with Meals on Wheels), and affordable housing at its 48-unit independent living apartment complex.

Approximately 35% (or 189,000) of the County’s residents were over the age of 55, with the number of elderly citizens growing by 50% since 2010. Greenville County’s percentage of seniors was the highest in the State. The challenges to care for this population were growing exponentially as was the cost to provide services.

Greenville County Council recognized the continued efforts of Senior Action and thanked them for their contribution to Greenville County over the past 55 years.

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

There were no speakers.

Item (7) **Public Hearings**

a. **Greater Greenville Sanitation District Annexation / Bradford on East North Subdivision**

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding a resolution to enlarge the boundaries of the Greater Greenville Sanitation District to include the Bradford of East North Subdivision.

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

b. **Greater Greenville Sanitation District Annexation / 5111 Old Buncombe Road**

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding a resolution to enlarge the boundaries of the Greater Greenville Sanitation District to include 5111 Old Buncombe Road, Greenville.

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

c. Greater Greenville Sanitation District Annexation / Pebble Creek Phase I

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding a resolution to enlarge the boundaries of the Greater Greenville Sanitation District to include Pebble Creek Phase I.

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

d. Greenville County Library System Budget / FY2024

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance to approve the appropriation of funds for the Greenville County Library System for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024: and the authorize the annual ad valorem property tax millage levy for library purposes.

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

e. Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area / Millage

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance to provide for the millage rate to be levied by the Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area.

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

f. United Community Bank / First Amendment to the Fee Agreement and Special Source 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 first amendment to a fee in lieu of tax and special source credit agreement between Greenville County, South Carolina and United Community Bank; and other matters related thereto.

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

g. County of Greenville / FY2024 Budget

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance adopting the County of Greenville FY2024 Budget.

- Tina Belge – appeared in favor of the proposed
- Erin Predmore – appeared in favor of the proposed
- Carl Sobicinski – appeared in favor of the proposed
- John Slipke – appeared in favor of the proposed
- Bryan Brown – appeared in favor of the proposed
- Pranceton Williams – appeared in favor of the proposed
- Bernard Kadio – appeared in favor of the proposed
- Lauren Stephens – appeared in favor of the proposed
- Tina Harris – appeared in favor of the proposed
- Eleanor Dunlap – appeared in favor of the proposed
- Lydia Callahan – appeared in opposition to the proposed
- Kyle Gilley – appeared in opposition to the proposed
- David Thomas – appeared in opposition to the proposed

- Annette Burgess – appeared in opposition to the proposed
- Angela Aiken – appeared in opposition to the proposed
- David Shoemaker – appeared in opposition to the proposed
- Stephen Fowler – appeared in opposition to the proposed
- Wayne Jones – appeared in opposition to the proposed

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

h. County of Greenville / FY2025 Budget

A public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving comments from the public regarding an ordinance adopting the County of Greenville FY2025 Budget.

- Susan McLarty – appeared in favor of the proposed
- Felicia Smith – appeared in favor of the proposed
- Dianna Mitchell – appeared in favor of the proposed
- Ronald Duffala – appeared in opposition to the proposed

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

Item (8) Consent Agenda

- a. 2023 Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee / Funding Recommendations
- b. Community Project Application / Fork Shoals Historical Society – Chapman Grove School \$4,000
- c. Community Project Application / Lake Cunningham Fire District – Community Response Project \$3,000
- d. Community Project Application / Dunklin Fire District – Personal Protective Equipment \$5,000
- e. Community Project Application / Greenville Transit Authority (Greenlink) – Digital Signage Upgrade \$10,000
- f. Community Project Application / Canebrake Fire Department – Portable Scene Lights \$1000
- g. Community Project Application / Lake Cunningham Fire District – Response Project \$3,000
- h. Community Project Application / Greer Heritage Museum – Exhibit Development \$1,000

Action: Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved approval of the Consent Agenda items.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (9) Resolutions

- a. **Greater Greenville Sanitation District Annexation / Bradford on East North**

Action: Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved for adoption a resolution to enlarge the boundaries of the Greater Greenville Sanitation District to include the Bradford on East North Subdivision.

