

# Neighborhoods a priority, mayor vows

## Knox White takes oath of office

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STAFF WRITER

With his left hand on the Bible, wife Marsha and two children at his side, Knox White became Greenville's 36th mayor, vowing Monday night to make neighborhoods "the heart and soul" of the city.

"City government must take a hard look at the way it does business," White said, before an audience of about 200 people at the Peace Center for the Performing Arts. "We simply cannot continue to raise property taxes and fee people to death. We must be smarter, more cost conscious and more innovative."

White, along with Public Works Commissioner Vardry Ramseur, City Council members Elizabeth Gower, Ray Martin and Dayton Walker, took the oath of office.

New City Council member Fred Carpenter took the oath in November.

"Starting tonight, and beginning in the mayor's office, it will be the policy of this city to put the future of our neighborhoods at the forefront of all discussions about our future as a city," White said.

"While the economy is the backbone of the city, our neighborhoods are truly its heart and soul," he said. "Our goal will be to strike the proper balance between the two means."

White pointed to his recent creation of a task force to explore ways to privatize and consolidate city functions.

He proposed organizing a new partnership where people will be asked to make an investment in their neighborhoods.

"In return, we will work with you to strengthen the city's schools, keep taxes low and deliver quality services," he said. "We will make all residents full partners in crafting our future city."



BART BOATWRIGHT/Staff

**New administration:** New Greenville Mayor Knox White, left, is sworn into office by former Greenville Mayor R. Cooper White Jr. Monday night. Standing with White are his wife, Marsha, and daughter, Marian.

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Fri, Jul 20, 2018