

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

January 13, 2009

**MEETING LOCATION: 301 East Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29651**

REGULAR SESSION

Greer City Council met in regular session with Mayor Rick Danner presiding. Council members present: Jay Arrowood, Wayne Griffin, Wryley Bettis and Belle Coxe Mercado. Councilwoman Sandra Anderson 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 6:31 p.m.

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Councilman Jay Arrowood.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one signed up to speak.

MINUTES OF December 9, 2008

Councilman Wryley Bettis made a motion that the minutes of **December 9, 2008** be received as written. Councilman Jay Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Building and Development Standards, Engineering and Storm Water, Finance Report, Municipal Court, Parks & Recreation, Police Department, Public Services November 2008 Monthly Activity Reports were included in packet for informational purposes. The Fire Department report was disseminated at the meeting.

Annual Report – Building and Development Standards

Phil Rhoads, Director of Building and Development Standards presented his annual report.

PETITIONER

Loel Handley - Vice President of Granite Woods South Subdivision Home Owners Association

Loel Handley (Vice President of Granite Woods South Subdivision Home Owners Association), 4 Calcite Drive - informed Council of the Home Owners Associations concerns with the developer (Rosewood of the Piedmont) and CPW (Commission of Public Works). Mr. Handley stated the developer had an agreement with CPW to pay for the lighting fixtures placed in the subdivision by the developer, at this time the developer has not paid for the fixtures and Jerry Balding of CPW informed Mr. Handley the fixtures would be removed if not paid for. Mr. Handley is concerned they will no longer have street lights in their subdivision. He is seeking assistance from Council to ensure the street lights will stay until an agreement can be made.

Mr. Driggers informed Council of the ordinance requirements for street lights in subdivisions and other related information.

PETITIONER

Daniel Pellicano, Civil Consultant and Design, LLC for Sound Construction, John Street Station Parking Addition

Daniel Pellicano, Civil Consultant and Design, LLC for Sound Construction, John Street Station Parking Addition - Glenn Pace, Planning and Zoning Coordinator informed Council of the issue. Mr. Pellicano stated his client Sound Construction, previously made comments to city council that the development of this site for use as a parking lot would not include the use of a detention basin on this parcel. To meet the requirements of the storm water ordinance, a detention basin would be required because there is no additional volume left in the current basin. They are now requesting approval of a detention basin on this parcel.

Lengthy Discussion followed.

Councilman Jay Arrowood made a motion to add discussion of this issue as a matter of New Business. Councilman Bettis seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously carried 5-0.

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

Mr. Driggers emailed calendar reminders to Council earlier this evening.

Information:

CDBG Program – I met with Martin Livingstone last week to look at our projects across the City. As you are aware we have a number of sub-recipients that receive funding from us we have made notification to each of the sub-recipients that are currently receiving funding from us. We have through GCRA advertised in the local media that the process is open and if there are individuals that are interested in receiving community development block grant funds for eligible programs, they have been instructed on how to fill out an application and will submit that to Greenville County Redevelopment Authority. As they have in the past they will make recommendations back to Council based on eligibility of those applications in comparison to available funding. They began receiving applications January 12th and will continue through February 13th. A Workshop has been scheduled for tomorrow January 14th at County Square at GCRA and the sub-recipients have been notified. We have also made contact with one organization that requested funding last year and was not funded, Running on Faith Track Club. We have notified them of the application process and the enrollment period.

Greer Development Corporation – I have gotten more involved with a program that I feel is very beneficial. It's been in place at GDC for some time and that is making business retention visits to existing businesses in our community. Reno has opened that opportunity to the board and I am attending with him on as many as possible, that are located within the city limits, so that we can make our existing businesses aware that we are indeed concerned about issues that effect them and their operations and providing an opportunity to hear their issues and concerns and looking for ways that we can help them be successful businesses here within the city.

Planning Process – Council Retreat – because we have a special election we felt that it was very important that we not hold the Council Retreat until after the newest member of Council is on board allowing that individual to have input into our process as we move forward. I would like for you to consider the following dates February 26th and 27th or March 5th and 6th. Council's first choice is February 26th and 27th. We would also like to make notification to each of the seven candidates so they would each be aware of this information.

Budget – We continue to monitor our financial situation and we really do not have any new information. Mr. Seifert will present the financial report for November 30, 2008.

Finance Report for the period ending November 30, 2008.

Revenues: \$2,175,515.

Expenditures: \$7,095,150.

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

We are evaluating our revenue on a week to week basis and we are comparing that information to prior year for the exact same period. We have to be careful of that because everything doesn't happen year to year on the exact same week. There could be a posting that the finance department has made last year that they haven't made yet maybe it will be a week later or two weeks later. So we have to be really conscious of watching those revenues very closely. What we do know in monitoring our revenue

stream last year compared to this year is that the two areas that we are most concerned about do indeed have less revenue now than it did the same period last year. And that is involving our permits related to new construction and business licenses related to new construction. All along we have believed that will be the short coming for us in a revenue stream this year I really do not have any new projections for us to make as we start, we truly may not have that information until we actually receive all of our business license revenue for the year in probably late April or May. We will continue to monitor it very closely but we do know that there is a direct relationship between permits, revenue from permits and the business license that we would normally received from new construction as new construction occurs. So, as our building development has slowed down significantly both in residential and commercial there is a correlating decrease in the revenue related to that. Our state legislature went back into session today and we are very cautiously watching what may or may not happen in Columbia as it related to state aid, what we call state aid to subdivision. The existing state statute states that you cannot receive less in the current year than you received in the previous year. Of course statutes are subject to be changed, appealed modified by the general assembly so we are watching that very closely to see if the local government funds may be an avenue that the state goes into to help balance the state budget. If that occurs there could be some significant impact to us. We have appealed to our state legislators that the funds designated back to local government are critically important to us and for every dollar that is reduced from that fund is either a corresponding dollar reduced from our budget or it's an increase cost to our local citizens if we try to balance on the backs of that reduction.

Discussion followed.

Economic Stimulus Package – Mr. Driggers stated as you are aware there is the belief that there is the potential for a federal economic stimulus package to come out of Washington within a short period of time so that Greer, South Carolina is not put in a position that we are unprepared for that we are developing projects to be considered in that stimulus package and I wanted to make you aware of what those projects are. In order of priority for us we are submitting a Roads and Bridges program that involves eleven projects, with a price tag of \$2,754,500.00, we are partnering with Greer CPW on the water line extension program that completely encircles the existing city limits providing and upgraded water system for the community for \$6,530,000.00 project. We are also partnering with Greer CPW on the I85 SC 101 sewage pump station replacement program with a price tag of \$5,989,750.00 and we are also submitting for consideration our railroad relocation program for \$40,000,000.00 for the eleven miles of combined track between CSX and Norfolk Southern. We are submitting projects for consideration of \$55,274,250.00. These are all projects that we believe meet the criteria for what we believe is going to come out, that is still unknown, even as of today there is still no definitive answer of exactly what will be included, what types of projects will be funded at what stage the projects have to be, what's called shovel ready or bid ready. That varies depending on who you talk with. We want to be prepared and we have projects ready to submit.

Team Greer Publication – As we were looking at the 2008-2009 budget, we asked our employees to be creative and look for ways to reduce expenditures. Over the last several years we have produced an annual report for our community each year and we appropriated dollars in our current budget to produce and distribute the annual report.

That appropriation was for \$15,000.00. Steve Owens came forward and presented an idea of how we may be able to do our annual report a little different than we've done it before but still provide very valuable information to our community about what we have accomplished, what we do, how we do what we do and who to contact when there is a need for service within the community. Steve Owens presented the new on-line interactive version of the Team Greer Publication for 2008. He also stated high quality printed copies would be available for those that would like one from City Hall. The current budget for the new version of the annual report is \$150.00.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Driggers stated he has three personnel matters to discuss in **Executive Session**. A report on an employee grievance, a vacancy in personnel and a performance evaluation.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS **Board of Zoning Appeals**

Glenn Pace, Planning and Zoning Coordinator stated he has had contact with Mrs. Anderson and she expressed her desire to reappoint Mr. McAbee, and he has had discussions with Mr. McAbee and he has the desire to be reappointed.

Councilman Griffin stated he had also spoken with Councilwoman Anderson and she had asked him to nominate Mr. McAbee.

Councilman Griffin nominated Thomas McAbee for reappointment to the District 3 seat on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Elections Commission

Councilwoman Mercado nominated Paul Lamb for appointment to the Election Commission. Councilman Bettis seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Planning Commission

No nominations were made for the District 4 seat. It was the consensus of Council to hold off on making an appointment to the District 4 seat and allow the new councilmember of that district to make that appointment.

Recreation Association Board of Trustees District 1

Councilman Arrowood nominated Amanda Somers for appointment to the District 1 seat on the Recreation Association Board of Trustees. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

District 5

Councilman Bettis nominated Shelley Brown for appointment to the District 5 seat on the Recreation Association Board of Trustees. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

No nominations were made for the District 3 seat.

OLD BUSINESS

Second and Final Reading of Ordinance Number 51-2008

AN ORDINANCE TO CORRECT A SCRIVENER'S ERROR IN ORDINANCE NUMBER 25-2000

Councilman Wryley Bettis made a motion to approve Second and Final Reading of Ordinance Number 51-2008. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST AND FINAL READING OF RESOLUTION NUMBER 1-2009

A RESOLUTION TO UPDATE THE CITY OF GREER BLOOD BORNE PATHOGEN STANDARD TO COMPLY WITH OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Mr. Driggers stated the resolution is as presented.

Councilman Griffin made a motion to approve First and Final Reading of Resolution Number 1-2009. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

FIRST AND FINAL READING OF RESOLUTION NUMBER 2-2009

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT GRANITE WOODS SOUTH STREETS, NAMELY FELDSPAR LANE, CALCITE DRIVE, GRANITE WOODS WAY, OLIVINE WAY, SLATE LANE AND TALE COURT INTO THE CITY OF GREER STREET SYSTEM

Staff recommended approval.

Councilwoman Mercado made a motion to approve First and Final Reading of Resolution Number 2-2009. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion.

Discussion followed.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

ITEM ADDED TO THE AGENDA
John Street Station Parking Addition

Councilman Arrowood made a motion that we acknowledge that detention would be necessary to accommodate this proposed parking on John Street. Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Discussion followed.

Councilman Arrowood amended his motion to include the owner of the property that faces Wade Hampton Boulevard be given the opportunity to sign a waiver in terms of the landscaping requirements for where those two pieces of property meet. Councilwoman Mercado amended her second.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Mayor Danner stated "Now the question in regards to accepting the retention on site, we have a motion and second already on the floor in that regard". Any further discussion.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Danner stated an Executive Session was needed to discuss three Personnel matters.

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

Motion carried unanimously 5-0. (8:38)

Councilman Griffin excused himself from Executive Session at 9:54 pm.

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

Motion carried unanimously 5-0. (9:59)

Mayor Danner stated during Executive Session they considered three personnel matters, they will take no action on two of those matters, on one matter we will consider a motion. Councilman Bettis made a motion that Council reject their memorandum, their report and uphold termination. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Richard W. Danner, Mayor

Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk