



# MINUTES

## FORMAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

City Hall, 206 S. Main Street, Council Chambers

Monday, July 10, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.

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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, Lillian Flemming, Ken Gibson, Wil Brasington and Dorothy Dowe.

Absent: Councilmembers John DeWorken and Russell Stall

5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

June 26, 2023; Approved as submitted

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

None

7. **CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

**Nataza Gabar, of the Israelite School of Universal Practical Knowledge**, expressed concern with his group attempting to obtain permits to speak in certain locations and being denied those locations or opportunities allowed to other groups. Mr. Gabar also shared information on his observations regarding McNeil Court and advised that he found the developer's comment from the last Council meeting stating the units were in "unlivable condition" to be untrue. Mr. Gabar commented on his efforts to contact the homeless task force and stated the information on the website is incorrect and should be updated.

Councilmember Brasington entered the meeting.

8. **PRESENTATION**

a. **NEXT**

NEXT Executive Director Eric Weissman provided an overview of the NEXT program as provided by presentation. Mr. Weissman highlighted the impact and future of NEXT and how the City can help the organization. Mr. Weissman referred to NEXT's engagement in hosting events for businesses as an accelerator, launchpad, and through the Founders Forum. Mr. Weissman shared the success of ScopeStack and commented on the development of the Greenville City Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Weissman encouraged the City to reference the NEXT hashtag, to attend upcoming events, and to network future businesses and individuals to NEXT for assistance. Mr. Weissman referred to the #STARTUPGVL ecosystem map and shared information on the NEXT Venture Summit scheduled for September 12-13.

Councilmember Brasington asked about NEXT's planned autonomy from the Chamber. Mr. Weissman responded that the Chamber has a five year commitment which ends in 2025. Councilmember Dowe stated her metrics include how many companies have started, how many jobs have they created, how many companies are staying here, and what barriers they are facing in building the work force they need. Mr. Weissman responded he could find out that information. Councilmember Brasington recommended determining perspectives as well. Mr. Weissman stated he believes Greenville is holding its own and that it is important to see what other people are doing and how we are competing with it. Councilmember Gibson requested more focus on diversity issues over the next year.

- b. National Champions - Rolling Tigers Wheelchair Basketball Team  
*(Presented by Risk Manager Mike Jank)*

Presentation to be rescheduled.

- c. Special World Olympics - Josh Powell (Unified Bowling)  
*(Presented by Risk Manager Mike Jank)*

Risk Manager Mike Jank introduced Josh Powell who participated in the Special Olympic World Games held in Berlin, Germany. Mr. Jank recognized Mr. Powell's fifth place award in the single bowling event and his third and fourth place awards achieved with his father, Jim Powell, in unified bowling events.

- d. Juneteenth Essay Scholarship Recipients  
*(Presented by Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director Tara Eaker)*

Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director Tara Eaker recognized Tonjalyn Cokley with the National Council of Negro Women and the National Association of Advancement of Colored People who announced the NAACP Scholarship Recipient Kristopher Robinson and NCNW Scholarship Recipient MacKenzie McDuffie. Mr. Robinson. recited his essay during the meeting.

- e. National Recreation and Parks Association Award  
*(Presented by Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director Tara Eaker)*

Ms. Eaker shared a video recognizing the city of Greenville in receiving the Best in Innovation in Park Design Award from the National Recreation and Park Association for Unity Park. Ms. Eaker recognized Senior Capital Projects Manager Jeff Waters, Senior Urban Designer Barrett Armstrong, Capital Projects Managers Greg Dawkins and Shawn Cunningham, Parks, and Grounds staff, and Communications Department for their work and engagement. Mayor White recognized the community's engagement and participation in the park development as well.

**9. PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**10. RECOGNITIONS AND 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 Flemming moved, seconded by Councilmember Dowe, to approve second and final reading of agenda item 11a of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- a. Ordinance to appropriate \$7,712,728 from the Parking Fund for the prepayment of operating expenses to the Greenville Transit Authority and to rescind Ordinance Number 2023-32  
*(Presented by Interim Office of Management and Budget Director Karen Crawford)*

**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)**

None

**15. NEW BUSINESS – (Ordinances – First Reading)**

None

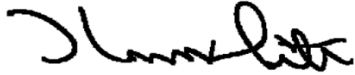
**16. NEW BUSINESS – (Resolution – First and Final Reading)**

None

**17. STAFF REPORTS**

None

**18. ADJOURN.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.



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KNOX H. WHITE, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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CAMILLA G. PITMAN, MMC, Certified PLS  
CITY CLERK

MEETING NOTICE POSTED AND MEDIA NOTIFIED ON JULY 7, 2023.