



MINUTES

FORMAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

City Hall, 206 S. Main Street, Council Chambers
Monday, November 24, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Knox H. White

2. **INVOCATION**

Mayor White invited attendees to join in a moment of silence in memory of Mary Duckett.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **ROLL CALL**

The following members of City Council were in attendance: Mayor Knox White, John DeWorken, Lillian Flemming, Ken Gibson, Wil Brasington, Russell Stall, and Dorothy Dowe

5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

November 10, 2025; Approved as submitted

6. **COMMUNICATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

With no opposition from City Council, Mayor White recommended presenting Item 8 prior to Item 7.

7. **INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

John Slipke, 43 Tindal Avenue, and Becky Warth, 1 Seawright Lane, Co-Vice Chairs of Haynie Sirrine Neighborhood Association, expressed support for Item 15c, stating the neighborhood is in complete support of the rezoning.

Carl Sobocinski, Co-Chair Greenville Together, 1808 N. Main Street, referred to his experience as a resident and business owner with homelessness in Greenville and stated he believes the Ordinance in Item 14a should not stand on its own, but be paired with real investments in outreach, housing and supportive services, creating a balanced strategy.

Lizzie Bebber, United Ministries, President, spoke on behalf of Ryan Derek with Miracle Hill and Jennifer Fouse Sheorn with Triune Mercy Center, stating while they did not initiate the Ordinance, arrests must not be an option and the Ordinance should not become a source of harm for those who are the least.

Randolph "Chuck" Rhode, Jr., Greenville, spoke in support of Item 14a, stating the Ordinance may address endemic vagrancy with long term humane treatment through existing resources.

Bitsy Cazal, 207 Frank Street, provided comments regarding Item 14a, stating the Ordinance would not be successful as written and requesting the removal of jail time as a penalty.

Joe Ranalletta, 121 Rhett Street, spoke in support of Item 14a, stating he has only experienced law enforcement treating homeless individuals with respect and honor.

Sun Clark, 207 Buist Avenue, spoke in opposition to Item 14a, referring to statistics from a University of Denver study involving homeless individuals before and after incarceration efforts and the difficulty they experienced.

Rev. Susie Smith, 90 Payne Street, spoke in opposition to Item 14a, expressing her confusion with the timing of the Ordinance and proposed criminalization and questioning the expense of enforcing the Ordinance.

Charles Morris, 538 Perry Avenue, spoke in opposition to Item 14a, encouraging Council to vote "No" on the matter and to work to move people off the street and into housing.

Tandy Taylor, 5 Arden Street, spoke in opposition to Item 14a, stating that arrests lead to emotional trauma, that the last resort clauses are subject to interpretation, and that accountability is needed to ensure the Ordinance is actually a tool of last resort.

David Taylor, 5 Arden Street, spoke in opposition to Item 14a, stating vulnerable people have always been downtown and questioning the criminalization of individuals because the City is now a trendy location.

Cindy Poe, 117 Chisolm Trail, spoke in opposition to Item 14a, stating the need for implementing the proposed resources and referring to the potential increase of mental health and traumatic stress on those tasked with administering the Ordinance.

Susan Satterfield, 10 W. Mountainview Avenue, spoke in opposition to Item 14a, stating there is no data that supports the Ordinance and questioning if the Ordinance makes ethical, financial, or statistical sense.

Clarence Thornton, 114 Douthit Street, provided the audio of news coverage produced by WYFF recounting an incident of police violence against a homeless individual in 2009.

Catie Kelly, 102 James Street, spoke in support of Item 14a, stating the Ordinance will allow families to safely and peacefully utilize their property while directing those who need help to service providers.

Greg Sieber, 7 Stonehaven Drive, spoke in support of Item 14a, stating the Ordinance will help law enforcement connect homeless individuals with resources and prevent business owners from relocating and impacting the City's tax base.

John Henry, 142 Broughton Drive, spoke in support of Item 14a, stating the Ordinance will give relief to neighborhoods and will assist those experiencing homelessness.

Jan Huble, 200 E. Earle Street, spoke in support of Item 14a, stating the Ordinance will allow for parks and plazas to be utilized for their intended purpose and create resources for homeless individuals.