Motion carried unanimously.

- b. **Greater Greenville Sanitation District Annexation / 5111 Old Buncombe Road**

Action: Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved for adoption a resolution to enlarge the boundaries of the Greater Greenville Sanitation District to include 5111 Old Buncombe Road, Greenville.

Motion carried unanimously.

c. **Greater Greenville Sanitation District Annexation / Pebble Creek Phase I**

Action: Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved for adoption a resolution to enlarge the boundaries of the Greater Greenville Sanitation District to include Pebble Creek Phase I.

Motion carried unanimously.

d. **Cherokee Landing Apartments Project / \$20,000,000 Multi-family Housing Revenue Bonds**

Action: Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved for adoption a resolution approving the issuance by the Housing Authority of the City of Greenville South Carolina of its not to exceed \$20,000,000 Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds (Cherokee Landing Apartments Project), in one or more series, pursuant to Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; providing certain other matters in connection therewith; and providing an effective date.

Motion carried unanimously.

e. **Project Power / 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 Power, 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 Project/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. **Zoning Ordinances**

i. **CZ-2023-023:** Property of George Anne Jones & Mark Robert Jones, located at 823 and 825 S. Old Fairview Road, Fountain Inn, requesting rezoning from R-R3 to AG.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

ii. **CZ-2023-024:** Property of Athens of Greenville LLC, located at 6503 White Horse Road, Greenville, requesting rezoning from R-10 and C-1 to C-2.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- iii. **CZ-2023-026:** Property of Bevin Ann Berube & Christopher Robert Berube, located at 4835 State Park Road, Travelers Rest, requesting rezoning from R-S to AG.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- iv. **CZ-2023-027:** Property of Jerry Milton Snipes, Sr., located at 2014 and 2016 Fork Shoals Road, Greenville, and Reedy Ford Road, Piedmont, requesting rezoning from R-S to R-12.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Text Amendment to Amend Article 4, Definitions and Article 9, Section 9:5.2, Commercial Vehicles (CZ-2023-30)

Action: Councilor Fant moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance to amend the Greenville County Zoning Ordinance to amend Article 4, Definitions and Article 9, Section 9:5.2 Commercial Vehicles.

Motion carried unanimously.

c. Greenville County Library System Budget

Action: Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance to approve the appropriation of funds for the Greenville County Library System for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024; and to authorize the annual ad valorem property tax millage levy for library purposes.

Action: Councilor Tzouvelekas moved to hold the item for two weeks. He stated he unable to vote in favor of the item as long as the Library Director continued to use public resources to promote one side of the divisive cultural issues. Mr. Tzouvelekas stated holding the item would give the Library Director the opportunity to explain how they were running the Library.

Motion to hold was denied.

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

c. Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area / General Obligation Bond

Action: Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved for adoption at third reading an ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$400,000 Greenville County, South Carolina, General Obligation Bonds (Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area Project), Series 2023C; to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds shall be expended; to provide for the payment thereof; and other matters related thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (11) Ordinances – Second Reading

a. Land Development Regulations Amendment / Subdivision Application Process Waiting Period

Action: Councilor Fant moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to amend the Greenville County Land Development Regulations to establish a waiting period for the submission of subdivision applications following a denial by the Planning Commission.

Action: Councilor Fant moved to return the item to the Planning and Development Committee in order to allow the Committee and staff additional time to work through some issues.

Motion to return the item to the Planning and Development Committee carried unanimously.

b. Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area / Millage

Action: Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved for approval at second reading an ordinance to provide for the millage rate to be levied by the Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area.

Motion carried unanimously.

c. United Community Bank / First Amendment to the Fee Agreement and Special Source Credit Agreement

Action: Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved for approval at second reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a first amendment to a fee in lieu of tax and special source credit agreement between Greenville County, South Carolina and United Community Bank; and other matters related thereto.

Motion carried unanimously.

d. Project Blue / Fee in Lieu of Tax Agreement

Action: Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved for approval at second 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 of companies known to the County at this time as Project Blue, 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.

e. County of Greenville / FY 2024 Budget

Action: Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved for approval at second reading an ordinance adopting the County of Greenville FY 2024 Budget.

Action: Councilor Shaw moved to amend the FY 2024 Budget to provide that any expenditure related to the creation, development, enabling and/or implementation of Affordable Housing shall require that veterans of the United States armed services, or the State of South Carolina National Guard, be given priority over non-veterans for recruitment, retention, application, subsidy, and economic support. Such priority shall be affirmatively set forth in any implementation instruments by any Greenville County official and by any developer of lands, buildings, or properties. Further, the same shall be reported annually to County Council.

Councilor Harrison inquired about the legality of Councilor Shaw's proposed amendment.

Councilor Shaw stated Council had been informed numerous times by the County Attorney and the Attorney General's Office that any action Council took was presumed legal unless and until challenged by a court.

Mr. Tollison stated he was unable to provide a legal opinion regarding Mr. Shaw's amendment without researching the issue.

Vice-Chairwoman Seman stated the County was not responsible for vetting applications for affordable housing; various local agencies were responsible for doing so. Ms. Seman stated she was certain those agencies took into account the important of providing services to veterans, and others, in need of affordable housing.

Chairman Tripp inquired as to where County monies were appropriated for affordable housing.

Mr. Kernell stated GCRA was the County's housing partner. He suggested obtaining a true legal opinion regarding the proposed amendment, given the Fair Housing laws that were in place.

Action: Chairman Tripp ruled Councilor Shaw's amendment, as proposed, out of order.

Chairman Tripp suggested Mr. Shaw research the issue and report back to Council. As currently drafted, the proposed amendment was not appropriate. He stated the proposed amendment must be directed to the correct agency, not Greenville County.

Action: Councilor Shaw moved to amend the FY 2024 Budget to reflect a reduction of \$1.5 million for the Greenville Transit Authority.

Motion to amend was denied.

Action: Councilor Shaw moved to amend the FY 2024 Budget to reflect a reduction of \$3.5 million for the Natural Resources Special Revenue Fund.

Councilor Harrison stated the proposed \$4.5 million to the Natural Resources Special Revenue Fund included monies for the Conestee Dam Project.

Councilor Shaw stated the Conestee Dam Project was important. However, it was a long-term expense; he suggested the County bond the monies needed. Mr. Shaw stated he planned to propose an amendment for the project.

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

Action: Councilor Shaw moved to amend the FY 2024 Budget to reflect a reduction of \$25,000 from the Human Relations budget.

Councilor Harrison stated he respected Mr. Shaw's attempts to reduce the budget; however, "nickel and diming" departments for \$25,000 appeared to be simply "playing politics." The projected deficit was \$21 million.

Councilor Shaw stated he was the only Council Member making any suggestions.

Councilor Fant stated the Human Relations Commission provided a vital service to the community; it recently celebrated 55 years of providing fair housing. He acknowledged the members of the Human Relations Commission and departmental staff who were in attendance and thanked them for their hard work.

Councilor Shaw stated the Human Relations Commission used Greenville County tax money to purchase \$3000 worth of umbrellas to promote its personal views.

Councilor Harrison stated each Council Member received \$20,000 in Community Project monies each year as well as a salary of approximately \$30,000. He suggested cutting those amounts.

Councilor Blount stated it appeared to him that Mr. Shaw was looking at each line item. It was hard for him to make a decision about some of them as Council had not discussed them in depth. He suggested Council should have been working on the budget prior to the evening's meeting.

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

Action: Councilor Shaw moved to amend the FY 2024 budget by freezing the number of all County positions in the current budget so that there were no additional positions. The amendment would not limit or prevent any department or agency from filling open vacancies from the positions that existed prior to this amendment.

Chairman Tripp asked Mr. Shaw if the amendment would eliminate the positions recommended in the proposed budget.

Councilor Shaw stated the proposed amendment would eliminate those positions. He stated that he had not heard from Sheriff Lewis regarding the need for additional staff.

