

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

October 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, Lee Dumas, 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 and various other staff and media. Steve Owens, Communications Manager was absent.

Mayor Danner called the Regular Session to order at 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Councilman Wayne Griffin.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

MINUTES OF September 22, 2009

Councilman Wryley Bettis made a motion that the minutes of **September 22, 2009** be received as written. Councilman Jay Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Employee Recognition

Certificate Presentation

Mayor Danner recognized the following employees for their service to the City of Greer. Each employee received a resolution, a certificate of achievement and a personal day off with pay.

Kara Blackwell has served in the Police Department for five years;
Sheryl Higgins has served in the Police Department for five years;

Randall Hipp has served in the Fire Department for five years;
Carl Howell has served in the Fire Department for five years;
Shenra Jackson has served in the Police Department for five years;
Carroll Reynolds has served in Municipal Court for five years;
Bob Urness has served in the Finance Department for five years;
Skipper Burns has served in the Public Services for fifteen years;
Marty Knighton has served in the Parks and Recreation Department for fifteen years;
and Eric Pressley has served in the Police Department for fifteen years.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Planning Commission Minutes from September 21, 2009 contained in package.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ed Driggers, City Administrator

Economic Development / Revolving Loan Program **Presented by Mike Sell, Assistance City Administrator** (Information attached)

The Greenville County Redevelopment Authority - Economic Development and Revolving Loan Fund (ED & RLF) is currently funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The goal of this program is to spur economic development activities and promote opportunities for employment in the communities. The program shall provide funds to small existing and emerging businesses located in the five participating municipalities, Greer, Fountain Inn, Mauldin, Simpsonville and Travelers Rest and the commercial corridors of the unincorporated areas of Greenville County, outside the City limits of Greenville. The program shall be available on September 30, 2009. All funds must be expended by September 30, 2012.

Use of funds:

The funds are made available via the Stimulus Program from Community Development Block Grant – Recovery (CDBG-R). The fund will be used to establish an economic development and revolving loan fund (RLF) in Greenville County. The loan program shall provide financial assistance to applicants within the guidelines of this revolving loan fund plan.

Amount of Funding Allocation:

The Redevelopment Authority has committed a total of \$363,950 of the CDBG-R stimulus funding to establish an Economic Development and Revolving Loan Program in Greenville County. This fund shall be made available to eligible and qualified applicants for start up or existing businesses located in the central business districts in the Cities of Greer, Travelers Rest, Mauldin, Simpsonville and Fountain Inn and as wells the commercial corridors of the unincorporated areas in the County, outside of the Greenville City limits.

Proposed Loan program

The proposed program shall provide a minimum loan amount of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$25,000 per business/applicant. The repayment period shall not exceed seven years with proposed interest rates ranging from 3 to 5 percent. The loan repayment may be deferred for the first two years; payments on these accounts shall begin on the third year and for the duration of the amortized period. The program is estimated to provide financial assistance for up to 15 businesses in the County.

The proposed loan can be used as a gap fund or 100 percent financed based on needs assessments of applicants if other resources are not available.

Applicants requiring more than \$25,000 will be reviewed on a case by case basis. This request must be approved by GCRA Board members.

Comprehensive Plan – We are continuing to work on the comprehensive plan. There is a substantial amount of work continuing in that area. We hope we are in the final processes of doing the language drafts for that, we will see in a relatively short period of time that information going back to the Planning Commission and of course coming to Council in short order as well. As you are aware we are required by state statute to re-modify the Comprehensive Plan every ten years.

Customer Service Training – We have completed the Customer Service training for all employees in all departments. At your next regularly scheduled meeting we will have some video information for you. We were able to produce the customer service training in-house which created a substantial saving for us. This was a part of your Strategic Plan.

Thursday Thrillers – We have conducted the first evening of our movie series for Halloween. Our first Thursday Fright Night was held last week and we are scheduled for this Thursday night weather permitting.

Website Information Update – Placed at your table is updated information provided to you from our website.

Leaf Season Program – In the next couple of weeks throughout our community will be a flier indicating how our Leaf program works during Leaf season. A color coded map will indicate by area the collection weeks for that community. We will distribute this on a household basis throughout the City and we will also publish this information in our local paper, on our website and on our cable TV channel.

