

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

**September 11, 2007**

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

**REGULAR SESSION  
6:30 PM**

Greer City Council met in regular session with Mayor Rick Danner presiding. Council members present: Wryley Bettis, Wayne Griffin, Joseph Baldwin, Jay Arrowood and Belle Coxe Mercado. Councilwoman Sandra Anderson arrived at 6:34. Also present: Ed Driggers, City Administrator, Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk and various other staff and media.

Mayor Danner called the Regular Session to order at 6:32 p.m.

Invocation was given by Councilman Wayne Griffin.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

No one signed up to speak.

**MINUTES OF August 28, 2007**

Councilman Bettis made a motion that the minutes of August 28, 2007 be received as written. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously carried 6-0.

Mayor Danner welcomed Doctor Von Kolnitz's government class from Greer High School.

Mayor Danner also welcomed Spartanburg County District 5 Councilman Dale Culbreth and thanked him for his assistance with Spartanburg County matters.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT  
Ed Driggers**

**Construction Projects Update** – We are scheduled to pour the concrete for the second floor decking around 3:00 am tomorrow morning and 6:00 pm tomorrow night at

the **PD & Court Facility**. The ground floor will be poured next week. **City Hall / Park** – Steel is being erected on the City Hall site and electrical and plumbing work is being done. If you have any questions regarding the Construction please let us know.

**News Release** – We have received a twenty-five thousand dollar (\$25,000.) RELT (Recreational Land Trust) Grant for land acquisition through the State Parks and Recreation Department. Normally you would receive this grant for land you would like to purchase however, Ann Cunningham, Director of Parks and Recreation received the grant post purchase. We were able to convince State Authorities that it was a good use of those funds, enabling us to use some of our own dollars to continue to make improvements.

Mr. Driggers stated he has no items to discuss in Executive Session.

Lindsay Ellis – Updated Council on the Victor Community Project. (Attached)

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **SECOND READING OF ANNEXATION ORDINANCE NUMBER 12-2007** **AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF A PORTION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY SAMUEL JR. AND CHRISTEL MANLEY LOCATED AT 415 CIRCLE DRIVE BY ONE HUNDRED PERCENT PETITION; AND TO ESTABLISH A ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF R-15 (RESIDENTIAL – SINGLE FAMILY) FOR SAID PROPERTY**

Glenn Pace presented the ordinance.

Councilman Baldwin made a motion that Second Reading of Ordinance Number 12-2007 be approved. Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

#### **SECOND READING OF ANNEXATION ORDINANCE NUMBER 13-2007** **AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF A PORTION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY RANDY LEE AND JOSIE T. HATCHETTE LOCATED AT 304 HAMMETT BRIDGE ROAD BY ONE HUNDRED PERCENT PETITION; AND TO ESTABLISH A ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF R-15 (RESIDENTIAL – SINGLE FAMILY) FOR SAID PROPERTY**

Glenn Pace presented the ordinance.

Councilwoman Mercado made a motion to approve Second reading of Ordinance Number 13-2007. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 14-2007**  
**AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF  
PROPERTY OWNED BY THOMAS E. AND MAXIE D. WOOD AND  
LOCATED AT HAMMETT BRIDGE ROAD AND DILLARD DRIVE BY  
ONE HUNDRED PERCENT PETITION; AND TO ESTABLISH A  
ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PD-R (PLANNED DEVELOPMENT  
RESIDENTIAL) FOR SAID PROPERTY**

Glenn Pace presented the ordinance.

Councilwoman Mercado made a motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance Number 14-2007. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 33-2007**  
**AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF  
PROPERTY OWNED BY PAM DURHAM, LOCATED AT 818 WEST  
POINSETT STREET FROM R-12 (RESIDENTIAL - SINGLE-  
FAMILY) TO C-2 (COMMERCIAL).**

Glenn Pace stated he had no additional information.

Neither the owner nor a representative was present.

Councilwoman Anderson made a motion to receive Second Reading of Ordinance Number 33-2007. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously carried 7-0.