Chairman Pro Tem Kirven stated Sheriff Lewis had outlined the need for additional deputies during the Council Retreat, held earlier in the year.

Councilor Tzouvelekas stated he had attended the Council Retreat and it was his understanding Sheriff Lewis indicated his office had "adequate resources." Mr. Tzouvelekas stated that may have changed since the retreat.

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

Action: Councilor Shaw moved to amend the FY 2024 Budget to provide that all Solid Waste operations must be revenue neutral.

Chairman Tripp inquired about the impact of the proposed amendment in terms of increased landfill fees Greenville County residents would be responsible for paying.

Councilor Shaw stated he did not know what the impact would be.

Action: Councilor Shaw called for the question.

Without objection, the motion to call for the question carried.

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

Action: Councilor Shaw moved to amend the FY 2024 Budget to provide that all Animal Shelter operations must be revenue neutral.

Councilor Shaw stated he loved animals; however, the County could not continue to spend so much money on the shelter. It was considered a luxury and the people using the shelter should pay for it.

Chairman Tripp inquired about the impact of the proposed amendment in terms of increased fees Greenville County residents would be responsible for paying.

Councilor Shaw stated he did not know what the impact would be.

Action: Councilor Shaw called for the question.

Without objection, the question was called.

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

Action: Councilor Tzouvelekas moved to amend the FY 2024 Budget to reflect a decrease of \$2 million for Affordable Housing, resulting in a .7 reduction in the millage rate.

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

Action: Councilor Tzouvelekas moved to amend the FY 2024 Budget to reflect a transfer of \$700,000 from the Municipal Paving Sharing Fund to the Greenville County General Fund, resulting in a .02 reduction in the millage rate.

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

Action: Councilor Tzouvelekas moved to amend the FY 2024 Budget to reflect a transfer of \$300,000 from Next Funding to the Greenville County General Fund, resulting in a .01 reduction in the millage rate.

Mr. Kernell stated the \$300,000 for Next Funding was for both years of the budget; \$150,000 for each year.

Councilor Tzouvelekas amended the amendment to reflect \$150,000 as opposed to \$300,000.

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

Action: Councilor Tzouvelekas moved to amend the FY 2024 Budget to reflect deletion of Community Project monies in the amount of approximately \$24,000 available to each Council Member for donation to local organizations.

Mr. Kernell stated each Council Member received \$20,456 per year for Community Projects, for a total of \$245,472.

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

Councilor Bradley made the following motion on behalf of Council Members Chairman Tripp, Vice-Chairwoman Seman, Chairman Pro Tem Kirven, Councilor Fant, Councilor Harrison, Councilor Mitchell, Councilor Barnes and himself.

Action: Councilor Bradley moved to amend the FY 2024 Budget from a proposed 11 mill increase to a 7 mill increase as follows:

1. Reduce the proposed General Fund millage rate by 3.0 mills
2. Increase Building / Code Enforcement Revenues by \$2,947,465
3. Increase transfer from Workers Compensation Fund by \$500,000
4. Increase transfer from Infrastructure Bank by \$1,000,000
5. Reduce Health Insurance premiums by \$3,000,000
6. Reduce transfer from the General Fund to Capital Projects for the following projects:
 - a. Information Technology - \$400,000
 - b. Register of Deeds Historical Documents - \$500,000
 - c. Sheriff's Office Target System - \$800,000
7. Reduce the Solid Waste millage rate by 0.5 mill
8. Increase Solid Waste Revenue by \$1,500,000
9. Reduce the Natural Resources Fund by \$2,000,000 for the Conestee Dam
10. Reduce Parks, Recreation and Tourism millage rate by 0.5 mill
11. Increase transfer from Hospitality Tax Fund by \$1,500,000

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

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

f. County of Greenville / FY 2025 Budget

Action: Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved for approval at second reading an ordinance adopting the County of Greenville FY 2025 Budget.

