

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

July 22, 2008

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

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 Jay Arrowood.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one spoke during the Public Forum session.

MINUTES OF July 8, 2008

Councilman Bettis made a motion that the minutes of **July 8, 2008** be received as written. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

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

PRESENTATION
SCMIT and SCMIRF Annual Report Card
Fire Chief Chris Harvey

Chief Harvey presented the annual report card for SCMIT (South Carolina Municipal Insurance Trust and SCMIRF South Carolina Municipal Insurance Risk and Financing Fund. (Attached)

Discussion followed.

PRESENTATION
Upstate Alliance
Hal Johnson, Executive Director

Hal Johnson, Executive Director of Upstate Alliance updated Council on Upstate Alliance's projects this year. Mr. Johnson also updated Council on members of the Alliance's Staff, members of the Executive Committee, the Alliance's operating budget, Public Sector Investors, Upstate Economic Developers, Upstate investors, target markets and the 2008 Marketing Agenda. Mr. Johnson stated they have had twenty-two (22) total requests for information this year. Of those sixteen (16) were sent to the City of Greer, five (5) of those came from the Department of Commerce, eleven (11) were Upstate Alliance. Of the sixteen (16) RFI's five (5) have been responded to and are pending, two (2) projects are inactive or on hold, two (2) selected other areas and seven (7) RFI's Greer did not have eligible product (building, site, industrial park) what ever the company is looking for. Of the sixteen (16) RFI's we've sent we've seen nine (9) visits to the City of Greer, which is a significant number. He stated Reno has done a great job. He also informed Council of the Upstate Alliance's website and its abilities. He reminded Council of their "I was blown away.com" website.

Discussion followed.

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 June 30, 2008.

Revenues: \$ 16,753,485.

Expenditures: \$ 16,254,390.

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

Discussion followed.

UPDATE

Construction Projects Update:

City Hall – our move into City Hall was behind the scenes and seamless. We were able to get all of our technology relocated, we had a few glitches but they were internal and people spent a lot of time getting those things rectified and under control. The success of our move was directly related to time and commitment of many members of our staff. Mike Sell coordinated that move, our department heads were directly involved with the move and our employees were dedicated and on site working throughout the weekend. We operated all of last week with very, very good success, our system operated properly. We are continuing through our punch list process, it is a very extensive process for such a large building. SYS is in there daily working on those issues. As you can see construction is continuing on the exterior of the building, lighting is one of the biggest things you see taking place now. We are trying to complete the landscaping around our building proper and then we will continue construction on the city park site.

The **Park** - We are on schedule with the park. We are anticipating a late September early October opening.

City Hall Dedication - We are planning for and soliciting your input for the dedication program on the building. We are looking a possible dates, I will be getting with you individually on that. We certainly want to make sure we are looking at dates that meet everyone's schedule.

Brief discussion on furniture.

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

OLD BUSINESS

PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION OF GREENVILLE COUNTY RECREATION DISTRICT WITH GREENVILLE COUNTY

Mayor Danner stated "As a matter of information, at this point, we need to continue discussion and get more information." Mr. Driggers stated "We are continuing to be receptive to receiving information from the Recreation District. Mrs. (Ann) Cunningham, Director of Parks and Recreation and my self have a meeting schedule later this week with the Executive Director and some of his staff trying to gain a little better understanding of what they are doing and how they are planning on proceeding. This biggest disadvantage I have at the juncture in what is happening is that there is still not a plan to review. The greatest disadvantage that I have is it is hard to evaluate the impact when the plan is unknown. We do not know how Greer will be affected, we don't know what the proposed funding mechanism is, we don't know the operational plans for the new recreation program as it is being considered. The Administrator's think that information is critically needed for us to be able to make an intelligent decision about impact to our respective communities. We are

encouraging the district to develop a plan and share that plan with the Municipalities, residents of the county and residents of the city. Unless given direction otherwise by Council we are trying to stay open minded, we are trying to keep lines of communication open but we are certainly not at the table making a deal, because there has been no proposals made about what that may or may not be. I am looking for direction from Council on how we would continue to keep our dialog moving forward. We are communicating with the Recreation District staff and with our Legislative Delegation that we are concerned about what we have learned so far and what has been minimally reported about how this proceeds. Mayor Danner attended the public hearing and spoke, he stated no action has been taken and no proposals are on the table at this point. He stated they were basically taking information that evening and information would be forthcoming, as of yet we haven't received the information.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Councilman Bettis made a motion to "Resolve that Greer City Council is opposed to any plan to dissolve or consolidate the Greenville County Recreation District that imposes a County tax or County authority within the City limits of Greer, without public debate of a proposed plan, or the approval of Greer City Council".

Discussion followed.

No second.

ITEM OF NEW BUSINESS ADDED TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Danner stated we need to hold that as an item of New Business.

Mayor Danner entertained a motion to add an item (Resolution regarding Greenville County Recreation District) of New Business to the Agenda.

Councilman Bettis made a motion to add an item (Resolution regarding Greenville County Recreation District) of New Business to the Agenda. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carries unanimously 6-0.

RETIREMENT HEALTH PLAN

Mr. Driggers disseminated his proposal (attached) for the Retirement Health Plan. Mr. Driggers said if you agree with the premise of the categories verses some other type of system that we be allowed to take this plan to the Actuary, have them analyze it, give us the dollars that will be required for this and then allow us to bring that information back to you and if it is acceptable and it is manageable financially for us at that point we would ask you to adopt it as policy. Tonight, I will be asking you to take action to adopt this program and allow us to have it cost analyzed bring those results back if it favorable to you then we would adopt it as policy. We need direction on what to ask the Actuary to analyze. I believe this is a fair way of redistributing this program.

Discussion followed.

Councilwoman Mercado made a motion to accept the recommendation of staff on the Retirement Health Plan and allow Mr. Driggers to take the Retirement Health Plan to the Actuary for analyzing. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION OF ANNEXATION PROCEDURES **Requested by Councilman Joe Baldwin**

Councilman Baldwin shared his concern with the annexation procedure. He stated he was concerned that annexations would be turned down on first reading due to the zoning requested.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Mayor Danner stated "The point of the discussion is if there needs to be procedural changes made in the way we do this I suggest you bring those before Council as an item for a vote and we can take it from there".

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR THE DETENTION OF JUVENILES

Mr. Driggers presented the contract.

Councilman Bettis made a motion to approve the contract submitted by the Department of Juvenile Justice as received. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Councilman Bettis encouraged the City to utilize the free Fosters Home for non-violent juveniles.

GREENVILLE COUNTY RECREATION DISTRICT RESOLUTION

Councilman Bettis made a motion to "Resolve that Greer City Council is opposed to any plan to dissolve or consolidate the Greenville County Recreation District that imposes a Greenville County tax or Greenville County Recreation authority within the City limits of Greer, without public debate of the specific proposed plan, and the approval of Greer City Council."

Motion seconded by Councilman Joe Baldwin.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Danner stated an Executive Session was not needed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Richard W. Danner, Mayor

Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk