

City Council Work Session

Documents:

- 1 - WORK SESSION AGENDA.PDF
- 3 - GREENVILLE DRIVE UPDATE.PDF
- 4 - FEDERAL CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE (THORN RUN PARTNERS).PDF



CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENVILLE WORK SESSION MEETING

Monday, March 24, 2025 – 3:30 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, and Russell Stall

CITY STAFF: City Manager Shannon Lavrin, Deputy City Attorney Logan M. Wells; City Clerk Camilla G. Pitman

AGENDA

- | | | |
|-----------|--|------------------|
| 1. | Call to Order | 3:30 p.m. |
| 2. | Lake Conestee Dam Restoration Project | 3:30 p.m. |
| 3. | Greenville Drive Update | 3:50 p.m. |
| 4. | Federal Congressional Update | 4:10 p.m. |
| 5. | 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> | 4:30 p.m. |
| | a. Economic Development / Legal Briefing | |
| | b. Boards and Commissions / Personnel Update | |
| 6. | Adjourn | 5:15 p.m. |



CITY OF GREENVILLE / GREENVILLE DRIVE

20 YEARS (& COUNTING!) OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Monday March 24th, 2025

OUR MISSION

"THE FRONT PORCH OF THE COMMUNITY" FOR 20 YEARS

FOSTERING AN ATMOSPHERE WHERE FAMILY FUN,
CUSTOMER SERVICE, AND COMMUNITY WORKS
MERGE WITH BASEBALL TO CREATE **LASTING**
MEMORIES AND A **STRONGER UPSTATE**



THE GREENVILLE DRIVE & FLUOR FIELD

LEGACY OF COMMUNITY IMPACT & SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE

2005



2024



- True replica of Fenway Park; Ballpark Digest “Ballpark of the Year” (2006)
- Fluor Corporation Naming Rights secured (2008)
- Bob Freitas Award – Baseball America’s Top Single A Franchise (2011 & 2020)
- **John H. Johnson Award – Top Franchise in Minor League Baseball (2017)**
- Debut of District 356, the Upstate’s version of “Yawkey Way” (2022)
- Major League Baseball’s Top High-A Franchise (2023 & 2024)

EVOLUTION OF FLUOR FIELD AND THE WEST END

EXPANSION OF FLUOR FIELD TO ENTIRE WEST END ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

20 Year Drive, City Public/Private Partnership Focused on Continuous Improvement

BALLPARK CONSTRUCTION & ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

2006-7 INITIAL STADIUM CONSTRUCTION & ENHANCEMENTS

(Dugout Suite, Upper Deck, 3rd Base Merchandise Store)

2017 ENHANCEMENT PROJECT - "YEAR ROUND ENTERTAINMENT FOCUS"

(Green Monster Seating, Champions Club, Front Porch, Rooftop)

2019 -NEW FLUOR FIELD PLAYING SURFACE

2021 FIELDHOUSE BUILDING ACQUISITION

(Drive Offices & Rooftop experience now integrated into Fluor Field experience)

2022 DISTRICT 356 ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

(Field St. Entertainment District, Public Restroom)

2023 CLUBHOUSE EXPANSION

(MLB Facility Standard Requirements)

2024 LED LIGHTING & CONTROLS UPGRADE

(MLB Facility Standard Requirements)

2025 - BELLWETHER 2.0

*Fluor Field fully compliant with
MLB facility standards –
proactive to 2025 deadline*

Our Guiding Principles & Formula For Success

1. Unwavering commitment to community impact & continuous improvement
2. Relentless focus on delivering the best experience in all of entertainment
3. Always seeking to add fresh, impactful experiences year after year
4. A platform built and strengthened by the quality of our relationships with the community, the City, the fans, the Red Sox, & our partners

THE GREENVILLE DRIVE & FLUOR FIELD

CATALYST FOR RENAISSANCE OF GREENVILLE'S WEST END



Within A Half Mile Of Fluor Field Since 2006 *(through Dec. 2024)*

➤ **1,678** *New Building Permits*

➤ **957+** *New Business Licenses*

➤ **\$1.22B+** *Total Property Value*

➤ **\$265M+** *New Business Sales*

(Additional Economic Impact Study Underway – Collaboration with Visit Greenville & UofSC-Dr. Tom Regan)