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 34-2007**  
**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING NEW STANDARDS FOR FLOOD  
DAMAGE PREVENTION AND RESCINDING THE FLOOD  
PROTECTIVE AREA PROVISIONS OF SECTION 5:12 OF THE  
ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GREER.**

Glenn Pace stated he had no additional information.

Councilman Griffin made a motion to receive Second Reading of Ordinance Number 34-2007. Councilman Bettis seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously carried 7-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **MASTER PLAN FOR THE REVITALIZATION OF THE NEEDMORE COMMUNITY**

Greenville County Redevelopment Authority  
Executive Director Martin Livingston

Mr. Livingston was not present. Councilman Griffin requested this item be held over until Mr. Livingston could attend the Council Meeting to answer Council's questions. Council agreed.

### **RENEWAL OF HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN**

Deborah Loftis, Human Resources Manager &  
Scott Ogburn, Broker from Ferguson Employee Benefits Agency

Mr. Ogburn discussed the review process undertaken by the Ferguson Group for the City of Greer Health Benefit Plan. (Attached) Deborah Loftis discussed the following three options that were presented to Council to control the escalating cost of claims were:

- 1) In response to a national trend among employers who provide financial incentives to employees to move their insurance coverage elsewhere, many businesses are now refusing coverage to spouses who have health insurance available but have chosen to waive it. The City could protect itself from that additional liability by implementing a "Spousal Carve-Out Plan". In this eligibility process, a spouse cannot waive coverage at their employer's site and be covered at the City. The spouse can be covered with the City but as secondary coverage only. The estimated cost savings that this change would generate is between \$75,000 and \$150,000. Please recognize that this change will have a substantial financial impact on some number of employees.
- 2) Another option is to move from the two-tier plan of Employee Only or Family coverage to a four-tier plan of Employee Only, Employee and Children, Employee and Spouse or Employee and Full Family. The insurance premiums would be adjusted according to the cost of the individuals covered based on the claims experience.
- 3) A third alternative is to implement an Incentive Based Premium for Healthy Lifestyles. In this scenario, the employee is rewarded by lower premiums if they are meeting goals that are set to improve their health. This would be monitored through the Wellness Nurse with Ferguson Employee Benefits.

Mr. Driggers recommended Council renew the existing plan. He then requested permission from Council to conduct a workshop prior to the next Council Meeting starting at 6:00 pm to allow staff to present alternatives and costs associated with the alternatives, then during the regular meeting make the decision to make adjustments to the plan or not. The reason the timing is critical is that we have made a previous decision during the budgeting process that there is a change in the premium for family coverage effective October 1, 2007. I would prefer not to make that change and then come on the heels of that and possibly make other changes.

Discussion followed.

### **RENEWAL OF HEALTH PLAN**

Councilwoman Mercado made a motion to accept the recommendation of the City Administrator to renew the Health Plan as outlined. Councilman Baldwin seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously carried 7-0.

Council agreed to meet in a workshop setting to discuss alternatives to the plan.

Mr. Driggers explained the current prescription plan states a generic drug would only be used if a generic drug is requested. We would like to change the plan to state "a generic drug will be dispensed unless the physician orders the name brand drug be used." That in its self will save about thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.) a year. This will require a separate action to allow the modification of the prescription plan to use Generic Drugs if possible. The employee still has the ability to request from their physician the name brand drug.

Discussion followed.

### **PRESCRIPTION PLAN MODIFICATION**

Councilman Baldwin made a motion to change the Health Plan (Prescription Plan) to state "A Generic Drug will be dispensed unless the physician orders a name brand drug be used." Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously carried 7-0.

### **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 35-2007 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND ENACTING A NEW CODE FOR THE CITY OF GREER, SOUTH CAROLINA; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES NOT INCLUDED THEREIN; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR THE MANNER OF AMENDING SUCH CODE; AND PROVIDING WHEN SUCH CODE AND THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE.**

Mr. Driggers presented the ordinance.

Discussion followed.