Action: Councilor Bradley moved to amend the FY 2025 Budget from a proposed 11 mill increase to a 7 mill increase as follows:

1. Reduce the proposed General Fund millage rate by 3.0 mills
2. Increase Building / Code Enforcement Revenues by \$3,006,414
3. Increase transfer from Workers Compensation Fund by \$500,000
4. Increase transfer from Infrastructure Bank by \$1,000,000
5. Reduce Health Insurance premiums by \$3,000,000
6. Reduce transfer from the General Fund to Capital Projects for the following projects:
 - a. Information Technology - \$400,000
 - b. Register of Deeds Historical Documents - \$500,000
 - c. Travelers Rest Maintenance Camo Roof Replacement - \$280,000
 - d. Video Laryngoscopy - \$200,000
7. Reduce the Solid Waste millage rate by 0.5 mill
8. Increase Solid Waste Revenue by \$1,500,000
9. Add \$500,000 to the Natural Resources Fund for the Conestee Dam
10. Reduce Medical Charities fund by \$500,000

11. Reduce Parks, Recreation and Tourism millage rate by 0.5 mill
12. Increase transfer from Hospitality Tax Fund by \$1,500,000

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

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

Item (12) Ordinances – First Reading

a. Greenville County Historic and Natural Resources Trust (HNRT) / HNRT Project Campfire

Chairman Pro Tem Kirven presented for first reading an ordinance authorizing the Greenville County Historic and Natural Resources Trust (HNRT) to provide funding for a project known to the County at this time as HNRT Project Campfire.

Chairman Tripp stated the item would remain on the floor.

Item (13) Committee Reports

a. Committee of the Whole

i. Revised Greenville County Board and Commission Policy

Action: On behalf of the Committee, Vice-Chairwoman Seman moved to approve the revised Greenville County Board and Commission Policy as recommended by the Committee of the Whole.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item (14) Administrator’s Report

Mr. Kernell thanked Council for supporting the proposed budget. He also recognized all the County employees who were in attendance for their support as well.

Item (15) Requests and Motions

- Councilor Shaw stated he was glad to hear Councilor Mitchell’s voice during the meeting. He hoped he would be back in person soon.
- Councilor Harrison stated the University Redevelopment Project would bring an estimated \$1 billion in private investment to Greenville County. Once completed, the property was expected to bring in approximately \$25 million in property tax revenue annually. Mr. Harrison stated he, along with several of his colleagues, planned to present a resolution at the next Council meeting scheduled for June 20. The resolution would commit all net new revenues from the project to County property tax reductions. If passed, the resolution would set the stage to bring down the County’s tax millage to a lower rate, resulting in tax savings for property owners and dropping the need for millage increases for the coming years.

- Chairman Pro Tem Kirven reminded everyone of the 79th anniversary of the D-Day invasion which occurred during World War II on June 6, 1944. He thanked Sheriff Lewis and his staff for all their hard work protecting the citizens of Greenville County.
- Councilor Blount stated the budget consisted of many issues in addition to public transportation, affordable housing and all County staff, all for which he was an advocate.
- Chairman Tripp stated under the proposed budget, as amended earlier in the evening, a home with tax value of \$100,000 would see an increase of approximately \$28 per year. That amount did not represent an increase of 23%. Mr. Tripp stated the millage increase was a responsible act, needed to ensure law enforcement and EMS positions were not cut. Greenville County had not raised taxes in 28 years; however, Council had to deal with the facts and realities of increased costs. Currently, it cost the County \$42,000 to hire a deputy; a few years ago, that amount was \$28,000. Mr. Tripp stated Greenville County continued to grow. It was Council's responsibility to make informed decisions, based on facts and not the voices of fear and negativity.
- Councilor Tzouvelekas stated the County had raised its budget by \$100 million from 2020; the population of Greenville County had only risen by 30,000. Mr. Tzouvelekas stated he understood the County was growing, but, he wanted everyone to "put those number together."
- Councilor Fant stated the evening's meeting and the last few weeks had been a democratic republic process at work. It had been brutally painful. He applauded Chairman Tripp for his leadership; he had been "clobbered" the past few weeks.

Item (16) **Adjournment**

Action: Chairman Pro Tem Kirven moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina G. McCaskill
Clerk to Council