

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

**Monday, March 22, 2021
3:00 p.m.**

Greenville City Hall is currently closed to the public.

**Virtual Meeting Viewing
<https://www.greenvillesc.gov/meeting>**

**Remote Viewing Location:
Greenville Convention Center, 1 Exposition Drive**

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Knox White; Councilmember John M. DeWorken, Councilmember Lillian B. Flemming, Councilmember Kenneth C. Gibson, Councilmember Wil Brasington; Councilmember Russell H. Stall; and Councilmember Dorothy H. Dowe

CITY STAFF: City Manager John F. McDonough; City Attorney Michael S. Pitts;
City Clerk Camilla G. Pitman

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

False Alarms Update

Police Communications Director Fran Moore presented information providing an update on false alarms as located in Council's Agenda packet. Ms. Moore reminded Council the purpose for the review was to deal with the massive amount of false alarms the Police and Fire Departments were experiencing and to amend the Ordinance to meet the current needs.

Ms. Moore referred to discussions initiated with the alarm companies and the success of those conversations. Ms. Moore provided information reviewed with the alarm companies. Ms. Moore stated the recommendation includes two false burglar alarms in a permit year with a graduated alarm penalty schedule and implementing a suspended status for locations in verified response status who receive an additional false activation.

Councilmember Dowe asked for the amount of false alarms received. Ms. Moore responded in 2019 there were close to 6,000 false alarm activations and in 2020 the alarms were reduced by approximately 49.5% percent, referring to COVID and businesses being closed.

Ms. Moore stated the companies encouraged the City to maintain the current fine schedule because it is an incentive to register and manage alarms. Ms. Moore also stated the alarm industry did not want to be fined for false alarm activation, however, the alarm company can incur administrative fines if they fail to comply with certain requirements of the Ordinance. Ms. Moore advised the alarm companies will provide the City with an annual alarm list of alarm locations and with updates as they occur. Ms. Moore also advised the companies will provide new alarm users with information about the Ordinance and registration requirements. Ms. Moore added that the companies will work with the City on top offenders to rectify issues occurring.

Ms. Moore stated the City plans to reach out to the alarm companies on a regular basis and will provide the companies with a monthly top offender report. Ms. Moore also stated the additional efforts will require a significant amount of work and suggested outsourcing it, including the collection of fines.

In closing, Ms. Moore stated the information is provided in preparation of presenting amendments to the Ordinance for consideration. Ms. Moore also stated the companies have reviewed the Ordinance and provided feedback.

Councilmember Brasington thanked staff for their outreach efforts and asked if there is a point of contention regarding the recommendations. Ms. Moore responded she is not aware of any and commented on the positive working relationship they have established with the companies. Councilmember DeWorken stated he has received feedback from the industry and their appreciation in working with city staff through the process.

Priorities Resolution

City Manager John McDonough presented a review of Council's priorities from their annual retreat as provided in Council's Agenda packet. Mr. McDonough stated there was a desire to combine last year's top ten list, and he presented the following priorities list for consideration:

- Neighborhoods and Affordable Housing
- Economic Development
- Recreation, Open Space, and Environmental Sustainability
- Public Safety and Engagement
- Mobility

Mr. McDonough stated the item is on Council's agenda this evening for consideration.

Kiwanis Park at Blythe Academy

Business and Projects Manager Megan Young provided a map of Kiwanis Park as included in Council's agenda packet and referred to a lease agreement involving the Park. Ms. Young reviewed the arrangements with the School District and commented on upgrades at the Park.

Motion - Executive Session

During the open Work Session, Mayor White asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. City Attorney Mike Pitts recommended going into executive session under S.C. Code §30-4-70 (a)(2) to receive legal advice covered attorney-client privilege involving a potential resolution of a takings litigation of property located at Stone Avenue and E. North Street.

Councilmember Dowe moved, seconded by Councilmember Stall, to go into Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

(Executive Session)

There being no further discussions, Councilmember Brasington moved, seconded by Councilmember Flemming, to go out of Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously. No action was taken.

With no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Camilla G. Pitman, MMC, Certified PLS
City Clerk

Meeting notice posted on March 19, 2021