

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

July 28, 2009

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

REGULAR SESSION

Greer City Council met in regular session with Mayor Pro Tem Wryley Bettis presiding. Council members present: Jay Arrowood, Wayne Griffin, Lee Dumas, and Belle Coxe Mercado. Mayor Rick Danner and Councilwoman Sandra Anderson were 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 Pro Tem Bettis called the Regular Session to order at 6:31 p.m.

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Councilman Lee Dumas.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

MINUTES OF July 14, 2009

Councilman Jay Arrowood made a motion that the minutes of **July 14, 2009** be received as written. Councilwoman Belle Coxe Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Building and Development Standards, Engineering and Stormwater, Finance Report, Fire Department, Municipal Court, Parks & Recreation, Police Department and Public Services June 2009 Monthly Activity Reports were included in packet for informational purposes.

Bob Urness presented the **Financial Report** for the period ending June 30, 2009.

Revenues: **Current** \$2,043,135.64 **Year to Date** \$16,615,858.13

Expenditures: **Current** \$1,759,364.67 **Year to Date** \$17,822,189.68

Mr. Urness stated these were the financials at closing. Every year there are items outstanding, accrued accounts payables and accrued accounts receivable. Currently on this report the spread between revenues and expenditures is \$1,206,331.55. Based on projections of our accruals, receivable and payables we are expecting to receive another \$258,637.33 roughly there are some adjustments for example, cost of fuel and shop inventory. This will leave us at \$947,658.00 difference between revenues and expenditures. Factoring into that the expected draw from Fund Balance of \$613,000.00 will leave us at the projected unexpected portion of \$334,274.00.

Mr. Driggers stated in last year's budget (ending June 30th) we planned for a Fund Balance transfer of \$613,384.00. So we always planned that we would draw down Fund Balance by about \$600,000.00 and this was in the budget. As we were moving through the budget year we anticipated a deficit between \$600,000.00 and \$1,200,000.00. That was in excess of what had been planned for as a fund balance transfer of the \$613,000.00. What Bob in communicating is, we think that number is going to be just short of \$1,000,000.00 - \$947,658.00 is the projection at this point. So about \$950,000.00 which is going to give us an additional fund balance transfer of \$334,000.00 to \$335,000.00 above the \$613,000.00 that we had planned for. That is significant for us, but it is far less than what it could have been. It is a good news bad, news situation. We will be reducing our Fund Balance by about \$950,000.00 planned on \$613,000.00 of that, the other \$350,000.00 is really what hit us in this fiscal year as it related to the down turn of the economy. As we look at the short fall on revenue items across the board, particularly related to business license and permit fees and inspection fees for commercial and residential development we can easily see where those numbers came from.

Councilman Bettis confirmed the Fund Balance transfer planned for this year is about \$450,000.00.

Mr. Driggers stated the significance to that is \$950,000.00 will be the effect year end for this and we are looking at another \$450,000.00 so that \$1,300,000.00 over two fiscal years to be withdrawn from Fund Balance, I think that is where the caution really needs to be. That is about half of our Fund Balance.

PETITIONER

Paul Bishop

Paul Bishop, 303 New Woodruff Road – stated he would like to know and would prefer his answer in writing if possible “If the City can provide my residence and my family with protection or shall I provide my own protection.” He shared a list of incidents that have been unsolved over the last year including a bullet hole in the side of his house, fireworks landing in his carport, a pack of dogs roaming in his neighborhood for a month now, a deer stolen off of his porch, house next door with five or six gay Hispanics and they have so many cars they can't park them on their side of the street they want to park them on my side of the street and drive all over my yard and regarding fire protection, the weeds have grown up higher than the fire hydrant. “I want to know if the City will provide services or if they want me to provide my own services and if I'm going to provide my own service then I need a permit to use a firearm on my property.”

Councilman Bettis stated staff will reference all of your complaints and problems and see if we can get an answer to you.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
Ed Driggers, City Administrator

COPS Hiring Grant – Mr. Driggers handed out a copies of the press release relating to our police department. He stated as you are aware we applied for through the Department of Justice COPS program six positions for our police department, for patrol officers to assist us because of the reduction in workforce that we've experienced. We were notified today we have been awarded three (3) positions for that program. This will be a \$458,667.00 award over the next three (3) years. This award is a zero (0) match program, our commitment is that at the end of the program these positions are committed to at least one (1) year after the end of the program. We anticipate no issues with being able to do this. As you will recall in our budget process we had an addendum as an alternative for the police department that if these grants were awarded that we would put these dollars into the budget. We will come back to you in the future asking for guidance on whether you would like for us to modify the budget reflecting a grant for revenue and expenditure for these positions or if we just let those balance out over time. The net effect is basically the same. We were very fortunate, we were one (1) of only six (6) upstate agencies or counties awarded this program. We are very grateful for the funding.

Mr. Driggers stated he had no items for consideration during **Executive Session**.

Councilman Bettis stated the Mayor is addressing the Victor Mill Neighborhood Association in September and he and I talked and you and I talked in the past about conveying the alleyways to the land owners. I think what he is looking for is some standard procedure for these people to go through to do this. He would like for you to research that and have something ready for him for the meeting in September.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

**Planning Commission
District 3**

Councilman Wayne Griffin stated Councilwoman Anderson requested that he nominate Morris Burton for reappointment to the District 3 seat on the Planning Commission. Councilman Jay Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

**Recreation Association Board of Trustees
District 3**

Councilman Wayne Griffin stated Councilwoman Anderson requested that he nominate Janet Harris for appointment to the District 3 seat on the Recreation Board of Trustees. Councilwoman Belle Coxe Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Bettis stated an Executive Session was not needed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Richard W. Danner, Mayor

Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk