

**MINUTES
ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE
GREENWOOD COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2019
4:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilman Theo Lane, District Seven

STAFF PRESENT

Toby Chappell, County Manager
Elizabeth Taylor, County Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Steven Brown called the meeting to order.

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 Library. Agendas were distributed to the *Index-Journal*, local radio stations, and posted on the Greenwood County website calendar.

INVOCATION

Councilman Robbie Templeton, District Six, delivered the invocation.

APPROVAL OF TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated that the minutes were provided prior to the meeting and asked if there were any corrections to the minutes.

There were no corrections. Councilman Allison motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman Moates, and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

ACTION: Council approved the September 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

PRESENTATION

Presentation for Council to consider adding a public access point at the Hwy 72/221 Bridge – Rob Russian, County Engineer

Mr. Russian summarized the details of the Lake Greenwood Master Plan as it pertained to the Capital Project Sales Tax of 2016. He added that the ordinance states that the \$810,000 will be used for the implementation of the Lake Greenwood Master Plan, to possibly include, but not limited to, the construction of public access areas, restroom facilities, and refuse collection facilities, and

landscaping and signage on entrance ways. He continued reporting that the funding was split into two phases: Phase 1 of \$530,000 has already been collected, and Phase 2 is \$280,000 projected to be collected in October of 2021. He reported on some of the discussions that were covered in the Lake Greenwood Master Plan committee meetings, which included public access to Lake Greenwood for the use of the funds. He summarized the process that the committee used to come up with some ideas for access on Lake Greenwood. He presented some illustrations to Council showing examples of other facilities around the State. He described the facilities to include boat parking spaces, car parking spaces, picnic areas, playgrounds, restrooms, and refuse collection.

Mr. Russian continued the presentation summarizing the process that the committee used to determine the location of the public access that is being proposed. He shared the illustration of the proposed property, which totals approximately 2.9 acres. He added that the proposed plan is to hold 40-60 boat trailer parking spots and restroom facilities. He continued saying that the direction the committee was taking was that public access is a priority for the funds, and the area along Break on the Lake is property currently owned by County and an ideal location for access to the general public.

Vice Chairman Moates shared his concerns about the traffic on the highway turning into the boat ramp. He asked if there was any consideration for a traffic light or some sort of traffic control. Mr. Russian answered that SCDOT has been approached about a traffic light at that location previously. He shared the process for SCDOT to do a traffic study before adding a traffic light to a location. Councilman Allison asked about the total of funds that are available to be used for the Lake Greenwood Master Plan and the projects that the funds can be used for. It was further explained that the funds can be used for all or some of the projects as the funds are available. Mr. Russian shared information about the estimated costs of previous boat ramp projects for the County. There was further discussion regarding the cost of the new project based on the design that is chosen for this site. Vice Chairman Moates asked about the congestion around the bridge and the restaurant if the location of the public access is approved. Mr. Russian answered that a boat capacity study is being conducted currently which will analyze that issue.

Chairman Brown suggested to Council that before approval or endorsement is considered, Council needed to have a public hearing on the conceptual design and the recommendation of the County Engineer, as well as the expenditure of the funds. He asked Mr. Russian what the steps would be once this proposed project was approved. Mr. Russian answered that the process would be to make the decision of what type of amenities the County would want to have at the facility. He continued that once the decision is made, there would be a request for an engineering firm to design the site that could be used for the bidding process. He added that public input could be included throughout the process of the design.

The discussion continued regarding the need for public boat ramps on the lake. Mr. Russian stated that the County meets the minimum requirements of public boat ramps currently, but Greenwood County is lacking in the amount of public access points compared to other lakes. There was further discussion regarding the use of Lake Greenwood for high school and college level fishing tournaments. Mr. Russian stated that the lake has been recently used for a high school tournament. He feels that the sport is a very fast growing sport. Chairman Brown made some final comments

regarding the use of the property owned by Greenwood County in that location. He commented for Council to consider what could be built on that piece of property that would be worse than a boat launch if County Council decided to sell the property.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Explanation of Taxation on boats, boat motors, and watercraft and Implementation of Act 223 of 2018. – Ashley Davis, County Auditor

Ms. Davis summarized the new legislature passed in 2018 with an effective date of January 1, 2020. She further detailed the changes to the way boats, boat motors and watercrafts are taxed in South Carolina. She explained that the new way of taxation will be similar to the way the vehicles are taxed. Ms. Davis reported that based on the changes, the Auditors office needed to make adjustments to the FY20 budget, and not to bill boat taxes for 2019. She continued that the County will start billing in January 2020. She budgeted for 6 months of revenue for boats in the FY20 budget, which is a collection of boats from January to June. She stated that there were a few options given by the Department of Revenue to make the transition to the new billing law. She reported that the option the Auditors office chose is as follows: The County will bill in October for the 2019 tax bills. This means if a person owned the boat on 12/31/18 they will get a bill. Starting on January 1, 2020 the County will bill new purchases as monthly renewals, tied to the boat registration month. This means the County will collect more revenue than expected for FY20, because she only included receipts for six months in the FY20 Budget.

Ms. Davis stated that in October 2020, the County will not bill out as they did previously. They will begin the new process of billing the renewals starting on January 1, 2021 in the registration month of the boats. There was in depth conversation clarifying the options that were suggested by the Department of Revenue and the option that the Auditors office selected to work best with the County. Ms. Davis explained that this option would eliminate the chance of someone being billed twice in one year. She added that this option will also give the County IT Department the chance to get the program ready for the updated billing process. After further clarification, Chairman Brown stated he would like to consider the option as reported by Ms. Davis. Council members agreed with the recommendation from the Auditor to proceed with the option as stated.

- B. Consideration of Rehabilitated Historical Property Final Certification for Floor 3 – Unit 302. – Phil Lindler, Planning Director

Mr. Lindler reported on the status of the property and presented pictures of the work that had been done. He stated that everything meets the standards as required by the Rehabilitated Historical Property tax credits.

- C. Resolution 2019-22 to transfer funds from the 2007 Capital Project Sales Tax to the Hydro Project Fund for the “Emergency” Spillway Project. – Rob Russian, County Engineer

Mr. Russian updated Council on the name of the project, which had been called the Auxiliary Fuse Plug. He reported that the new name is the Emergency Spillway Project. He shared the information that supported the name change from the board of consultants and from a design standpoint. He reported that there is additional work required for the new design which will amount to \$145,670 in cost. Mr. Russian is requesting the fund transfer to support this additional cost. In summary, Mr. Russian stated current projections of overall project costs fall within the available funds for the project. This provides the funding for the project advancement that was reported at the September 17, 2019 meeting.

PENDING ITEMS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Action may be taken on items discussed in executive session. Chairman Brown reported that Council will go into Executive Session for the following reasons:

1. Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body; however, if an adversary hearing involving the employee or client is held, the employee or client has the right to demand that the hearing be conducted publicly. Nothing contained in this item shall prevent the public body, in its discretion, from deleting the names of the other employees or clients whose records are submitted for use at the hearing. **(Treasurer's Office – Personnel; Magistrate – Personnel)**
2. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim. **(CPW – Contractual)**

Councilman Templeton motioned go into executive session, seconded by Vice Chairman Moates, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION: At 5:05 p.m., Council entered into executive session.

Councilman Allison motioned to exit the executive session, seconded by Councilwoman Childs, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION: At 5:45 p.m., Council exited the executive session with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Susan McIntyre transcribed the minutes.