



MINUTES

FORMAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

City Hall, 206 S. Main Street, Council Chambers
Monday, August 10, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Knox H. White

2. **INVOCATION**

Councilmember Ken Gibson

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, Tina Belge, and Dorothy Dowe.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

July 13, 2026; Approved as submitted

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

None

7. **INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Elias Ryan, 122 Pleasant Ridge Avenue, spoke to express concern regarding automatic license plate readers and advocated for Council to legislate the deactivation and removal of such systems.

Barry Heffron, 145 Brooke Lee Circle, Taylors, owner of The K9 Shop located at Hampton Station, spoke to express concern regarding trains blocking access to Hampton Station and requested directions to be publicized with alternate routes to this location.

Councilmember DeWorken commented that Columbia has been working to manage trains within their city and suggested Greenville take a look at their efforts.

Dr. Feliccia Smith, 215 Bransfield Road, Greenville County, spoke to express concern regarding the lack of neighborhood involvement in the development of Unity Park and the importance of considering historic and community preservation throughout development in the Southernside neighborhood, stating that the City has not kept its promises to the community.

Pam Adams, 238 Silver Hill Lane, Greenville County, spoke representing Neighborhood and Historical Preservation Advocates to express concern regarding the development of Unity Park, stating that no dedicated professionals were hired to advocate for the community and that there has been a lack of neighborhood involvement in the project.

Stacey Ashmore, 109 Sandalwood Lane, Greenville County, spoke to advocate for the recognition of community history and black owned businesses in the Southernside community regarding the development of Unity Park.

Tinasha Sherer, 16 2nd Avenue, Greenville County, spoke to express concern regarding the stalled development of the Welcome Center at Unity Park. Ms. Sherer recited a poem titled "Onus of Oneness."

Jackie Jones, 9 Trescott Street, spoke to express that the Southernside community would like the rich cultural history of the neighborhood to be reflected in Unity Park and requested the City reconvene with a Unity Park advisory committee to move the Welcome Center project forward.

Yvonne Reeder, 10 Zara Street, spoke to express the importance of remembering and sharing Greenville's black history and the need for Unity Park to reflect the heritage of the community that is rooted there, stating that unity remembers the past.

Rev. Stacey Mills, 111 Cagle Street, spoke to reflect on his involvement with the development of Unity Park and referred to a layout of the planned cultural plaza that was planned at the Welcome Center. Rev. Mills expressed that creating the lasting monuments would present the intended spirit of Unity Park.

Mayor White provided comments on the impetus for progressing work on the preservation and presentation of Southernside's history at Unity Park. Mayor White added that the development of the Mayberry Park baseball field is an important part in telling the story and that the City will make sure the voices of the neighborhood continue telling that story.

Dennison LaRue, 106 Arlington Avenue, President of the Green Avenue Neighborhood Association, spoke in support of Agenda Item 14a and advocated for the proposed improvements to Dunbar Street, stating he hopes the project does not remain dormant.

8. PRESENTATION

a. Juneteenth Essay Competition Winner

Tourism Administrator Anna Catherine Miller thanked Council and community members for their support of the City's 5th Annual Juneteenth Celebration held at Unity Park.

Ms. Miller welcomed Tonjalyn Cokley, Vice President of the Greenville County Section of the National Council of Negro Women to introduce the Juneteenth Essay Competition winner Taniya Davis, a Senior at Wade Hampton High School, who presented her essay regarding Juneteenth, black history, and civic participation.

b. Beck International Academy Presentation

Councilmember Dorothy Dowe introduced Cason Moss, Tucker Balon, Thomas Young, and Easton DeLucio of Beck International Academy to provide a presentation regarding the Greenville Zoo and wildlife conservation efforts.

Councilmember Belge recognized Furman University Junior Hanaa Khan who reported on her experience as an intern with the City through the 2026 Riley Institute Summer Experience program.

9. PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Proposed abandonment of a portion of Spartanburg Street (AB-3-2026)

Engineering Services Director Clint Link stated that an application was received from AP Hold Investments for the abandonment of a remanent piece of Spartanburg Street right-of-way which currently functions as the parking lot for a small barbershop. Mr. Link also stated that the City has a sanitary sewer line which traverses through the area that the City would retain as an easement. Mr. Link advised that the proposed abandonment has been reviewed by staff and utility providers and that the nearby community has been noticed, and there have been no objections.

No one commented or spoke in support or opposition to this Agenda Item.

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 Brasington moved, seconded by Councilmember Gibson, 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 appropriate \$1,015,558 in the Miscellaneous Grants Fund for the state-funded School Resource Officer Program
- b. Ordinance to appropriate \$535,049 in the Opioid Grant Fund to reflect South Carolina Opioid Recovery Funds of \$515,049 and \$20,000 in interest earnings
- c. Ordinance to appropriate \$228,331 in the Miscellaneous Grants Fund for the FY 2026 SW Hurricane Helene Grant

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 enacted pursuant to the Municipal Tax Relief Act, Title 5, Chapter 41 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, providing for the imposition of a one percent sales and use tax to provide property tax relief to owner-occupied homes and to finance certain projects upon referendum approval; the form of the ballot to be used in connection therewith; and other matters relating thereto (REVISED)

Councilmember Gibson moved, seconded by Councilmember Brasington, to approve second and final reading.

City Manager Shannon Lavrin thanked Council for approving first reading and stated that staff have been working behind the scenes for months to identify 521 projects and the proposed financial allocations. Ms. Lavrin acknowledged the Legislative Delegation's support for the Municipal Tax Relief Act and stated that this Ordinance and similar efforts throughout Greenville County are the first of their kind. Ms. Lavrin stated that, if approved, the ballot question would be provided for the November 3 General Election.

Councilmember Dowe provided an overview of the staff's revisions to the proposed project list as incorporated in the Ordinance for second and final reading. Councilmember Dowe advised that as a result of these changes, there are a total of 521 projects on the project list for the Municipal Tax Relief Act Ordinance, at an estimated cost of \$410,145,000. Councilmember Dowe extended her appreciation to Senators Jason Elliot and Ross Turner and to Representative Bruce Bannister, for supporting this initiative through the General Assembly.

Councilmember DeWorken encouraged City residents to review the project list, stating that all city neighborhoods are included in the proposed projects.

Councilmember Flemming noted that certain streets that have not been repaired in 40 years are included on the project list, giving the City an opportunity to improve neglected infrastructure.

Councilmember Gibson advised that Council has been trying to figure out how to address needed infrastructure projects and that due to budget constraints many projects would not be feasible for decades. Councilmember Gibson stated that the revenue provided by a municipal sales tax would increase the budget for completing the proposed projects by \$50 million a year. Councilmember Gibson also stated that the sales tax would be a game changer for improving quality of life within the City.

Mayor White stated that the City has advocated a similar municipal sales tax to address public infrastructure and safety since 2003. Mayor White noted that the required property tax relief would benefit city residents as well.

Councilmember Belge commented that the City's Ordinance and the County's Ordinance are mutually beneficial for improvements throughout the County. Councilmember Belge thanked staff for their revisions to the proposed project list.

After discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

15. NEW BUSINESS – (Ordinances – First Reading)

- a. Ordinance to appropriate \$110,863 in Conservation Funding collected in FY2026 in the Greenville Zoo Fund in accordance with the Zoo Conservation Plan

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

- b. Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of Waterworks System Revenue Bonds of the city of Greenville in one or more series in the aggregate principal amount of not exceeding \$275,000,000 and other matters relating thereto

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

- c. Ordinance approving an amendment to an intergovernmental agreement related to the City's Accommodations Fee revenues among the city of Greenville, Greenville Arena District, Greenville County and an escrow agent; approving an amendment to an escrow agreement among the city of Greenville, Greenville County, and an escrow agent; and other matters related thereto

Councilmember Dowe moved, seconded by Councilmember DeWorken, to approve first reading.

Mayor White noted that this agreement allows the City to be a full partner with Bon Secours Wellness Arena in the renovation of the Arena.

After discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

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

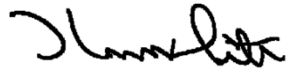
None

17. STAFF REPORTS

City Manager Shannon Lavrin provided information on the following items:

- a. Urban Forest Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Lavrin thanked the community for participating in the development of the Urban Forest Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Lavrin stated that the third advisory group meeting had met earlier in the day and advised that the online survey would be available through August 21 for members of the community who would still like to provide feedback. Ms. Lavrin stated that staff aims to have the Plan completed by the end of the year and to present a draft to Council in early 2027.

18. **ADJOURN.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.



KNOX H. WHITE, MAYOR

ATTEST:



CAMILLA G. PITMAN, MMC, Certified PLS
CITY CLERK

MEETING NOTICE POSTED AND MEDIA NOTIFIED ON AUGUST 7, 2026.