Joyce Murphy, 14 E. Earle Street, spoke in support of Item 14a, sharing her experience of encountering a homeless person in a tent while she was gardening in the North Main Rotary Park and the vulnerability she felt from the encounter.

Scott Woods, City Tavern, 1307 N. Main Street, spoke in support of Item 14a, commenting on his interaction with homeless individuals, the laws in place keeping business owners from sleeping in their own businesses, and the lack of an Ordinance addressing homelessness.

Pastor Matt Rollins, 4 Weston Brook Way, Greenville County, spoke in opposition to Item 14a, stating the Ordinance will only impact vulnerable populations and encouraging Council to trust the experience of the non-profit organizations.

John Martin, 5 Lorana Drive, Taylors, with Sunday Dinner with a Twist, provided comments on Item 14a, sharing the story of an individual he works with and the repetitious cycle of returning to homelessness after incarceration and hospitalization. Mr. Martin requested Council not vote on the Ordinance while currently recognizing Homelessness Awareness Month.

Lorain Crawl, 336 Rabbit Run Trail, Greenville County, spoke in support of Item 14a, referring to her work with homelessness and her continued efforts working with area non-profits. Ms. Crawl recognized previous steps taken by the City to assist the homeless, acknowledged the proposed amendment providing for specific resources, and encouraged monitoring the efforts of the Ordinance if passed.

8. PRESENTATION

- a. Special Recognition of Mary Duckett
A presentation was provided honoring the memory of the late community leader Mary Duckett.

9. PUBLIC HEARING

None

10. APPOINTMENTS – Boards and Commissions

None

CONSENT AGENDA

There will be no discussion of Consent Agenda items unless a Council member so requests in which event the item in question will be considered separately.

Councilmember Dowe moved, seconded by Councilmember Brasington, to approve second and final reading of agenda items 11a, 11b and 11c of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – (Ordinances – Second and Final Reading)

- a. Ordinance to repeal and replace the bylaws of the Design Review Board of the City of Greenville and to repeal and replace Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 7 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Greenville

- b. Ordinance to repeal and replace the bylaws of the Historic Review Board of the City of Greenville and to repeal and replace Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 9 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Greenville
- c. Ordinance to amend Chapter 8, Businesses, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Greenville, including Section 8-3, Section 8-6, Appendix A, Business License Rate Schedule, and Code of Ordinances Appendix A, Fee Schedule, and to repeal and replace Appendix B, Business License Class Schedule, to update the Class Schedule as required by Act 176 of 2020

12. NEW BUSINESS – (Ordinance – First Reading)

None

13. NEW BUSINESS – (Resolutions – First and Final Reading)

None

REGULAR AGENDA

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – (Ordinances – Second and Final Reading)

- a. Ordinance to amend Chapters 16 and 26 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Greenville to provide for the preservation of the proper use of City property and parks

Councilmember DeWorken moved, seconded by Councilmember Brasington, to approve second and final reading. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember DeWorken moved, seconded by Councilmember Dowe, to amend Item 14a as provided in Attachment A which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. (*See Attachment A.*)

Councilmember DeWorken provided an overview of the proposed amendments, expressed appreciation for the community's commitment and the collaboration of the homeless service providers, and advised that the specific requirements included in the amendment must be in place before the Ordinance goes into effect. Councilmember DeWorken emphasized that an arrest would be a last resort.

Councilmember Stall stated while the amendments have brought the Ordinance a long way since first reading, he cannot support criminalization of homelessness.

Councilmember Gibson stated while he appreciates the additional work, he is uncomfortable with the proposed amendments which are vague or insufficient. Councilmember Gibson emphasized his concern with criminalizing homeless individuals and commented on the state of correctional facilities in the Upstate, referring to the overcrowding and underfunding. Councilmember Gibson advocated for the use of civil fines as an alternative, which would save the City time and money and not create a criminal record for homeless individuals. Councilmember Gibson stated that he finds the Ordinance to be wrong.

