

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

Council Members:

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

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator
Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council
Les Hendricks, Contract Attorney

The Committee of the Whole met in Main Conference Room, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. All members of the committee were in attendance with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding. Councilman Trey Whitehurst 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:

County Radio System – Log No. 80

Unified Dispatch Plan from Staff – Log No. 182

- Mr. Roper stated that one of Council's priorities in the American Rescue Funding Act is to update the County Radio System. A request for proposal was published to engage a firm to study the county's current radio system and provide recommendation for needed improvements to provide reliable radio coverage throughout the county. Mr. Roper stated three proposals was received from three different vendors. He stated the Communications Committee (representing all emergency services) disciplines reviewed all three proposals and graded based on past projects, customer references, pricing, completion time frame and technical data. Tusa Consulting Services of Liberty, MO has been preliminarily awarded the bid for the study at a cost of \$40,410. Mr. Roper stated the contract is being reviewed by the County attorney and once completed, it will be signed and work will begin within a month, with a 60 day projected completion.
- Mr. Roper also gave Council an update regarding a Unified Dispatch plan. He gave a cost overview of the infrastructure costs (renovation/move) in phase 1 and phase 2.
- After some discussion between Council, Chairman Bowers asked that staff keep Council updated on this process.

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

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Discussion on an Ordinance for a Referendum regarding Sunday Alcohol Sales in Pickens County

– Log No. 181

- Chairman Chris Bowers stated he has received numerous phone calls over the years on this topic. He stated Pickens, Easley and Clemson have passed Sunday alcohol sales in municipalities. He stated in order for it to pass, it has to go on a referendum for a General Election on an even year.
- Some Councilmembers had limited discussion that included:
 - Putting on a referendum gives the citizens of Pickens County the power to make that decision
- ❖ **Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to move from Committee to Council meeting for First Reading in Title Only of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried (5-1), with Councilman Alex Saitta opposed.**

Discussion on an Ordinance to Combine Construction Board of Appeals and Zoning Board of Appeals –

Log No. 195

- Attorney Les Hendricks gave Council a detailed update on combining the Construction Board of Appeals and Zoning Board of Appeals. Council seeks to make county operations and government more efficient and to make volunteer boards more streamlined by reducing unnecessary boards. Council seeks legal guidance on whether the duties of these two boards can be combined and if so, how that will occur. Mr. Hendricks gave Council detailed information in a packet regarding Board of Appeals South Carolina Code, Ordinances, and Purpose. He stated Council has the option to combine the two boards, eliminate either or both boards, or otherwise act as it chooses in regard to the boards. He stated eliminating both boards would not be in the best interest of the County, that the boards serve as another level of examination prior to a upset citizen
- Council and Staff had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Board of Appeals seek Council on decisions involving construction
 - Discussion on both Zoning Board of Appeals and Construction Board of Appeals
- ❖ **Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to move out of Committee for third reading. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).**

Council Redistricting – Log No. 194

- Administrator Roper and Council had detailed discussion regarding the previous two drafts option maps, a third new proposal map and a fourth new proposal map, regarding Council redistricting in Pickens County.
 - Questions regarding precincts in Pickens County
 - Different opinions and reasons from Council for redistricting
 - Clemson Area Discussion
- ❖ **Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to move proposal #2 out of Committee for second reading. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).**

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ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0). Meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.