Financial Issues from the State – These issues continue to have an impact on us here at the local level. We were advised by the state they were revising their distribution to the local government fund to municipalities. We are affected by those numbers we are anticipating about fourteen thousand dollars (\$14,000.00) less than the already adjusted numbers we were going to receive. That brings to a total now of a decrease in funds from prior year to about sixty-nine thousand dollars (\$69,000.00). It is very critical for us to make our legislative delegation aware that continued adjustments to the local government fund has an impact to us and affects our budget. These reductions are coming to us mid-year after we've already made adjustments and we have already adopted our budget. We will have to continue to make some adjustments.

Point of Sale Issue – I will continue to provide information to you on the “Point of Sale” issue. It will be one of the first items coming before the State Senate when they go back into session. It is very, very important that we have communications particularly with our two senators, Senator Bright and Senator Shoopman about the impact of the “Point of Sale” legislation on our local budget.

Appointment – I have been asked to serve on the Legislative Affairs Committee for the Municipal Association and I have accepted an appointment to serve on that committee. Our voice in Columbia is very, very important.

Calendar Reminders:

Candidate Debate – Thursday, October 22nd from 8:00 am until 9:30 am, here at City Hall. We will record that session and broadcast it on our cable channel daily until the day before the election.

Election Day – Tuesday, November 3rd, 2009.

Veterans Day Breakfast – Wednesday, November 11th Veterans Day Breakfast for all of our employees that are veterans will be held here at City Hall. More information will be forth coming.

Greer Development Corporation Annual Meeting – Wednesday, November 11th the Greer Development Corporation will hold its Annual Meeting. Speaker Robert W. Harrell, Jr. of the House of Representative will speak.

City of Greer Furlough Day - Friday, October 23, 2009 is our first furlough day. We will post all of our offices beginning tomorrow. We will advertise through our website and TV station hoping to minimize and inconvenience to the public.

Mr. Driggers stated he had one Economic Development matter (Allen Bennett Memorial Hospital Property) for consideration during **Executive Session**.

OLD BUSINESS

Second and Final Reading of Annexation Ordinance Number 21-2009 **AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY O'NEAL VILLAGE, LLC AND LOCATED ON HWY 101 NORTH BY ONE HUNDRED PERCENT PETITION; AND TO ESTABLISH A ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PD (PLANNED DEVELOPMENT) FOR SAID PROPERTY**

Glenn Pace presented the ordinance. Ordinance 21-2009 appeared at the 9/21/2009 Planning Commission and received unanimous approval. No one spoke in favor or opposition to the request.

Councilman Dumas made a motion to receive Second and Final Reading of Annexation Ordinance Number 21-2009. Councilman Bettis seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Annexation Ordinance Number 22-2009

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY 101 @ 296, LLC AND LOCATED AT 8310 REIDVILLE ROAD BY ONE HUNDRED PERCENT PETITION; AND TO ESTABLISH A ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF C-3 (HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL) FOR SAID PROPERTY

Glenn Pace presented Ordinance Numbers 22-2009 and 23-2009.

Neither the owner nor a representative of the property was present.

Councilwoman Mercado made a motion to receive First Reading of Annexation Ordinance Number 22-2009. Councilman Bettis seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

First Reading of Annexation Ordinance Number 23-2009

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTIES OWNED BY 296 @ KIST ROAD, LLC AND LOCATED ON REIDVILLE ROAD AND HIGHWAY 101 SOUTH BY ONE HUNDRED PERCENT PETITION; AND TO ESTABLISH A ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF C-3 (HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL) FOR SAID PROPERTIES

Councilman Arrowood made a motion to receive First Reading of Annexation Ordinance Number 23-2009. Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

First Reading of Annexation Ordinance Number 24-2009

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY DAVID AND JILL ROSKOSKI AND LOCATED AT 107 GREENLEAF DRIVE BY ONE HUNDRED PERCENT PETITION; AND TO ESTABLISH A ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF R-12 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) FOR SAID PROPERTY

Glenn Pace presented the ordinance.

Neither the owner nor a representative of the property was present.

Councilman Griffin made a motion to receive First Reading of Annexation Ordinance Number 24-2009. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Danner stated an Executive Session was needed to discuss one Economic Development matter (Allen Bennett Memorial Hospital Property).

Councilman Griffin made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the matter as stated by the Mayor. Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0. (7:02 p.m.)

Mayor Danner stated during Executive Session they considered one Economic Development matter and no action would be needed.

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

Motion carried unanimously 6-0. (7:23 p.m.)

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Richard W. Danner, Mayor

Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk