

City Council Work Session

Documents:

- 1 - [WORK SESSION AGENDA.PDF](#)
- 2 - [HOMELESS COURT PROGRAM UPDATE.PDF](#)



CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENVILLE WORK SESSION MEETING

Monday, November 27, 2023 - 3:00 p.m.

Greenville City Hall, 206 S. Main Street

Citizens may access the meeting at the following web address:

<https://www.greenvillesc.gov/1694/Online-Meetings>

CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Knox White; Councilmembers John DeWorken, Lillian Flemming, Ken Gibson, Wil Brasington, Dorothy Dowe, Russell Stall

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

AGENDA

- | | | |
|-----------|--|------------------|
| 1. | Call to Order | 3:00 p.m. |
| 2. | Homeless Court Update | 3:00 p.m. |
| 3. | Business License Update | 3:30 p.m. |
| 4. | Executive Session (S.C. Code §30-4-70):
<i>NOTE: City Council will leave the Work Session to conduct an Executive Session which is not open to the public. The Work Session meeting will adjourn following the completion of the Executive Session. No action will be taken prior to adjourning the meeting.</i> | 3:45 p.m. |
| | a. Economic Development / Legal Briefing | |
| | b. Boards and Commissions / Personnel Update | |
| 5. | Adjourn | 5:25 p.m. |



Homeless Court Program

Greenville Municipal Court – Update – November 27, 2023



Committee Participants

Representatives from the City of Greenville

City Attorney's Office

City Prosecutor's Office

Private Attorneys willing to serve as pro bono Defense Attorneys

Court

Police Department

Local Homeless Advocates

Local Homeless Shelters

A Variety of Service Providers

[Establishing a Homeless Court]



Observation of the **Columbia Homeless Court**;

Conducted **Service Provider** training and developed written materials regarding the **Homeless Court** guidelines and process;

Visited homeless shelters in Greenville to identify a suitable site for court sessions;

Conducted an additional training session presented by the **City of Columbia Homeless Court Prosecutor and Public Defender**; and

A draft petition and a draft order for the **South Carolina Access to Justice Commission** has been submitted by **Nelson Mullins** for approval.



Purpose and Goals

- The **GMC Homeless Court** is a voluntary program intended to help individuals who are either:
 - *(1) currently homeless,*
 - *(2) were homeless at the time charged with a criminal offense, or*
 - *(3) facing homelessness as a result of pending criminal charges, who meet the criteria for Homeless Court participation.*
- The purpose of the **Homeless Court**:
 - encourage participants to receive and complete treatment and rehabilitation programs as consideration for the possibility of:
 - dismissal of pending charges,
 - suspension of fines associated with a criminal offense, expungement of arrest information from public record and, in some cases,
 - the opening and expungement of a previous criminal conviction



Criteria for Homeless Court

A person is considered “homeless” for purposes of the Homeless Court Program (HCP) if he or she experienced homelessness in the calendar year immediately preceding arrest on pending municipal court charges, is currently homeless, or faces homelessness as a result of pending charges.

A person may qualify for admission to **HCP** if [s]he faces eviction or cannot secure housing because of past **Greenville Municipal Court** charge convictions or bench warrants.



Screening Process

- The **Office of the City Prosecutor/City Attorney's Office** shall screen all applicants for the **HCP**.
- The **Court** will look to **Law Enforcement, Service Providers, Defense Attorneys** and **City of Greenville** staff members to identify potential candidates for **HCP** and assist in the submission of applicants for participating in **HCP**.
- The ideal candidate is an individual who is actively receiving services and/or treatment and is making progress towards their goals but has criminal convictions or charges that are posing barriers to employment and securing housing.

[Ineligible Offenses]



- ***Driving Under the Influence/DUAC*** (Driving with Unlawful Alcohol Concentration)
- ***Domestic Violence*** – any degree
- ***Violent Offenses*** such as Assault and Battery or ***Crimes Against Persons*** (e.g., Harassment),
- Or with convictions for such offenses
- If the **Individual** has convictions for any of these and has demonstrated rehabilitation, the **Municipal Judge** consents and any **Victims** have consented, the **Individual** may become eligible.



Homeless Court Sessions

- Sessions for **Homeless Court** will initially be set on the first Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the **Triune Mercy Center**.
- It was determined that **Clients** with few resources would be able to remember “*first Monday at Triune*” to report.
- The selected **Clients** will be appointed an **Attorney** to shepherd them through the service providers to allow them opportunities for:
 - *New Driver’s License/SCDMV IDs*
 - *Social Security replacement cards*
 - *Housing options*
 - *Treatment for drugs, alcohol, mental health issues, etc.*



Questions & Comments