

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

March 11, 2008

**MEETING LOCATION: 1306 West Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29650**

REGULAR SESSION

Greer City Council met in regular session with Mayor Rick Danner presiding. Council members present: Wryley Bettis, Wayne Griffin, Sandra Anderson, Joe Baldwin, Jay Arrowood 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 6:34 p.m.

Invocation was given by Councilman Wryley Bettis.

PUBLIC FORUM

Charles Lindsey, 189 Lemon Creek Drive, Lyman, SC. – Requested the resignation of City Administrator Ed Driggers.

MINUTES OF February 26, 2008

Councilman Bettis made a motion that the minutes of February 26, 2008 be received as written. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Chris Harvey, Fire Chief presented his annual departmental report.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
Ed Driggers, City Administrator

Mr. Driggers apologized for being distracted.

UPDATE

Construction Projects Update – Facilities move; **Police Department Administration** will operate on a normal schedule until 5:00 pm Thursday, April 17th, at 5:00 pm they will begin their move and offices will remain closed Friday. We will have from Thursday at 5:00pm until Monday at 8:00 am to have all operations relocated. **Courts Administration** personnel and other personnel in the Court Building (CID, CAT Team, County Magistrate) will begin their move the following Thursday, April 24th we are scheduled to shut down all Court operations at 5:00 pm and move everyone in the court building. We will follow the same format to get them relocated and setup ready for operations on Monday at 8:00 am. Cubical units were installed yesterday and today, furniture is also being placed into the building. The second floor is about ninety percent (90%) complete, the first floor is about eighty (80%) to eighty-five (85%) percent complete. We are moving along and are about six (6) weeks ahead of schedule as compared to our contract. Sidewalks are formed and concrete will begin to be poured tomorrow, within in the next two (2) weeks the barriers will be moved from South Main and Poinsett Streets. As we indicated before Council Meetings will move the months of May, June and the first meeting in July to the Police and Courts facility in the new Court room. We will give you plenty of notice. The **City Hall** building is tracking ahead of schedule as well. We are a couple of weeks ahead of schedule on that building. Unless there is a change in our schedule we are moving all operations (**Administration, Building Development Standards, and Engineering**) are schedule to begin that move on July 10th. Same situation, we will operate on a normal schedule through Thursday, we will close all operations on Friday and spend from 5:00 pm on Thursday until 8:00 am on Monday making the move.

Recreation Projects – Demolition has been completed on both sites (Stevens Field and City Ball Field) and we are on schedule. We are very excited about the two million dollars (\$2,000,000.) in renovations going on at those sites. Contracts have been let and contracts to proceed have been given and we are moving forward.

Municipal Elected Officials Institute – I have been asked to join a team conducting an ETV Series on basic budgeting to the Municipal Elected Officials Institute. This will be live on March 20th. I am looking forward to doing it and appreciate the opportunity to represent our community on a state wide basis as we share with other statewide agencies objectives of budgeting for their municipality.

CALENDAR EVENTS

March 13th - Chili Cook Off – The Chili Cook Off sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce will take place this Thursday evening from 6:00pm to 9:00pm in downtown Greer.

March 20th – Community Meeting (At-Large) – The Police Department will sponsor a Community Meeting to obtain general input, concerns and issues involving public safety within the community. The meeting will be held at CPW. (Additional Information will be forth coming).

March 29th – Annual Amnesty Day – This is the time for citizens to bring in debris that we would not normally collect in the container or at curbside. We will be doing this with Ace Environmental our curbside collector. The hours are from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Information will be distributed throughout the neighborhoods, posted on the website, placed on the Cable Channel and through our media outlets.

April 19th - Greer Volunteer Day - Leadership Greer & Leadership Greer Alumni Association are sponsoring a Greer Volunteer Day. Currently they have approximately three hundred volunteers that will be involved in various community projects throughout Greer and the Greater Greer Area. A number of our projects and properties are involved in this; we have work taking place at Needmore Center and some of our other parks and locations. That is happening April 19th.

Report on Staff follow-up to Council Retreat – Department Heads and Management Staff spent a few days together at the beginning of last week and had a great opportunity, an uninterrupted time for us as staff to talk about issues related to marketing and customer service. We discussed revamping monthly department reports to provide a more concise readable information. We spent time in a financial review and doing a mid year analysis of where we are and how we intend to finish up. We spent time discussing policy and procedures, changes we believe need to take place and a strategy to implement those policy and procedure and making recommendations to you on changes involving our personnel policies and procedures. Then a considerable amount of time on Goals setting and Strategic Planning where we have very methodically taken everything that you gave us from your retreat, the input we provided to you, that information is now being placed in a document each department has been give the format of this document and they are now developing their work plans. Those work plans are being incorporated into this and time lines will be established. This document will be brought back to you for discussion and ultimately with a requested for you to modify and / or adopt that Strategic Plan as our blue print moving forward. We spent time discussing “How do we do what we do better as an organization, as a City and as a Staff?” We discussed successes and how we can improve on them. We spent time looking at the principals Jim Collins has defined in his book “Good to Great”. We are adopting a theme or logo; you may call it as we move into 2008 it is called “Team Greer 2008 Good to Great”. Great stands for G– Greer, R-Reaching, E- Every, A-Achievement, T- Together. We will be promoting that philosophy with all of our employees and reinforcing that at the management level.

Mr. Driggers stated he had three economic development matters and two personnel matters to discuss in executive session. They are for information only, no action required.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS **Planning Commission**

No nominations were made for the District 3 seat on the **Board of Zoning Appeals**.

OLD BUSINESS

SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 3-2008 **AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY PRAISE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF GOD, LOCATED AT 3355 BRUSHY CREEK ROAD FROM RM-2 (RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY) TO S-1 (SERVICE DISTRICT).**

Phil Rhoads stated there was no new information to provide.

Councilman Arrowood made a motion to approve Second and Final Reading of Ordinance Number 3-2008. Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 54-2007 **AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY VICTORIA INTEREST, LLC, LOCATED ON BRUSHY CREEK ROAD FROM I-1 (INDUSTRIAL) TO C-2 (COMMERCIAL) AND O-D (OFFICE DISTRICT).**

Phil Rhoads provided new information. Mr. Rhoads stated the Planning Commission requested the parcel be divided into three parcels for zoning purposes. The applicant complied.

Representative of the owner, Chuck Langston was present and spoke briefly.

Councilman Bettis made a motion to receive Second and Final Reading of Ordinance Number 54-2007. Councilman Baldwin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

JOINT USE AGREEMENT WITH GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT **Requested by Councilman Joe Baldwin**

Councilman Baldwin stated this was for information purposes only. He reminded Council that about a year ago we submitted an agreement to the Greenville County School District for the purpose of a rubberized track. That rubberized track was supposed to go at Riverside High School. The agreement was to a possible maximum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.) to be paid out of the City's hospitality fund. The reason Riverside was originally thought to be the proper place was because they had a stadium and lights and the ability to host track meets. The principal at Riverside High School discovered the cost of the track was going to be approximately two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.) and the

resources were not available to do the project. He stated he had been contacted by Booster Club Members who want a track of this nature at Greer High School. They are now getting lights at their school and other revenues are becoming available to upgrade their facility and they are now interested in a rubberized track.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Mr. Driggers reminded Council this matter came before Council at the Council Meeting on February 28, 2006 :

1st Appearance February 28, 2006

JOINT USE AGREEMENT WITH GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Requested by Councilman Baldwin

Councilman Baldwin made a motion to ask Council for a commitment to pay half of the cost of an all-weather track that is appropriate for competitive events up to a maximum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) the School District will match that figure. We would need a joint use agreement in place to be voted on at a later time. The funding of this would probably come from the hospitality tax unless other funding was available.

Discussion followed.

In order for this to work it would have to be at a location where there are lighted facilities and also a location where there is also a stadium, so that we could attract crowds. The school district will maintain the track.

Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

2nd Appearance February 27, 2007:

RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL JOINT USE AGREEMENT
Lease agreement between the School district of
Greenville County and the City of Greer.

Parks and Recreation Director, Ann Cunningham presented the Riverside High School Joint Use Agreement to Council for their permission to forward the agreement to the Greenville County School District. Council recommended Mrs. Cunningham proceed to negotiate with the Greenville County School District regarding the joint use agreement.

We moved forward when the District was not willing to negotiate because they were not able to fund. No additional discussions were held concerning that action.

We believed that ended this issue and those funds were unallocated as we moved to other projects.

We purchased the Victor Baptist Gym, we used our cash out of Hospitality Fund and we bonded two million dollars (\$2,000,000.) for our current facilities and revenue streams,

bond payments and our subsidies to our General Fund account today for one hundred percent (100%) of those project proceeds from the Hospitality Fund. That doesn't mean there wouldn't be fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.) available six (6) months from now or a year from now or two (2) years from now. That doesn't mean you couldn't take fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.) out of it first, that is at your discretion. We no longer have that fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.) earmarked. We would need to be given clear instruction if that is where you want to use it from.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Driggers suggested Council consider requesting a proposal from the school.

Council's consensus was to have the school bring a proposal to Council for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST READING OF ANNEXATION ORDINANCE NUMBER 5-2008 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY BENJAMIN B. MACMILLAN AND LOCATED AT 390 WESTMORELAND ROAD BY ONE HUNDRED PERCENT PETITION; AND TO ESTABLISH A ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF OD (OFFICE DISTRICT) FOR SAID PROPERTY

Phil Rhoads presented the ordinance.

Representative of the owner, Robbie Romeiser (Spencer/Hines Properties) was present but did not speak.

Councilman Bettis made a motion to approve First Reading of Annexation Ordinance Number 5-2008. Councilman Baldwin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

RENAMING OF CITY BALL FIELD / GYM Requested by Councilwoman Sandra Anderson

Councilwoman Anderson made a motion to name the ball field and gym on South Line Street "Victor Park". Councilman Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Griffin stated he had one personnel matter to discussion in Executive Session.

Councilwoman Anderson stated she also had one personnel matter to discuss in Executive Session.

Mayor Danner stated an Executive Session was needed to discuss three Economic Development matters and four personnel matters.

Councilwoman Mercado made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the matters as stated by the Mayor. Councilwoman Anderson seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Mayor Danner stated that Council discussed three Economic Development Matters and four personnel matters in Executive Session with no action needed.

Councilwoman Anderson made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Richard W. Danner, Mayor

Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk