

**MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
GREENWOOD COUNTY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JULY 22, 2019
12:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Steven J. Brown, District Five
Vice-Chairman Chuck Moates, District Four
Councilwoman Edith Childs, District One
Councilwoman Melissa Spencer, District Three
Councilman Robbie Templeton, District Six
Councilman Theo Lane, District Seven

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilman Mark Allison, District Two

STAFF PRESENT

Toby Chappell, County Manager
Elizabeth Taylor, County Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Steven Brown called the meeting to order. He thanked Council and the guests for their time and attendance.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of this meeting's date, time, location, and agenda was posted outside the main entrances of the Greenwood County Courthouse and the Greenwood County Administration Office at Park Plaza RM 104. Agendas were distributed to the *Index-Journal*, local radio stations, and posted on the Greenwood County website calendar.

INVOCATION

Councilwoman Melissa Spencer, District Three, delivered the invocation.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing

The Chairman asked for a motion to enter into the Public Hearing portion of the Agenda. Councilman Templeton motioned to enter into the public hearing, seconded by Councilwoman Childs, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION: Council entered into the Public Hearing portion of the Agenda.

1. Consideration of a Lease Agreement by and between Greenwood County and Boys and Girls Clubs of the Crescent Region for the Brewer Community Center. – Toby Chappell, County Manager

Chairman Brown read the title and asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the ordinance.

Mr. Donald Burton stated that he is in favor of the project, however, had several questions he would like to have answered by Council. He added that he commends Josh Norman for what he is attempting to do with the Boys and Girls Clubs. He is concerned that the decision has already been made to approve the agreement based on the activities that are being held for the groundbreaking of the facility on the same day as the meeting. He asked why the community was not made aware of the process along the way. Chairman Brown responded by saying that the community has been involved. He referred to the number of meetings that were held where the community responded to the needs. Councilwoman Childs added that there were 10 meetings where people attended and gave their requests for the Boys and Girls Clubs. Councilman Lane added that during those meetings the issue of safe places was discussed for the children to go. He also added that from the standpoint of contractual negotiations and the administration, this facility is a County facility. Mr. Burton stated that he thinks that the Boys and Girls Clubs is something that is positive for the community. Councilman Templeton clarified the process that has been made over a period of the last year to discuss the needs of the community. He added that along with the community meetings, much of the contractual matters have been handled by Council. He concluded that the process has not been quick by any stretch. Councilman Lane went on to say that he did not feel that Council had any reason to believe that the community would find Council's actions to be objectionable. Chairman Brown added that he has had many opportunities, one on one, where people from the community have asked him what Council was going to do for the young people in the community. Chairman Brown mentioned that after speaking with people in the areas that will be serviced by the Boys and Girls Clubs, as well as people in the County, he has researched materials that related to the successes of the Boys and Girls Clubs around the state. He added that he has not found any reason not to support them. He agrees that this is Council's attempt to do something that is positive for the young people in the County.

Reverend Marvin Hughes asked if Council had any meetings with anyone who was vested financially in the Brewer Center. He was concerned about the tenants who pay to use the facility on a regular basis. Chairman Brown answered that during the negotiations of the agreement with the Boys and Girls Clubs, they addressed the fact that there are a number of organizations who have used the facilities over the years. He added that he had not spoken with anyone from the organizations. Reverend Hughes added that he meets each Sunday in the cafeteria of the Brewer Center and pays a \$600 fee to the County for the use of the facility. Councilman Templeton restated that during the negotiations of the contract, Council was mindful of the people who were using the facility. Vice Chairman Moates shared his support for the Boys and Girls Clubs. He added that the County owns the building, and Council wanted to put it to work to benefit the community to the utmost.

Mr. Eugene Duncan spoke in favor of the agreement and stated he is familiar with the programs within the Boys and Girls Clubs. He added his thoughts about how there is

not just one solution that will fix all of the problems being addressed, and that this will be a step towards having a positive activity for the children in the community.

Mr. Carter Clark, Boys and Girls Clubs of the Crescent Region, reported that their approach is to bring resources and expertise to the community and not take anything away that is positive and working well. He stated that they will be hiring the director from the community to work with the use of the facility. Their goal is to augment programs and serve the community and citizens who need the high quality programs. Mr. Clark added that they have football and basketball programs, but those are one fifth of the programs they have.

Mr. Willie Brooks thanked Mr. Clark for his clear explanation of the intent of the Boys and Girls Clubs and how it will effect the community and the groups who currently use the facility.

Chairman Brown closed this portion of the Public Hearing and asked Council for their pleasure. Councilwoman Childs motioned to approve the lease agreement as written, seconded by Councilwoman Spencer, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION: Council approved the Lease Agreement by and between Greenwood County and Boys and Girls Clubs of the Crescent Region for the Brewer Community Center.

- B. Consideration of Hospitality Tax funds request for The Museum and Railroad Historical Center in the amount of \$5,700 for expenses related to an emergency repair of the air conditioning system at the Railroad Historical Center. – Karen Jennings, Executive Director, The Museum

Ms. Jennings gave further explanation of the need for the request, stating that the air conditioning needed to be replaced at the Railroad Museum. She stated that instead of investing in the repair of the building that they will be tearing down, they would like to use the funds for the air conditioner in the “Hat House” which will be used as the Welcome Center. She gave further information about the need of a sponsor to fund an exhibit at the Museum related to the Sheriff’s office. Chairman Brown summarized the explanation. After further discussion, Council suggested that the air conditioning be replaced in the bank building, currently referred to as the Welcome Center. Chairman Brown confirmed with the County Manager that there were funds available in the Hospitality Tax fund. There was further discussion regarding the Sheriff’s exhibit.

Chairman Brown reminded Council of the request stating a \$10,000 maximum for the air conditioning and an additional \$3,700 for the Sheriff’s exhibit at the Museum.

Councilman Lane requested that Council have more time to discuss the request for the exhibit. Vice Chairman Moates motioned to fund the request for the air conditioner, seconded by Councilman Lane. The request for additional funds for the exhibit will be deferred to a later date. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION: Council approved the request for Hospitality Tax in the amount of up to \$10,000 for the replacement of the air conditioner at the Railroad Historical Center.

- C. Consideration of contract with Davis and Floyd for CPST Parks Design and Construction. – Josh Skinner, CPST Coordinator

Chairman Brown read the title and reminded Council of the information that was presented at a previous meeting. Toby Chappell, County Manager, gave further details of the contracts presented. He added that the City of Greenwood, to date, has not signed the maintenance agreement. He asked Council to make the decision whether to proceed as planned to do the field work with all of the parks, with the knowledge that there may not be a maintenance agreement forthcoming from the City; or does Council approve the master planning for the parks outside of the City, excluding Emma Gaskin Magnolia Park, and begin the field work on those. Mr. Chappell stated that his biggest concern is what to do if the City does not sign the maintenance agreement. Vice Chairman Moates pointed out that there will still be plans on the table for the parks and that money is available. Mr. Billy Nicholson, Greenwood Parks and Trails Foundation, shared his understanding of the maintenance agreement. He asked if there were any meetings planned for the shared responsibility for the maintenance of the parks. Chairman Brown answered that the County had a meeting with the City to discuss the effort, however, nothing definitive has been decided. He restated the recommendation of the County Manager to move as originally intended to complete all of the parks for \$116,000. Mr. Chappell added that he feels the County should do the master planning and the field work of all of the parks. He further stated that if there is not a maintenance agreement in place at the time of construction, that County not construct Foundry Road and Grace Street Park. There was further discussion between Council and Mr. Nicholson regarding the City of Greenwood's position on the maintenance of the City parks. Chairman Brown asked for the pleasure of Council based on the recommendation by the County Manager. Councilman Lane motioned to approve as recommended, seconded by Vice Chairman Moates, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION: Council approved the contract with Davis and Floyd for the master plan in the amount of \$116,000.

After the vote, Mr. Nicholson commented on a kudzu problem that they have at the Grace Street Park. He feels the issue needs to be addressed soon. After further discussion, the County Manager recommended that there be no additional expenditures until the master plan be constructed. Chairman Brown asked that Council defer any action until Mr. Nicholson works with the County Manager to work out the details of that issue.

- D. Consideration of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for provision of secure detention services with South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ). – Toby Chappell, County Manager

Chairman Brown further explained the need for the agreement with the SC Department of Juvenile Justice. He asked for the pleasure of Council. Councilman Templeton motioned to approve the agreement, seconded by Councilwoman Childs, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION: Council approved the MOA with the SC Department of Juvenile Justice.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Action may be taken on items discussed in executive session. There was no need to go into Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.

Susan McIntyre transcribed the minutes.