

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

December 8, 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 arrived at 6:49. 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.

Mayor Danner stated the Budget Workshop scheduled for the beginning of the meeting will be moved to the end of the session to allow Council to dispense of the regular business.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Danner presented Councilwoman Belle Coxe Mercado with a plaque in appreciation for her seven years of dedicated service to the citizens and the City of Greer.

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Mayor Rick Danner.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

MINUTES OF November 10, 2009

Councilman Wryley Bettis made a motion that the minutes of **November 10, 2009** be received as written. Councilman Jay Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Building and Development Standards, Engineering and Stormwater, Finance Report, Fire Department, Municipal Court, Parks & Recreation, Police Department and Public Services

October 2009 Monthly Activity Reports and the November 16, 2009 Planning Commission minutes were included in the packet for informational purposes.

David Seifert presented the **Financial Report** for the period ending October 31, 2009.

Revenues: \$1,655,029.

Expenditures: \$5,387,034.

The City is currently 3% under budget for this time period.

PRESENTATION

Biblebrook/Creekside Development

Martin Livingston, Executive Director of Greenville County Redevelopment Authority

Mr. Livingston stated "The engineer has determined that the estimated cost to install infrastructure in the Creekside development will cost approximately \$900,000 in Phase IA area. All infrastructure in the street right-of-way will be deeded to the City of Greer and Greer CPW at the completion of the project. Actual bids are expected to be received and reviewed by the Redevelopment Authority by December 9th, at that time we will have an actual cost for the infrastructure improvements. GCRA is requesting to use \$450,000 in Greer CDBG and HOME funds to install the infrastructure. The infrastructure would serve the single-family and multi-family developments. GCRA is expecting to reduce the amount requested with the sale of property for the multi-family development. Staff is also waiting for a determination from CPW regarding funds for the sewer line and that amount will reduce GCRA's request as well. Currently, the Greer Housing Authority Northwood Apartment community sewer service is also serviced by the site without a dedicated sewer right of way. No Greer CDBG and Home funds will be used on the multi-family development site. The elderly multi-family HUD 202 development will be fully funded by the non-profit developer, the Upstate Homeless Coalition. (Information attached)

Discussion followed.

South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association

Presented by Jim Headley, Executive Director
of the South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association

Mr. Jim Headley, Executive Director of the South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association (SCRPA) represented Ted Lindsay, the department's first director with the SCRPA Hall of Fame award. Mr. Headley also presented the City of Greer Parks and Recreation Department with the SCRPA 2009 Athletic Agency of the Year award and the SCRPA 2009 Agency of the Year award.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ed Driggers, City Administrator

Parks and Recreation Department – Mr. Driggers congratulated the Parks and Recreation Department on the receipt of their awards.

Calendar Items – All calendar items were sent by email.

Employee Appreciation Breakfast – The City will celebrate our tenth annual Employee Appreciation Breakfast this Friday, December 11, 2009 here at City Hall in the multi-purpose rooms. We will have Coffee and Conversation at 7:00am and Breakfast at 7:30am. We look forward to seeing you there.

Swearing In Ceremony – We will have a Special Called meeting Monday, January 4, 2010 at 6:30 to administer the Oath of Office for representatives in districts 2, 4 and 6.

Holiday Schedule – We will close all offices outside of Public Safety on Thursday and Friday December 24th and 25th and again on Friday January 1st in celebration of Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Day.

Safety Committee – The Safety Committee is continuing to work on a safety manual. We are expecting that to be completed in about a month or so. Council should receive a copy shortly after the first of the year for consideration of approval.

Human Resources – We are continuing to be involved in the Department of Transportation “Driver Training Programs” for all of our DOT (Department of Transportation) Certified Drivers. We are also continuing our “Customer Service Training” through department specific training. We are now into a series called “Service to Irrate Customers”.

Information Technology – In City Park we are continuing with installation of our camera system. We hope to wrap that up very, very soon after the first of the year. Our IT Department cautions us to be very, very careful during the holidays season on emails particularly and we ask of you if you should receive a greeting card from me or any one else please do not open the card, we are finding a number of viruses attached to these types of programs. They are causing havoc to Jim and the staff in IT and we are instructing all of our employees not to open those types of messages.

Communications Department - Newsroom items have been provided to you (attached). Please visit our website regularly, specifically the “City News Room” it provides constant updated information on activities and events taking place in the City. Our “Team Greer” publication is continuing in the development stages and we are also continuing to produce our “Inside Greer” publication. Later this week we will publish the latest edition of our video version.

Administration – The Comprehensive Plan is continuing to be developed, we will mail the recommended version of the plan to our Steering Committee in the month of December. That group will meet in January and as they complete their work it will be forwarded to the Planning Commission, once the planning commission has completed their work the plan will be forwarded to Council for consideration. Public Hearing will take place at the Planning Commission level. The exact timing will unfold as the Steering Committee and the Planning Commission do their work.

Victor Mill Project – We continue to work with Spartanburg County on the Victor Mill project. We are awaiting a final reading of the bond ordinance with Spartanburg County to assist with the cleanup cost at the site and we continue to work very closely with the community group as well.

