

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

**October 23, 2007**

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

**REGULAR SESSION**

**6:30 PM**

Greer City Council met in regular session with Mayor Pro Tempore, Joseph Baldwin presiding. Council members present: Wryley Bettis, Wayne Griffin, and Jay Arrowood. Councilwoman Belle Coxe Mercado arrived at 6:33 pm and Councilwoman Sandra Anderson arrived 6:37. Mayor Rick Danner 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 Pro Tempore Baldwin called the Regular Session to order at 6:32 p.m.

Invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tempore Joseph Baldwin.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

No one signed up to speak during the Public Forum session of tonight's meeting.

**MINUTES OF October 9, 2007**

Councilman Bettis made a motion that the minutes of October 9, 2007 be received as written. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

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

Phil Rhoads, Director of Building and Development Standards stated he received a report from Al Kassin, Nuisance Abatement Officer stating nine (9) houses are going to GCRA

for demolition. Those houses are located on Austin, King, Spring, Fifth Street, Twentieth Street, Fairview, Jones Ave and Oak Street.

Mr. Driggers stated The Fire Department will host the South Carolina Fire Chief's Association Fall Meeting starting Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> through the end of the week.

Ann Cunningham, Director of Parks and Recreation provided an additional handout to Council with additional activities for the month of September.

David Seifert, Director of Finance and Information Technology, stated the following:

Finance Department: Finance Report for the period ending September 30, 2007.

Revenues: \$ 1,027,413.00  
Expenditures \$ 3,281,040.00

The City is currently 6% under budget for this time period.

### **PETITIONER**

Camilla Pitman

Camilla Pitman introduced Miss Greater Greer, Stephanie Vaughn and Miss Greater Greer Teen, Caitlyn Howard. The queens spoke briefly about their platforms.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

**Ed Driggers, City Administrator**

Mr. Driggers expressed his appreciation to Council for allowing him to attend the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual International City/County Managers Association Meeting held in Pittsburg.

**Victor Mill Environmental Study** – We were aware Spartanburg County was engaged in a phase one environmental study. Based on the use and age of the site the report came back stating there was likelihood there could be contamination at that site. Spartanburg County is now trying to locate funding resources to move to a phase two study. We are working very closely with them. A substantial amount of private interest has been shown in the site and we are partnering with Spartanburg County in how those efforts may move forward. There is a great interest on behalf of Spartanburg County for that site to be cleaned and rehabilitated and redeveloped.

**Pennsylvania Avenue & Beverly Lane** - I have been approached on several occasions to determine if we have any interest in offering for sale or developing property we own adjacent to our Operations Center on Pennsylvania Avenue. There is some interest in acquiring that property for commercial development. We feel the property serves as a buffer to the operations center for the adjacent residential area. If it is your interest that we pursue offering that property for sale or development I will need some

directive on how to proceed. Discussion followed. Council stated if we receive an offer we will consider it but the property is not actively being marketed for sale.

**Council Orientation** – Council orientation is scheduled for **November 20<sup>th</sup>**. If there are new members of Council those new members will be invited in to work with the departments and staff as well as receiving information on our form of government and operations and procedures within the City of Greer. We have found in years past when we offer this orientation existing Council Members may like the opportunity for a refresher as well. We visit all of our departments and facilities and hold the orientation as well. As the results of the election are determined we will know if we will hold a new member orientation. We will still offer the opportunity for current Council Members to receive a refresher and update in those areas. If it is your desire.

**Leaf Collection Program** – Our leaf collection program will start next week. This information will be posted on the website and TV channel. We will place flyers with the information in resident's boxes as well. If you have any questions please give us a call.

**Fire Prevention Week** – As part of Fire Prevention Week the Fire Department is continuing to distribute smoke detectors.

**Millage Rate** – We have maintained our current millage rate for six years. We are in a reassessment year with Greenville County and there will be a rollback of our millage. The millage will rollback from 93.9 to 93.1. This is a .08 mill rollback.

**Calendar:**

**Veteran's Day Luncheon** – Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> is our Veteran's Day Luncheon we will honor all of our employees at that event and we invite Mayor and Council to participate on that day as well.

Councilman Griffin voiced his concerned with the Mayor's trip (Germany). He stated "Council was not informed to my knowledge, at least I wasn't. I think that that was something that was important enough that, I've been getting a lot of inquiries about what is going on and I don't have any answers because I read it like everybody else read it in the paper. I think that is something that was important enough that it should have been brought to our attention."

Mr. Driggers stated "The Mayor was traveling at no expense to the City; those costs are being covered by other means. There are no expenses to the tax payers of the City for that trip. It is not a City trip, the trip was at the request of Upstate Alliance, it is an economic development trip in conjunction with other private projects that are taking place in our area. He was invited to attend with those delegates, he is representing the City as the Mayor because that was the request made because the contacts being made in Germany particularly ask for a political representative of the area to accompany the delegation."

Councilman Griffin stated 'He questioned too whether it is coming out of tax payer funds since we do fund GDC (Greer Development Corporation) so heavily and I noticed in the paper it stated GDC was helping pay for a portion of that, you know so I'm not so sure you can say that it's not. You know no to say I'm against it, cause I'm not against anything that brings jobs and economic development here but I think that being on Council and representing you know a certain segment of the population that that is information that should be shared."

Mr. Driggers stated "Absolutely, and I think that responsibility would have been the Mayors not mine and I will make sure that information is passed along."

Councilman Bettis added "GDC has a budget for such things as this, we didn't just conjure up the money we budget money every year for and I think probably the reason Reno didn't go is he is kind of a new comer and it was felt that possibly it would be better for an established figure to make the trip and he is really just filling in for Reno."

### **UPDATE ON ELECTIONS**

Tammy Duncan, Municipal Clerk updated Council on the November 6, 2007 General Election. Polls are open from 7:00am to 7:00pm. A current list of precincts and polling sites is available on our website and at City Hall. A candidate roster was included in the agenda packet including names and districts of all participants in the Municipal Election. Certified results of the election will be placed in an upcoming agenda packet.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 45-2007**  
**APPROVING THE FINANCING OF THE IMPROVEMENT, EXTENSION AND ENLARGEMENT OF THE COMBINED UTILITY SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF GREER, SOUTH CAROLINA, THROUGH THE BORROWING BY THE CITY OF NOT EXCEEDING \$13,600,000 INCLUDING CAPITALIZED INTEREST, IF ANY, FROM THE STATE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL REVOLVING LOAN FUND, BY AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY, PURSUANT TO TITLE 48, CHAPTER 5, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR AN AGREEMENT TO MAKE AND TO ACCEPT A LOAN; THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY; THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A PROMISSORY NOTE FROM THE CITY TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY; APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF A SURETY BOND FOR CREDIT TO THE 2007A DEBT SERVICE RESERVE FUND; APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A GUARANTY AGREEMENT BY THE CITY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.**

Councilman Bettis made a motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance Number 45-2007. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 46-2007**  
**AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 62-63 TO THE CITY OF GREER MUNICIPAL CODE PROHIBITING PUBLIC URINATION AND DEFECATION**

Councilwoman Mercado made a motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance Number 46-2007. Councilman Bettis seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-2 with Councilman Wayne Griffin and Councilwoman Sandra Anderson voting in opposition.

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 47-2007**  
**AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 62-117 TO THE CITY OF GREER MUNICIPAL CODE PROHIBITING THE IMPERSONATION OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

Councilwoman Mercado made a motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance Number 47-2007. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 48-2007**  
**AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 62-118 TO THE CITY OF GREER MUNICIPAL CODE PROHIBITING THE INTERFERING WITH OFFICERS IN PERFORMANCE OF DUTY**

Councilman Griffin made a motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance Number 48-2007. Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 49-2007**  
**AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 62-119 TO THE CITY OF GREER MUNICIPAL CODE THAT PROHIBITS OPPOSING OR RESISTING ARREST OR SERVICE OF PROCESS BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

Councilwoman Mercado made a motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance Number 49-2007. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **BID SUMMARY – DEMOLITION OF STEVENS AND CITY BALL FIELDS**

**Ann Cunningham, Director of Parks and Recreation**

Ann Cunningham, Director of Parks and Recreation recommended DH Griffin Wrecking in the amount of \$63,000.00. (Attached)

Discussion followed.

Councilwoman Anderson made a motion to accept the bid submitted by DH Griffin in the amount of \$63,000.00 for demolition of Stevens and City Ball Field. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

## **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**

**Ed Driggers, City Administrator**

Mr. Driggers stated under the South Carolina Comprehensive Plan Act we have the responsibility each ten (10) years to update our community's comprehensive plan. Our plan was adopted in 1999 as required by state statute it is reviewed at five (5) year intervals and we did that in 2004 and we are now in the process of preparing to move forward with a complete rewrite and revision of our existing comprehensive plan and all of the elements contained in it. The Priority Investment Act passed by the State Legislature this year is assisting us with this process. The Priority Investment Act requires political subdivision to communicate its planning processes with each other we are very supportive of that and have embarked in making notification to all of the political subdivisions that we are effected by. The required districts, airport, counties, the special purpose district any one that has any interest whatsoever with political subdivision in how this community grows and how the growth of this community affects those adjoining subdivisions as well. It is our intent to involve all of those parties as part of our process of rewriting our comprehensive plan. Tom Meeks with the Greenville County Planning Commission will be leading this charge with us, it will be a process we will be involved in for the next year as we move forward through 2008 working on this plan and them adopting a new comprehensive plan in 2009. We will provide multiple opportunities for public involvement in this process; we encourage the public to get involved as we look at land use, our road infrastructure, schools and all quality of life issues that effect use as a community. This provides a policy guideline that you as Council will adopt. This directs us as staff how to move forward in planning

this community for residential, commercial and industrial growth development as we move forward in the coming years. We are inviting in staff representatives November 13<sup>th</sup> , our staff will hold a meeting with the planning staffs of political subdivisions we are affecting and we will be making them aware of this process and how we will move forward.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin stated there were no items for discussion in Executive Session.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

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Richard W. Danner, Mayor

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Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk