

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

**Monday, May 8, 2023
2:30 p.m.**

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

MINUTES

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

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

Mayor White called the meeting to order for the purpose of discussing the following matters.

Budget Workshop #3 / Capital Improvement Projects

City Manager John McDonough thanked City Staff for their participation in providing an in depth overview of the information being presented today. Interim Office of Management and Budget Director Karen Crawford provided a presentation of information addressing proposed capital improvement projects for FY2024, as located in Council's Agenda Packet. Ms. Crawford presented Council with the overview of priority investments and active priority projects including the budget balance and anticipated funding for FY2024. Ms. Crawford also presented account summaries and project reviews for the General Fund. Ms. Crawford advised that the Total General Fund for FY2024 is \$12,380,287 and stated that the amount is less than last year's budget and considerably higher than the ten year average, which is \$7.9 million.

Councilmember DeWorken asked why Augusta Street received priority for undergrounding. Mayor White responded providing the history of the pole relocation project along Augusta Street.

Councilmember Dowe recognized priorities set during last year's budget discussions and certain funds being reduced in this year's material. Ms. Crawford and Councilmember Dowe commented on reallocations and anticipating an unstable economy.

Councilmembers raised questions regarding funding for the fire stations and the priority list of fire station improvements. Councilmember Flemming expressed her concern with the lack of priority for West End Fire Station. Following the comments, Mr. McDonough offered to schedule a discussion involving the fire station priority list at a future work session meeting.

Assistant City Engineer Nick DePalma presented an update on the Academy/Downtown Bypass and work taking place on the Cultural Corridor in connection with the Downtown Bypass. Mayor White encouraged quicker movement of this project. Engineering Services Director Clint Link presented an overview of the Church Street Bridge improvement projects to improve pedestrian safety and stated he anticipates the project to begin in early 2024. Mr. Link also provided an update on special emphasis neighborhood sidewalks and advised that the estimated total for FY2024 is \$5,365,013, at \$420 per linear foot.

Councilmember Dowe expressed concern with halting the \$1 million funding while receiving the Neighborhood Infrastructure Bond (NIB) and referred to discussions from last year.

Councilmember Dowe asked where the bottleneck is on the bandwidth. Mr. Link responded it takes times to prepare designs and that the City is in a heavy design phase and moving into construction. Mayor White stated the City has always had a bandwidth problem and commented on the NIB serving as an accelerator. Councilmember DeWorken asked that while \$1 million funding is not included this year, do not forget to include it in future years. Councilmember Gibson suggested finding a way to provide \$2 million in FY2025 to catch up. Councilmember Dowe suggested packaging the projects, and Mr. Link responded they are seeing fluctuation in pricing with that process. Mr. McDonough advised that the funding information is a proposal and if Council would like to make adjustments, they can.

Mr. DePalma provided an update on the Wade Hampton Boulevard corridor.

Regarding the Hospitality Tax, Ms. Crawford advised that the Total Projects funding for FY2024 is \$6,250,000. Mr. DePalma provided an update on the Laurens Road and Haywood Road Pedestrian Bridges on the Swamp Rabbit Trail, and Senior Capital Project Manager Jeff Waters provided an update on the Paperclip project at Richland Way and the Laurens Road trail connections. Mr. Waters also provided an update regarding Unity Park and the additional work taking place. Councilmember DeWorken asked for consideration of work underneath the Church Street Bridge along the Swamp Rabbit Trail and thanked staff for their work on the Hillside Drive Bridge which provides access to the Trail.

Regarding the Stormwater Fund, Ms. Crawford provided a total budgeted amount of \$7,430,073, with a balance of \$4,296,771. Councilmember Dowe asked about the annual revenues for the Stormwater Fund, and Ms. Crawford responded it is over \$6 million, however, crews, maintenance expense, debt, administrative cost, and equipment purchases are paid out of the revenues. City Engineer Paul Dow presented an update on the Stone Lake Dam, Southernside Stream stabilization, and Meyers Drive culvert replacement. Councilmember Stall asked for Council to receive an impact report on river restoration for Cleveland Park and Unity Park.

Regarding the Wastewater Fund, Ms. Crawford provided a total budgeted amount of \$21,084,539, with a balance of \$5,279,243. Councilmember Dowe asked about the West Greenville sewer infrastructure due to the additional density in the area. Mr. Dow responded there is capacity there, however, it is challenging. Mr. Dow provided an update on the Rhett Street sewer upgrades with construction beginning in July 2023 and South Downtown sewer upgrades.

Regarding the Zoo Fund, Ms. Crawford advised the Total Projects funding for FY2024 is \$1,004,300. Mr. Waters presented an update on the Giraffe Feeding platform which will open in July and the Zoo Africa Plaza.

Regarding Undergrounding Fund, Ms. Crawford advised the project funding for FY2024 is \$4.5 million. Mr. Link presented an update regarding the Augusta Street Undergrounding and the Augusta Street and Stone Avenue overhead cleanup.

Regarding the Neighborhood Infrastructure Bond (NIB), Ms. Crawford reviewed the proposed projects with a total in NIB funding of \$47,500,000. Mr. Waters presented an update on the Public Safety Campus on Halton Road. Mr. Link referred to sidewalk projects utilizing NIB funds estimated at \$10,448,245. Mr. DePalma commented on resurfacing and restriping projects, and Mr. Waters commented on Gower Park Court renovations, Cleveland Park Court renovations, and Nicholtown Community Center renovation.

Councilmember Dowe asked if there are any outstanding federal grants which the City has pursued and has not received a response to as part of the bi-partisan infrastructure law. Ms. Crawford responded she would have to review; however, she does not think so. Councilmember DeWorken asked if the City has qualified for any South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority funds (RIA), and Mr. Dow responded yes.

Ms. Crawford advised District Councilmembers of outstanding Dividend Fund balances which need to be committed to a project before June 30. Ms. Crawford also advised that the public hearing and first reading of the FY2024 budget will occur on May 22 with the second and final reading occurring on June 12.

Motion - Executive Session

During the open Work Session, Mayor White 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)(2) to discuss the following: (a) economic development and contract negotiations relating to Augusta Plaza adjacent to Fluor Field in the West End and (b) to receive legal advice regarding potential environmental claims involving Conestee Dam.

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

(Executive Session)

There being no further discussions, Councilmember Stall 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 5:10 p.m.

Camilla G. Pitman, MMC, Certified PLS
City Clerk

Meeting notice posted on May 5, 2023