

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

June 5, 2023

6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium of the County Administration Facility, with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding. Final agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to members of council and local news media on June 1, 2023.

Council Members in Attendance:

Chris Bowers, Chairman
Roy Costner, Vice Chairman
Alex Saitta, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem
Chris Lollis
Henry Wilson
C. Claiborne Linvill

Staff in Attendance:

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

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the meeting of June 5, 2023 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Chris Lollis led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Chris Bowers opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to call upon the citizens signed up to speak.

1. Carl Hudson: Mr. Hudson addressed Council regarding the Law Enforcement Center, Upcountry Fiber and FN America, LLC.
2. Allan Quinn: Mr. Quinn addressed Council regarding Economic Development.
3. Brian Kimball: Mr. Kimball addressed Council regarding the Radio System.
4. Kerri Kwist: Ms. Kwist addressed Council regarding the Library.
5. Ben Crenshaw: Mr. Crenshaw addressed Council regarding the Radio System.
6. Luke Campbell: Mr. Campbell addressed Council regarding Republican and Democrat party platforms.
7. John Paul Rutledge: Mr. Rutledge addressed Council regarding Property Taxes.
8. Bill McKinney: Mr. McKinney addressed Council regarding Reasonable County Development.

9. Margaret Thompson: Ms. Thompson addressed Council regarding Clemson Paw Partners Report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to approve the following minutes as presented:

- May 1, 2023 Regular-Called Council Meeting
 - May 8, 2023 Budget Work Session
 - May 22, 2023 Budget Work Session
- Motion was made by Councilman Alex Saitta, and seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion. Seeing none, the motion carried (6-0).

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Roper addressed Council on the following:

- 2023 Council Goals – People, Purpose, Plan
- Law Enforcement Center Update regarding renaming
- Radio Study
- SCAC Veterans Affairs Officers Associate Member of the Year – Melanie Ginn
- UDSO Public Meetings coming up
- Landfill Waiver Program
- Museum Visitation Numbers and New Hours

Council asked Mr. Roper questions that included, but was not limited to:

- Question regarding Public Forum speaker John Paul Rutledge & his property taxes
- Question regarding Tax Fact Sheet when property taxes are mailed out

COMMITTEE REPORT for 4/17/23:

The Committee of the Whole met in the Main Conference Room, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, May 15, 2023. All members of the committee were in attendance with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding. Chairman Chris Bowers 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:

PICKENS COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY - Log No. 213

- Tom Ponder, Pickens County Water Authority, and Troy Rosier Group, Engineers & Surveyors, presented to Council a preliminary engineering report regarding Lake Keowee water treatment plant and transmission project.
- Council and Staff had very detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Local Government support
 - Review of PRJWS Water Districts and Municipalities Map to be supplied by PRJWS
 - Review of Project
 - Needs for Project
 - Project description
 - Summary of Project Cost and Project Schedules for Division – WTP and Division - TMS

- ❖ No Action Taken by the Committee.

Council Action on Log No. 213 – No Action Taken by the Committee.

COUNTY RADIO SYSTEM – Log No. 80

- Billy Gibson (Emergency Services Director), Alex Norwood (Clemson Fire), Richard Donald, and Richard Crowe (E911 Coordinator), presented information regarding the County Radio System to Council.
 - Council and staff had very detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Review of County Radio System Study – catch up for new Council members
 - **The Issues:**
 - Antiquated technology
 - No common operating platforms
 - i. UHF
 - ii. VHF
 - iii. 800MHz
 - Coverage
 - i. Talk back capability in some areas extremely limited
 - **The Solution:**
 - A new Countywide radio system
 - Common platform
 - Overcome coverage issues
 - **Action:**
 - Countywide radio study
 - Developed RFP
 - Received proposal from 5 vendors
 - **Recommendation #1:** Kimball Communications; discussion of pros and cons
 - **Recommendation #2:** Fleet talk by Rock Communications; discussion of pros and cons
 - Total amount of ARPA funding
 - Timeline of both recommendations
 - After much more discussion, Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to allocate \$10,366,737 of ARPA Funding towards the County Radio System. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).
- ❖ Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to allocate \$10,366,737 of ARPA Funding towards the County Radio System. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).
 - ❖ **Council Action on Log No. 80** - Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to allocate \$10,366,737 of ARPA Funding towards the County Radio System. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Bowers stated no second is required as this comes as a recommendation from the Committee. He asked if Council would like to make any comments for discussion.

