

# CITY OF GREER, SOUTH CAROLINA

## MINUTES of the MEETING of GREER CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION  
January 12, 2010 - 6:30 PM

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

Greer City Council met in Regular Session with Mayor Rick Danner presiding.

Council members present: Jay Arrowood, Wayne Griffin, Lee Dumas, Wryley Bettis and Judy Albert

Council members absent: Sandra Anderson

Others 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. The Greenville News, The Greer Citizen and the Spartanburg Herald Journal were notified of the meeting by email on January 8, 2010.

### INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Mayor Rick Danner.

### PUBLIC FORUM

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

### MINUTES OF December 8, 2009

Councilman Jay Arrowood made a motion that the minutes of **December 8, 2009** be received as written. Councilman Wayne Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

### MINUTES OF January 4, 2010

Councilman Lee Dumas made a motion that the minutes of **January 4, 2010** be received as written. Councilman Wryley Bettis 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.

Ginger Crawford has served in the Police Department for five years;

Gale Sdao has served in Municipal Court for five years;

Richard Watson has served in the Public Services Department for ten years and

Carole Rosiak has served in Administration for fifteen years.

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

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

David Seifert presented the **Financial Report** for the period ending November 30, 2009.

Revenues: \$2,503,237.

Expenditures: \$6,887,052.

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

## **PETITIONER**

**Phyllis Henderson, U. S. Census Bureau**

Dave Burns, Manager of the Greenville Office of U.S. Census Bureau spoke. He requested assistance of Council to inform their constituents the Census was coming and how important it is to be counted. He also requested assistance in recruiting citizens of Greer to work for the Census Bureau. Mrs. Henderson arrived at the meeting and distributed information to Council regarding contact numbers and the web address.

## **PRESENTATION**

**2008-2009 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report**

Presented by Toni McKinley, McKinley, Cooper & Co., LLP

David Seifert, Director of Finance introduced Toni McKinley of McKinley, Cooper & Co., LLC, certified public accountants. Mrs. McKinley presented the 2008-2009 Independent Auditors' Report for the City of Greer. Audit attached.

## **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

Key financial highlights for the Fiscal Year 2009 are as follows:

- The assets of the City of Greer exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$16,270,487.
- As of the close of the fiscal year, the City of Greer's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$6,016,235, a decrease of \$5,418,402 as compared to the prior fiscal year. This decrease primarily results from the City's ongoing completion of outstanding capital projects.
- At the end of the current fiscal year, unreserved fund balance for the general fund was \$2,473,871 or 15.09% of general fund expenditures. This reflects a decrease in the current year of \$760,364.

Above information taken from the 2008-2009 Independent Auditors' Report.

Mr. Driggers clarified several items for Council.

Discussion followed.

**Ann Cunningham, Director of Parks and Recreation**

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Ann Cunningham presented her annual report. (Report attached)

**Phil Rhoads, Director of Building and Development Standards**

Phil Rhoads presented his annual report.

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

**Calendar Items** – January 18, 2010 (Monday) - Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon.  
January 18, 2010 (Monday) – All City offices will be closed in celebration of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

**Curbside Garbage Collection** – As a result of the holiday an alternative pick up schedule for residential garbage service will be implemented next week.

**Legislative Delegation** – Our legislative delegation went back to work today and we will monitor our legislative issue very closely.

**From the Dome to your Home publication** - The Municipal Association continues to publish From the Dome to Your Home it is a great resource, if you are not signed up please let me know and we will make sure you are on the distribution list.

**Budget Workshop** – We will be here on the 19<sup>th</sup> for our budget workshop we will not meet in be meeting in this location (Hall A- Council Chambers) we will be in Halls B & C. Our Planning Commission was already scheduled for their monthly meeting so we will move to Hall A for a workshop setting.

**Greer Chamber of Commerce** – We will be involved with the Greer Chamber of Commerce they will have Greer Chamber of Commerce Day in Columbia February 10<sup>th</sup> I will be participating in that program. If any one is interested in the program and traveling to Columbia that Wednesday please let me know and we will make travel arrangements.

**Municipal Association Annual Winter Meeting** – Which is Legislative Action Day that will be on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> you should have received information concerning that meeting. If you are planning to attend that meeting please let me or Tammy know and we will register you for the meeting.

**Recreation Department** – We are in the process of holding our Spring Registration for spring sports programs / athletic programs at the recreation center. We are receiving very positive responses from our residents on the cost differential for in-city verses out-of-the city residents. This is the first year we have done that. The registration process now is for in-City residents only so we would expect good comments. We do have folks working with us and I'm getting early indications that we are getting good support for the decision the have the cost differential.

**Recycling Center** – We continue to work with our sanitation provider on the recycling center. We are looking forward to having an announcement for you at the next meeting two weeks from tonight.

We are excited to bring updated information to you on how that project is continuing to move forward.

**2010-2015 Consolidated Plan** – Mile Sell, Assistant City Administrator disseminated information to Council from Greenville County Redevelopment Authority regarding the 2010-2015 Consolidated Plan Citizen Participation Meeting Schedule. (Attached) Greer's information session will be held February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at 505 Pennsylvania Avenue, he will be attending this meeting. Presentation to Council will be held February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm at 301 East Poinsett Street during the Council meeting. The Public Hearing for the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan will be held March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 pm in the Greenville County Council Chambers.

