

**Minutes
Planning and Economic
Development Committee
June 7, 2011
6:00 PM
3rd committee meeting**

Members present were Chairman Gabe Hunter and Committee member James Kennedy. Councilwoman Gettys was out of town. Peter Nomikos, Building and Zoning Director was present as well as Trey Eubanks, City Administrator.

1. Call to order- Chairman Hunter
2. Public comment
3. Reading and approval of minutes

Councilman Kennedy made a motion to approve the minutes with Chairman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (3-0).

4. Reports or communications from city officers
 - a. Budget Review- the department is 9% under budget currently
5. Unfinished business
6. New business
 - a. Planning Commission and Zoning Board vacancies
 - b. Greenlink info

This item was sent to council.

Greenville Transit Authority will oversee this program. 3 buses will be bought for routes around the Mauldin and Simpsonville area. This will be 100% funded by stimulus funds.

Carl Jackson is the Director of Public Transportation for the City of Greenville. GTA is run by a board of seven members. Mauldin is not currently publicly served and was mentioned in a federal report as needing public transportation. The budget will be about 3.9 million for this project.

Greg Baney was present to talk about Greenlink. This is a project that has been talked about for years, but now the funding is available. Service will be implemented through a test route at no costs to the local governments. The service will connect with the Greenlink route up at ICAR and several other routes. Each bus will make a round trip every two hours. The final route is determined upon public input. The service will have an average of 110 riders per day based on assumptions. The total projected cost for the first year is \$1.5 million with a \$355,000 operating cost per year.

Councilman Kennedy asked what happens after the five year projections. Greg said the reality is that federal dollars are for longer than five years. Other funding is uncertain after five years, but not the federal funding.

Chairman Hunter asked who would own the buses. Greg said they would be the city's buses and the federal government's. The maintenance costs are factored in. Mauldin would not have to expend any money.

Councilman Kennedy asked if the amount of money is adjusted if the service flourishes. Carl Jackson said the federal money percentage is based on ridership. Once ridership increases, the apportionment increases.

Leo Joyce asked if these would be new buses. Mr. Jackson said they will be new buses. Mr. Joyce asked if anyone has tested the buses in this climate with all the traffic congestion. Mr. Jackson said this runs on a flex schedule. Mr. Leo asked how people can rely on buses to take them to work. Mr. Jackson said they won't have to wait too long. Mr. Jackson said all buses will have GPS so that dispatchers will know where any bus is at any time. You will be able to call the transit authority and find out where the bus is.

This item was sent to full council.

7. Public comment
8. Committee concerns
9. Adjournment- Chairman Hunter adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller

Municipal Clerk

NOTICE: A majority or quorum of City Council may attend a committee meeting.