City of Greer - South Carolina

Providing Easy Access to City Council Meetings

Historic downtown Greer, known to residents simply as "Greer Station", is home to more than 40 buildings on the National Historic Register and the downtown area itself is designated as a National Historic District. Greer Station recently took on a new look as new municipal facilities opened to serve the public. A two-story Police and Court Complex anchors the west boundary of Greer Station, while the new three-story Greer City Hall and 12-acre City Park are just two blocks to the east.
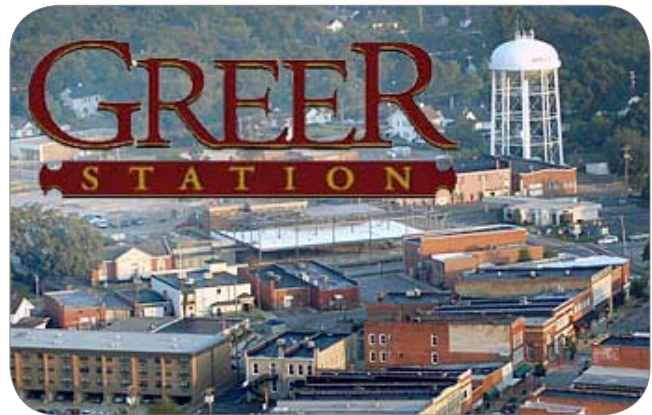
And when the City Council Chambers, where the Mayor and council members meet, was renovated, the city of Greer's IT manager discovered a peculiar problem. "We had structural constraints in the new room," said Jim Ridgill, IT manager for the city of Greer. "And when we set up our audio visual (AV) display, we realized that a few council members had a limited view of the presentation screen."

Their quick fix was to set up a few monitors on the council desk, but this was intrusive, bothersome and time consuming. "We needed a way to project any presentation, with video and audio, to all of our council members, without them having to strain their necks to see the large screen," Ridgill said.

Council members didn't have room on their desk for monitors, but they each had a laptop. "We realized that if we could record and stream a presentation over the web, then each council member could see the presentation in real time," added Ridgill.

Ridgill turned to David Rasberry, Senior Systems Designer for SCI Electronics, Inc. for help. SCI is a leader in the electronic systems integration market. They design, install and provide service to AV and security systems for a wide range of applications, including ones like the Greer City Council chambers.

"It was MediaPOINTE's Digital Media Recorder (DMR HD) that came to the rescue," said Rasberry. It allows us to take graphic feeds off the projection system router and stream to the web so council members can access it online in real time."

The DMR HD records and archives presentations, training sessions, meetings and videoconferences using hundreds of hours of on-board storage in high definition resolution. The technology allows the operator to stream full motion video, graphical content and stereo audio for real-time viewing, while simultaneously recording for on-demand viewing. This allows council members to choose when they want to view the activities. They can opt to view while the activity is happening, or choose to view it at a later time when it is more convenient.

"The MediaPOINTE DMR is simple and easy to use," stated Ridgill. "The Council members absolutely love it, especially those who couldn't see the screen before. I'm very pleased with the solution that David Rasberry and the MediaPOINTE team found, and I highly recommend it to anyone else who is looking for a similar solution."

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