**The Comprehensive Plan** – Mike Sell, Assistant City Administrator - The Comprehensive Plan is moving into the final stages and we look forward to getting it to you. We held our final meeting of the Steering Committee on January 7<sup>th</sup> it went very well. We are in the process of revising the draft in regards to the comments and recommendations. We are preparing our public presentations and our online distribution. We will begin to promote the plan for the public on February 16<sup>th</sup>. It will go to the Planning Commission at that time as well as a Public meeting. Immediately following the presentation to the Planning Commission we will allow a period for the public to ask questions. At that time copies will be provided to Council and the public. The plan will be presented to Council for consideration during the February 23<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting. The Public Hearing will be held March 9<sup>th</sup> along with second reading.

**Census Complete Count Program** – If you have any recommendations or suggestions on some folks that we can work with on our Census Complete Count Program please let us know. It is very; very important that we solicit and communicate with our public the importance of responding to the Census count and we are soliciting your assistance with that as well.

**Communications Department** – We have provided to you information from the front page of our website and we continue to ask that you check that on a regular basis (attached), also our cable TV channel.

Mr. Driggers stated he has three items for consideration during **Executive Session**, one Economic Development update and two individual personnel matters involving performance reviews for department head level positions.

Councilman Griffin asked a question regarding the audit and Mr. Driggers stated he wasn't sure and would provide the information the next day.

## **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

### **Recreation Association Board of Trustees** **District 6**

Councilwoman Judy Albert made a motion to nominate Charles Ryan to the District 6 seat of the Recreation Association Board of Trustees. Councilman Wayne Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

### **Victor Community Planning Committee**

## **Appointment of Board Member**

Mayor Danner stated the Victor Community Planning Committee had requested two names of persons willing to serve on the committee and he has asked Councilman Dumas and Councilwoman Anderson if they would serve on that planning committee and both have agreed to do so.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Second and Final 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. He stated there was a modification to the request related to use. Initially the owner wished to use the building as retail now he has sold the building and the new owner (Rushing Winds Ministry) has applied to the Board of Appeals to use it as a church. The Board of Zoning Appeals approved change in use (C-2) pending approval of Council. The owner (Jamie Bertolini) was present and spoke briefly.

Councilman Wayne Griffin made a motion to approve Second and Final Reading of Ordinance Number 26-2009. Councilman Lee Dumas seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

### **Second and Final 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. He stated the requested modification have been made.

Councilman Wryley Bettis made a motion to receive Second and Final Reading of Ordinance Number 27-2009. Councilman Jay Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Election of Mayor Pro Tempore**

Councilman Wayne Griffin made a motion to nominate Councilman Wryley Bettis for appointment as Mayor Pro Tempore. Councilman Jay Arrowood seconded the motion.

No other nominations were made.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

### **Election – Unopposed** **Request from the County of Spartanburg Voter Registration and Elections**

Mayor Danner read the letter from the director Henry Laye of the County of Spartanburg Voter Registration and Elections office. (Attached)

Mr. Driggers presented the information.

Discussion followed.

Councilman Wryley Bettis made a motion to continue to require unopposed candidates be placed on the ballot. Councilman Wayne Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

**First Reading of Ordinance Number 1-2010**  
**AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY JONES AVENUE PARTNERS, LLC AND LOCATED ON JONES AVENUE BY ONE HUNDRED PERCENT PETITION; AND TO ESTABLISH A ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF RM-2 (RESIDENTIAL – MULTI-FAMILY) FOR SAID PROPERTY**

Glenn Pace presented the ordinance. Ordinance 26-2009 will appeared at the 1/19/2010 Planning Commission meeting. The owner, Indu Vakharia was present and spoke briefly. Tom Faulkner a representative of the owner also spoke.

Councilman Wayne Griffin made a motion to approve First Reading of Ordinance Number 1-2009. Councilman Jay Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

**Suber Road Sidewalk Project**

Mike Sell, Assistant City Administrator presented information regarding the Suber Road Sidewalk project. (Attached) Don Holloman, City Engineer also spoke.

Staff recommended adding sidewalks along Suber Road where they do not exist, from the existing sidewalks in the vicinity of Lismore Park and Hammett Bridge Road. Utilizing data available from the Greenville County GIS (Geographic Information Systems), it seems that this is possible with a minimal amount of utility conflicts and right-of-way issues. Staff would like to submit this project to SCDOT (South Carolina Department of Transportation) and try to have the funds that were originally appropriated for the US-29 Gateway Landscape Program in the GPATS (Greenville Pickens Area Transportation System) (Transportation Improvement Plan) TIP transferred to Suber Road for the construction of this sidewalk enhancement.

Discussion followed.

Councilwoman Judy Albert made a motion to move the money to the sidewalk project. Councilman Wryley Bettis seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Mr. Driggers answered Councilman Griffin's earlier questions regarding the deficit funds out of the Federal Drug Fund, when we constructed the Police and Courts Building we made a decision to place lab area in that area, at that time we committed forfeited funds (Drug Funds) would go as a reimbursement for expenses in building the drug lab area. We made the decision to do that and posted on our books which created a deficit, now that those funds have been received in this fiscal year (2010) we will transfer those funds as a reimbursement which will zero (0) that out.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Danner stated an Executive Session was needed to discuss three matters, one Economic Development matter (Allen Bennett Hospital – Update) and two Personnel matters (performance reviews for department head level positions).

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

Motion carried unanimously 6-0. (9:19 p.m.)

Mayor Danner stated during Executive Session they considered one Economic Development matter 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 6-0. (10:00 p.m.)

The Regular Session adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

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Richard W. Danner, Mayor

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Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk