

**TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GREENVILLE
CITY HALL, 154 SW OLD MISSION AVENUE, GREENVILLE, FL 32331**

REGULAR MEETING

**Greenville Senior-Youth Center, 166 SW Onslow Street, Greenville, FL 32331
Monday February 17, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Kornegay called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Mayor Ryan Kornegay
Vice Mayor Robin Housh
Councilmember Barbara Dansey
Councilmember Carl Livingston

Absent:

Councilmember Chiquila Pleas

Also Present:

Victoria Kingston, Interim Town Manager
John Reid, Town Attorney
Kim Reams, Director of Finance and Administration

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

- Without objection, Mayor Kornegay asked that *Resolution 2025-04- Relating to the Former Greenville Training School* be added to new business.

ACTION: Councilmember Livingston moved to approve the amended agenda.
Seconded by Councilmember Dansey

Councilmember	Yay	Nay
Mayor Kornegay	X	
Vice Mayor Housh	X	
Councilmember Dansey	X	
Councilmember Livingston	X	
Councilmember Pleas		

5. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- Without objection, the Town Council agreed to correct a typographical error from the minutes from the February 8th workshop. The time of the Call to Order was changed from 10:08 P.M. to 10:08 A.M.

ACTION: Councilmember Dansey moved to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting, held on January 13, 2025, and the Workshop Meeting, held on February 8, 2025, with the agreed correction.
Seconded by Vice Mayor Housh

Councilmember	Yay	Nay
Mayor Kornegay	X	
Vice Mayor Housh	X	
Councilmember Dansey	X	
Councilmember Livingston	X	
Councilmember Pleas		

6. CONSIDERATION OF COUNCILMEMBER ABSENCES:

- There was brief discussion about absences and the possibility of adding something to the Charter to address it.
- Councilmember Livingston asked the Town Attorney about language that was previously in the Town Charter addressing absences.
- Attorney Reid stated that there was language where councilmembers would automatically vacate their seat if they had three unexcused absences in a year. This language was removed when the new Town Charter was approved by voters in 2020.
- Attorney Reid said that he could prepare options for how this issue could be addressed through a future charter amendment, which would need to be presented before the voters.
- Attorney Reid also cautioned against language that provided for automatic removals of councilmembers, since it completely removes discretion from the Town Council. Attorney Reid said that compromise language could be where a specific number of unexcused absences send the matter to the Town Council to act, including up to removal.
- Attorney Reid said he would prepare options for the next regular meeting.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None.

8. CONSENT AGENDA:

- None.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. **DISCUSSION/ACTION:** *Positions of Town Manager and Town Clerk – Mayor Kornegay*

- Mayor Kornegay stated that the Town Council had reviewed applications for Town Manager and Town Clerk and discussed these applicants as well as the Town's finances at the recent workshop.
- Mayor Kornegay recommended that the positions be addressed separately and entertained a motion for the position of Town Manager.

ACTION: Vice Mayor Housh moved to hire Interim Town Manager Victoria Kingston as the permanent Town Manager at an annual salary of \$60,000. The term of the contract would extend until the end of the fiscal year and be renewed at that time.
Seconded by Councilmember Dansey.

- Mayor Kornegay stated that the reduction in salary from the interim position did not in any way reflect on the performance of Dr. Kingston. The Town Council appreciates all of the work done by Dr. Kingston on behalf of the Town. The decrease in salary was simply part of the Town's focus on the financial issues facing Greenville and the need to cut costs.
- Vice Mayor Housh agreed that the salary decrease was not a reflection of work performance and indicated that after the Town Council conducted evaluations of charter officers, the salary issue could be readdressed based on the Town's fiscal status.
- Town Attorney Reid said that he would draft a contract and reviewed the terms as outlined by the Town Council. In clarifying the terms, Attorney Reid said that the term of the contract would be effective February 17, 2025 through September 30, 2025 and then would automatically renew on a month-to-month basis until further action by the Town Council. The position would be a Town employee eligible for all benefits available to Town employees. The contract would include a severance as permitted by state law.
- Mayor Kornegay asked if the contract needed to include language about an evaluation.

- Attorney Reid said that it did not since evaluations were already provided for in Town policy.

Councilmember	Yay	Nay
Mayor Kornegay	X	
Vice Mayor Housh	X	
Councilmember Dansey	X	
Councilmember Livingston	X	
Councilmember Pleas		

- Mayor Kornegay stated that the Town Council also considered applicants for Town Clerk at its February workshop and entertained a motion on the position of Town Clerk.

ACTION: Councilmember Housh moved to hire Mrs. Kimberly Reams as the Town Clerk at an annual salary of \$45,000. The term of the contract would extend until the end of the fiscal year and be renewed at that time. Seconded by Councilmember Livingston.

- Mayor Town Attorney Reid sought clarification similar to the position of Town Manager. The term of the contract would be effective February 17, 2025 through September 30, 2025, at which time it would automatically renew month-to-month until further action of the Town Council. The position would be a Town employee, eligible for all benefits available to Town employees. The charter officer would be entitled to a severance consistent with state law.

Councilmember	Yay	Nay
Mayor Kornegay	X	
Vice Mayor Housh	X	
Councilmember Dansey	X	
Councilmember Livingston	X	
Councilmember Pleas		

- Mayor Kornegay congratulated Town Manager Victoria Kingston and Town Clerk Kimberly Reams. He noted that they had done great work leading up to the vote and was excited about what they would do in the future.

b. **SECOND READING:** *Ordinance 2024-285: Related to Code Enforcement – Town Attorney John Reid and Interim Town Manager Victoria Kingston*

- Mayor Kornegay recognized Town Attorney Reid.
- Town Attorney Reid reminded the Town Council that this was a second reading of the ordinance.
- The current ordinance limits the Town's Code Enforcement Officer to be a Town employee appointed by the Town Manager. The proposed language allows the Town Manager to appoint any individual to the position, which could include an independent contract or volunteer in addition to being a Town Employee.
- Attorney Reid said that this ordinance would not have a positive fiscal impact as the Town would need to pay a Town employee for the work. Hiring an independent contractor would likely have no effect. Furthermore, if the Town Manager were to appoint a volunteer, the fiscal impact would be negative.
- Attorney Reid directed the Town Council to a Business Impact Estimate, which identified that the ordinance would not have a fiscal effect on private business.

ACTION: Vice Mayor Housh moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-285.
Seconded by Councilmember Dansey.

Councilmember	Yay	Nay
Mayor Kornegay	X	
Vice Mayor Housh	X	
Councilmember Dansey	X	
Councilmember Livingston	X	
Councilmember Pleas		

c. **ACTION:** *Greenville Senior Citizens Council* – **Mayor Ryan Kornegay**

- Mayor Kornegay reminded the Town Council that at the last regular meeting, it authorized the creation of a Greenville Senior Citizen Council and solicit applications.
- To date, the Town had received two applications where the applicants were eligible to serve. Mayor Kornegay reminded the Town Council that the resolution creating the Greenville Senior Citizen Council required members to be age 65 and older. One application was received where the applicant was under age 65.
- Vice Mayor Housh asked why the Town limits the age to 65 or older, considering there could be others who are under 65 years of age that care about senior citizens issues.
- Councilmember Livingston said that he did not believe the age limitation should remain if it prevented interested people from applying.
- Mayor Kornegay asked if the application period to be extended for two weeks.
- Vice Mayor Housh said that she did not have an opportunity to review the resolution creating the Greenville Senior Citizen Council prior to the meeting and

her vote to approve. She asked that in the future, resolutions be presented to councilmembers before the meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. **FIRST READING:** *Ordinance 2025-286: Related to Land Development Code – Town Attorney John Reid and Interim Town Manager Victoria Kingston*

- Mayor Kornegay recognized Town Attorney Reid.
- Town Attorney Reid explained the ordinance which amends the existing Town of Greenville Land Development Code.
- The amendments to the Land Development Code were requested by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.
-
- The date of the flood study needed to be changed from 2017 to 2025. Additionally changes to the code to conform with changes to the Florida Building Codes were also made.
- Attorney Reid stated that these amendments are similar to those made in 2018 at the request of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. At that time, language related to the Florida Building Codes was inserted into Chapter 5, when it should have been included in Chapter 6. In addition to the date change for the flood study, amendments to the 2018 language pertaining to the Florida Building Codes are deleted in Chapter 5 and added to Chapter 6.
- Attorney Reid informed the Town Council that this introduction was for first reading and would not vote upon until its second reading.

b. **ACTION:** *Resolution 2025-02: Related to Cybersecurity Policy – Town Attorney John Reid*

- Mayor Kornegay recognized Town Attorney Reid.
- Town Attorney Reid informed the Town Council that state law requires municipalities to adopt cybersecurity standards consistent with best practices.
- Since early fall 2024, the Town has interviewed vendors to provide information technology (IT) services, which would include cybersecurity measures, but none have been affordable.
- Attorney Reid has discussed the issue with Florida Digital Services, the cybersecurity agency under the Florida Department of Management Services about the standards and the opportunity for local grants.
- The standards identified in the policy are consistent with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework (CSF).

- Attorney Reid asked that the standards be adopted to comply with the state mandate as it continues to obtain a vendor.

ACTION: Councilmember Livingston moved to adopt Resolution 2025-02, creating the Town of Greenville Cybersecurity Policy.
Seconded by Councilmember Dansey.

Councilmember	Yay	Nay
Mayor Kornegay	X	
Vice Mayor Housh	X	
Councilmember Dansey	X	
Councilmember Livingston	X	
Councilmember Pleas		

c. **ACTION:** *Resolution 2025-03: Related to state appropriation request – Town Attorney John Reid and Interim Town Manager Victoria Kingston*

- Mayor Kornegay recognized Town Attorney Reid.
- Town Attorney Reid said that Town Manager Kingston had submitted an appropriation request for the state budget through the offices of Senator Corey Simon and Representative Allison Tant. The offices asked that the Town Council adopt a resolution expressing its full support for the appropriation request.
- The budget request is to seek funding to replace old water pipes and valves which could help the discoloration issue.