Councilmember Flemming stated that the cost of enforcing the Ordinance is unknown and should be provided. Councilmember Flemming stated that the City, community service providers, and other entities need to come together to discuss how to better help the homelessness. Councilmember Flemming commented that law enforcement officers cannot be social workers while doing their primary job.

Councilmember Brasington expressed his support for the amendment, stating that it is a step in the right direction in creating the right balance and that it provides a “both-and” approach to addressing homelessness. Councilmember Brasington commented on the need to add a robust series of resources, which are addressed in the amendment.

Councilmember Dowe acknowledged the need for financial resources and advised that a cost and budget analysis to quantify the required resources is already in play. Councilmember Dowe commented that the creation of Greenville Together and the City’s partnership with the organization is modeled after a similar initiative in the city of Dallas, which also has a public camping ordinance.

Mayor White summarized that having no policy to address homelessness is a policy of neglect, and that this Ordinance proposes a policy of engagement that focuses on intervention. Mayor White emphasized that the criminal charge proposed in the Ordinance is a misdemeanor and commented on other city policies with penalties which have not resulted in any type of penalty for decades.

Councilmember DeWorken called for a vote on the amendment.

The motion to amend the proposed text amendment was approved 4-3, with Councilmembers Flemming, Gibson, and Stall opposing.

Councilmember Gibson rebutted that many actions that we consider unlawful are civil fines and do not result in criminal charges. Councilmember Gibson advocated for giving Greenville Together more time to work on their own initiatives.

Councilmember Brasington called to bring the question to a vote on the main motion, as amended.

After discussion, the motion, as amended, carried 4-3, with Councilmembers Flemming, Gibson, and Stall opposing.

Mayor White recessed the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

15. NEW BUSINESS – (Ordinances – First Reading)

- a. Ordinance to rezone approximately 0.38 acre of real property located at 706 Hampton Avenue from RH-D, House D District, to RN-A, Neighborhood A District (Tax Map Number 0027000102800) (Z-14-2025)

Councilmember Brasington moved, seconded by Councilmember Dowe, to approve first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Ordinance to amend Chapter 19 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Greenville by establishing an Entertainment District Overlay and to amend the Official Zoning Map by applying the Overlay District to properties situated between McBee Avenue, College Street/Beattie Place, Spring Street, and Richardson Street (Z-15-2025)

Councilmember DeWorken moved, seconded by Councilmember Gibson, to approve first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

- c. Ordinance to rezone approximately 91.96 acres of real property comprising of an area commonly known as the Haynie-Sirrine Neighborhood located on South Church Street, University Ridge, Howe Street, Harris Street, Claussen Avenue, Thruston Street, Augusta Street, McHan Street, Seawright Lane, Haynie Street, Chicora Avenue, Enoree Street, Dixon Street, McKay Street, Urban Street, Chapin Street, Pearl Avenue, Fred Garrett Street, Cedar Street, Springer Street, Francis Street, Wakefield Street, Briar Street, Cleveland Street, Biltmore Drive, Rose Avenue, Houston Street, Watts Avenue, Watts Court, and Tindal Avenue (Z-16-2025)

Councilmember Flemming moved, seconded by Councilmember Dowe, to approve first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

- d. Ordinance to rezone approximately 0.02 acre of real property located at 514 Arlington Avenue from RN-B, Neighborhood B District, to RNX-B, Neighborhood Flex B District (Tax Map Number 0078000400800) (Z-17-2025)

Councilmember Flemming moved, seconded by Councilmember Dowe, to approve first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

- e. Ordinance to annex approximately 0.17 acre of real property located at 25 North Vance Street and to provide the zoning designation of RH-D, House D District (Tax Map Number 0123000102100) (AX-34-2025)

Councilmember Flemming moved, seconded by Councilmember Dowe, to approve first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

- f. Ordinance to annex approximately 0.34 acre of real property and 0.02 acre of adjacent right-of-way located at 170 Otis Street and to provide the zoning designation of RH-D, House D District (Tax Map Number 0106000301300) (AX-36-2025)

Councilmember Dowe moved, seconded by Councilmember Brasington, to approve first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

- g. Ordinance to annex approximately 19.96 acres of real property and 10.18 acres of adjacent right-of-way located at 31 Victor Street and 300 Hammett Street, and to provide for the zoning designation of IX, Industrial Flex District (Tax Map Numbers 0153000100100, 0153000100101, and 0153001000100) (AX-37-2025)

Councilmember Dowe moved, seconded by Councilmember Stall, to approve first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

- h. Ordinance to annex approximately 2.43 acres of real property and 0.39 acre of adjacent right-of-way located at 4 and 10 Alexander Street, and to provide the zoning designation of IX, Industrial Flex District (Tax Map Numbers 0150000200101 and 0150000200300) (AX-38-2025)

Councilmember Dowe moved, seconded by Councilmember Brasington, to approve first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

- i. Ordinance to annex approximately 1.11 acres of real property located at 214 North Duvall Drive and to provide the zoning designation of BH, Business Heavy District (Tax Map Number 0272000101501) (AX-39-2025)

Councilmember Dowe moved, seconded by Councilmember Stall, to approve first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

- j. Ordinance to appropriate \$254,581 in the Capital Projects Fund to recognize additional proceeds from the sale of the Municipal Court building and to recognize loss of previously appropriated grant funding related to the renovation of the Halton Road Public Safety Campus and Municipal Complex

Councilmember Brasington moved, seconded by Councilmember Dowe, to approve first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

16. NEW BUSINESS – (Resolution – First and Final Reading)

- a. Resolution to appoint judicial positions under Chapter 22, Municipal Court, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Greenville

Councilmember Brasington moved, seconded by Councilmember Gibson, to approve first and final reading. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Resolution to provide for certain certifications regarding abandoned buildings and abandoned building sites located at or near 1200, 1202, and 1204 Laurens Road, according to South Carolina Code Annotated Section 12-67-100, et seq (Tax Map Number 0198000403200, 0198000400200 and 0198000400300)

Councilmember Dowe moved, seconded by Councilmember Brasington, to approve first and final reading. The motion carried unanimously.

- c. Resolution to accept a dedication of 14,781 square feet (0.339 acre) of public right of way from Canvas Townhomes Homeowners' Association, Inc. and 777 square feet (0.018 acre) of public right of way from Truist Bank, and to accept Canvas Street into the City street system

Councilmember Stall moved, seconded by Councilmember Dowe, to approve first and final reading. The motion carried unanimously.

17. STAFF REPORTS

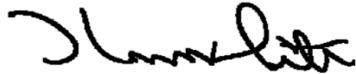
City Manager Shannon Lavrin provided information on the following items:

- a. Recognition of Councilmember Russell Stall
A video recognizing and honoring Councilmember Stall's service on City Council was presented. Councilmember Stall provided a farewell address reflecting on his experience in public service and his charge to future Councils. (*See Attachment B.*)

18. Individuals Addressing Council regarding items not on the Agenda

Rachell Ellison, 226 Trotter Drive, Powdersville, spoke to advocate for the protection of Greenville's tree canopy, recommending commercial developers pay a fee to the Tree Fund in lieu of preserving trees and requiring broader consequences and impacts.

- 19. ADJOURN.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.



KNOX H. WHITE, MAYOR

ATTEST:



CAMILLA G. PITMAN, MMC, Certified PLS
CITY CLERK

MEETING NOTICE POSTED AND MEDIA NOTIFIED ON NOVEMBER 21, 2025.

Attachment A

Agenda Item 14a (Amended)

Ordinance No. 2025-_____

AN ORDINANCE

TO PRESERVE THE PROPER USE OF CITY PROPERTY AND PARKS AND TO
AMEND SECTION 26-33 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF
GREENVILLE

WHEREAS, public spaces must be generally available for use by the public for the purposes for which they are intended; and

WHEREAS, the use of these public spaces for residential purposes by some interferes with the ability of others to use the areas for the purpose for which the areas are intended; and

WHEREAS, the city of Greenville (the "City") has a significant interest in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, visitors and employees, as well as the general public, and in maintaining cleanliness, proper sanitation, and aesthetics of public spaces and City-owned property; and

