

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**January 12, 2026**

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The Greenville City Council convened in the Council Chamber of City Hall on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. for a regular council meeting. Mayor Jae'Ques Brown called the meeting to order. City Clerk - Treasurer Dee Blackmon called the roll and recorded the following members present: Mayor Brown, Councilmembers Bryan Reynolds, Ed Sims, Joseph West, Brandon Smith Sr., and Kenderius Boggan. Mayor Brown led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Mr. Eddie Cook delivered the invocation.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Brown advised each councilmember had received for review a copy of the proposed minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 22, 2025. He asked if there were any additions, deletions or amendments to the minutes as presented.

**Councilmember Reynolds moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve the minutes for December 22, 2025 regular Council Meeting as drafted.** Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Brown announced the **motion carried** with a unanimous vote of the Council.

### **PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTATION**

Mayor Brown recognized Mrs. Nancy Idland with the Arts Council. Mrs. Idland shared that the Ritz Theatre is 90 years old and has been owned by the City of Greenville for 43 years. She described the Ritz as a downtown treasure and noted that several small grants have been secured to address needed renovations. A recent grant funded repainting of the marquee. Phase II of the project will include replacing the neon lighting at an estimated cost of \$39,587. The Arts Council requested that the city fund 50 percent of this phase. Mrs. Idland noted the city has a dedicated bank account for renovations, refurbishments, and repairs, and she encouraged everyone to attend events at the Ritz Theatre.

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR**

Mayor Brown reported that a department head meeting was recently held, allowing each department head to discuss departmental business and present a strategic goal for the year. He also addressed the sale of the hospital, stating that Frey Medical Management will begin the management process and pursue the overall purchase of the hospital by the management group.

Mayor Brown clarified the purpose of the one-cent sales tax increase, stating it was not implemented to attract Chick-fil-A, but rather to place the city in a stronger financial position.

Mayor Brown then asked Administrative Assistant Brittany Blankenship to provide an update on Camellia Gras. Ms. Blankenship reported the event will be held on February 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with a downtown parade at 4:30 p.m. She encouraged the public to attend and enjoy the festivities. She also reported that the Chamber of Commerce will host the Local Love campaign again this year.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

City Clerk Blackmon stated that the one percent sales tax will go into effect on February 1. The State of Alabama is expected to notify all taxpayers of the increase. The tax was approved for a two-year period.

Police Chief Lovvorn reported that since the last meeting, a fast-food employee has been charged with identity theft. He also clarified that the murder reported last week did not occur in Greenville; following investigation, it was determined the incident occurred in Lowndes County. Chief Lovvorn stated that Part I crime decreased from 98 in 2024 to 82 in 2025.

Fire Chief Belletete reported December activity totals of 162 calls, including 130 EMS calls and 32 fire-related calls. He also stated that Engine 43 is back in service following completion of turbo repairs.

