

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

August 25, 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, Sandra Anderson, Lee Dumas, Wryley Bettis and Belle Coxe Mercado. 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 6:37 p.m.

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Councilwoman Belle Coxe Mercado.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

MINUTES OF August 11, 2009

Councilman Wryley Bettis made a motion that the minutes of **August 11, 2009** be received as written. Councilman Jay Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Cigarette Litter Prevention Month

Mayor Danner presented Dan Powell of Keep Greenville County Beautiful with a proclamation declaring August 2009 as "Cigarette Litter Prevention Month" in the City of Greer. Also present were Lillian Hanley, Stormwater Engineer, City of Greer, Al Futrell, Committee Chair of the Cigarette Litter Prevention Program of Keep Greenville County Beautiful and Tammie Cohrs, Chairwoman of Keep Greenville County Beautiful.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Building and Development Standards, Engineering and Stormwater, Finance Report, Fire Department, Municipal Court, Parks & Recreation, Police Department and Public Services July 2009 Monthly Activity Reports and the August 17, 2009 Planning Commission Minutes were included in packet for informational purposes.

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

Revenues: \$217,394.

Expenditures: \$1,309,709.

The City is currently 1% under budget for this time period.

PRESENTATION

"Alive at 25"

Police Chief Dan Reynolds, FTO Brenda Veach and Steve Diebel, Traffic Safety Coordinator with the National Safety Council presented the "Alive at 25" course offered by FTO Veach and sponsored by the National Safety Council to drivers 15-24. The course is designed to help prevent traffic violations, collisions and/or fatalities. Its focus is to help educate young drivers to adopt safer driving practices, take responsibility for their behavior in various driving situations and to be aware of the many typical driving hazards. The classes will be held in the Greer Police Department training room on the second Saturday of each month through the end of the year. Individuals may register at www.scaliveat25.org.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ed Driggers, City Administrator

Calendar Reminders:

Employee Health Fair – September 17th we will host our employee health fair. Flu shots will be offered, health screenings, education on benefits program and we have outside agencies providing health care information as well.

Strategic Plan, Customer Service Training – We will begin a two week training session, starting September 28th for all employees.

Encore Music – We concluded our Encore Music Series this past Friday night. This series ran for four weeks and did very well for us.

Moonlight Movies – We will conclude our Moonlight Movie series this Thursday this will be the last of a seventeen week series. "The Goonies" will play this Thursday night in the amphitheater stage.

Municipal Association of South Carolina – The MASC “Road Shows” will be held here in Greer. We will host this regional Road Show here at City Hall on September 2nd. Additional information will follow at a later time. If you plan to participate please register with the Municipal Association.

Alleyway – I have spoken with our City Attorney on several occasions regarding the alleyway research. Attorney Grey Walsh from Love, Thornton Arnold and Thomas has been assigned this responsibility. We are awaiting a final report from them.

Greer Redevelopment Corporation - I am continuing to work with Reno Deaton on retention visits. If he is visiting with a member here in the community that is located within the city limits of Greer I try very hard to make those visits. Those have continued to go very well.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Second and Final Reading of Ordinance Number 18-2009

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL CODES RELATING TO INSPECTION ACTIVITIES OF THE CITY OF GREER, GREENVILLE COUNTY AND SPARTANBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND ENFORCEMENT OF BUILDING PROVISIONS AS PROVIDED IN SAID CODE

Councilman Bettis made a motion to accept Second and Final Reading of Ordinance Number 18-2009. Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

2005 General Obligation Bond

David Seifert, Finance Director

Mr. Seifert stated, “As you may recall, the 2005 GOB was released to fund development agreements for construction of infrastructure predominantly along Hwy. 29 in the Target / Fuddrucker’s / Burger King area. Most of this work has been completed. However, one developer has not completed the development of his property. As such, we still have approximately \$413,000 of the bond proceeds still outstanding. Because we have exceeded the 36-month requirement for expending the borrowed funds, we are now in arbitrage in relation to this bond issue. What this means is during the 36-months we can earn interest, roll those interests into the project beyond that 36-months we are not allowed to make interest more than what we are paying interest on the money. That is really not an issue in this case other than the attorneys do not like us to be in arbitrage. We have several options we are exploring.

