

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

June 24, 2008

**MEETING LOCATION: 100 South Main Street
Greer, SC 29650**

PUBLIC HEARING

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

Mayor Danner called the Public Hearing to order at 6:31 p.m.

Subject: **ORDINANCE NUMBER 21-2008**

**AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE FISCAL AFFAIRS OF THE CITY OF GREER,
SOUTH CAROLINA, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFORE, LEVYING TAXES,
AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

No one signed up to speak during the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:33 pm.

REGULAR SESSION

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

Mayor Danner called the Regular Session to order at 6:33 p.m.

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Councilman Wayne Griffin.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one spoke during the Public Forum session.

MINUTES OF June 10, 2008

Councilman Bettis made a motion that the minutes of **June 10, 2008** be received as written. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Danner presented Curtis Mitchell with a proclamation and gift in honor of his retirement from the Public Services Department.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Building and Development Standards, Engineering and Storm Water, Finance Report, Fire Department, Municipal Court, Parks & Recreation, Police Department and Public Services May 2008 Monthly Activity Reports were included in packet for informational purposes.

PETITIONER

Perry Williams, Jr.

Mr. Perry Williams, Jr. of 401 West Poinsett Street stated he was working on his Eagle Scout Project and would like to request permission to relocate the Veteran's Monument from Main Street to Veteran's Park. Mayor Danner stated Mr. Williams will work with Ann Cunningham, Director of Parks and Recreation to relocate the monument. Council will consider adding this item (as New Business) to the agenda for action later in the meeting.

PRESENTATION

**Mike Sell, Assistant City Administrator
2008 Strategic Plan**

Mike Sell gave a brief explanation of the Goals and Objectives of the 2008 Strategic Plan to Council. Council was given copies of the Strategic Plan. He stated he will request Council's consideration of approval and adoption of the plan in July.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Mike also updated Council on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. He stated the process was on schedule. He also encouraged Council to nominate people to serve

on the Steering Committee. Mayor Danner requested Council review the Steering Committee members; if they did not have representation from their district please encourage a constituent from their district to serve on the committee.

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

David Seifert, Director of Finance and Information Technology, summarized the financial report.

Finance Report for the period ending May 31, 2008.

Revenues: \$ 1,101,552.

Expenditures: \$ 1,619,431.

Year to Date

Revenues: \$14,564,897.

Expenditures: \$14,860,508.

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

Brief discussion followed.

2007-2008 Budget - Mr. Driggers stated we are at a critical time of year for the budget, we will monitor it closely. We will spend thirty (30) to sixty (60) days after the end of the budget year (through accounting standards) applying and accruing expenses and revenues to the current budget. Nothing at this point has given us any major concern. We will keep you informed.

UPDATE

Construction Projects Update – Court / Police building – We are continuing to work with SYS Constructors on approximately forty (40) punch list items in this building, nothing major. **City Hall** – continuing to move ahead of schedule, we are about forty-five (45) days ahead. We will close our offices Thursday, July 10th at 3:00 pm to get our employees to the site to brief them on some moving instructions. We give plenty of Public Notice on this. Employees will have the responsibility of packing their work areas and office areas and group areas during the night on Thursday. The movers will come in and psychically relocate our property on Friday. We are still six weeks ahead of schedule for this project. Everything is in place and all arrangements have been made. We will conduct a private tour for City Council and Greer Trust July 8th at 4:00 pm you will receive additional information at a later time. The **Park** property is moving very well. We are on schedule with the park. We anticipate a mid to late September opening. Because of the difference in the schedules for getting into the City Hall site and the Park opening we would like to entertain the possibility of us dedicating the City

Hall building separate from the park. If you are not opposed to that please share that with me over the next several weeks.

As a result of us being ahead of schedule on the building one of the furniture providers was not able to move their schedule up as far as we have been able to, to deliver some furniture we have ordered. We will have some public furnishings (lobby) that will be a couple of weeks behind the move in. It will not affect the day to day operations of the office. The only operational issue that is impacted by that is me personally because my office furniture and the Mayor's office furniture will not arrive until a couple of weeks after the move. We've made a decision not to bring in temporary furnishings the Mayor has agreed to float and work in other spaces for those couple of weeks and I' going to do the same thing. Because of this delay if it does not arrive and is set up by the July 22nd meeting we would need to hold one additional meeting at the Court House. We will let you know that as we get closer to that date.

Brief discussion followed.

MASC Summer Meeting – All plans have been finalized and we plan to participate in the Municipal Association Summer Meeting. If you have any questions as we move forward please let me know.

BellSouth Email – I want to let you know because three (3) of our Council members are affected by this; we discovered last week we were having some issues with bellsouth.net. If anyone is using bellsouth.net we have been informed there was some spamming, a cityofgreer.org address got into the Bellsouth system and wreaked havoc. They have placed us on a black list and we are not able to receive or transmit email communications with anyone in the Bell South network. We are working diligently on this issue to get it resolved.

