

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

**Monday, August 22, 2022
4:00 p.m.**

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

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL: Councilmember John M. DeWorken, Councilmember Lillian B. Flemming, Councilmember Kenneth C. Gibson, Councilmember Russell H. Stall, and Councilmember Dorothy H. Dowe

Absent: Mayor Knox White and Councilmember Wil Brasington

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

Mayor Pro Tem Flemming called the meeting to order for the purpose of discussing the following matters.

Legislative Delegation

Ted Riley with Riley Pope and Laney presented a summary of the 2022 Post-Session Legislative Update, as provided in Council's Agenda Packet. Mr. Riley referred to agenda items from the last session that could impact the City, including the FY2022-23 state budget. Mr. Riley commented on major initiatives passed, including the Housing Tax Credit Bill, the American Rescue Plan Act authorizations, Law Enforcement Reform, and Early Voting / Election Commission Revisions. Finally, Mr. Riley shared information on initiatives failing to achieve passage and previewed agenda items for the 2023 Legislation Session.

Regarding the state budget, Councilmember Stall asked how much \$3 million covers for the Conestee Dam emergency mitigation project. Mr. Riley responded the funding is a start and that a cheap repair is estimated at \$12 to \$15 million. City Manager John McDonough stated that he participated in a meeting last week and was advised that a total repair would be somewhere between \$30 million to \$60 million.

Councilmember Dowe asked if the City has applied for grant requests to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) on Conestee. Office of Management and Budget Director Matt Efirid responded there is an appropriation request submitted to the Army Corps of Engineer to conduct a feasibility study, but nothing applied for with the BIL. Councilmember Stall stated that the former City Attorney advised that the City does not have liability on the Dam, and Mr. Riley responded that he has the same understanding.

Councilmember Dowe asked for information on the additional funding in the base Local Government Fund. Mr. Riley stated that the funding comes from a new formula that was created allowing for funding a certain percentage if the economy grew by a certain percentage. Councilmember DeWorken referred to some funding going to the County Transportation Fund this year. Engineering Services Director Clint Link advised that staff is discussing with the County an opportunity to use some of those funds for the City's pavement management program.

Regarding Housing Tax Credit Bill, Mr. Riley commented on potential housing development site visits for the State Fiscal Accountability Authority (SFAA) members in the Greenville area to view modern affordable housing. Mr. Riley referred to the Joint Bond meeting tomorrow and the SFAA meeting next week. Mr. Riley shared that bonding is currently running through the state housing instead of local, which has caused some angst. Councilmember Dowe asked if plans and applications have been disseminated on projects currently in the pipeline. Mr. Riley deferred to the housing organizations for a response and stated they would know more after tomorrow's meeting. Councilmember Stall asked if the \$20 million cap will be evaluated. Mr. Riley responded that he does not know, however, he is aware of further discussions taking place with legislative leadership.

Regarding the American Rescue Plan Act, Councilmember DeWorken asked Economic and Community Development Director Merle Johnson to review the \$100 million for water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure to determine if there are any opportunities for the City. Councilmember Dowe asked if the money is earmarked for rural with the funds going through the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA). Mr. Riley responded there are opportunities for urban cities and recommended viewing the website for more information. Councilmember Flemming asked if the City has applied for any grants. Mr. Efirid responded that the City has applied for an RIA grant for a sewer project.

Regarding FY2023 items, Mr. Riley presented the City's priorities including annexation, ongoing efforts with the Greenville Housing Authority, taxation and tax reform, and state budget initiatives.

Councilmember DeWorken referred to discussions with the County regarding annexations and enclaves and finding a way to make the counties comfortable in helping the cities to pull in those enclaves. Councilmember DeWorken stated he believes there are some other municipalities that could take advantage of loopholes created in the legislation. Councilmember Flemming suggested using infrastructure as a talking point.

Councilmember Dowe referred to the Greenville Transit Authority and its need for assistance with not just transportation, but economic development as well. Councilmember Dowe referred to plans for hosting a breakfast meeting with the Legislative Delegation. Mr. Riley referred to new members joining the Delegation and offered to assist with the meeting. Mr. Riley also referred to his office working closely with the Municipal Association of South Carolina and to services provided and distributed to the City weekly.

Mr. Riley stated that the South Carolina General Assembly will convene on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, with Sine Die on May 11, 2023. Mr. Riley referred to the prefile dates in December and stated the slate will be clean because it is the first year of a two year session.

Pavement Management Program

Engineering Services Director Clint Link and Assistant City Engineer Nick DePalma provided a presentation of information regarding the pavement management program, as included in Council's Agenda Packet. Mr. Link introduced Dan Chism with Consor Engineers who served as a consultant in developing the plan.

Mr. Link advised that the last assessment was performed in 2017, and the City began moving to a blended approach of preservation and maintenance along with full rehabilitation of the streets around 2016. Mr. Link also advised that the new plan provides a seven year plan and that the street network is in good condition and compares with national standards. Mr. Link stated the plan attempts to keep the good roads in good condition while addressing roads that need more rehab or reconstruction.

Mr. DePalma provided an overview of the plan and advised there are 263.67 centerline miles of city owned streets, which is approximately an 11 mile increase in the last decade. Mr. DePalma referred to the preservation of streets and the different processes for road work and treatments. Councilmember Dowe and Councilmember Gibson asked questions regarding the different treatments and the process of performing one treatment over another.

Mr. DePalma stated that most of the roads are in the fair and satisfactory category and that the average condition is 70 PCI (Pavement Condition Index), which is industry standard, and the backlog is 4.8% percent, which is very good. Mr. DePalma reviewed the funding sources and pointed out that a fix all number to repave all city roads would be \$61 million. Mr. DePalma shared that to maintain 70 PCI, the annual budget would need to increase to \$2.5 million.

Councilmember Gibson asked what the index is for similar size cities, and Mr. DePalma responded he has heard of others in the lower 60's. Mr. Chism stated while Greenville has done well, a lot of the cities are spending more money and that \$2 million is average or a little below average. Mr. Efird advised that the City increased the fund from \$500,00 to \$1 million in FY2015 and has maintained it at \$1 million.

Councilmember Gibson asked where additional funding could come from. Mr. Efird responded that funding could probably come half from new growth and half from an enhancement or some other form in the budget. Councilmember Gibson asked if the City could provide \$2.5 million, and Mr. Efird responded if three years out, then the answer would probably be yes. Mr. Link stated that C-Funds is a good way to pursue funding and advised that staff will be meeting this week to discuss stretching municipal match funds. Mr. Link also stated that testing of the surface treatment could provide assistance as well.

Councilmember Dowe asked about consideration of future streets coming into the system. Mr. Link responded the network is not expanding rapidly, but it needs to be considered. Councilmember Dowe stated she was not aware of a website with this information and stated that Council is asked about paving and traffic concerns on a weekly basis. Councilmember DeWorken commented on how the information is collected, measured and compiled.

Motion - Executive Session

During the open Work Session, Mayor Pro Tem Flemming asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. City Attorney Leigh Paoletti recommended going into executive session under S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss boards and commissions appointment considerations.

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

(Executive Session)

There being no further discussions, Councilmember Dowe 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 5:30 p.m.

Camilla G. Pitman, MMC, Certified PLS
City Clerk

Meeting notice posted on August 19, 2022.