LUCA Program – We are continuing to work with the Census Bureau (LUCA – Local Update of Census Addresses) we are in the process of doing the verifications on our boundary lines and our addresses. We will submit any appeals we have during the process. We will be involved with the Census Bureau in a program called “Complete Count”. We will be asking of you to assist us in identifying any community members that can assist us in getting the word out particularly in our underserved areas where we sometimes do not get the best counts we possibly could. We will be coordinating through the Mayor’s Office and through each of you as member of City Council to invite members of the community to participate with us in that Complete Count Program. Steve Owens is heading up that part of the program for us and you will be receiving information on that in December as well.

Codification of Ordinance Book – You have received information from the Clerk concerning codification of our ordinances, this is a very, very important process for us. We do ask that you remove the old sections of the ordinance and insert the new sections to keep you books as up to date as possible.

Audit – Our audit is complete. We have preliminary number and you will see those this evening. We have the auditors scheduled to submit the audit to you on January 12th. You will receive a copy of the audit prior to the presentation to allow you to review it.

Weekend Events - We hope you had the opportunity this past weekend to participate in the many, many activities that were here in downtown. We kicked off the weekend, Friday evening with the Tree Lightning Ceremony. We spent a big part of Saturday morning with Breakfast with Santa, hundreds of children spent their Saturday morning here and had breakfast and photos made with Santa Claus. Saturday evening we had cookies, punch and hot cider and watched the Polar Express with families. We also collected food, coats and blankets for needy residents in our community that will be distributed through Greer Relief. The Christmas Parade was held Sunday afternoon. Public Services did a great job cleaning up.

Pubic Services – We continue with our Leaf Collection Program, we’ve had an excellent response from our community on the flyer we distributed that has helped us tremendously. We certainly recommend that that is something we continue to do.

Storm Events – As you are aware we have had some very large storm events and we’ve been able to manage those extremely well both through our Public Services Department and through our Stormwater Division. We only had one road closure during the storm events recently and that’s phenomenal for the amount of water we’ve received during that period.

Internal Review Process - We are implementing a formalized internal review process for annexations. We will review those annexations for impact on all of our operations within the city.

Cops for Tots Program – Its been a difficult year for this program, donations are down this year but our staff is committed to this program and committed to the residents of our community that participate in that program and we are looking forward to another successful year. We thank our police officers and staff for being able to do the program.

Recognition - David Seifert, Director of Finance and Information Technology for the City of Greer, has been elected president of the South Carolina Municipal Finance Officers, Clerks, and Treasurers Association (MFOCTA).

Department Reports – Referred Council to department reports contained in the council package.

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

Councilman Griffin asked if Duke Power could be held accountable for the damage they had done in his neighborhood. Mr. Driggers stated yes and could supply Councilman Griffin with the phone number to get assistance.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Recreation Association Board of Trustees **District 2, District 4, District 6**

Councilman Lee Dumas made a motion to nominate Travis Oliver to the District 4 seat of the Recreation Association Board of Trustees. Councilwoman Sandra Anderson seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

No nominations were made for the District 6 seats.

NEW BUSINESS

Bid Summary – Detention Facility

David Seifert, Director of Finance and Information Technology presented the bids. Staff recommended approval.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Councilwoman Sandra Anderson made a motion to approve the Bid received from TMS South in the amount of \$25,026.60 for Lav-Toilet Combos, from Carolina Power in the amount of \$7345.00 for Light Fixtures and from Satterfield Wood Working, Inc. in the amount of \$10,254.00 for Mill Work. Councilman Wayne Griffin seconded the motion.

Lt. Matt Hamby elaborated on the request.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Fire Recovery Service Agreement

Chris Harvey, Fire Chief presented the agreement.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Councilwoman Jay Arrowood made a motion to table the request and wait for additional information. Councilman Lee Dumas seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 26-2009 **AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY ROLAND C. KNOKE LOCATED AT 52 BOBO STREET FROM I-1 (INDUSTRIAL) TO C-2 (COMMERCIAL).**

Glenn Pace presented the ordinance. Ordinance 26-2009 appeared at the 11/16/2009 Planning Commission and received unanimous approval. No one spoke in favor or opposition to the request. Neither the owner nor a representative of the property was present.

Councilman Wryley Bettis made a motion to approve First Reading of Ordinance Number 26-2009. Councilwoman Belle Coxe Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 27-2009 **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GREER CODE OF ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 38, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL BY AMENDING ARTICLE II. SECTION 38-31 CREATION, SECTION 38-32 COMPOSITION AND QUALIFICATIONS (a)(2)(3)(4) (b) AND (c), Sec. 38-33. TERMS OF OFFICE AND SECTION 38-39 FILING OF APPEALS.**

Glenn Pace presented the ordinance.

Councilwoman Belle Coxe Mercado made a motion to receive First Reading of Ordinance Number 27-2009. Councilwoman Sandra Anderson seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Councilman Griffin requested consideration of two Personnel matters and Councilman Bettis requested consideration of one Economic Development matter during Executive Session.

Mayor Danner stated in addition to the one Economic Development matter we will add two Personnel matters and one additional Economic Development matter.

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

Motion carried unanimously 7-0. (8:39 p.m.)

Mayor Danner stated during Executive Session they considered two Economic Development matters and two Personnel matters and no action would be needed.

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

Motion carried unanimously 7-0. (9:38 p.m.)

The Regular Session adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Mayor Danner called the Workshop to order at 9:39 p.m.

WORKSHOP
2009-2010 Mid-Year Budget Analysis

Information attached.

The Workshop adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Richard W. Danner, Mayor

Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk