

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

**Monday, April 11, 2022
2:00 p.m.**

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

MINUTES

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

Absent: Councilmember Russell H. Stall

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.

Budget Workshop #1

City Manager John McDonough provided an overview of the discussions involving the proposed FY2022-2023 Budget and introduced Department Directors to provide highlights from the past year and anticipated goals for the coming year. Mr. McDonough advised that the purpose of the discussion is to receive feedback and direction from City Council, review planning assumptions, and understand service enhancements and capital improvement program projects (CIP). Presentation reports were provided by Police Chief Howie Thompson, Interim Fire Chief Brian Horton, Public Works Director Clint Link, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director Angie Prosser, Communications Director Beth Brotherton, and Assistant City Manager Shannon Lavrin.

Regarding questions involving School Resource Officers, Chief Thompson stated SROs are in all middle schools and high schools and are rotating between elementary schools. Chief Thompson added there are actually two SROs in each of the two high schools within the City. Chief Thompson advised that charter schools are not included in the count, however, he noted that Legacy Charter which is now in the City has had a contractual agreement for a County SRO.

Mayor White recognized the Police Department for their assistance with crime reduction and referred to increases in violent crimes which is consuming other municipalities around the country, but not in Greenville. Councilmember Brasington requested a broader perspective showing a regional view of municipalities on the population density chart and recommended placing SROs in each of the elementary schools. Regarding traffic citation, Councilmember Brasington asked about the reduction in citations. Chief Thompson responded that COVID slowed down the Courts so that Officers can only write a certain number of tickets per court session. Chief Thompson added that the Department took an enforcement approach without writing tickets and backing up the court system. Councilmember DeWorken asked for comments regarding traffic enforcement. Chief Thompson explained the work and processes used by a team of Officers who use statistics to assist in determining a problem and then monitor that problem.

Councilmember Flemming asked about issues involving homelessness and campsites and shared her concerns regarding site relocations. Chief Thompson responded that the Department has partnered with the Greenville Homeless Alliance who has hired a peer counselor and explained the Department's involvement. Regarding mental health, Chief Thompson recommended contacting Community Crisis Response with the Department of Mental Health. Councilmember Dowe asked about the status of Officers receiving crisis response training. Chief Thompson responded that approximately two-thirds of the Officers have completed the training. Councilmember Flemming recommended having a trained psychologist with the Officers when responding to mental health calls.

Regarding the Fire Department, Mayor White commented on quicker response times by the Fire Department, versus the response times of Greenville County EMS, as a benefit for the citizens. Mayor White asked about contractual relationships with Belmont Fire District and Donaldson Fire District. Chief Horton responded that the City is currently working on proposed contracts with them. Councilmember DeWorken commented on his interest in the Stone Avenue Station and advised he will be "hawkish" keeping an eye on the status of the station.

Councilmember Dowe requested information on Fire Department personnel overtime. Chief Horton responded there has been an increase and impact on overtime due to COVID and being short staff. Chief Horton advised that he hopes to fill the current vacancies by the end of summer, which will reduce the overtime rate. Chief Horton also advised they have changed the model for hiring to allow for certification which takes approximately three months. Councilmember Dowe requested an update on the matter. Councilmember Brasington asked for a report on industry standards for average response times for a municipality the size of Greenville and the ability to improve.

Regarding Public Works, Mayor White asked for continual updates regarding the Swamp Rabbit Trail Bridges. Regarding the fountain at Riverplace, Mr. Link advised that the City is ready to select a contractor for the improvements. Mayor White asked about the process of replacing speed humps that are not working well. Mr. Link responded that speed humps are reviewed and replaced on a case by case basis, however, humps are being replaced as the City expands the resurfacing program. Regarding the ITS system, Councilmember Dowe recommended making the community aware of the system when appropriate and to explain it in understandable terms. Councilmember Dowe asked if the City captures data in the parking garages for electric vehicle spaces and actual charging usage. Facilities and Parking Services Administrator Bill Foster responded that usage is up and staff is monitoring space usage daily, but not voltage.

Regarding Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Councilmember Brasington asked about the current food operations and whether the Zoo is looking to outsource. Ms. Prosser responded that the Zoo is looking to outsource and to determine how to expand what is offered in the space provided. Councilmember Brasington asked how the Cityworks program is being used for efficiency and maintenance opportunities, and Ms. Prosser referred to the information it provides and affirmed it is the same program used by Public Works.

Regarding Planning, Ms. Lavrin advised that during 2021, city staff reviewed over 2,600 permits and issued over 7,100 permits, which is 1,000 more than the year before and the highest ever issued year to date by the City. Ms. Lavrin also advised that inspections increased 20% percent

since 2018 and zoning inspections increased by nearly 90% percent. Regarding the review process, Ms. Lavrin stated that recommendations will be forth coming offering staff level reviews and focusing reviews on larger projects within the community with the boards and commissions. Councilmembers shared supportive comments for the recommendations. Councilmember Gibson asked how the new Development Code will assist Planning staff. Ms. Lavrin responded that it will improve the processes with the staff's workload and with boards and commissions, however, it will not improve the Building Codes staff because they will continue to review all the permits and perform inspections. Ms. Lavrin stated that Planning staff are attending Neighborhood Association meetings to assist with questions during those meetings.

Councilmember Dowe commented on issues with development façades amending over the review process and suggested finding a way to educate the public on the process. Ms. Lavrin responded that she believes the Development Code will assist with providing a better understanding and explanation for the public.

Regarding Communications, Councilmember Brasington asked if there is a way of determining how many of the followers on Facebook are actually Greenville residents. Ms. Brotherton responded that while she does not have that information, it should be easy to locate. Regarding website engagement, Ms. Brotherton stated that the projection is to have 5.5 million views by June 30.

In summary, Office of Management and Budget Director Matt Efirm referred to additional reports in the presentation from other departments and stated the next steps will include identifying work plan priorities that can move forward without additional funding, identifying resources to support key budget assumptions, bringing forth additional revenue projects in the Budget Workshop #2, and continuing to identify state and federal resources to seek funding outside of annual budget process. Mr. Efirm advised that the figures will be forthcoming during the Work Session on April 25, and that he will be providing additional information in the next few days.

Meeting recessed for a short break and returned to order.

Woodruff Parallel Area Draft Plan

Ms. Lavrin provided a presentation regarding the proposed Woodruff Parallel Area draft plan as located in City Council's agenda packet. Ms. Lavrin advised that on April 25, Council will receive a proposed Memorandum of Understanding for approval regarding a partnership between Greenville County, the city of Mauldin, and the city of Greenville to conduct a wholistic planning area. Keith Brockington with GPATS expressed his support for the partnership.

Councilmember Gibson asked about the meaning of access, and Mr. Brockington responded that every intersection will be two lane roundabouts and there will be no left lane turns anywhere within the corridor to keep right in / right out working with SCDOT. Mr. Brockington stated it is anticipated to take a littler more than three years to complete.

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(a)(1) to discuss appointments to the City's boards and commissions and subsection (a)(2) to receive legal advice covered under attorney-client privilege regarding a condemnation matter and recent litigation served.

Councilmember Brasington moved, seconded by Councilmember DeWorken, 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 5:26 p.m.

Camilla G. Pitman, MMC, Certified PLS
City Clerk

Meeting notice posted on April 8, 2022