



CITY OF GREER, SOUTH CAROLINA

**MINUTES of the FORMAL MEETING of GREER CITY COUNCIL
May 26, 2020**

MEETING LOCATION: Greer City Hall, 301 East Poinsett Street, Greer, SC 29651

I. CALL TO ORDER OF THE REGULAR MEETING Mayor Rick Danner – 6:33 P.M.

The following members of Council were in attendance:
Jay Arrowood, Wayne Griffin arrived at 7:00 pm, Mark Hopper, Lee Dumas, Wryley Bettis and Judy Albert.

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.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Councilmember Judy Albert

III. INVOCATION Councilmember Judy Albert

IV. PUBLIC FORUM No one signed up to speak

V. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING May 12, 2020 and May 19, 2020

ACTION – Councilmember Wryley Bettis made a motion that the minutes of May 12, 2020 be received as written. Councilmember Judy Albert seconded the motion.

VOTE - Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION – Councilmember Wryley Bettis made a motion that the minutes of May 19, 2020 be received as written. Councilmember Jay Arrowood seconded the motion.

VOTE - Motion carried unanimously.

VI. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- A.** Building and Development Standards, Finance, Fire Department, Municipal Court, Parks & Recreation, Police Department, Public Services and the Website Activity Reports for **April 2020** were included in the packet for informational purposes.

Finance

Susan Howell, Budget and Audit Manager presented the Financial Report for the period ending April 30, 2020. (Attached)

General Fund Cash Balance: \$16,296,691.
General Fund Revenue: \$24,287,108.
General Fund Expenditures: \$21,661,774.
Revenue Benchmark Variance: \$547,143.
Expenditure Benchmark Variance: \$1,193,720.
Overall Benchmark Variance: \$1,740,863.

The City is 7% under budget during this time period.

Hospitality Fund Cash Balance: \$1,046,560.
Storm Water Fund Cash Balance: \$1,146,191.

VII. PRESENTATION

- A. Madeleine Bolick, GIS Planner presented a GIS Demonstration on the new Codes Violations Dashboard.
- B. Kate Kizito, Neighborhood Services Coordinator provided Council with a presentation on the Neighborhood Services program. (attachment)

VIII. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ed Driggers, City Administrator presented the following:

Covid 19 - we continue to monitor and follow guidelines from the Governor's office and the CDC (Center for Disease Control).

City of Greer Lobbies - were scheduled to open today, we decided to postpone the opening until next Monday, June 1st. We need to install personal protective equipment (ppe) in appropriate places. We are individually packaging masks and gloves for our lobby areas. We are installing sneeze guards in all of the windows, for protection of our employees and the general public. We are establishing social distancing with markers as well. We were concerned all of this would not be completed by today, so I made the decision last week to postpone the opening. I wanted to assure you the business of the City is being attended too. Everything we have been able to do in our lobbies we have continued to provide the same level of service to our community, to our contractors and our residents either by telephone, online, zoom or dropping off information.

Parks and Recreation – We typically have about one hundred children participate in our summer camp programs. We have those in our existing facilities. As we evaluated our ability to meet the guidelines for social distancing recommendations and requirements we quickly realize we could not assure every parent that would have a child in our program that we could meet all of those guidelines. Because of that we felt that is was necessary to suspend that program this summer. We've held this program for many, many years and we are always excited to do that but to be able to assure a parent that we could provide the level that is recommended we did not believe we could do that satisfactorily this summer so the decision needed to be made that we would suspend that for the year.

We will begin that program again for the summer of 2021. We are now in the process of notifying the parents of our decision so that alternative measures can be made for the families involved in that program.

Freedom Blast – is scheduled for June 27th this year. We anticipate having around fifteen thousand people here on the grounds of City Park. Again, we did not see any measure we could comply with to provide for appropriate distancing for that type of event so we do find it necessary to postpone that event. We don't want to indicate we are cancelling events because we have plans to come back and pick up those events in different types of ways as we continue to move forward. We do not plan to hold this event on June 27th.

CenterG – is on schedule and moving forward and we were looking forward to our June 30th completion. We had hoped to celebrate the opening of downtown in a large fashion in a festival environment on July 10th we do not believe that is it feasible to do that in that amount of time. We have notified vendors we will not be moving forward with the July 10th date. Again, we are committed and we will hold in reserve our resources to be able to hold both Freedom Blast and our CenterG dedication. We will hold those at another time. We do think it is important to cut the ribbon and dedicate our streetscape project. I have tasked Elizabeth Adams and our Events Teams to look at an alternative on a smaller scale that will involve our downtown merchants, our elected officials and key personnel. Instead of us looking to draw in from ten to twenty thousand people we are looking at something on a much smaller scale. Much more of a private event. We hope to do a much larger event maybe in the fall.

Parks and Playgrounds – as we continue to move forward through the phases of opening our facilities, parks and playgrounds I met with Mrs. Cunningham this afternoon and she is confident and I concur with her assessment that we are in a position and prepared beginning next we to start the process of opening all of our parks and recreation facilities which will also include playgrounds. We will have very structured schedules for sanitizing buildings and equipment and those types of things. We will have signage in all of those areas indicating social distancing is recommended and encouraged. We are trying to get voluntary compliance with our community as we open those. We cannot do it all in one day but you will see over the next few day's parks opening. Under the provisions of our state order we are not in the position to do organized play that is through June 15th. We will wait to see if indeed that band is lifted or modified. Organized play and our other recreational programs will not be rescheduled until we get we get further direction from the Governor's Office.

Events Center Opening – We are reopening our Events Centers for private events. We have recalculated all of our spaces in all of our facilities and we are advising for folks that have rented our spaces that they have to be at fifty percent (50%) capacity and we are making provision for that. An example of that would be if someone has rented Hall A and we do not have a rental in Hall B or Hall C and their event may call for fifty (50) people to attend their event, under our guidelines at fifty percent (50%) they could not fit fifty (50) people in Hall A and if we are not renting other spaces we are opening up those additional spaces. We are doing that at no additional charge so that people can start to resume as much normal activity as we can accommodate.

IX. APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. Board of Architectural Review

Marney Hannon resigned his term expires 6/30/2020.

ACTION – Councilmember Wryley Bettis nominated Betsy Potter to fulfill the at-large seat on the Board of Architectural Review. Councilmember Judy Albert second the motion.

VOTE – Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Woods’s term expires 6/30/2020.

ACTION – Councilmember Wryley Bettis made a motion to reappoint Linda Wood to the Board of Architectural Review. Councilmember Jay Arrowood second the motion.

VOTE – Motion carried unanimously.

B. Board of Zoning Appeals

District 1 Emily Tsesmeloglou’s term expires 6/30/2020.

ACTION – Councilmember Jay Arrowood made a motion to reappoint Emily Tsesmeloglou to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilmember Wayne Griffin second the motion.

VOTE – Motion carried unanimously.

District 3 Thomas McAbee’s term expires 6/30/2020.

No action was taken.

District 6 Steve Griffin’s term expires 6/30/2020.

ACTION – Councilmember Judy Albert made a motion to reappoint Steve Griffin to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilmember Wryley Bettis second the motion.

VOTE – Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Greenville Spartanburg International Airport Environs Planning Commission
Spartanburg County Representative Miles Nason’s term expires 6/30/2020.**

No action was taken.

D. Planning Commission

District 1 John Holland's term expires 6/30/2020.

ACTION – Councilmember Jay Arrowood made a motion to reappoint John Holland to the District 1 seat on the Planning Commission. Councilmember Wryley Bettis second the motion.

VOTE – Motion carried unanimously.

District 3 Mark Hopper resigned his term expires 6/30/2021.

ACTION – Councilmember Mark Hopper nominated Tom Kriese to the District 3 seat on the Planning Commission. Councilmember Wayne Griffin second the motion.

VOTE – Motion carried unanimously.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Bonds Career Center Request

Firefighting Instructor Chris Harvey with the Bonds Career Center is requesting the donation of a 2008 Ford Ranger Pickup Truck (VIN 1FTYR14U58PA15348) from the Greer Fire Department to the Bonds Career Center.

Ed Driggers, City Administrator presented the request.

Discussion held.

ACTION – Councilmember Jay Arrowood made a motion to donate the Ford Ranger Pickup Truck to the Bonds Career Center. Councilmember Judy Albert seconded the motion.

VOTE – Motion carried unanimously.

B. First Reading of Ordinance Number 23-2020

AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF A PORTION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY WC VENTURES LLC LOCATED AT 300 TRYON STREET FROM R-12 (RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) TO DRD (DESIGN REVIEW DISTRICT).

Brandon McMahan, Planner presented the request.

ACTION – Councilmember Judy Albert made a motion to approve First Reading of Ordinance Number 23-2020. Councilmember Mark Hopper seconded the motion.

Discussion.

VOTE – Motion carried unanimously.

C. First Reading of Ordinance Number 24-2020

AN ORDINANCE TO TEMPORARILY WAIVE PENALTIES FOR THE LATE PAYMENT OF FEES FOR BUSINESS LICENSE TAX AND LOCAL HOSPITALITY TAX AND LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS TAX PAYMENTS; AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

David Seifert, Chief Financial Officer presented the request.

ACTION – Councilmember Lee Dumas made a motion to approve First Reading of Ordinance Number 24-2020. Councilmember Judy Albert seconded the motion.

Discussion.

VOTE – Motion carried unanimously.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION – In (7:47 p.m.)

(A) Personnel Matter – Administration

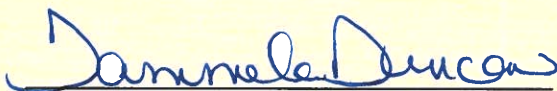
Councilmember Lee Dumas made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel matter pertaining to the Administration Department; as allowed by State Statute Section 30-4-70(a)(1). Councilmember Wryley Bettis seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.


Mayor Danner stated during Executive Session they considered the above matters and no action was taken.

ACTION - Out (8:49 p.m.) – Councilmember Lee Dumas made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Councilmember Judy Albert seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

8:49 P.M.


Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk


Richard W. Danner, Mayor

Notifications: Agenda posted in City Hall and email notifications sent to The Greenville News, The Greer Citizen, GreerToday.com and the Spartanburg Herald Journal Thursday, May 21, 2020.



Financial Performance Summary

As of Month End April, 2020

Quick Look Indicators	This Month	This Year	Balance
General Fund Cash Balance	↓	↓	\$ 16,296,691
General Fund Revenue	↑	↑	\$ 24,287,108
General Fund Operational Expenditures	↑	↑	\$ 21,661,774
Budget Percentage (Over) / Under	↓	↑	7%
Revenue Benchmark Variance	↓	↓	\$ 547,143
Expenditure Benchmark Variance	↑	↑	\$ 1,193,720
Overall Benchmark Variance	↓	↑	\$ 1,740,863
Hospitality Fund Cash Balance	↑	↓	\$ 1,046,560
Hospitality Fund Revenue	↑	↓	\$ 1,982,095
Hospitality Fund Expenditures	↓	↑	\$ 2,155,321
Storm Water Fund Cash Balance	↓	↓	\$ 1,146,191
Storm Water Fund Revenue	↓	↑	\$ 1,044,607
Storm Water Fund Expenditures	↑	↑	\$ 959,918