WEST END ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

EMERGING ENTERTAINMENT HUB IN THE WEST END ANCHORED BY FLUOR FIELD





Major & Minor League Baseball

Re-Organization Update

INDUSTRY DYNAMICS CONTINUE TO CHANGE DRAMATICALLY

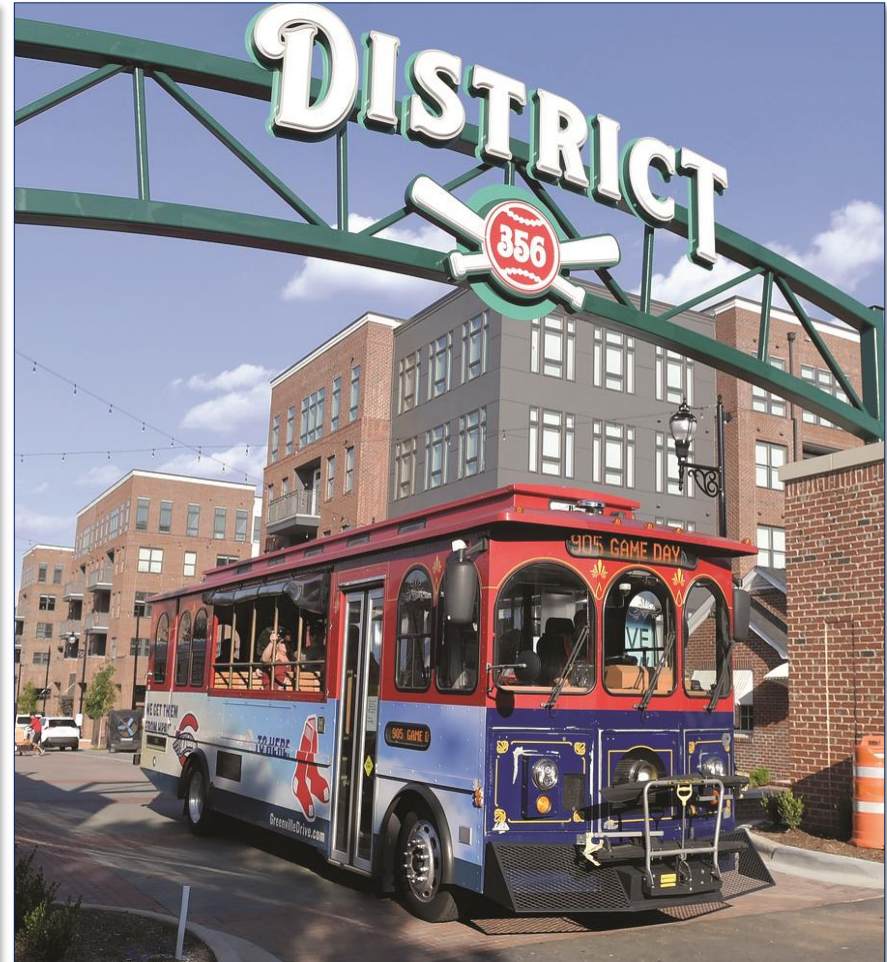
LATEST UPDATES FROM MAJOR & MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL



- 2025 represents year 5 of Minor League Baseball under Major League Baseball leadership
- Focus has been on improving facilities, improving player working conditions, and standardizing operating methods
- 160 affiliated MiLB teams now 120 teams, with all remaining MiLB ballparks to be fully compliant with facility standards by 2025 – significant upward pressure on operating costs
 - \$2.3 billion committed to MiLB stadiums since 2021 (new stadiums & upgrades)
 - \$600 million & \$1 billion earmarked for new stadiums/upgrades in 2025 & 2026 – highest annual totals in history
 - 4 new stadiums set to open in both 2025 & 2026
 - 8 stadiums remain without an agreed plan to full compliance
- MiLB team ownership consolidation continues at a rapid pace; industry dynamics changing with consolidation
 - Diamond Baseball Holdings (DBH) now owns 42 MiLB teams & is seeking further growth
 - Hub City Spartanburgers (owned by DBH) begin play on April 15th; Fifth Third Park funded by the State/County/City – leased to DBH

The Drive, in partnership with the City, remain committed to local family ownership model --- this is where we live, work, and raise our families

THE DRIVE'S COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY & HOW WE GO-TO-MARKET HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT



INTENTIONAL, IMPACTFUL GO-TO-MARKET STRATEGY

LEVERAGING DRIVE BASEBALL & ENTERTAINMENT FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT



DELIVER BEST-IN-CLASS FAN EXPERIENCES

Affordable Family Entertainment
Dynamic Hospitality Offerings
Ballpark Cleanliness



ENGAGE & PARTNER WITH THE UPSTATE COMMUNITY

Building Pride
Strengthening Relationship
Growing “Our Home Team”



HELP PARTNERS ADVANCE CRITICAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

(50% Of Fluor Field Year-Round Events & Programs)

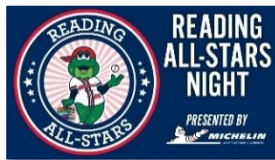
Quality Education	<u>Regionalism</u>
Workforce Development	Youth Development
Affordable & Accessible Health Care	Entrepreneurism
“Front Porch Of The Community” For Everyone	

POWER OF THE DRIVE PLATFORM

20 YEARS OF POWERFUL, RELEVANT, & IMPACTFUL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Continuing To Utilize Fluor Field (with & without baseball) As A Force For Good – Hosting Our Community's Most Important & Impactful Events

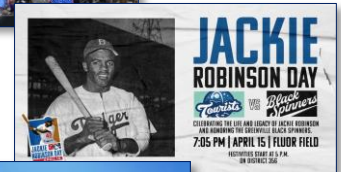
Community Events & Celebrations



Workforce Development Events



"Front Porch" Focus For All



OUR HOME TEAM

LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIPS; 10+ YEAR RELATIONSHIPS; NEW & GROWING REGIONAL FOOTPRINT



20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ALL YEAR LONG

FAMILY AFFORDABLE ENTERTAINMENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER



“And We’re Just Getting Started”

Relentless focus on continuous improvement & fan experience

Top quality broadcast production of all games (new cameras, video, sound, replay capabilities)
Drive games on TV (Palmetto Sports & Entertainment Network)
New ballpark food options (walking tacos, wraps, slushies, smash burgers)

Drive financial support for community betterment (“Front Porch” focus)

Greenville Together expanded relationship & financial commitment (homelessness)
City of Greenville Mayberry Park groundbreaking! (August 28, 2025)

Special 20th anniversary celebrations & features

Flashback Friday’s (*Mayor White First Pitch – Opening Night*)
Special Alumni Features & Recognitions
6 Millionth Fan

KEY TAKEAWAYS & DISCUSSION AREAS

1. Competition (short & long-term) continues to increase exponentially

- The Drive's family community/economic development model vs. a private equity funded corporate ownership model – our commitment & resolve will not waiver but our Drive/City public/private partnership more important than ever
- Impactful, unique, and relevant year-round community programs & events --- remains our “Secret Sauce”

2. Continued focus on the growth of the West End Entertainment District as Greenville's most unique entertainment destination, with affordability & access key

- District 356 – more & more every year, home to our community's most high-profile events
- Solid progress with parking in & around Fluor Field for 2025 Drive season. County Square parking deck announcement (400 public spaces), Main & Markley SunCap project (125 public spaces). Continued focus on long-term options/solutions.
- GTA site master plan development – opportunity to continue transforming Downtown & West End community (integration with Fluor Field is key)

3. MLB/MiLB landscape will continue to evolve dramatically

- Greenville & the Drive are in a position of strength, but must continue to invest & improve
- Alignment with important community partners is critical for continued success

THANK YOU

FOR 20 GREAT YEARS + COUNTING

OUR
HOME TEAM



GREENVILLE DRIVE

THORN RUN PARTNERS
REDEFINING THE ART OF ADVOCACY

PRESENTATION TO
City of Greenville, SC
March 24, 2025

ABOUT TRP



THORN RUN PARTNERS



Top-10 Washington, DC bipartisan government affairs firm.

Since its founding in 2010, TRP has consistently ranked among Washington's top tier lobbying firms according to analyses from Politico, The Hill, and Bloomberg Government, among others.



60 partners and professional staff.

Offices in Washington, Portland, and Los Angeles.



Offers wide variety of public affairs services.

TRP offers a suite of government relations, policy analysis, and communications expertise.



Proven track record of accomplishments.

TRP relies on experience, creativity, and competence to achieve remarkable legislative and regulatory outcomes for its clients.

TRP TEAM



Victoria Cram

Partner

- Victoria Cram brings more than 30 years of federal advocacy experience representing local governments, other public sector entities and nonprofit organizations in Washington, DC with a substantive background in urban policy development.



Pamela Welsh

Partner

- With over two decades of experience in advancing public agency priorities in Washington DC, Pamela Welsh provides strategic counsel to airports, municipalities, and other public agencies, seeking greater federal funding or favorable changes in federal policy and legislation.



Carmen Ojeda

Legislative Assistant

- Carmen Ojeda works primarily with TRP's Local Government and Appropriations policy teams, analyzing key legislative and regulatory processes for a large portfolio of state and local government clients.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS



**Sen. Tim
Scott**

- Chair Banking, Housing, Urban Affairs
- Finance
- Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions
- Small Business & Entrepreneurship
- Chair National Republican Senatorial Cmte.