- Council and staff had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Mr. Roper gave a brief overview of the systems recommended by Emergency Services.
 - Chairman Bowers stated we are voting this evening to allocate ARPA

money towards a Radio System, not to a specific RFP.

- Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to table until the next Committee of the Whole meeting for just a few more minutes of conversation and more people to come speak to us. Councilman Henry Wilson seconded for discussion. Discussion included:
 - Councilman Henry Wilson stated he is open to delay with the idea that we have a group of people, who are not employees or staff of Leadership, to review these things and give us some input.
 - Vice Chairman Roy Costner stated we believes Council need to move forward with allocating the money.
- Seeing no other discussion, the motion failed (1-5), with Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill in favor.
- After much more discussion, the motion carried unanimously (6-0).

AMERICAN RESCUE ACT FUNDING – Log No. 177

- Council and staff had very detailed discussion on State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund Allocations that included, but was not limited to:
 - Pickens County is allotted \$24,645,730
 - Discussion of illustration only of allowable uses of recovery funds, per U.S. Treasury guidance
 - Mr. Roper and Council discussed the list of ARPA Funding requests for consideration from various County Departments

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

Council Action on Log No. 177 – No Action Taken by the Committee.

COUNCIL RULES – Log No. 215

- Council had discussion over their Council Organizational Rules.
- Council and staff had very detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Discussion on Council participation in meetings via electronic devices
 - Discussion of a quorum by electronic devices
 - Review of SCAC Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for SC Counties (Rule 4.1)
 - *“Model Rule 4.1. Alternative Attendance by a Member. A member of the body may attend any meeting by electronic means subject to the following requirements:
1. A quorum of the body is physically present at the meeting location; and
2. The electronic means used allows both the member to hear all proceedings, and those in attendance at the physical location to hear the member.”*
- Councilwoman Linvill stated she would like to discuss with the County Attorney before moving forward with a motion.
- Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to remove Section 7:2 (a)(8) in Council’s Organizational Rules, which states, *“Board or commission members should resign their appointment prior to announcing or filing for candidacy for an elective office.”* Councilman Alex Saitta seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously (6-0).

- ❖ Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to remove Section 7:2 (a)(8) in Council Organization Rules, which states, “*Board or commission members should resign their appointment prior to announcing or filing for candidacy for an elective office.*” Councilman Alex Saitta seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously (6-0).

- **Council Actions on Log No. 215 – Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to remove Section 7:2 (a)(8) in Council’s Organizational Rules, which states, “*Board or commission members should resign their appointment prior to announcing or filing for candidacy for an elective office.*” Councilman Alex Saitta seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

Chairman Chris Bowers stated no second is required as this come as recommendations from the Committee. Discussion included:

- Vice Chairman Roy Costner stated he would like to amend the motion to add that we remove the first sentence of Rule 2.1 in Section D, which states, “no officer can serve more than two consecutive two-year terms in a particular office” because it seems ambiguous and vague when there are only six council members. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. Chairman Bowers asked for any discussion:
 - Councilman Saitta stated he opposes this motion and went into detail.
 - After much more discussion, Councilman Chris Lollis stated he would like to amend this motion and table this discussion until the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Regarding the original motion that came out of Committee, the motion carried (6-0).

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Vice Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0). Meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Chris Bowers announced the following:

- There will be a Budget Work Session on Thursday, June 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Facility.
- Council will hold a special-called meeting on Monday, June 19th, at 6:00 p.m. before the Committee Meeting, in Council Chambers of the Administration Building.
- The Committee of the Whole meeting will take place on Monday, June 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Administration Building.
- The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, July 10, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Administration Building.

- Non-Essential County Offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th for the Independence Day Holiday.

Chairman Bowers called for other council correspondence.

Seeing no other correspondence, Chairman Bowers announced moving to Motion Period and New Business.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Chris Bowers opened the floor for motion period and new business.

Seeing no discussion, Chairman Bowers closed the floor.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING AND/OR RESOLUTIONS:

- a) CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION 2023-23 AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE PICKENS COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.
 - Councilman Chris Lollis made a motion to approve the Resolution. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

None

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING

- a) THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE No. 625 REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 6 OF THE PICKENS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES SPECIFIC TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE PICKENS COUNTY AIRPORT AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.
 - Mr. Roper stated we have pursued further appeal rights for this which we consider to be a requirement coming from the FAA that would make our airport less safe. He asked for Council to consider submitting to the Committee for further discussion before third reading to give time for the FAA to answer us from their D.C. Office for us to be exhausted all of our administrative remedies.

OTHER REQUEST AGENDA ITEMS:

- a) PUBLIC HEARING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 623 TO PROVIDE FOR ADOPTION OF A BUDGET AMENDMENT CONTAINING ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE CHANGES FOR PICKENS COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.
 - Chairman Chris Bowers opened the floor for public comment and asked if there is anyone who would like to speak this evening. Seeing no speakers, the Chairman closed the floor.

- b) PUBLIC HEARING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 624 TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF

TAXES IN PICKENS COUNTY FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024, AND TO DIRECT EXPENDITURE THEREOF.

- Chairman Chris Bowers opened the floor for public comment and asked if there is anyone who would like to speak this evening. There was one speaker, who was Ms. Reba Krewe, who spoke on the Library Budget. Seeing no other speakers, the Chairman closed the floor.

c) REQUEST FROM STAFF FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDING TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS AND PROVIDE A COST ESTIMATE FOR POTENTIAL EMERGENCY LOGISTICS CENTER ADJACENT TO EXISTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

- Mr. Roper stated one of Council’s priorities as we move forward in terms of Emergency Services is the combined Logistics Facility and the capacity of this building to handle the situation of medic 1 and the EMS headquarters. He stated it all needs to be addressed and it is our hope that we will be able to address all of those needs in one facility and also be able to shift some things in the Admin building to give the elections office more space for their equipment. He stated he is asking for Council to go ahead and give authority to issue a request for proposals and to allocate \$50,000 from Fund Balance to conduct the study to get some preliminary engineering and site analysis.
- Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to allocate \$50,000 from Fund Balance for this request. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).

d) Review of 2023 Recreation Funding Applications

- Council and Staff reviewed the 2023 Recreation Funding Applications.
- Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill reviewed District 1 applications and would like to move forward with the following requests:

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
1	City of Clemson Recreation	\$ 25,000.00
1	Clemson Area African American Museum	\$ 1,000.00
1	Shaw Center	\$ 1,500.00
1	City of Clemson Arts Center	\$ 5,000.00
1	Clemson Aquatic Team	\$ 6,289.00
DISTRICT 1 TOTAL:		\$ 38,789.00

- Councilman Chris Lollis reviewed the District 2 applications and would like to move forward with the following requests:

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
2	Town of Central Parks & Recreation	\$ 24,700.00
2	Town of Six Mile	\$ 32,965.00
DISTRICT 2 TOTAL:		\$ 57,665.00

- Councilman Alex Saitta stated he would not like to move forward with anything this evening for District 3, as he is still waiting on some information.
- Vice Chairman Roy Costner reviewed District 4 applications and would like to move forward with the following requests:

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
4	City of Liberty Recreation	\$ 51,521.48
4	Pickens County YMCA	\$ 5,000.00
DISTRICT 4 TOTAL:		\$ 56,521.48

- Chairman Chris Bowers reviewed District 5 applications and would like to move forward with the following requests:

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
5	Pickens County YMCA	\$ 5,000.00
5	City of Easley Parks & Rec	\$ 46,300.00
DISTRICT 5 TOTAL:		\$ 51,300.00

- Councilman Henry Wilson stated he would not like to move forward with anything this evening for District 6, as he is still waiting on some information.
- Chairman Bowers made a motion to approve all requests as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson.
 - Councilman Alex Saitta stated he would like for Hagood Mill to be present at the next Committee meeting.
- Seeing no other discussion, the motion carried (6-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a):

Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to convene into Executive Session as defined by S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a). Chairman Bowers further stated that each issue would be discussed as the Law provides.

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- Employee Performance Review

Contractual – Section 30-4-70 (a) (5)

- Project Farmhouse

- Motion was made by Councilman Chris Lollis, seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a five-minute recess.

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the Public Session back to Order and advised the following:

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- Employee Performance Review – **No Action Taken.**

Contractual – Section 30-4-70 (a) (5)

- Project Farmhouse – **Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to move forward with the staff plan for Project Farmhouse. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried (4-2), with Councilman Alex Saitta and Councilman Chris Lollis opposed.**

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council