

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

**Monday, June 8, 2020
3:00 p.m.**

Greenville City Hall is currently closed to the public.

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

**Telephone: 1-415-655-0002
Event Number: 716 692 688**

**Remote Viewing Location:
Greenville Convention Center, 1 Exposition Drive – Room 102**

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.

Mayor White referred to conducting a press conference this week on Thursday instead of Friday to address the activity taking place in and around Greenville regarding the current status of COVID-19 and to bring more attention to the topic in the midst of other issues drawing the public's attention. Councilmember Stall stated most of the increase is in the West Greenville and Berea area of the County and recommended including County Council in the discussion as well.

Use of Force Policy Update

Interim Police Chief J.H. Thompson provided a presentation on the agenda item, as located in Council's Agenda packet, discussing the Police Department's use of force policy and use of neck restraints as the community expresses concerns involving the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, MN.

Chief Thompson stated the use of force policy is a priority at the Police Department and the policies are reviewed regularly as well as in connection with Supreme Court hearings and rulings. Chief Thompson described police training offered including, but not limited to, fair and impartial policing, integrating communications, assessments and tactics, critical incident training (CIT), surviving verbal conflict which is state mandated, and community oriented policing.

Councilmember Stall and Councilmember Dowe commented on the importance of CIT training through NAMI and the importance of having approximately three quarters of the City's police

officers trained in that field. Chief Thompson responded the CAD system denotes who are CIT certified to assist with getting the trained officers to the scene quickly when required.

Regarding neck restraints, Chief Thompson stated they are prohibited per adopted policy on July 11, 2016, and the only time a neck restraint can be used is in a deadly force situation where an officer is fighting for their life. Chief Thompson confirmed the Sheriff's Department has the same prohibited policy as the City's Police Department. Councilmember Gibson referenced to sections of the policy regarding neck restraints, and Chief Thompson reiterated that neck restraints are prohibited other than in a deadly force situation.

Councilmember Dowe referred to simulator training at the training center and asked how many times officers are required to go back through it. Chief Thompson responded the simulator is consistently used and serves as an important training tool. Councilmember Dowe commented on how beneficial simulation training was to her as a member of the Public Safety Citizens Review Board, and Councilmember Stall agreed with benefits from the training.

Councilmember Dowe asked Chief Thompson to provide the list of items carried by police officers while on duty. Chief Thompson responded they carry OC spray, ASP baton, Taser (electronic control weapon) and their issued weapon and added the officer must be trained on each item before they are allowed to carry it.

Chief Thompson reviewed the force continuum, which provides guidelines for officers in making critical use of force decisions, including levels of resistance of threat and levels of control. Regarding non-verbal physical gestures, stances, and mannerisms, Councilmember Flemming asked if the department is clear on handling those types of events and referred to an incident regarding one of her sons. Chief Thompson responded he was not aware of that event and that the information he is presenting deals with the process of taking someone into custody.

Councilmember Gibson asked if there are guidelines for use of force when someone is not being taken into custody. Chief Thompson responded there is no reason to have policies on use of force if a person is not being arrested. Councilmember Gibson advised he is aware of where force has been used when arrests were not justified and offered to discuss the matter further.

Councilmember Flemming stated in the African American community verbal dialogue can be intimidating and derogative and suggested more training in this area. Chief Thompson agreed and responded affirmatively stating tone and demeanor changes a person's action and response. Councilmember Dowe stated a majority of the complaints received while serving on the Public Safety Board involved verbal dialogue which involved all spectrums of color. Councilmember Dowe recommended circling back to this discussion at another time.

Chief Thompson reviewed the ability, opportunity and jeopardy of using lethal force. Councilmember Flemming asked if officers had to request authorization for lethal force, and Chief Thompson responded it is on each individual officer to recognize the need for lethal force.

Councilmember Brasington asked what "regular review" means regarding the use of force policy. Chief Thompson responded that regular means annually, any time a court case or decision affects use of force and when information is received from the accreditation and professional police organizations.

Councilmember Flemming recommended placing information on the City's website listing the use of force policy. Councilmember Gibson stated he would like to see additional items in the policy regarding disciplinary actions, guidance regarding dogs, and body cameras. Chief Thompson responded the rules of conduct and other policies are separate from this one and offered to share that information with Council. Councilmember Gibson offered to review the policies and assist with tightening them up.

Mayor White suggested reviewing the disciplinary policy and the purpose and accessibility of the Public Safety Citizens Review Board separately.

Councilmember Flemming suggested more emphasis with background pre-hiring criteria for customer service, offensiveness, and psychological. Chief Thompson responded by explaining the process for hiring and factors that serve in the elimination process.

Councilmember Stall asked if there are policies that need to be changed or tightened up. Chief Thompson expressed his appreciation for the suggested reviews and stated the office is always reviewing the policies of Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and other law enforcement agencies to tighten their policies.