**Rep. William
Timmons**

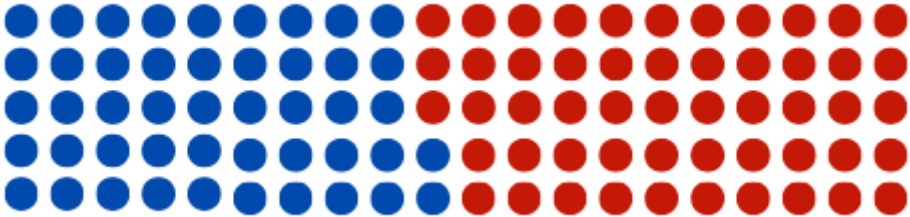
- Oversight & Government Reform
 - Chair Subcommittee on Military & Foreign Affairs
- Financial Services



**Sen. Lindsey
Graham**

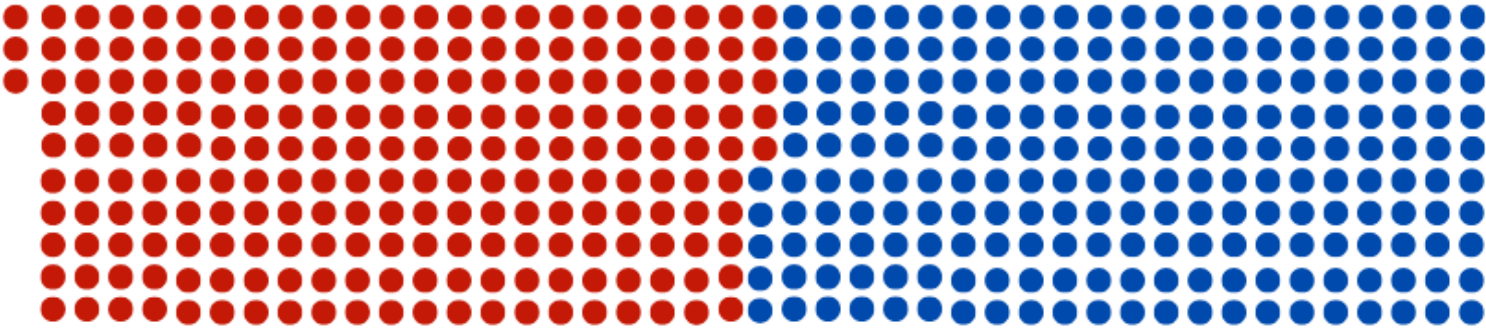
- Chair Budget Committee
- Appropriations
 - Chair Subcommittee on State & Foreign Operations
- Environment & Public Works
- Judiciary

BALANCE OF POWER IN THE 119TH CONGRESS



SENATE

Republicans currently hold 53 seats while the Democrats have 47.



HOUSE

Republicans currently hold 218 seats while the Democrats have 213. There are currently two vacant Republican House seats and two vacant Democratic House seats. Those are expected to remain under the same political party control once the special elections are held.

FEDERAL OUTLOOK



President Trump's Executive Orders

- To-date, the President has issued over 100 Executive actions.
- Likewise, over 100 lawsuits have been filed so far in response to Executive Orders.
- Agencies are reviewing programs and contracts to align with the President's Executive Orders.
- The Administration is significantly reducing the federal agency workforce, including eliminating the Department of Education.

Reconciliation

- Via the reconciliation process, the Republican majorities in the House and Senate will seek to enact the President's agenda on border security, defense, energy, and tax.
- The House and Senate passed distinctly-different budget resolutions and must now reconcile those differences to pass an identical budget resolution necessary to proceed to the reconciliation process.

FY 2025 Appropriations and FY 2026 Budget and Appropriations

- The Federal Government is currently operating under a long-term Continuing Resolution through September 30, 2025.
- The President has not established a timeline for when he will submit his FY 2026 Budget Request to Congress.
- Congressional Members are starting to release deadlines and form requirements for FY 2026 requests.

EXECUTIVE ORDERS OF NOTE



Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States

Directs enforcement agencies to prioritize removal undocumented people who pose a threat to public safety, withhold federal funding from cities and jurisdictions that do not comply with federal immigration law enforcement efforts, and expand ICE and its cooperation with cities.

Securing Our Borders

Outlines intentions to establish physical barriers, increasing personnel deployments, impose stricter detention and removal policies, and increase cooperation with State and local law enforcement officials.

Unleashing American Energy

Revokes several climate-focused executive orders from the Biden administration, pauses disbursement of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds, eliminates certain regulatory constraints, and mandates reviews to reduce barriers to energy and mineral resource development while ensuring regulatory efficiency and public accountability.

Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation

Establishes a regulatory reform policy requiring agencies to eliminate at least 10 existing regulations for every new regulation issued. It mandates that the total cost of new regulations for fiscal year 2025 be significantly less than zero.

Protecting the American People against Invasion

Aims to bolster enforcement of U.S. immigration laws to respond to perceived threats from illegal immigration. Rescinds previous orders and establishes priorities for detaining and removing inadmissible migrants.

Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities

Directs the Secretary of Education to “take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education and return education authority to the States,” while maintaining the delivery of essential programs and benefits. This order requires federally funded programs to terminate the promotion of diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI)-related activities.

RECONCILIATION



Reconciliation is a special legislative process intended to help lawmakers make the tax and mandatory spending changes necessary to meet the levels proposed in the congressional budget resolution.



The same version must be passed by both the House and Senate.



It cannot be filibustered.



Reconciliation legislation must only involve budget-related changes and cannot include provisions that have no fiscal impact. It cannot change Social Security spending or increase the deficit.

HOUSE AND SENATE BUDGET RESOLUTIONS



The House and Senate are currently working on separate budget resolutions.

Senate Budget Resolution

- Would authorize roughly \$84.5 billion in spending per year from FY 2025-2034, and will be offset by corresponding spending cuts.
- Appears to derive substantial savings from Medicare, Medicaid, and certain Affordable Care Act (ACA) provisions by assigning instructions to the Senate Finance Committee.

House Budget Resolution

- Reflects House GOP leadership's one-bill strategy, pairing tax with other policies on border, immigration, national security, and energy.
- Directs the Energy and Commerce Committee to reduce spending by at least \$880 billion.
- Provides the Ways and Means Committee with authority to increase the federal debt limit by \$4 trillion.

POTENTIAL RECONCILIATION IMPACT



- ❖ **Tax-exempt status of municipal bonds**
- ❖ **Private Activity Bonds (PABS)**
- ❖ **Advanced Refunding**
- ❖ **Funding cuts or reforms to key programs such as:**
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Social Services Block Grant (SSBG); Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- ❖ **Disproportionate Share Hospital (DHS) payments to hospitals that serve Medicaid and uninsured patients.**
- ❖ **Elective Pay established in the Inflation Reduction Act**
- ❖ **Child Tax Credit**
- ❖ **Low Income Housing Tax Credit**
- ❖ **New Market Tax Credit**
- ❖ **Earned Income Tax Credit**

APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS



Setting a Budget

- **February to March** - President submits budget to Congress
- **April to June** - Congress considers and passes a budget resolution

Writing

- **March to April** - Committee solicits funding requests from Members
- **May to July** - House Appropriations subcommittees start hearings, release their respective bills, and start markups
- **May to July** - Senate Appropriation considers its 12 bills
- **June to July** - House Appropriations finalizes each bill to send to the full House for a vote

Voting

- **June to July** - House votes on bills approved by the committee
- **August** - Senate and House have voted on some or all appropriations bills

Finalizing

- **September** - Conference committee negotiates compromise bills
- **Before October** - If all 12 bills have not passed, Congress may pass a CR
- **October 1** - New fiscal year begins

FY 2025 AND FY 2026 APPROPRIATIONS



On March 14, the President signed a long-term Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Continuing Resolution (CR) that will maintain the Federal Government funding through September 30, 2025.

- The CR reduces non-defense spending by \$13 billion, increases defense spending by \$6 billion, and provides additional funding for border enforcement.
- The CR eliminates all pending FY 2025 Congressionally-Directed Spending and Community Project Funding requests.
- The CR extends TANF and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) through the end of FY 2025.

FY 2026 Appropriations

- The House and Senate Appropriations Committees and Subcommittees have not yet released member guidance or subcommittee deadlines for FY 2026.
- Some Members have started soliciting Congressionally Directed Spending and Community Project Funding Requests.

SENATE BANKING CHAIR SCOTT'S HOUSING BILL



The ROAD to Housing Act aims to increase affordable housing access by:

- Expanding Section 8 project-based assistance to attract private investment.
- Fully authorizing HUD's Moving to Work program to improve housing choice and work incentives.
- Broadening the definition of manufactured homes to boost industry flexibility.
- Enhancing housing counseling and financial literacy in foreclosure-prone areas.
- Establishing a rental assistance demonstration program and incentivizing small-dollar loans.
- Providing public housing agencies with more flexibility.
- Supporting homelessness solutions through targeted grants.
- Prioritizing funding for opportunity zones.
- Increasing regulatory oversight of housing programs and financial stability.