ACTION: Vice Mayor Housh moved to adopt Resolution 2025-03, related to a state appropriation request pertaining to water pipes.
Seconded by Councilmember Dansey.

Councilmember	Yay	Nay
Mayor Kornegay	X	
Vice Mayor Housh	X	
Councilmember Dansey	X	
Councilmember Livingston	X	
Councilmember Pleas		

- Following the vote, Mayor Kornegay asked Town Manager Kingston to update the Town Council regarding a related grant application for the Town's water system.
- Town Manager Kingston said that she was pursuing a grant that would fund the replacement of the Town's outdated water filtration system.

d. **DISCUSSION:** *Future Town Council planning sessions – Mayor Ryan Kornegay*

- Mayor Kornegay said that he felt the Town's workshop and orientation were very productive and would like to plan future similar workshops.
- Vice Mayor Housh agreed that the orientation was very helpful and would like to hold a future workshop to discuss the Town Charter, comparing the current language with the language from before 2020.
- Councilmember Livingston said that he felt the workshops should be as needed.
- The Town Council agreed to hold a workshop on March 4, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

e. **ACTION:** *Resolution 2025-04 Related to Greenville Elementary School – Mayor Ryan Kornegay*

- Mayor Kornegay passed the gavel to Vice Mayor Housh.
- Vice Mayor Housh recognized Mayor Kornegay.
- Mayor Kornegay presented Resolution 2025-04.
- The resolution was in response to current discussions by the Madison County School Board regarding the future of the building currently housing the Greenville Elementary School.
- The resolution provides that the property where the Greenville Elementary School originally was the Greenville Training School, opened in 1930. The Greenville Training School provided educational opportunities to children of color until its closure in 1971 when Madison County schools were integrated.
- The property was subsequently purchased by Black families from Greenville with the intent of continuing to provide an education to children of color. The land and structure were later transferred to the Madison County School District.
- Ray Charles was a student at the Greenville Training School prior to losing his sight and returned in the 1950s to perform at the school's prom.
- The Town will preserve the school's historical importance and seek historical landmark status on both state and national registries.
- The resolution dedicates Black History Month 2025 to the commemoration of the legacy of the Greenville Training School.

ACTION: Councilmember Livingston moved to adopt Resolution 2025-04.
Seconded by Councilmember Dansey.

Councilmember	Yay	Nay
Mayor Kornegay	X	
Vice Mayor Housh	X	
Councilmember Dansey	X	
Councilmember Livingston	X	
Councilmember Pleas		

11. COMMENTS BY INTERIM TOWN MANAGER, TOWN ATTORNEY, AND COUNCILMEMBERS:

- Town Manager Kingston thanked the Town Council for its confidence in her abilities.
- Town Manager Kingston provided an update to the gym in the Senior-Youth Center. The installer has been sick and unable to install the entry devices.
- Manager Kingston followed up on the presentation made by Kimley-Horn at the prior meeting regarding the wastewater treatment facility. Since that time, requests for proposal had been issued and three proposals were returned.
 - Unfortunately, all of the proposals exceeded the amount available under the applicable grant. All proposals will be rejected, and the request for proposal will be redrafted to reduce the project's cost and reissued.
- Town Attorney Reid said he would return to the next meeting with amendments to Town policies to incorporate the change of personnel from Director of Finance and Administration to Town Clerk.
- Town Clerk Reams informed the Town Council that she was working with our financial consultant, James Moore & Co. They have made progress and hope to have financial reports by March that show expenditures tied to budget line items.
- Clerk Reams said that the Town was no longer operating at a loss, but the Town's funds were still limited.
- Vice Mayor Housh conducted a drawing to give away six grills that had been donated to the Town during hurricane season. Three of the grills operate on propane, while three are charcoal grills.
 - The names drawn for the gas grills were Willie Siplin, William Scholze, and Jedena Miller.
 - The names drawn for the charcoal grills were Cynthia James, Fiero Arnold, and Sabrina Davis.
- Mayor Kornegay said that he would like to discuss fobs at the front door and suggested the issue be added to a future meeting.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS REQUEST:

- Mayor Kornegay reminded members that the memorandum of understanding with Friends of Evergreen Cemetery called for quarterly meetings between the organization and the Town. He requested an update at the next regular Town Council meeting if the quarterly meeting had taken place.

13. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- Mayor Kornegay said that the Greenville Heritage Committee had met and will host a fish fry at the Ray Charles house on February 28, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. The event would be a fundraiser for the committee.
 - Town Clerk Reams informed the Town Council that she receives calls each week asking about the house and request tours.
 - Mayor Kornegay said that this is an issue to be addressed by the committee.
 - The Town Council discussed efforts to inform the public and Greenville youth about the house and about Ray Charles.

14. ADJOURNMENT:

- Councilmember Dansey moved to adjourn; Councilmember Livingston seconded.
- Without objection, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M

Minutes approved and adopted by the Town Council on 03/10/2025.