Councilmember Dowe recognized the high level of hiring efforts to increase diversity in recruiting of police officers. Chief Thompson commented on the process of working with colleges and universities to recruit quality and diversity. Chief Thompson stated that all agencies are having issues with increasing minority recruitment and that the City is currently at around 11% percent when the goal is to have around 18% percent recruitment. Chief Thompson recognized two of the focuses shared by the City Manager which include increased diversity with recruitment and training. Councilmember Dowe recommended reviewing the Public Safety Boards to focus on what it can do better. Mayor White stated the County Sheriff is interested in creating a similar board and that may provide an opportunity to work together.

Mayor White thanked Chief Thompson for his efforts over the past few weeks specifically.

Cleveland Park Master Plan Update

Parks and Recreation Director Marlie Creasey-Smith, Tee Coker with MKSK, and Parks and Recreation Urban Designer Jeff Waters provided a summary presentation on the agenda item, as located in the Council's Agenda packet. Ms. Creasey-Smith referred to the time line of the master plan work, and Mr. Coker discussed the planning process and history of the master plans from the early 1900's, including William Cleveland acquiring the land in 1924 and the opening of Cleveland Park in 1926.

Mr. Coker commented on the three concepts developed for the master plan and provided the consensus of the master plan being recommended. Mr. Coker stated the themes considered in the planning process include the following: (1) build on strengths, focusing on the natural areas of Cleveland Park, (2) create a heart, developing a new signature gathering space at the confluence of the Reedy River and Richland Creek and (3) connect community, enhancing physical connections and build community. Mr. Coker specifically recommended closure of the Richland Way to allow for pedestrian and bicycle access as well as a new gateway into the park from the Swamp Rabbit Trail connection. Mr. Coker also recommended a park connection between Cleveland Park and the Nicholtown Community Center along Nichol Street.

Councilmember Dowe asked about the connection of the Swamp Rabbit Trail into the park at Laurens Road. Mr. Waters referred to discussions and coordination with Greenville County regarding the bridge design over Laurens Road and connections into the park.

Councilmember Stall asked about water quality along the McDaniel Avenue area. Engineering Services Manager Dwayne Cooper responded that water quality monitoring is being performed, however, the results have not been received.

Regarding the confluence area, Councilmember Brasington requested enhancement of the directional signage to assist guests and visitors to the park.

Councilmember Gibson asked if traffic studies have been conducted regarding the proposal to close Richland Way. Mr. Coker responded they have found closure of the underpass enhances the safety of the intersection, lowers traffic through the park, and provides a safe route for the Swamp Rabbit trail.

Mayor White commented on funding spent over the past few years to upgrade Cleveland Park and stated it has had a good bit of attention.

Councilmember Flemming asked about the stream stabilization and if the proposal will assist with the Reedy River flooding. Mr. Coker responded the park is in a flood plain and the challenge is how to make Cleveland Park a park that handles flooding well.

GVL2040 Comprehensive Plan Update

Interim Planning and Development Services Director Jay Graham introduced Charles Buki, Thomas Eddington and Pete Lombardi with CZB, and Matt Ingalls with Ingalls who provided a presentation on the agenda item, as located in Council's Agenda packet. Mr. Lombardi reviewed the timeline of the project and presented the focus on discussions with the steering committee since February 2020.

Councilmember Brasington asked if there is a way to calculate how much open space there is. Mr. Eddington responded there is approximately 2,700 acres of the 18,000 acres within the City that are vacant or undeveloped, which is about 15% percent. Mr. Eddington stated it does not take into account the 730 acres designated as park land which is already protected from development.

Councilmember DeWorken asked if the Wade Hampton Boulevard Corridor Master Plan has been considered with the GVL2040 planning. Mr. Lombardi responded they are aware of a number of master plans and are taking them into consideration with GVL2040 master plan. Councilmember DeWorken responded the neighborhoods in the Wade Hampton area are interested and have expressed those interests for the area in the master plan. Councilmember DeWorken encouraged Council and the staff to be deliberate with the City's approach to density which can diminish the quality of life in the City.

Referring to a recommendation of the steering committee, Councilmember Dowe stated she is cautious with tying a household income to affordable housing goal. Mr. Lombardi responded that the goal provided attempts to take the steering committee's priority and figure out the match as to a possibility. Councilmember Dowe asked how integrated are the goals and objectives of the

Greenville Housing Trust Fund regarding affordable housing. Mr. Lombardi responded the Greenville Housing Trust Fund is involved in the conversation and the planning team has a comprehensive eye on affordable housing as part of the process.

Councilmember Gibson asked how the steering committee determined 12% percent for affordable housing. Mr. Graham responded it was part of the discussion and compromises determined by the committee. Mr. Lombardi referred to the historical 8% percent and the committee's decision to recommend better for affordable housing.

In summary, Mr. Lombardi presented the next steps including the beginning of Phase 5, developing the first draft of GVL2040, and work with the steering committee on community outreach.

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 subsection (a)(1) to discuss appointments to the City's boards and commissions. Due to the lack of time available, West End Parking was removed from the agenda prior to going into Executive Session.

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

(Executive Session)

There being no further discussions, Councilmember Stall 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 5:30 p.m.

Camilla G. Pitman, MMC, Certified PLS
City Clerk

Meeting notice posted on April 24, 2020