

**City Council of the City of Greenville
Work Session**

**Monday, March 28, 2022
4:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Location:
Greenville City Hall, Council Chambers, 206 S. Main Street**

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Knox White, Councilmember Lillian B. Flemming, Councilmember Kenneth C. Gibson, Councilmember Wil Brasington, Councilmember Russell H. Stall, and Councilmember Dorothy H. Dowe

Absent: Councilmember John M. DeWorken

CITY STAFF: City Manager John F. McDonough, Interim City Attorney Leigh Paoletti, City Clerk Camilla G. Pitman

Mayor White called the meeting to order for the purpose of discussing the following matters.

Greenlink Update

Transportation Director James Keel provided a presentation and video sharing an update on Greenlink and the 2021 Year in Review, as located in City Council's agenda packet. Mr. Keel provided highlights and statistics involving operations, maintenance, ridership, bus stop infrastructure, proposed maintenance facility, Proterra electric buses, and downtown trolley.

Mr. Keel referred to the improvement of on-time performance rates since 2019 and advised that Greenlink currently has 11 openings with 6 of those positions tentatively filled. Mr. Keel stated that survey information from the American Public Transit Association advises that approximately 92% percent of transit agencies are having a hard time finding new employees and 66% percent are having issues with retaining employees.

Regarding maintenance, Councilmember Stall asked how many miles are put on a bus each month, and Mr. Keel responded 50,000 to 60,000 miles per month. Regarding electric buses, Councilmember Stall asked about issues with reliability for the electric buses. Mr. Keel responded that there are a number of issues involving lack of supply chain and failure with either the vehicle charging or the actual charging stations. Mayor White asked about the relationship with Proterra being in Greenville. Mr. Keel responded that the relationship with Proterra is good, however, Proterra cannot get the parts that are needed which is affecting all owners at this time.

Mr. Keel referred to 289 stops in the City out of a total of 487 stops, with seating installed in 84 of them. Mr. Keel commented on the installation of the stops and the permitting process required with the South Carolina Department of Transportation. Mr. Keel advised that the current cost for a new stop shelter is \$100,000 due to an increase in labor. Mayor White asked if there are too many stops and if some should be removed. Mr. Keel responded they have reviewed the matter and actually reduced the number from 500 to 426 stops.

Mr. Keel provided an update on the proposed new Greenlink facilities including funding appropriations, property donation, public outreach meetings, zoning requirements, design proposals, and development schedule. Mr. Keel stated he anticipates being in the building by November 2023 under the current projected schedule.

Regarding future buses, Mr. Keel advised that Greenlink currently has four electric buses and anticipates ordering six more electric buses. Mr. Keel also advised that thirteen 35 foot diesel buses are eligible for replacement in 2023.

Councilmember Gibson asked about evaluating increased usage and determining upgrades for bus routes and trip frequency. Mr. Keel responded by referring to projected routes over the next decade and evaluating actual growth over that time. Councilmember Flemming commented on the distance people are walking to a bus stop and the need to get riders closer to a shopping or work location to reduce the amount of walking from the bus stop to their destination. Mr. Keel referred to White Horse Road as an example and stated while some alternatives could be determined, most property owners do not want transportation coming to their front door and doing so would increase liability for Greenlink.

Councilmember Gibson asked about an update on the newer route on Halton Road. Mr. Keel responded there is a route that runs every 30 minutes and it has been working well. Councilmember Stall asked about the confidence level in receiving \$27 million from federal funds. Mr. Keel responded that Greenlink has received grants for four consecutive years, that the grant writing is robust, and that the support from South Carolina Senators has been exceptional. Councilmember Flemming recommended continuing to speak with the local legislatives on the state level as well for state related transportation funds. Councilmember Dowe encouraged continued communications with Duke Energy regarding the need for capacity for future electric buses, thanked staff and Greenville Transit Authority appointees for their work, and thanked the Police Department for their assistance involving aggressive behavior towards the bus driver from individuals in the community.

Motion - Executive Session

During the open Work Session, Mayor White asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Interim City Attorney Leigh Paoletti recommended going into executive session under S.C. Code §30-4-70 subsection (a)(2) negotiations for proposed contractual matters or to receive legal advice covered attorney-client privilege and (a)(5) to discuss economic development incentives related to annexations and economic development.

Councilmember Gibson moved, seconded by Councilmember Flemming, to go into Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

(Executive Session)

There being no further discussions, Councilmember Brasington moved, seconded by Councilmember Gibson, to go out of Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously. No action was taken.

With no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Latoria Mayes
Deputy City Clerk

Meeting notice posted on March 25, 2022.