Municipal Elected Officials Handbook – You should have received new handbooks from the Municipal Association. (Handbook distributed to each Councilmember by Tammy Duncan) I encourage you to read it, some information has changed.

Employee Retirement Health Benefits Plan – Before you take action on the budget, there is an impact on employee retiree health insurance benefits. We talked about implementing a fifteen (15) year threshold of eligibility, we talked about tying benefits received to years of service as a percentage and we talked about implementing the one hundred and fifty (\$150.00) dollar a month premium to retiree benefits. We hope we communicated the amount of dollars in this budget to fund GASB 45 requirement requires that we do each of those things. I think we all have a good grasp that you have to work here for fifteen (15) years to be eligible, I think we all have a very good grasp of what it means that the premium will go to one hundred and fifty (\$150.00) a month and there had not been a premium previously. What I'm not sure there has been clear communication on is the item "Tying benefits received to years of service as a percentage". As we sat down to work on this we discovered it became a nightmare to determine a way it could actually be administered. Mr. Driggers read the current policy on retirement and explained the proposed process. We've always been able to fund the cost of retiree insurance through the premiums we generate internally.

It's GASB 45 that is making us book the liability now. Their concerns are as more and more people become eligible and take advantage of the benefits we have to have financial resources to pay the premiums.

Discussion followed.

Mayor Danner stated "There was some understanding that there would not be a direct impact to the current retirees, they are grandfathered in." Council's consensus was yes.

Mr. Driggers stated "It is very feasible that you move forward with the business you have at hand and say we're not prepared to make those decisions we will approve our budget with the \$202,000.00 in there and come back at a later date and make these decisions and deal with it then." Mr. Driggers stated he wanted to make a full disclosure so that someone can't come back and state I thought it was in the budget.

Councilman Bettis requested additional information.

Councilwoman Mercado suggested approving the budget as it stands and come back at a later date after we have had time to work it all out and digest it to make that decision.

Mayor Danner stated "I think there may be some validity to at least some discussion that we would take note that changes in regards to our employment system would be effective with the budget which would be July 1, 2008 so that anybody hired beyond that date would be subject to any new stipulations that we come up with."

Mr. Driggers had one personnel matter and one economic development matter to discuss in Executive Session with no action requested.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Board of Zoning Appeals

Councilman Jay Arrowood nominated Loan Nelson for reappointment to the District 1 seat on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilman Baldwin seconded the motion

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 13-2008

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GREER, SOUTH CAROLINA ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE FEE SCHEDULE FOR ADMINISTRATION; BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS DEPARTMENT; ENGINEERING AND STORMWATER DEPARTMENT; FINANCE DEPARTMENT; FIRE DEPARTMENT;

MUNICIPAL COURT; PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT; POLICE DEPARTMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

Councilwoman Mercado made a motion to approve Second and Final Reading of Ordinance Number 13-2008. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

**SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 20-2008
AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL CODES RELATING TO INSPECTION ACTIVITIES OF THE CITY OF GREER, GREENVILLE COUNTY AND SPARTANBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND ENFORCEMENT OF BUILDING PROVISIONS AS PROVIDED IN SAID CODES**

Councilman Bettis made a motion to approve Second and Final Reading of Ordinance Number 20-2008. Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

**SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 21-2008
AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE FISCAL AFFAIRS OF THE CITY OF GREER, SOUTH CAROLINA, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFORE, LEVYING TAXES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Councilman Griffin made a motion to approve Second and Final Reading of Ordinance Number 21-2008 with the following understanding current retirees are grandfathered into the program and new employees beyond July 1, 2008 will be subject to action taken by Council retroactively. Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST TO ADD AN ITEM OF NEW BUSINESS TO THE AGENDA

Councilman Bettis made a motion to add an item (Relocate the Veteran's Monument from Main Street to Veteran's Park) to the agenda. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

APPOINTMENT TO HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
Requested by Fire Chief Chris Harvey

Chief Harvey recommended Brian Holt to serve as the representative of the development / real estate sector and George McCall for the At-Large representative on the hazard Mitigation Plan Steering Committee.

Councilman Arrowood made a motion to appoint Brian Holt to serve as the representative of the development / real estate sector and George McCall for the At-Large representative to the hazard Mitigation Plan Steering Committee. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

RELOCATION OF VETERAN'S MONUMENT
Requested by Perry Williams Jr.

Councilman Bettis made a motion to allow Perry Williams Jr. to relocate the Veteran's Monument located on Main Street to Veteran's Park. Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Danner stated an Executive Session was needed to discuss one Personnel matter and one Economic Development matter.

Councilman Bettis made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the matters as stated by the Mayor. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Mayor Danner stated that Council discussed one Personnel matter and one Economic Development matter in Executive Session with no action needed.

Councilwoman Mercado made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Richard W. Danner, Mayor

Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk