

**TOWN OF REIDVILLE
POST OFFICE BOX 307
7304 REIDVILLE ROAD
REIDVILLE, SC 29375
PHONE: (864) 486-9614
FAX: (864) 486-9614
E-MAIL: torville@bellsouth.net**

**Walter E. Snow, Mayor 433-1672
Town Council
Gregg Gowan 433-0401
Charles Engroos 433-0324
David H. Rogers, Jr. 433-9202
Evelyn H. Mull 433-9834**

**PUBLIC HEARING
OFFICIAL MINUTES
JULY 20, 2006**

**Attendance: Mayor Snow Council: Gregg Gowan Others: Sandra Gowan Clerk, Treasurer
David H. Rogers, Jr.
Evelyn H. Mull**

The tape recorder was accidentally in the pause position for at if not more than 15 minutes of the Public Hearing.

Mayor Snow called The Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

Sheriff Chuck Wright asked people in attendance to please act accordingly during the hearing or they would be escorted outside.

Mayor Snow addressed the public by saying the only speakers that would be allowed to speak would be the ones that were on the annexation petition and citizens of the Town of Reidville. Each would be allowed to speak for 3 minutes and he reserved the right to call the next person if any speaker became out of order and the Public Hearing would end at 8:00 p.m. He ask that the speakers come to the microphone.

There was a long pause with no one responding to speak.

Town Clerk Sandra Gowan at the microphone gave encouragement for the people to please speak whether their comments were pro or con.

Mr. Curtis Hipp (property owner on the petition) Commented that he didn't want either Greer nor Reidville.

Mrs. Cathy Krass (citizen of the Town of Reidville) Commented that she supported the Town of Reidville and welcomed the petitioners into the town.

L.B. Watson (property owner on the petition, active POAGA member) Commented against Greer using Commission of Public Works as an annexation tool.

Mayor Snow realized at this point the recorder was in the pause position and the Public Hearing was taped at from this point forward.

Arvil Williams (property owner on the petition) Commented that he signed the petition and that he had to work for a living and pay taxes and that he had to pay Spartanburg County taxes. People talk about the City of Greer, I didn't buy property in the City of Greer, my daddy didn't buy property in the City of Greer, I don't need the City of Greer. They don't have nothing at all for me. When they put water down Abner Creek Road they said something back then that it would cost \$10,000.00 to put it on the little pig path that we live on. I ain't got \$20 or \$30 thousand dollars to go toward their sewer or nothing else, I got a septic tank, I don't need their sewer. I don't need their trash because I still have to pay Spartanburg County for

their landfill. I don't have anything against these folks down here because I went to this school and I have lived here all my life. I'm just a dumb country boy. I ain't got no business in the City of Greer and I don't want to be in the Town of Reidville but if I got by druthers I want to be in the Town of Reidville instead of the City of Greer.

Howard Spry (property owner on the petition) I want to make one simple comment, it is not the City of Greer that is forces us into this annexation.

Long pause and Clerk Gowan encouraged everyone to speak that was on the petition and citizens of the town. She ask, please speak up that this is your chance to talk to the council members of Reidville.

Joan Barra (Citizen of the Town of Reidville) I have only been here for 2 years so I really don't know about all the problems but I would like to know Who makes that decision about who is going to be annexed and who isn't, does anyone know what the real answer to that is? **Someone in the audience yells, Look who's doing it. Ms. Barra says, Pardon. Someone in the audience yells, that POAGA decides. Someone yells that you're out of line on that. Mrs. Barra turns to council and asks them the question while Clerk Gowan calms the public and says we're not here to have a public discussion about the laws of annexation that this could be handled during a regular council meeting. Mrs. Barra is speaking to council one on one, with Council Member Gregg Gowan trying to explain that the Town of Reidville received a petition from the public signed by 75% of the people in this area. She said, she understood that but who is making the decision tonight? Mayor Snow responded, that it was town council. Mrs. Barra said that you (council) would make the decision so that they can be annexed into the town. Good, that's what I wanted to know.**

Town Clerk Gowan ask council, that someone wanted to be recognized but was not on the petition.

Mayor Snow responded that if he opens up it to him then he would have to open it up to everyone.

Town Clerk Gowan is asking for more questions or comments.

Eugene Sloan (property owner on the petition) I signed the petition several days ago. I'm a little nervous about being up here, but I was born in South Carolina and raised up right up the road here and I enjoy Reidville and if I'm going into a township, that's the township I want. I own a little spot up there and my wife says that I have a little jungle, but I want to keep my little jungle. If I go into the City of Greer I will have to do away with it. I still like to hunt a little bit, kill squirrels and put it in the pot, good eating. But seriously, if I have to go into a city I'd rather it be Reidville and not Greer or Duncan.

Mayor Snow responded to a gentleman that spoke out of order asking why we did not answer Mrs. Barra's question and how we answered her question saying that the Town of Reidville will decide the annexation.

Marvin Yarbrough (property owner on the petition) I signed a petition to go into the Town of Reidville. Last week, a politician came by that I have a lot of respect for and it really surprised me that he wanted me to take my name off the petition that I wouldn't go into the town. After he left he went down to my neighbors. Well, while he was there telling her that you don't have the majority of the people that had signed the petition to come off. She said, wait just a minute and let me call Marvin. Marvin, what did you do, did you take your name off the petition? I said, no ma'am I did not take my name off the petition. She told the politician, that she would not sign to be off the petition. My understanding, I spoke with some of the county council that was interested enough in our votes in this section. I lived here for 40 something years and Greer has always treated us like a step child and Spartanburg has always treated us like a step child because we pay our county tax for sewer and we pay our county tax for roads, and we pay county tax for sewer and I don't have sewer because sewer is within a half mile of me. I have had my place up for sale several times and people that was interested in it they say that I need to come down \$70,000.00 because it would take that to run sewer from my property to Rogers Bridge Road where the sewer is located before they would even talk to me. I'm not interested in buying your sewer line that is not my responsibility that's the county's responsibility. So now, our Spartanburg County Council, the way I understand it now, somebody correct me cause I'm just an old dumb country boy. What I understand is that Spartanburg County Council went ahead and said OK Greer you just come on in here and it will be fine. I don't know if they consulted, who, what, or when. But, I don't think its right for them to do the western part of Spartanburg County that way and I'm proud of Reidville. My children went to school in Reidville and I'm not throwing off on Duncan or anything like that. Thanks to the Dollar General Store up here, now I can go up here to the Dollar General Store without having to go to Duncan. I can go to the post office without having to go to Duncan. So, I say get on with it.

Clerk Gowan asks for anyone else to speak.

Council discussed opening the hearing up to everyone but chose not to.

Chris Gowan (citizen of the town) I like to say that I am a formal council member of the Town of Reidville and I am for annexation myself. I remember a few years back when the Town of Duncan tried to come down and annex us. A lot of people fought to move the Town of Duncan back because everyone knew how Duncan was and how they treated you and things of that nature. I feel that if everybody that has lived here knows that how the City of Greer has been then they know its just like Duncan just a little bit bigger. Myself, I was raised here I'm 35 years old and have been here all my life went to Byrnes High School. This is a wonderful place and we would love for everyone to embrace it. Also, before I finish I would like to thank the POAGA members by the POAGA members that they have really worked hard and I have read the newspapers articles and they have been really bad mouth pretty bad and they are some good hearted people and I know every one of them really well. Take this to heart and think about what you are doing. Think about what the future holds for you. It's a brighter future coming into Reidville because it's they are a small town it's a brighter future that way than it would be to go into Greer.

Howard Spry (property owner on petition) Just a few minutes ago, you made a statement that this is not the forum for discussion. If all we are hearing is positive annexation, all the people of Reidville and so forth. Is this open for town discussion or is it not?

Mayor Snow answered saying. This is a public hearing for the people on the petition or the residents of Reidville and council knows how they feel about this annexation. I think that is what the people are telling how they feel where to or not to.

Town Clerk Gowan again ask for speakers.

Kathleen Ianuario (property owner on petition) I just want to say that I think this meeting is being held prematurely and that everybody that is in the area considering the annexation to be annexed, they should be given the opportunity to sign this petition and then hold this meeting.

Cathy Krass (citizen of the Town of Reidville) You do realize that if Greer annexes the places that they want to, you will not only be paying Greer city tax but you will be paying Spartanburg County taxes to and that is double taxation. (I could not here tape.)

Curtis Hipp (property owner on petition) They ain't nobody wanting to take Reidville in the City of Greer, do you understand that? They don't want it. I was born and raised here and I don't like Greer. I have some property on Abner Creek and it ain't in Reidville. I ain't taking sides with either side. One of these gentlemen works for BMW, I pretty sure because the name was on his shirt but if it wasn't for Greer there would not be a BMW. There wouldn't be no sewer no water no nothing. BMW brought a lot of work into this town and a lot of people works in it and not only that all the people up and down Abner Creek across in front of this field is on water and they have gas. Its Greer water and gas. They wouldn't have water and gas. The gentleman awhile ago, said he had his _____but he wouldn't even had the water if it hadn't been for the fish and pulp wood. We talking about Abner Creek, we're ain't talking about this side of 101.

Brenda Williams (property owner on petition) He told us that no way shape or form would be annexed into Greer. Council asks, who is he. Mrs. Williams said the politician said that Greer would not annex us into Greer unless we wanted to be but if they annex a portion around us they're not gonna leave just our little piece of property without annexing us in and as for as I am concerned I don't want in Greer. I don't want to pay their taxes and I think that Reidville is the lesser of the two evils. I feel like that we would be much better off in Reidville.

Paul Ianuario (property owner on petition) This hold thing has been which side is the lesser of the two evils but this is 75% of the 75% of the land owners thing this sounds like a mathematical nightmare, but if 75% of the 75% land owners agree and they become annexed then what happens to the rest of the land owners, are they never looked at by annexation, I doubt that. If 75% of the 75% agree then you would be annexed if you like it or not. Then if that is the case, then it is indeed the lesser of the evils. I don't want to be part of the City of Greer nor the Town of Reidville but I am closer to Reidville and if I'm going to be annexed by somebody, then it is going to be Reidville.

Town Clerk Gowan ask for speakers.

Chris Gowan (citizen of the Town of Reidville) I have no disrespect for the gentleman who thought I worked for BMW, but I work for the dealership. I have been working for a BMW dealership for 13 ½ years and I will say this, that BMW has done more for the Town of Reidville and Duncan, Lyman, Wellford.

They supply everything their own self. They are self efficient. That is what BMW relies on that's how they do everything. They have helped the community out more than they have hurt us. I don't think Greer has done much for them.

An individual that was not on the petition held the arm of Clerk Gowan and spoke uninvited to the microphone.

Town Clerk Gowan ask for anyone on the petition and citizens of the town to speak because we had 12 minutes left.

Chuck Richard (property owner on petition) I own a couple of business in town and one of the things that strikes me is that I see in the paper and I hear from the City of Greer, that they are not going to annex anyone that doesn't want to be annexed. Well, in my mind, that says if one person in that area doesn't want to be annexed then Greer's not going to come down here. I don't know about you, but I don't believe that. I'm not sure that I can trust all those politicians up there. I think that all their interested in is the money that is going to go into their poppers. I think like the rest of you, I work hard for my money and I think if you back what happened to Taylors , there is a lot of people there that would tell you that Greer doesn't live up to what they say they are going to do and they don't speak about what they are really after. I don't want to be a part of Greer, I don't know about you.

Gerald Macks (property owner on petition) My wife and I signed the petition. Mr. Yarborough brought up a good point earlier. The county has certain responsibilities to the residents. I read in the newspaper recently that the City of Greer was asked if they could supply sewer services without annexing people. The answer was, yes, they could, but they won't. Now the other thing that they do is bring in business fees if you want to start your own business. Most of the jobs generated in the U.S. are generated by small business and we don't need any additional burdens on stopping us from doing that in exercising our rights. The other thing that was interesting, is I'm on one side of the creek and if I read in the paper recently that if I didn't want to sign my access rights over to the City of Greer, that's OK, they would take over themselves. They would condemn my property and take title to my property.

Clerk Gowan ask for speakers.

John Currin (property owner on petition) I have lived in this area for about 25 years. Someone mentioned Taylors. I moved out of Taylors into this area because of what Taylors to me. They promised a lot of things. They talked about the roads and streets about the garbage pickup, so I decided to move out of Taylors. I have four children. I'm not pro Greer or pro Reidville. I prefer they leave me alone that's why I moved out of Taylors. I knew when I lived in the county _____ that I was happy. I do want to say something about the people in this area. Mr. Deyoung, when I fell off the roof and broke my ankle the Reidville Fire Department was there in less than 10 minutes.

Patti Watson (property owner on petition) Mrs. Watson ask that Jim Ruffing to speak for me and have my 3 minutes.

Mayor Snow says, that he is sorry, but the ground rules we set at the beginning of the meeting and he is not changing in the middle of the game that it would not be fair to everybody. Mrs. Watson, you are more than welcome to come up and speak. It's only the people on the petition or residents. We want to keep it fair for both sides.

Frances Huitt (property owner on petition) Had question about the sewer down 101.

Mayor Snow responded, that is a question that we do not know the answer to.

Clerk Gowan said that someone needed to speak the last 3 minutes of the Public Hearing.

No one responded.

A member of the public ask, I just have a question, Will this petition be valid for annexation being considered at the second reading? Can you give us a time line on this?

Clerk Gowan responded that after the public hearing that town council will go into a special called meeting. If you would like to know all the laws about annexation, there is a book in the town office that has the answers to these questions. The town office is open 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Sandra Gowan (citizen of the Town of Reidville) I know this little town, like the back of my hand. It's a good town. All of the area that we're talking about, look on your deeds, Reidville Township. We are a good town. I didn't speak for 3 minutes, but I sure could.

Mayor Snow said that this is the hour that we said we were going to do. I know that a lot of you wanted to speak, couldn't speak, I apologize for that. We could have been here all night.

Council Member Gregg Gowan made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing.
Second: Council Member David Rogers, Jr. All in favor

This Public Hearing is adjourned at 8:01 p.m.