

CITY OF GREER, SOUTH CAROLINA

MINUTES of the MEETING of GREER CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION
January 26, 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
Councilwoman Sandra Anderson arrived at 6:50

Council members absent: None

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 6:33 p.m. The Greenville News, The Greer Citizen and the Spartanburg Herald Journal were notified of the meeting by email on January 22, 2010.

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Councilman Jay Arrowood.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

MINUTES OF December 16, 2009

Councilman Wryley Bettis made a motion that the minutes of **December 16, 2009** be received as written. Councilman Jay Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

MINUTES OF January 12, 2010

Councilman Jay Arrowood made a motion that the minutes of **January 12, 2010** be received as written. Councilman Lee Dumas seconded the motion.

Councilman Griffin requested a correction under the section of **Petitioner** "continuances should read "constituents", correction made.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

MINUTES OF January 19, 2010

Councilman Wryley Bettis made a motion that the minutes of **January 19, 2010** be received as written. Councilman Wayne Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

MINUTES OF January 21, 2010

Councilman Lee Dumas made a motion that the minutes of **January 21, 2010** be received as written. Councilwoman Judy Albert 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 December 2009 Monthly Activity Reports and the Planning Commission Minutes of January 19, 2010 were included in the packet for informational purposes.

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

Revenues: \$3,468,311.

Expenditures: \$7,942,774.

The City is currently 6% under budget for this time period.

PRESENTATION

Dan Reynolds, Chief of Police

Dan Reynolds, Chief of Police presented his annual report. (Report attached)

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ed Driggers, City Administrator

Greenville County Redevelopment Authority (GCRA) – Sub-recipient Funding Request – requests for information have been sent to those currently receiving funding. GCRA advertised in our local news paper as well as the Greenville News, information concerning the availability for that sub-recipient funding and the process to apply.

2010-2015 Consolidated Plan – As a reminder the 2010-2015 Consolidated Plan Citizen Participation Meeting is scheduled for February 8th at 6:00 pm at the Jean Smith Library (505 Pennsylvania Avenue), we will send a reminder to you, Mike Sell will attend the meeting. Presentation to Council will be held February 23rd 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 22nd at 4:00 pm in the Greenville County Council Chambers.

Ethics Reports – The deadline for submitting your Ethics report is due April 15th. I will continue to remind you of that as we get closer to that date.

Spartanburg County Council – Spartanburg County Council provided the Public Hearing and Second Reading to the bond issuance for the funds for the Victor Mill cleanup project. No one spoke in opposition of the project. Representative of the community group spoke in favor of it and it did pass unanimously.

February 15, 2010 – Will be the second of three furlough days that our employees will participate in. City offices will be closed on that Monday. Public Safety is handling those days differently. Many of those employees have participated in at least one, many have already participated in two and some have completed the third day of furlough.

Events Staff/Recreation Department – We are now in the process of soliciting sponsorships for many of our programs and activities that we do throughout the year. It is very critical for us to be able to continue to do the programming we must seek sponsorship from our community. If you receive questions about this please give me a call and I will be happy to let you know who we are talking with and who has agreed to participate, what levels and that type of information. This is moving very favorably, we are receiving a good response from the community. Hopefully this will be able to supplement the appropriations that you've made so that we may continue the level we had in the past.

Recycling Center – We continue to move forward with the recycling center. We will ask each of you to participate with us in the grand opening, a ribbon cutting of that facility in the very near future.

Reminder:

For information and what we have going on check the front page of our website it continues to be a great resource. We are now placing information on "Twitter". We encourage you to contact us and ask to follow our twitter site. You will receive updates and information.

Mr. Driggers stated he has one Personnel matter (performance review) for consideration during **Executive Session**.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance Number 2-2010

AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY STRANGE PROPERTIES #2 LLC LOCATED AT 13060 EAST WADE HAMPTON BOULEVARD FROM C-3 (HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL) TO I-1 (INDUSTRIAL)

Glenn Pace presented the ordinance. The zoning classification will be changed to a PD (Planned Development). Ordinance 2-2010 appeared at the 1/19/2010 Planning Commission meeting, two people spoke in opposition. Staff recommended approval. The Planning Commission approved the request unanimously.

Lengthy discussion was held.

A representative of the owner, Jamie McCutchen was present and spoke.