Councilwoman Mercado made a motion to receive First Reading of Ordinance Number 35-2007. Councilman Bettis seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously carried 7-0.

**FIRST READING OF ANNEXATION ORDINANCE NUMBER 36-2007**  
**AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF**  
**PROPERTY OWNED BY GWYN M. HAWKINS & CURTIS E.**  
**HAWKINS AND LOCATED AT 906 S. BUNCOMBE ROAD BY ONE**  
**HUNDRED PERCENT PETITION; AND TO ESTABLISH A ZONING**  
**CLASSIFICATION OF C-2 (COMMERCIAL) FOR SAID PROPERTY**

Glenn Pace presented the ordinance.

Representatives of the owners, David Black and Tim Allender were present and spoke briefly to Council.

Brief discussion followed.

Councilman Baldwin made a motion to receive First Reading of Ordinance Number 36-2007. Councilman Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously carried 7-0.

**FIRST READING OF ANNEXATION ORDINANCE NUMBER 37-2007**  
**AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF**  
**PROPERTY OWNED BY WM. KIM BURNETT, CHERYL GENOBLE**  
**& KAREN B. ROBINSON AND LOCATED AT 908 S. BUNCOMBE**  
**ROAD BY ONE HUNDRED PERCENT PETITION; AND TO**  
**ESTABLISH A ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF C-2**  
**(COMMERCIAL) FOR SAID PROPERTY**

Glenn Pace presented the ordinance.

Representatives of the owners, David Black and Tim Allender were present and spoke briefly to Council.

Councilman Baldwin made a motion to receive First Reading of Ordinance Number 37-2007. Councilwoman Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion unanimously carried 7-0.

**FIRST READING OF ANNEXATION ORDINANCE NUMBER 38-2007**  
**AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF**  
**PROPERTY OWNED BY FRED O. PLEMMONS AND LOCATED AT**  
**203 HAMMETT BRIDGE ROAD BY ONE HUNDRED PERCENT**  
**PETITION; AND TO ESTABLISH A ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF**  
**C-2 (COMMERCIAL) FOR SAID PROPERTY**

Glenn Pace presented the ordinance.

Representatives of the owners, David Black and Tim Allender were present and spoke briefly to Council.

Councilman Arrowood made a motion to receive First Reading of Ordinance Number 38-2007. Councilwoman Anderson seconded the motion.

Brief discussion followed.

Motion carried 6-1 with Councilwoman Mercado voting in opposition.

**FIRST READING OF ANNEXATION ORDINANCE NUMBER 39-2007**  
**AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF**  
**PROPERTY OWNED BY LENNY DAVID JONES & JANE S. JONES**  
**AND LOCATED AT 205 HAMMETT BRIDGE ROAD BY ONE**  
**HUNDRED PERCENT PETITION; AND TO ESTABLISH A ZONING**  
**CLASSIFICATION OF C-2 (COMMERCIAL) FOR SAID PROPERTY**

Glenn Pace presented the ordinance.

Neither the owner nor a representative was present.

Discussion followed.

Councilwoman Anderson made a motion to receive First Reading of Ordinance Number 39-2007. Councilman Baldwin seconded the motion.

Motion carried 6-1 with Councilwoman Mercado voting in opposition.

**FIRST READING OF ANNEXATION ORDINANCE NUMBER 40-2007**  
**AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF**  
**PROPERTY OWNED BY CHUCK LANGSTON AND LOCATED ON**  
**THE CORNER OF BUNCOMBE ROAD AND JONES AVENUE BY**  
**ONE HUNDRED PERCENT PETITION; AND TO ESTABLISH A**  
**ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF C-3 (HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL)**  
**FOR SAID PROPERTY**

Glenn Pace presented the ordinance.

Councilman Arrowood made a motion to receive First Reading of Ordinance Number 40-2007. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion.

Discussion followed.

Representatives of the owners, David Black and Tim Allender were present.

Motion carried 6-1 with Councilwoman Anderson voting in opposition.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Danner stated an Executive Session was not needed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

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Richard W. Danner, Mayor

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Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk