

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

**Monday, April 13, 2026
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, Ken Gibson, Wil Brasington, Tina Belge, and Dorothy Dowe

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

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

City Manager Shannon Lavrin stated that two Greenville Police officers were injured in a shooting that occurred earlier this afternoon in front of the Hyatt Regency at NOMA Square. Ms. Lavrin stated that the officers were in stable condition and that the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division is currently investigating with a suspect in custody.

Budget Workshop #1

City Manager Shannon Lavrin provided introductory comments regarding preliminary preparation of the FY2026-2027 Budget in accordance with Council's priorities. Ms. Lavrin shared information and comments on budgetary items as provided in a presentation, as located in City Council's Agenda Packet. Ms. Lavrin offered an opportunity to meet individually with each Council member for further discussions.

Ms. Lavrin provided a budget workshop and approval timeline, noting that this year the budget will be presented at the Project Preview Meeting on April 28. Ms. Lavrin reviewed a selection of the implementation items that have already been recommended by the community, including investment in missing middle housing, increasing open space funding, the implementation of Greenlink's Transit Development Plan, advancing the goals of GCEDC, and community emergency preparedness and sustainability goals.

Ms. Lavrin provided an overview of City accomplishments and ongoing projects along with financial recommendations to achieve City Council's priorities, which were affirmed at City Council retreat, including Public Safety and Engagement, Mobility and Transportation, Recreation, Open Spaces and Sustainability, Neighborhoods and Affordable Housing, and Economic Development. Ms. Lavrin noted that the five-year update to the GVL2040 Comprehensive Plan is underway and will include the addition of resiliency as required by state law.

At this time, Councilmember Gibson joined the meeting.

Ms. Lavrin stated that Greenville is the only South Carolina entity to receive an AAA rating from three major rating agencies and that the City maintains a strong financial foundation and is positioned to meet future needs. Ms. Lavrin expressed her appreciation to the Finance Department for their efforts.

At this time, Councilmember DeWorken joined the meeting.

Chief Financial Officer Patricia Dennis provided an overview of the assumptions of the General Fund, advising that the millage rate remains unchanged at 84.4 mills, business licenses tax rates remain flat, and that there is a Cost of Living Adjustment included in personnel funding. Ms. Dennis noted two significant projects, the Downtown Greenville Conference Center and City Hall, which are not included in the General Fund, which would be funded primarily from debt once finalized. Ms. Dennis advised that the budget would utilize available funds from interest earnings and the Capital Projects Reserve, and she stated that the projected FY2026 available fund balance is \$14,181,548 with the projected FY2027 available fund balance of \$11,100,548.

Ms. Dennis reviewed the FY2027 Capital Improvement Program in the General Fund and provided the proposed CIP budget of \$3,672,597. Ms. Dennis also reviewed the Tourism Fund, including the Hospitality Tax Fund with a proposed budget of \$2,950,000, and the Local Accommodations Tax Fund with a proposed budget of \$5,793,695.

Ms. Dennis also reviewed the projected FY2027 available fund balance for the Enterprise funds, including the Parking Fund at \$12,921,036, the Stormwater Fund at \$2,161,802, the Wastewater Fund at \$399,508, and the Zoo Fund at \$601,438. Regarding Special Revenue funds, Ms. Dennis advised that the projected FY2027 available fund balance for the Solid Waste Fund is \$742,325.

Councilmember Brasington asked procedural questions regarding modification to capital projects funding through Council action and requested information regarding projects with an anticipated completion date within two years.

Councilmember Dowe asked if the City still owes on the Church Street Bridge project. Ms. Lavrin advised that the City's work is almost completed and that there may be \$260,000 remaining in the project's budget which could potentially be allocated to other projects.

Councilmember Dowe asked for clarification regarding allocation to the Open Space Acquisition Fund. Ms. Lavrin advised that last year the budget maximum was \$500,000, and that this year it would increase to a maximum of \$1,000,000. Councilmember Dowe commended staff for increasing stormwater funding to address items required in the Mutli-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Councilmember Brasington asked where the increase in funding for property acquisition came from, and Ms. Dennis responded that funds had been reallocated from other projects and that Councilmember Gibson had dedicated part of his dividends to the fund for the purchase of Greenline Spartanburg properties.

Councilmember Belge asked about the difference in funding between façade improvement for downtown and in corridors. Ms. Lavrin advised that corridor improvements have been included in the City Development Project Account initiative to provide flexibility to promote economic development initiatives, including façade and infrastructure improvements. Councilmember Dowe commented that private partners that preserve historic properties need a pathway to apply for grants through this initiative.

Ms. Lavrin advised of a new proposed budget line item for engineering infrastructure totaling \$2,000,000 and noted that there are major infrastructure projects which include stormwater management.

Ms. Lavrin stated that the City is an employee-focused organization that prioritizes employee support and well-being, which positively impacts the level of service employees are able to provide to the community in alignment with GVL2040.

Motion - Executive Session

During the open Work Session, Mayor White asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilmember Gibson moved, seconded by Councilmember Belge, to go into Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

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 or employment related matters, subsection (a)(2) negotiations for proposed contractual matters or to receive legal advice covered attorney-client privilege, and subsection (a)(5) to discuss economic development incentives, regarding the following matters:

1. (a)(2) Potential contract related to Richland Creek Floodplain Buyout;
2. (a)(1) Boards and Commissions vacancies and appointments;
3. (a)(2) Legal advice regarding a municipal court case;
4. (a)(2) Legal advice regarding Downtown Greenville Conference Center development;
5. (a)(1) Boards and Commissions involving appointments to Greenville Housing Fund and Greenville Housing Authority; and
6. (a)(1) Review of applications involving appointment of unclassified position involving Municipal Court Judge.

(Executive Session)

There being no further discussions, Councilmember Brasington 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 5:00 p.m.

Fiona Buchanan
Deputy City Clerk

Meeting notice posted on April 10, 2026