



Michelle Mogavero/Staff

MAKING UP: Council Chairman H.G. "Butch" Kirven and Councilman Tony Trout before Tuesday night's meeting.

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State gives county \$1 million for E-911

BY CHARLES SOWELL
staff writer

The state Budget and Control Board repaid Greenville County nearly \$1 million for work done installing a new E-911 system.

Buddy Bowers, director of the Budget and Control Board, and state Sen. Mike Fair, R-Greenville, presented council Chairman H.G. "Butch" Kirven with a check for \$996,917.49 to reimburse the county for expenses incurred installing phase one and two of the system.

Bowers said "Greenville has been one of the leaders in the state on installing the new system and that E-911 will allow a deputy to come within 40 meters of your position based on a cell phone call."

The council whisked through a full agenda, holding a public hearing and clearing a proposed referendum method for zoning in the county on second reading. The planned change would give voters the right to decide on an unzoned area entering into the county's zoned areas.

The change still must be cleared on third reading and council reserved the right to amend the ordinance at that time.

At the public hearing, Nancy Fitzer, education director for Upstate Forever, supported the plan saying it would give residents more power and input.

The council also approved, on third reading, an ordinance changing the boundary between the River Falls Fire District and the Slater-Marietta Fire District, settling a long-simmering dispute in the Northern end of the county.

Earlier Tuesday, during the committee of the whole meeting, the council passed, without comment, on county Administrator Joe Kernell's proposal for getting the county's road paving list accomplished.

The county passed the road paving list a month ago and the administrator was authorized to select the best method of getting all of the projects on the paving list completed.

The letter of determination on using a contractor's sealed proposal over a bid price that Kernell presented to Tuesday simply notified the council of how he intends to accomplish the work, Kirven said.

Kirven said that on Friday, Sept. 5, state Secretary of Transportation Buck Limehouse spoke at a meeting of the Chamber's Transportation Committee and called for reform of the state's procurement laws.

He cited the Ravenel Bridge in Charleston as an example. Using an unusual public-private arrangement that allowed a design-build method of contracting for that project, the cost was \$531 million.

He said he believes the cost would have exceeded \$1 billion if the conventional low bid method had been used.

In an effort to deal with a perceived problem with loitering along the I-85 corridor, the council passed two measures on first reading to create special tax districts in the Broadmoor area and Maple Creek subdivision.

At the close of Tuesday's council meeting Councilman Tony Trout offered apologies to councilmen Fred Payne and Bob Taylor over an incident last month during a special meeting to discuss the county's position on Trout's legal problems.

That meeting ended in an altercation at the door to the meeting room in which Trout claimed to have been injured.

Taylor and Payne both accepted Trout's apology.

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