Councilman Jay Arrowood made a motion to receive the recommendation of the Planning Commission for Ordinance Number 2-2010. Councilwoman Judy Albert seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Discussions

Mayor Danner requested ordinances be prepared by staff regarding a garbage fee and mileage increase.

Mayor asked Council to affirm the following:

1. Commit to a two to three year budget solution.
2. Set time aside this spring to engage in a financial strategy planning session.
3. To put into effect a hiring freeze for the remainder of this budget cycle with some oversight mechanism in it to address shortages.
4. To join and to lead and effort to bring our budget in under budget.

Councilman Griffin stated "If you just absolutely had to make some more cuts, I would like to see where the department heads would make those cuts from. I'm not saying a dollar amount, just cuts. Something they think they could cut out along the lines of what you just said to bring it down another one percent (1%) or two percent (2%) or what ever."

Mayor Danner stated "We will urge our folks to continue to examine ways to that we might address budget issues."

Mayor Danner asked if the above points would be agreeable to Council. Council acknowledged it would.

Councilman Wryley made a motion to affirm the resolution. Councilman Jay Arrowood seconded the motion.

Councilman Griffin asked to put into the resolution that we would at least talk to our representatives.

Mayor Danner stated "Absolutely, that we be proactive in addressing situations with Legislators and County Council members and those that have a direct impact to our budget."

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Councilman Bettis stated "he would like to instruct Staff to bring an ordinance that would reflect a nine dollar and fifty cent (\$9.50) garbage fee per month and in a separate ordinance a seven (7) mil property tax increase."

Councilman Griffin stated "he would like to charge for what you pick up. He doesn't know a price or a scale."

Councilman Arrowood asked about the ordinance about our Fund Balance...would that need to be placed in an ordinance? Mr. Driggers stated we can prepare that as a financial policy. Councilman Arrowood stated yes.

Mayor Danner stated if indeed we are going to be spend some dedicated time in terms of strategic planning we are going to be looking at moving towards possibly doing some other things might it be

appropriate to hold that at least for now and look at that in terms of the bigger picture, what we are going to do in the future as we address the budget ordinance coming up?"

Councilman Arrowood stated "Yes, if you like I will wait until planning time...that will be fine."

Councilman Dumas asked "What is the possibility that we could capture lost millage due to the recession? Is that a short term fix, is that a possibility?"

Mayor Danner stated "There is a mechanism that will allow us to recapture as a percentage or a whole millage that we would recoup to replace or replenish our reserve fund, known as a one time fee."

Councilman Dumas asked if there was a maximum on there...he was told no.

Mr. Driggers stated "Up to your deficit, the maximum is capped by the current deficit. Our current deficit is seven hundred and thirty-three thousand (\$733,000.) our projected deficit going into next year is one million three hundred sixty-six thousand (\$1,366,000.). You are limited by the negative impact to your existing reserves. Under the provision the Mayor is speaking of. Now, from that point forward you are able to designate mileage or a portion of mileage to reserves, but to recapture lost reserves, deficit reserves that's a surcharge and you can do that for a period until you've made that replenishment and then by law it must go off, you can't continue to do that it is only for the purpose it was enacted for, once that has been met it has to come off of the tax roll.

Councilman Griffin asked "Can look at that too?"

Mr. Driggers stated "It is an option that is available to you."

Councilman Dumas asked "How would that be presented, what portion would that make up of the equation?"

Mr. Driggers stated "That would be a matter of...Councils intent would be to replenish the deficit or half the deficit or a fourth of the deficit...that is obviously an item for debate. If we were to draft an ordinance doing that we would probably draft the ordinance at its maximum and then let Council debate whether or not it should be at the maximum or any portion thereof. We would have to have something in the ordinance to start discussion, and of course like any of the ordinances, they can be passed, fail or amended."

Councilman Bettis asked for an ordinance to recoup the Seven hundred seventy three, four seventy three (\$773,473.), the one we are entitled to this year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Danner stated an Executive Session was needed to discuss one Personnel matter (performance review for department head level position).

Councilman Wayne Griffin made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the matter as stated by the Mayor. Councilman Lee Dumas seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0. (8:44 p.m.)

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

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

Motion carried unanimously 7-0. (9:11 p.m.)

The Regular Session adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Richard W. Danner, Mayor

Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk