

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

Council Members:

Chris Bowers, Chairman
Roy Costner, Vice Chairman
Chris Lollis
Alex Saitta
Henry Wilson
C. Claiborne Linvill (absent)

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator
Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council
Les Hendricks, Attorney
Carlos Salinas, Airport Director
Trad Julian, Senior Planner
Todd Steadman, Part Time Planner

The Committee of the Whole met in the Main Conference Room, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, April 17, 2023. All members of the committee were in attendance with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding, with exception of Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill. Vice Chairman Roy Costner 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:

DISCUSSION ON AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 6 OF THE PICKENS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES SPECIFIC TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE PICKENS COUNTY AIRPORT AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO - Log No. 212

- Carlos Salinas stated he comes before Council this evening regarding a proposed revision to the County Code to allow for an off runway ultralight operations at the County Airport, which is currently not allowed. He stated this proposal is the result of about a year and a half back and forth between the FAA and Pickens County. He stated upon receipt of a request for off runway ultralight usage, IAW our current code and in consideration of local conditions, we exercised our right to deny the request on the grounds of concerns with safety and efficiency. From there, the request went to appeal with the FAA. Mr. Salinas went into great detail how on one side, we are bound by grant assurances that require us to preserve public access with some caveats and, on the other side, the FAA acknowledges the partnership created by a State entity that owns the land below the federal airspace and retains some ownership rights. He stated the end result is that the FAA advises that we accommodate this request to avoid endangering our federal funding and status as part of the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS). Mr. Salinas stated advised in order to do so, we'll need to revise our code which does not allow for off runway operations. Mr. Salinas stated while Staff continues to have reservations about the safety and efficiency of ultralight operations at our Airport, he does not advise that we jeopardize our funding or NPIAS status. He stated our reservations have been logged with the FAA and we have asked our Congressional Delegation to broker our concerns with higher headquarters while we move toward implementation.
- After discussion between Council and Staff, Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to move out of

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Committee. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (5-0).

- ❖ Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to move out of Committee. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (5-0).

UDSO – Log No. 141

- Planning Staff presented Council with a recommended plan of action and had detailed discussion on changes that Council would like to see updated in the ordinance.
- Council and staff had very detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Wave Growth hitting Pickens County
 - *Expanded Proposal* regarding:
 - Create 123/93 Corridor Overlay
 - Modify the Comprehensive Plan
 - Regional Planning Committee
 - Appeals
 - Implementation Schedule
 - More discussion regarding Housing Challenges and Attainable Housing Program to be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting in May.

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

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Vice Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (5-0). Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.