

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

**Monday, November 13, 2023
3:00 p.m.**

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

MINUTES

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

Absent: Kenneth C. Gibson

CITY STAFF: City Manager Shannon Lavrin; City Attorney Leigh Paoletti, Assistant City Attorney Logan Wells; City Clerk Camilla G. Pitman

Vice Mayor Pro Tem Dorothy Dowe called the meeting to order for the purpose of discussing the following matters.

Engineering Project Update

City Manager Shannon Lavrin introduced a comprehensive overview of larger projects taking place in the Engineering Services Department. Engineering Services Director Clint Link provided a presentation regarding engineering project updates, as located in Council's Agenda Packet. Mr. Link stated the Department is experiencing increases in general construction costs and a decrease in contractor bids submitted, which have created challenges. Mr. Link also stated there are supply issues which affect how quickly projects are being implemented and completed. Mr. Link recognized the project managers who provided an overview of projects.

Assistant City Engineer Eddie Littleton provided information on the Neighborhood Infrastructure Bond Sidewalks and Special Emphasis Neighborhood Sidewalks. Mr. Littleton shared examples of work taking place on Neighborhood Infrastructure Bond projects. Regarding sidewalks, Mr. Littleton advised that the estimated cost per linear foot is \$456.

Assistant City Engineer Lucas Bryson provided information on Wastewater projects including South Downtown Sewer Improvements (Knoxbury), Rhett Street Sewer and Stormwater Upgrades, and ReWa Wet Weather Program.

City Engineer Paul Dow provided information on Stormwater projects including Southernside Bank Stabilization, Emergency Stream Bank Repair at First Baptist Church and Swamp Rabbit Trail, North Main Park Bank Stabilization, and Meyers Drive Culvert Replacement.

Councilmember Dowe questioned the current status of the projects compared to the income received from property taxes for Stormwater 2.0. Mr. Dow responded that there are some projects that are currently not funded. Ms. Lavrin stated that some of the processes put into place with the new Zoning Code and the forthcoming Engineering Design and Specification Manual will go a long way with addressing the matter.

Assistant City Engineer Nick DePalma provided information on Roads and Bridges projects including Willard Street Bridge Replacement, Old Augusta Safety Project, Cultural Corridor and

Academy Bypass, Pavement Management Program, Stone Avenue Safety Project, and Pendleton/Vardry Intersection and Road Diet.

Mr. Link provided information on Traffic and Intersections projects including Cleveland Street Road Diet, East Parkins Mill Traffic Calming, and SCDOT Signal Rebuilds.

Councilmember Brasington referred to receiving questions from the public regarding what the City is doing about infrastructure investments and recommended sharing more media articles regarding Greenville's growth and the funds the City is working with to get ahead of the growth. Councilmember Dowe recommended including an update in a Week in Review as a priority and stated it is essential information to express how the City is managing its growth.

Ms. Lavrin stated that over the next few months you will receive reports from other departments sharing what our teams are doing in the City.

Mayor White entered the meeting.

Business License Update

Chief Financial Officer Patricia Dennis provided a presentation regarding amendments to the Business License Class Schedule, as located in Council's Agenda Packet. Ms. Dennis provided an overview of the business license tax, explained that it is the City's second largest revenue source, and referred to the Business License Standardization Act which took effective on January 1, 2022. Ms. Dennis also referred to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code and stated that by December 31 of odd years, the City must adopt by ordinance the latest Standardized Business License Class Schedule. Ms. Dennis advised that the projected FY2024 gross income is \$14,673,022,804 and the projected FY2024 Business License Tax received locally is \$19,161,253.

Councilmember DeWorken asked if there are winners and losers in the process, and Ms. Dennis responded yes, however, primarily winners. Councilmember DeWorken requested a list of business categories anticipated to pay more.

Ms. Dennis provided the following proposed changes:

- Implement class schedule updates (Required by Act 176)
- Decrease additional per \$1,000 rate (benefits resident businesses)
- Discontinue Declining Scale (benefits roughly 98% percent of businesses)
- Remove Gross Income Ceiling (less than five businesses impacted per FY23 renewals)
- Commercial Property (move to class schedule 7 for consistency)

Regarding impact, Ms. Dennis stated nearly 8,300 of 92% percent of businesses will pay less than or equal business license tax under the new rate structure and about 700 or 8% percent of businesses will pay more under the new rate structure. Councilmember Brasington requested information on what the average increase is for businesses having to pay more.

Ms. Lavrin advised that an Ordinance is on the Formal Agenda for this evening and must receive second and final reading before the end of the year. Ms. Lavrin also advised the renewal season begins on February 1, 2024.

Mayor White suggested having a list of the tax incentives provided where the City waives the business license. Councilmember Stall asked if conversations have been conducted with the businesses receiving increases and suggested doing so.

City Attorney Leigh Paoletti joined the meeting.

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)(1) to discuss appointments to the City's boards and commissions and subsection (a)(2) to discuss negotiations for proposed contracts of property in the Central Business District, Glenn Road and South Pleasantburg Drive, agreement related to multi-county industrial parks, and legal advice on the City's position involving two zoning matters.

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

(Executive Session)

There being no further discussions, Councilmember Stall moved, seconded by Councilmember Flemming, to go out of Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously. No action was taken.

With no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Camilla G. Pitman, MMC, Certified PLS
City Clerk

Meeting notice posted on November 10, 2023