

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

Council Members:

Chris Bowers, Chairman
Roy Costner, Vice Chairman
Trey Whitehurst, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem
Alex Saitta
Ensley Feemster
Henry Wilson

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator
Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

The Committee of the Whole met in Main Conference Room, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, January 25, 2021. All members of the committee were in attendance, with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding. Councilman Ensley Feemster led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion that we begin with Log No. 162 – *AN ORDINANCE No. 592 OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, ABANDONING AND RELINQUISHING MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES TO CLEMSON UNIVERSITY FOR OLD ROUTE 28 ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED WITHIN THE COUNTY, APPROXIMATELY 50 FEET WIDE, ADJACENT TO AND IS SURROUNDED BY THE REAL PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 105 OLD GREENVILLE HIGHWAY, CLEMSON, TAX MAP PARCEL NUMBER 4044-18-41-6810; REAL PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 201 SUNSET AVENUE, CLEMSON, TAX MAP PARCEL NUMBER 4044-18-41-395; A PORTION OF THE CLEMSON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, TAX MAP PARCEL NUMBER 4053-00-30-0529; AND A DIKE FOR LAKE HARTWELL MAINTAINED BY THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS.* He stated he has a citizen who has come out of town, and if possible, would like to discuss this log item first. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).

AN ORDINANCE No. 592 OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, ABANDONING AND RELINQUISHING MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES TO CLEMSON UNIVERSITY FOR OLD ROUTE 28 ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED WITHIN THE COUNTY, APPROXIMATELY 50 FEET WIDE, ADJACENT TO AND IS SURROUNDED BY THE REAL PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 105 OLD GREENVILLE HIGHWAY, CLEMSON, TAX MAP PARCEL NUMBER 4044-18-41-6810; REAL PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 201 SUNSET AVENUE, CLEMSON, TAX MAP PARCEL NUMBER 4044-18-41-395; A PORTION OF THE CLEMSON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, TAX MAP PARCEL NUMBER 4053-00-30-0529; AND A DIKE FOR LAKE HARTWELL MAINTAINED BY THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – Log No. 162

- Mr. Roper stated that Council decided not to have second reading before the Holidays, and instead referred it to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion. He stated Clemson reached out in the past few weeks inquiring about it, and provided the information that Council has in front of them. Mr. Roper stated they were wanting to do some improvements on this property and they applied to the state for some type of bond issuance and this came up as a title defect. He stated they have express their willingness to pay us \$5,000 for the right a way.
- Vice Chairman Costner stated according to this letter, we took over the maintenance responsibilities on the road. He stated we own the right of way of the road.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated he finds it very interested that Clemson is making statements worried about security and maintenance, and even in the ordinance. He asked Mr. Roper if we wrote the ordinance.
- Mr. Roper stated no the county did not write the ordinance, Clemson's lawyers wrote the ordinance.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated there are some questions on who owns this property. He stated our

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policy as a county is if we abandoned a road, we give it to the adjacent landowner. He stated there is a question on whether we own this road or not. He stated there are a lot of legal questions we need to be addressed. He introduced Harry Bodiford, whom he had been in contact with. Mr. Bodiford owns the property behind.

- Mr. Bodiford stated his family has lived at this residence since back in the 1930's. He stated the Dike was built in 1959, and that extinguished the right away of Hwy 28,76 and 123. He stated since that time, Clemson has never expressed many interest in that right away or maintained it. He stated he has maintained it. He stated he has ownership interest in the entire right away. He stated he does have a problem with Clemson University taking over. Mr. Bodiford went into detailed discussion on this property.
 - After more discussion between Mr. Bodiford and Council/Staff, Vice Chairman Costner stated if there is ongoing dispute we cannot even settle anything.
 - Vice Chairman Costner made a motion to table this until the disputes resolve, pending further inquiry. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion.
 - Vice Chairman Costner stated he would like to give director to Mr. Roper to find out specifics on this, before we move forward.
 - Councilman Whitehurst stated he agrees, then we can move forward in the right director.
 - Councilman Saitta stated one red flag is that no one knows who owns the property. He stated secondly, whenever dealing with something like this, we should always talk to the surrounding property owners because they are constituent. He stated you do not want to give an advantage to an institution rather than a citizen. He stated the citizen needs to speak with Clemson on who owns the property, then come back to Council. He stated it is out of Council's hands.
 - After much more discussion, Vice Chairman Costner withdrew his motion.
- ❖ **No Action taken by the Committee; the Committee asks that this Log item stays until further information is brought back.**

AN ORDINANCE No. 596 TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEASE OF THE PICKENS COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER TO JWPR HOLDINGS, LLC, A SOUTH CAROLINA LIMITED LIABILITY CORPORATION, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE SAID FACILITY, AND FOR MATTERS RELATED THERETO – Log No. 165

- Mr. Roper stated this Ordinance has passed first reading in title only, and Council asked for this Ordinance to be committed for further study. He stated we have struggled with programming the Performing Arts Center for several years now, and we put this out for bid out and requested proposals to see who might be interested in running the Performing Arts Center. Mr. Roper stated we had several inquiries brought back to us, but only one qualified group actually submitted a proposal. He stated one of the owners was on the PCPAC Foundation Board so we knew they were familiar with the facility and have a lot of experience. Mr. Roper stated we entered into a temporary agreement with them, and the document is in front of Council. Mr. Roper introduced Justin Ray Williams and Dendy Brooks, and stated they will be giving Council a presentation on their company and plan for the Performing Arts Center.
- Mr. Justin Williams stated they are not only a Holdings Company, they are citizens in the community who work and have a passion for the arts and entertainment. He stated he was voted on the SC Entertainment Music Hall of Fame, which was established in 1989 under Dr. David Godbold. He stated as of today, we have around 64 entertainers who have been inducted in the Hall of Fame. Mr. Williams stated two years ago, he dedicated his life to go around and help local theaters, events and festivals.
- Mr. William's presentation and discussion included, but was not limited to the following:
 - Information on JWPR Holdings, LLC
 - Organizations he is involved in (SC Entertainment Hall of Fame, Wounded Warrior Program, Pearl Street Records and CMA Member)
 - In talks with Entertainment Production, due to COVID-19 pandemic. Partnered with Amazon

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- FireTV, ROKU, Apple TV, Google Chrome and AndroidTV) and channels currently in production
- Discussion on some of the festivals they have done before the pandemic hit
- Pickens County Performing Arts Center shows they have been involved in
- Upcoming PCPAC Shows/Events they have scheduled
- Personal References
- Mr. Dendy Brook's presentation and discussion included the financial side of how they plan to run the Performing Arts Center. He presented to Council a 12-month cash flow forecast template and discussed the template with them.
- Council, Mr. Williams and Mr. Brook's had detailed discussion that included, but not limited to the following:
 - Relationship with Meals on Wheels
 - Fixed Costs & Variable Costs on PCPAC Building
 - PCPAC Foundation Board
- After much more detailed discussion, Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion approve the lease & move out of Committee for Second Reading. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Costner. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion:
 - Councilman Saitta asked if the PCPAC Foundation Board would still be active, and what authority the board would have.
 - Vice Chairman Roy Costner stated the board was originally created to be the fundraising arm of the Performing Arts Center.
 - Councilman Saitta stated the reason we need a board is because their job is to set the vision. He stated the board does not look like they have any authority under the contract. Councilman Saitta asked who has been bringing in the shows the last year.
 - Vice Chairman Costner stated the board's job is not to set the vision, that is Council's job and that is how the bylaws were written several years ago.
 - After more discussion, Councilman Whitehurst stated Mr. Williams has been helping with the PCPAC for the past two and a half years. He stated that Mr. Williams just finished saying that we have struggled in the past having this Performing Arts Center booked out. Councilman Whitehurst stated he would like to see what Mr. William's track record is the past two years.
 - Councilman Saitta stated he has heard great things about Mr. Williams, but his issue is the framework of how it will be operating and the PCPAC Foundation Board.
 - After much more discussion, Councilman Whitehurst asked why hasn't it worked so far.
 - Mr. Williams stated because he was not in charge of it.
 - Councilman Whitehurst stated he has "scared feet". He stated we have been burned before and we have a bid document, that Council has never seen, and only one person qualified.
 - Mr. Roper stated we only had one responsive group, it wasn't that we eliminated anyone.
 - Councilman Whitehurst stated he would like to see a track record of what they have done so far.
 - Councilman Wilson stated how do they get a track record when they have already been doing the work and haven't had an opportunity or support from us to do it. Councilman Henry Wilson called a vote.
- Councilman Henry Wilson called a vote, recommending this to come out of Committee for second reading. Councilman Roy Costner seconded the motion. The motion carried (4-2), with Councilman Saitta and Councilman Whitehurst opposed.
- ❖ **Councilman Henry Wilson called a vote, recommending this Log item to come out of Committee for Second Reading and Councilman Roy Costner seconded the motion. The motion carried (4-2), with Councilman Saitta and Councilman Whitehurst opposed.**

Mental Health – Log No. 134

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- Mr. Roper gave a quick update on Mental Health in Pickens County. He stated Pickens County leads the state in South Carolina, per capita, in counties with highest suicide death rates. He stated we formed an adhoc committee a little over a year ago. He stated our Veteran Affairs office, Sherry Harris, invited the state Veteran Affairs Secretary to Pickens County. He stated he showed him around the Administration Building and was able to talk to General Grimsley about specific things in Pickens County. He stated that one of the things he talked about was our high suicide rate. Mr. Roper stated we talked a few times after that, and Sherry Harris applied for a process through General Grimsley that would bring us some assistance. He stated this is a federal program that Pickens County has been approved to participate in for Veteran's and the family of Veteran's. He stated it will look at what we have, what we provide to our Veteran's and their families, and what we should provide. Mr. Roper stated it will look at us as a county wide and determine what our current system is, and what the current system would be. He stated this will allow us to have the data and due diligence to begin applying for grants. Mr. Roper stated that Pickens County has been accepted as one of 10 sites from around the United States to participate in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Crisis Intercept Mapping for SMVF Suicide Prevention. Mr. Roper stated this process will take several months and we will bring the product back to Council.

❖ **No Action Taken by the Committee.**

SHRED TRUCK OPTIONS – Log No. 164

- Mr. Roper stated he wanted to talk to Council about the larger policy. He stated this is a policy level decision. He stated our Shred Truck needs extensive repairs. He stated we got an estimate that it would be around \$36,000 to completely rebuild the machine. He stated for years, we have done the shredding for ourselves, some of the municipalities, the school district, or anyone who would bring their shredding to the main landfill. He stated we think we could actually rent a shred truck for our needs. Mr. Roper advised it is an inexpensive thing to have shredding done. He stated we looked into our neighboring counties (Greenville, Anderson & Oconee County) and this is not a service they all provide. He stated none of the counties own a shred truck, and they do not shred due to liability of sensitive material. Mr. Roper gave a budget comparison for similar counties, population within 100,000-200,000. He presented the counties, their population, their general fund budget, their payroll and how many full time employees they have. He stated we are an extremely lean governmental entity. He stated as a county staff, we have very limited resources compared to our similar sized counties. After more discussion, he stated our recommendation is to not repair the shred truck, to contract out our own shred needs and let the private industry handle the shredding.
- Councilman Feemster asked how much a brand new shred truck would be compared to fixing the old shred truck.
- Mr. Roper stated they have not priced that out, but it would be a lot more to buy a new truck.
- Councilman Wilson asked what is the thinking behind doing it ourselves versus hiring a private industry to do it for us.
- Mr. Roper stated he believes this was a program that we started through grant funding. He stated there was a larger demand then. He stated there is a significant cost here and he felt Council needed to have a say.
- After much more discussion, Councilman Wilson made a motion to accept the staff recommendation to discontinue the shredding services, and to communicate it widely throughout the community. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

❖ **Councilman Wilson made a motion to accept the staff recommendation to discontinue the shredding services, and to communicate it widely throughout the community. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).**

E911 – Log No. 105

- Mr. Billy Gibson, Director of Emergency Services, gave a presentation to Council on the EMD Status Report from July 2020 – December 2020. The presentation included, but was not limited to:

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➤ EMD Certification Status

- 17 of the 22 Communication Specialists are currently EMD certified and of the remaining 5, two are registered for an upcoming class and three others are in early stages of training and not yet ready to begin on the EMS position.
- Mr. Gibson presented the EMD Scores from July to December. He stated the average was a score of 97. He stated while grading the EMD call, we noticed a trend that the calls scoring “100” seem to average 4-6 minutes in length, and sometimes more.
- Mr. Gibson presented the number of 911 calls received per month, from July to December. He stated the averaged around 138 calls per day.
- 911 Call answer times:
 - 55% were 5 seconds or less
 - 42% were 5-10 seconds
 - 2% were 10-15 seconds
 - 1% were 15-30 seconds
 - 0% were 30 seconds or more
- Mr. Gibson stated NENE 911 Call Processing Standards, 90% of all 911 calls arriving at the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) shall be answered within 15 seconds. He stated 95% of all 911 calls should be answered within twenty seconds.
- There are 4 employees per shift:
 - EMS/911
 - Sheriff Channel
 - Fire Channels
 - Phones/Narcotics
- All employees work together as a team to accomplish tasks, meet the needs of first responders, and provide efficient service to all. It is common to receive multiple 911 calls at one time and the 3 other positions always assist in answering those calls.
- Mr. Gibson stated every dispatcher goes through the following training:
 - Approximately 5-6 months of in house training to become efficient on all positions
 - Must learn the ins and outs of call tracking and dispatching for EMS, Fire, Law and Rescue
 - One week of required 911 School through SCCJA
 - SLED/CJIS NCIC Certification
 - CPR Certification (pre-requisite for EMD)
 - EMD Certification
- Chairman Bowers asked if we have been able to see a better utilization of our resources. He stated he would like to see the number of incidents vs. the number of 911 calls.
- Mr. Gibson stated he can't speak to this, but he does know the questions are being asked. He stated the communications folks are asking the questions when they get the calls. He stated they are getting further information once the call has started and he feels they are seeing a better utilization. Mr. Gibson explained the process of what happens at the first initial call.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated it seems that there was an issue we had with all the administrative lines from the Sheriff's office was going to the 911 line.
- Mr. Gibson stated yes, that line still goes to the 911 line.
- Mr. Roper stated keep in mind that some of these employees who work at the dispatch office are sheriff office employees.
- After more discussion, Mr. Gibson invited members of Council to tour the dispatch center whenever they would like.

❖ **No Action Taken by the Committee.**

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ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).