WHEREAS, the use of these public spaces for living accommodations constitutes a public health and safety hazard which may adversely impact individuals living in such accommodations, as well as the public at large, commercial areas, and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City also recognizes that parks are intended for recreation and relaxation and are therefore distinguishable from other public spaces; and

WHEREAS, the City has been and is committed to addressing housing affordability and homelessness in the city namely by commissioning the *Balancing Prosperity and Housing Affordability in Greenville* study in 2016 to identify needed housing solutions, by creating the Greenville Housing Fund in 2018, by creating the Greenville Municipal Homeless Court in 2024 and since 2016, investing millions of dollars in affordable housing, notably committing more than \$20 million dollars in the past two years to affordable housing, and significant funding to support homeless services by partnering with homeless service providers in the community; and

WHEREAS, formed in 2024, Greenville Together is a collaborative effort led by a diverse group of community partners including the United Way of Greenville County, United Ministries and Triune Mercy Center, implementing an action plan to improve the community response to homelessness, and the City has identified a strong alignment of interest with Greenville Together and homeless service providers in working toward meeting measurable goals, such as reducing unsheltered homelessness, increased outreach engagement and connections to housing; and

WHEREAS, the City has pledged significant financial support for Greenville Together and wishes to continue to collaborate in serving the homeless in Greenville by expanding day services, ensuring best-practices and annual crisis intervention training and updates for law enforcement officers and outreach workers as standard practice, exploring options for making around-the-clock restrooms available, providing homeless outreach services, convening Greenville Together and City staff on a regular basis, establishing a resource and referral phone line and continuing to evolve and expand the reach and availability of Greenville Municipal Homeless Court; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to transparency in enforcement of this ordinance in the form of reports of formal warnings, citations or arrests or other enforcement action and review of the ordinance with all stakeholders six, twelve and eighteen months following the effective date of this ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the City is to seek compliance with the ordinance before enforcement steps are taken and, in the event of any enforcement action, to ensure due process rights are protected; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to facilitate the provision of supportive social services for those experiencing homelessness by notifying designated outreach personnel about individuals encountered by City staff while enforcing this ordinance, and that those efforts be documented; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the importance of prioritizing the preservation of important personal property of homeless individuals, especially identification documents and medication, to the greatest extent reasonably possible in the event enforcement steps are taken, and intends to work with Greenville Together and providers to establish best practices; and

WHEREAS, these code amendments will serve “as one important tool among others to encourage individuals experiencing homelessness to accept services and to help ensure safe and accessible public spaces;”¹ and

WHEREAS, City Council finds that the regulatory requirements established by this Ordinance are necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA:

1. Chapter 16 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Greenville is amended to include a new Article VI, which shall consist of the sections set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated by reference. The code codifier shall assign appropriate code sections to same.
2. Section 26-33 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Greenville is amended as set forth in Exhibit B, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
3. Should any provision, section, paragraph, sentence, or word of this Ordinance be rendered or declared invalid by any final court action in a court of competent jurisdiction or by reason of any preemptive legislation of the State of South Carolina, the remaining provisions, sections, paragraphs, sentences, or words of this Ordinance as hereby adopted shall remain in full force and effect.

4. This Ordinance shall become effective ~~following second reading of this Ordinance, but not before March 1, 2026~~ thirty (30) days after written certification is delivered by the City Manager to the City Clerk that:

- a. A homeless support center in the City is open;
- b. At least one restroom each for men and women located in the City, open to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week is open;
- c. City policy or policies regarding the following topics have been executed by the City Manager after receiving input offered by Greenville Together:
 - i. The storage of the personal belongings of an individual cited under this ordinance;
 - ii. Reporting of enforcement actions, service referrals, and related outcomes and periodic review of the ordinance and related policies and procedures with City staff and with stakeholders; and

¹ *City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson*, 603 U.S. 520, 535 (2024).

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iii. Trauma-informed training, including de-escalation techniques and best practices for engaging individuals experiencing homelessness, for law enforcement personnel and outreach staff; and

a. A contract for the provision of homeless outreach personnel for the city of Greenville City has been executed.

d.

5. Public notice shall be provided on the date of the recording of the written certification by the City Manager referenced above and the resulting effective date of this Ordinance.

DONE, RATIFIED AND PASSED THIS THE ____ DAY OF _____, 2025.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY

REVIEWED:

CITY MANAGER

EXHIBIT A

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect public health, safety and access to public property and to encourage individuals experiencing homelessness to accept supportive social services while treating all individuals with dignity and fairness.

Section 2. Lying down or residing in or on public property

1. It is a violation of this section for an individual to lie down or reside in or on public property.
2. A law enforcement officer who makes contact with an individual suspected of being in violation of this section may when practicable and with the individual's consent, transport the individual to an open homeless shelter located in the city or other open facility of a service provider located in the city. No individual shall be transported under this section without their informed and voluntary consent.
- ~~2-3~~ Law enforcement officers shall request compliance with this section and give a warning before enforcement actions are taken whenever practicable in their discretion.
- ~~3-4~~ Law enforcement officers requesting compliance with this ~~section~~ section or taking enforcement action hereunders shall notify designated outreach personnel of their interaction with an individual who may need supportive social services and shall notify the individual of existing supportive services including the availability of Homeless Court through the Greenville Municipal Court. These notifications may be verbal or in writing.
- ~~4-5~~ Enforcement actions shall only be taken if the individual refuses to comply with this section and a warning is provided.

Section 3. Exceptions

The terms of this ordinance shall not apply to the following:

1. Any portion of a park covered primarily with natural grass and not improved with pavement, decking, playground surfacing or other materials;
2. Activity during a permitted event as defined in City Code of Ordinances Chapter 36, Article V, on the property where the permitted event is located and as set forth in a city-issued event permit;
3. Activity occurring as part of a city-sponsored or city-authorized program such as afterschool programs or other community center activities supervised by city staff;
4. On-duty public safety personnel during an emergency, including police, fire and public works employees;
5. Children under the age of 18;
- ~~6.~~ Individuals experiencing a medical emergency; and/or
- ~~7.~~ Conduct protected by state or federal law or court order.

Section ~~544~~. Penalty

A conviction for a violation of this ordinance is a misdemeanor and may be punishable by up to 30 days' incarceration and/or a fine of up to \$10. The court may also refer an individual to Homeless Court, require community service and/or require consultation with appropriate supportive social service provider(s).

Section ~~655~~. Definitions

In this section:

“Designated outreach personnel” means an individual(s) identified by the city, whether employed by the city or by a provider of supportive social services, to provide social services or assistance to homeless individuals.

“Homeless shelter” means a facility that provides temporary lodging and basic services to homeless individuals.

“Lie down/lying down” means to be reclined in any horizontal position whether on furniture, bedding, the ground, ground coverings or other materials, with or without shelter.

“Public property” means any land, plaza, building, park, sidewalk, trail, right-of-way, or other property owned or controlled by the city.

“Reside/residing” means to use a location as a living space by storing personal property, preparing food, maintaining bedding or engaging in other activities consistent with habitation.

Sec. 26-33 – Erection of structures on public property and occupation of parks.

No person in or on a public mall, park or other public property, without consent of the city, shall construct or erect any building or structure of whatever kind, whether permanent or temporary in character, or run or string any public service utility into, upon or across such lands. No person shall occupy a park. “Occupy” as used in this section means using an area for living purposes, including sleeping longer than 2 hours, making preparations to sleep such as placing bedding or setting up a tent or other structure, storing personal belongings, or using any structure, vehicle or shelter for habitation. This section is not intended to prohibit brief and incidental rest, relaxation or recreation such as napping, sunbathing or resting in a park during normal use. A conviction for a violation of this ordinance is a misdemeanor and may be punishable by up to 30 days’ incarceration and/or a fine of up to \$10. The court may also refer an individual to Homeless Court, require community service and/or require consultation with appropriate supportive social service provider(s).

ATTACHMENT B

Farewell Address to City Council
(Provided by Councilmember Russell Stall)

It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve you. This has been the most important chapter of my life. Thank you.

Up until this morning, I was not sure I wanted to give this statement. I was not sure I could get through it without falling apart. But I owe it to the city, my fellow council members, the city employees, and our amazing residents, to try.

As you saw in the video, forty-eight years ago, when I was a sixteen-year-old Greenville High student, I made a promise to Mayor Max Heller to serve this city.

That promise became the north star of my life. But carrying a promise and keeping it are different things. And nine years ago, I realized that studying and loving this city's history merely as a resident wasn't enough. Love for a city demands more than observation. It demands participation. It demands engagement.

And here we are. Eight years after I fulfilled my pledge to Max. And I am so proud. So achingly proud of what we've done together.

Susan... You carried this with me. Through every tough vote, every time I came home frustrated by something we could not fix. You were there. And honestly, I think this may have been harder on you than it was on me. I love you. Thank you for standing beside me.

To our city employees... You are the best of us. Camilla Pitman. Dave Derrick and Public Works, who make excellence look routine. Parks and Recreation, who, yes, I still think should be renamed the Department of Fun. Our police officers and firefighters who serve with such compassion and service.

Shannon Lavrin, who should know that I will always, always be your biggest champion and fan. Thank you for bringing new energy, enthusiasm, and possibility to this city.

And Mayor White. Thank you. For your mentorship, your wisdom, your friendship, and yes, for being my late sister Pedrick's escort at Greenville High's homecoming almost fifty years ago.

Look at what we have done together.

We tore down the Camperdown Bridge and gave people back the only natural waterfall in a United States downtown. We built Unity Park. We extended the Swamp Rabbit Trail. We brought Wings of the City to our public spaces. We made public transit work. We survived COVID together, making impossible choices when nobody knew what the right answer was.

We fought for housing affordability. We created the Greenville Housing Fund. We navigated the complexities of County Square. We crafted GVL2040. We showed that annexation could welcome people in instead of keeping them out.

And yes, I brought dad jokes. Bad ones. Because sometimes, when things got tense, laughter was the only bridge wide enough to carry us across our differences.

But here is what I am most proud of.

I tried to be a voice for people who have no voice in this chamber. People with no lobbyist, no political donor, no power. People whose lives we shape with our votes, but who rarely feel welcome here.

Did I always get it right? No. I made mistakes. I stumbled. But every single day, I tried.

I love this city. God, I love this city.

I love what Greenville has become, this vibrant, optimistic, hopeful, beautiful place. I love Falls Park and Main Street and all the energy downtown. But I also love, fiercely, the people who built this city long before it was fashionable. The mill workers. The families who've been here for generations. The people who gave everything to make Greenville what it is.

Max taught me that cities aren't buildings. Cities are people. Every decision we make either opens doors or closes them. Every vote either brings people together or pushes them apart.

For eight years, one question has kept me awake at night:

Who benefits, and who bears the cost?

I'm begging you to carry that question forward. Don't let it become a slogan. Let it unsettle you. If it stops bothering you, you've stopped listening.

So, to my replacement, Tina Belge and my fellow councilmembers...

Lead with moral courage. Do what's right even when it costs you. **Especially** when it costs you.

Remember that compassion is not weakness. Without it, all we're doing is moving money around. With it, we change people's lives.

Go find the people who aren't in this room. Their silence doesn't mean they agree with us. It means we've broken their trust. Earn it back.

Think in generations. Max planted trees he knew he'd never sit under. What are you planting for future generations?

Continue to believe. Continue to believe that Greenville remains a city that makes the impossible possible.

If history and people remember me at all, I hope they remember this. I hope that I loved this city enough to fight for the people with the least. That I used humor to build bridges. That I kept a promise made forty-nine years ago to a great man. And that when the decisions were hardest, my heart was in the right place.

Max, I tried. I did my best. I stumbled and sometimes fell short, but I tried to honor what you taught me, to love this city and its people.

Council, it is your turn now. Your responsibility is great. Please make it count.

Thank you for eight extraordinary years. Thank you for your trust, your friendship, your respect. Thank you for letting me love this city, its beauty and its brokenness, without apology, out loud.

I don't say goodbye. I say I'll see you later.