There are a couple of questions we are waiting on answers to, to help us complete the options that we will be bringing back to you. If we prepay the bond we will be charged about a ten percent (10%) penalty.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Driggers stated we are not overly concerned about the arbitrage issue mainly because it is an issued when you earn more interest than you are paying, we are earning less. So there are no penalties to the city as a result. We just have to file with the Federal Government that we are in arbitrage.

Temporary Closing of Poinsett Street and Miller Street for Maintenance
Don Holloman, City Engineer

We have uncovered a problem in the center of Poinsett and Miller Streets. One of the bigger issues is a manhole has deteriorated over the years and needs to be replaced. It is about twelve (12) feet deep and will require a lot of space to repair. In addition there is a myriad of other services that cross that intersection including stormwater that also have problems. We are going to fix all of the problems at one time. This will require the intersection to be closed and detour Poinsett Street. We discussed it with DOT and they prefer to use the following detour route which directs traffic on Main Street and Memorial Drive to Wade Hampton. We do recognize that local people who know the area and will probably not follow the assigned detour. There maybe some issues we will have to deal with on Arlington and Church Streets depending on where people choose to go. CPW will be pumping sewer from one manhole to another. CPW will go first because theirs is the deepest and will impact the most facilities as they go down. Our stormwater facilities are really the highest and we will replace those last. At this point we anticipate beginning on September 9th. CPW will hopefully be done by the weekend so we will not interfere with First Baptist Church. We will start with our stormwater repairs at the beginning of the week and get done with those as soon as we can; we hope to be done by September 18th. Hopefully we will not run into other things. We do not have an estimate of cost at this point because until we uncover it we do not know exactly what we will have to repair. We are working with DOT and they have indicated they will help us with pipes and other things that we may need to affect the repairs. This is not something we can set aside; there is a cavity that has formed next to the manhole.

Discussion followed.

Establish Fire Service Fees
Fire Chief Chris Harvey

Chief Harvey requested clarification "Cost Recovery Fees". Do we want to charge for house fire responses? And or Car fire responses? Council's consensus was charging for medical calls not fire calls. Councilman Arrowood requested contacting the county and inquire about reimbursing the city for medical calls. Chief Harvey stated we do get some materials replaced and Greenville County does do our in-service training for all of our EMTs at no charge to the department.

Lengthy discussion followed.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 19-2009

AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY CURTIS E. AND GWYN M. HAWKINS LOCATED AT 906 S. BUNCOMBE ROAD FROM C-2 (COMMERCIAL) TO R-15 (RESIDENTIAL – SINGLE FAMILY).

Glenn Pace presented the ordinance. This was heard by the Planning Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting and no one spoke in favor or in opposition to the request. Staff recommends approval of rezoning request.

Brief discussion was held.

Councilwoman Mercado made a motion to receive Ordinance Number 19-2009. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 20-2009

APPROVING THE FINANCING OF THE IMPROVEMENT, EXTENSION AND ENLARGEMENT OF THE COMBINED UTILITY SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF GREER, SOUTH CAROLINA, THROUGH THE BORROWING BY THE CITY OF NOT EXCEEDING \$5,500,000 INCLUDING CAPITALIZED INTEREST, IF ANY, FROM THE STATE DRINKING WATER REVOLVING LOAN FUND, BY AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY, PURSUANT TO TITLE 48, CHAPTER 5, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR AN AGREEMENT TO MAKE AND TO ACCEPT A LOAN; THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY; THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A PROMISSORY NOTE FROM THE CITY TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Chuck Reynolds, Finance manager with the Commission of Public works presented the ordinance.

Brief discussion was held.

Councilman Griffin made a motion to receive Ordinance Number 20-2009. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Danner stated an Executive Session was needed to discuss one Personnel matter requested by Councilman Griffin.

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

Motion carried unanimously 7-0. (7:44 p.m.)

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

Councilman Lee Dumas made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Councilman Wayne Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0. (8:11 p.m.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Richard W. Danner, Mayor

Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk