

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF GREER
SOUTH CAROLINA**

January 8, 2008

**MEETING LOCATION: 1306 West Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29650**

REGULAR SESSION
6:30 PM

Greer City Council met in regular session with Mayor Rick Danner presiding. Council members present: Wryley Bettis, Sandra Anderson, Joe Baldwin, Jay Arrowood and Belle Coxe Mercado. Councilman Wayne Griffin was absent. Also present: Ed Driggers, City Administrator, Mike Sell, Assistant City Administrator, Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk, Steve Owens Communications Manager and various other staff and media.

Mayor Danner called the Regular Session to order at 6:45 p.m.

Invocation was given by Councilman Joe Baldwin.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Judge Henry (Hank) Mims swore in Commissioner of Public Works Gene Gibson, Council members Sandra Anderson, Wryley Bettis, Jay Arrowood and Mayor Rick Danner.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one signed up to speak during the Public Forum session.

MINUTES OF December 11, 2007

Councilman Bettis made a motion that the minutes of December 11, 2007 be received as written. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Ann Cunningham, Director of Parks and Recreation presented her annual departmental report.

Building and Development Standards, Engineering and Storm Water, Finance Report, Fire Department, Municipal Court, Parks & Recreation, Police Department and Public Services November 2007 were included in packet for informational purposes.

PETITIONERS

Billie June Free, 203 Blue Ridge Drive – Mrs. Free stated trash, leaves and other debris is not being picked up in a timely manner in the Burgess Hill area.

Discussion followed.

Bruce Demauro, 105 Maple Place – Mr. Demauro feels picking up the leaves six times a season is not enough. He requested additional pick up times.

Discussion followed.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT **Ed Driggers, City Administrator**

Mr. Driggers asked Bob Urness, Staff Accountant to present the financial report.

Mr. Urness stated the following:

The **Finance Report** for the period ending November 30, 2007.

Revenues:	\$ 2,900,000.00	(\$2,955,176.00)
Expenditures	\$ 6,600,000.00	(\$6,596,781.00)

The City is currently 4% under budget for this time period.

Mr. Driggers asked Skipper Burns, Director of Public Services to provide information on the City's **Garbage Service and Leaf and Debris pick up program**.

Mr. Burns stated the City is divided into three (3) sections. We work a week (5 days) in each section. We work around holidays; we add a week at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We get to every section six (6) times per year. We have approximately six thousand homes (6000) to pick up during the year. We run three (3) trucks.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Driggers stated "We will communicate to the neighborhoods their individual pick up schedules. This should allow them to be aware of the day their garbage will be picked up and this should eliminate the confusion.

UPDATE

Construction Projects Update – The construction team did not meet every week during the Christmas and New Year holiday, but the crews continued to work. The brick work at the Police and Courts complex is substantially complete at this point. The brick work at the City Hall Complex will continue through February. We are substantially framed in at the City Hall site and a good bit of the sheet rock at the Police and Courts building is finished and priming is taking place. We are ahead of schedule (About 4 weeks) on the Police and Courts Complex; we are on schedule on the City Hall Complex. In the next construction meeting we will discuss anticipated move in dates and spend a good bit of time at the Council Planning Retreat talking about the process that will be required to make the move. We did have a situation with some storm water run off and we required correction action to be taken. We are monitoring that situation very closely.

CALENDAR

Chamber Banquet – Thursday, January 17th at 6:00pm. If you have informed us we have your reservation, if you have not informed us we do not have your reservation.

Strategic Planning Retreat – Thursday and Friday, January 24th and 25th starting at 9:00 am at the Cottages at Brushy Creek. Thursday evening the Planning Commission will come in and meet with City Council during the dinner hour with presentations regarding the Comprehensive Planning Act and the process required by law.

Greenville City / County Reception for Elected Officials - Thursday, February 7th 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm at the Carolina First Center.

CAFR – You should have received your copy of the Comprehensive Annual Report (CAFR). It is the expanded audit. This information will also be available on our website.

Mr. Driggers had no items to discuss in executive session.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Airport Environs Commission

Mayor Danner nominated Michael D. Greer to fill the vacancy created by the death of Barry Foreman to the Airport Environs Commission.

Councilman Baldwin made a motion to appoint Michael D. Greer to fill the vacancy created by Barry Foreman on the Airport Environs Commission with the term expiring 6/30/2009. Councilman Bettis seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals

Councilman Bettis made a motion based on the recommendation of Phil Rhoads, Director of Building and Development Standards to appoint David Greer to fill the vacancy created by Dan Leach on the Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals with the term expiring 12/31/2009. Councilwoman Anderson seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0

Greer Development Corporation Board of Directors

Councilman Baldwin made a motion to re-appoint Larry Wilson to the Greer Development Corporation Board of Directors with the term expiring 12/31/2010. Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0

No nominations were made for the District 3 seat on the **Board of Zoning Appeals**.

NEW BUSINESS

ELECT MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Section 5-7-190 Immediately after any general election for council, the council elects from its membership a mayor pro tempore for a term of not more than two years. The mayor pro tempore acts as mayor during the mayor's absence or disability. If a vacancy occurs in the office of mayor, the mayor pro tempore serves as mayor until a successor is elected.

Councilman Baldwin made a motion to appoint Councilman Wryley Bettis as Mayor Pro Tempore. Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

No other nominations were made.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0. Councilman Bettis abstained from the vote.

FEMA GRANT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Chris Harvey stated FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) awarded the Fire Department \$201,000.00 Assistance to Firefighter Grant to assist with the purchase of 38 self-contained breathing units, 18 additional face masks and an ultrasonic mask cleaner. FEMA will fund \$180,900.00 the City of Greer will need to fund the ten percent (10%) match of \$20,100.00. The new air packs will meet the 2007 standards.

Mr. Driggers stated: There are three ways this can be done, we can appropriate the match and we would recognize there would be an overage in the expense line item in the Fire Department in this amount. That would be a transfer from the Fund Balance. Another alternative is to fund this in the 2008 budget. The last alternative is funding this with a check we received this week from FEMA reimbursing us for expenses we incurred for clean up during the ice storm event 2005. The check is in the amount of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00). These are not budgeted funds.

Councilman Bettis made a motion to accept the grant and accept the ten percent (10%) match and fund it with the thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00) check received from FEMA. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Brief discussion followed.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Chris Harvey stated Homeland Security awarded the Fire Department a grant to purchase two 800 MHz radios to be used for interoperability on a county wide basis. They can be reprogrammed for state use also. The City's match would be twenty percent (20%) equaling seventeen hundred dollars (\$1700.00). The options for funding are the same as the FEMA Grant.

Brief discussion followed.

Councilman Bettis made a motion to accept the grant and accept the twenty percent (20%) match and fund it with the thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00) check received from FEMA. Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

CONTRACT FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE – 612 LINE STREET

Mr. Driggers stated this piece of property is at the corner of Snow Street and Line Street. We initially purchased this property several years ago when there was some desire by SCDOT to make improvements to Snow Street connecting Highway 101 to Highway 14. There are no plans at DOT at this time to make any improvements to that area. The house on this lot was demolished using Federal HUD funds about four years ago. We are currently maintaining this lot. It is being mowed b-monthly. We contacted Greenville County Redevelopment Authority to see if they had any interest in developing that site and they indicated they do not and had no desire in acquiring that property either by purchase or by donation. Based on the Greenville County reassessment we do believe the eight thousand dollars (\$8,000.00) offer is a fair offer, however we have not had it appraised. If it is the desire of Council to sell this property it would be transferred to the adjacent property owners (Miguel Agamez and Maide Jaramillo). They are looking to expand their

lawn area. Our recommendation is to accept the offer.

Discussion followed.

Councilman Baldwin made a motion to accept the contract with the offer of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000.00) for the purchase of 612 Line Street. Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion failed 4-2 with Council members Bettis, Anderson, Arrowood and Danner voting in opposition.

GENERAL UTILITY RIGHT OF WAY - 117 WADE HAMPTON BLVD

Mr. Driggers stated the property is located in front of veterinary clinic beside the firework stand and fronts Wade Hampton Blvd. It is a rather deep ravine, gully area. It is in the name of the City of Greer, it has always been the City's belief and CPW's belief that this property was owned by CPW. They have sewer infrastructure on site. In doing a title search on this property we can not find that it was ever purchased by or for CPW, it is only in the name of the City purchased in 1928. CPW is requesting a right of way for the existing sewer on that site.

Brief discussion followed.

Councilwoman Mercado made a motion to grant the General Utility Right of Way. Councilman Baldwin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

LIBERTY PROPERTY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP LANDSCAPE EASEMENT AGREEMENT

Mr. Driggers stated contained in your packet is a document from the City Attorney granting a landscape easement to Liberty Property Limited Partnership for the Caliber Ridge Industrial Park. Their desire is to do a higher level of landscaping to the entrance of that park. This landscaping would be in the public right of way therefore, they are asking for a landscape easement. This has been reviewed and approved by our attorney. Therefore, I bring this as a recommendation for approval.

Councilwoman Mercado made a motion to accept the recommendation to grant the easement. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Brief discussion followed.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Danner stated an Executive Session was not needed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Richard W. Danner, Mayor

Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk