

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

July 10, 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 July 6, 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 July 10, 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. Rick Kruska: Mr. Kruska addressed Council regarding a Public Safety Issue on Hwy 93.
2. David Hall: Mr. Hall addressed Council regarding Boards and Commissions.
3. Johnnelle Raines: Ms. Raines addressed Council regarding Boards and Commissions, and the AFC Resolution.
4. Allan Quinn: Mr. Quinn addressed Council regarding Boards and Commissions.
5. Deborah Smith: Ms. Smith addressed Council regarding Boards and Commissions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

- o June 5, 2023 Regular-Called Council Meeting
- o June 8, 2023 Budget Work Session
- o June 19, 2023 Special-Called Meeting

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill, and seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis. 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
- New EMS Director – Meredith Teske
- Future Dates for Public Meetings regarding UDSO
- Discussion on Recycling Education
- SC7 Expedition in Pickens County
- Interagency Collaboration for the City of Pickens Independence Day Spectacular Event

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

- Question regarding Hagood Mill Foundation Architectural Plan for Sprinklers

COMMITTEE REPORT for 6/19/23:

The Committee of the Whole met in Council Chambers, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, June 19, 2023. All members of the committee were in attendance with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding. Councilman Chris Lollis led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

COUNCIL RULES - Log No. 215

- ❖ Due to the time, Council decided to move this Log item to the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried (5-0). Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill was not present when this vote took place.

2023 RECREATION FUNDING APPLICATIONS – Log No. 210

- Chairman Chris Bowers stated we moved forward with some of these requests already, but District 3 and District 6 council members requested more time at the previous meeting.
- Council and staff had very detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Hagood Mill:
 - Election of Board Members
 - Status of buying the doors for the Pavilion
 - Update from Hagood Mill Director Billy Gibson
 - Pavilion doors
 - Enclose the pavilion
 - Waiting on a few more quotes before sending to the County for procurement process to put out to bid
 - Councilman Alex Saitta stated he would like to wait two months to see the final numbers before allocating money to Hagood Mill.
 - City of Pickens:
 - Discussion of Bruce Field
 - Discussion of JC Park
 - Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to give the City of Pickens \$50,000 of recreation funding to be used towards JC Park. Chairman Chris Bowers seconded the motion.
 - Councilman Alex Saitta stated the City of Pickens need to look at Bruce

Field closely and do a better job on keeping it up.

- Seeing no other discussion, the motion carried unanimously (6-0).
- Dacusville Recreation:
 - Discussion on their request regarding scoreboards & bleachers
 - Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to allocate \$58,194.69 of Recreation Funding to Dacusville Recreation. Motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).
- Dacusville Community Center:
 - Discussion on renovation of Kitchen at Dacusville Community Center
 - Councilman Wilson stated he would like more information before moving forward with this request.
- ❖ Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to give the City of Pickens \$50,000 of recreation funding to be used towards JC Park. Chairman Chris Bowers seconded the motion. Seeing no other discussion, the motion carried unanimously (6-0).
- ❖ Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to allocate \$58,194.69 of Recreation Funding to Dacusville Recreation. Motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Council Action on Log No. 210:

- Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to give the City of Pickens \$50,000 of recreation funding to be used towards JC Park. Chairman Chris Bowers seconded the motion. Seeing no other discussion, the motion carried unanimously (6-0).
- Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to allocate \$58,194.69 of Recreation Funding to Dacusville Recreation. Motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Chris Bowers stated no second is required as this comes as a recommendation from the Committee. He asked if Council had any discussion. Seeing none, the motion carried unanimously (6-0).

2023 ATAX FUNDING APPLICATIONS – Log No. 211

- Allison Fowler, Director of Community Development and Tourism, gave an overview of the ATAX applications and recommendations from the Committee.
- Council and staff had very detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Discussion on Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce request
 - Discussion on Brooks Center for Performing Arts request
 - Discussion on Pickens View Wesleyan Church request
 - Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to fund the full amount requested, which is \$7,408, to Pickens View Wesleyan Church for the Live Nativity event. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried (5-0), with Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill abstained.
- Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to approve all requests recommended from the Accommodations Tax Committee. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion:
 - Council and staff had detailed discussion that included:
 - City of Pickens Independence Day Event

- ATAX Rules on submitting late applications
- Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to allocate \$7,000 to the City of Pickens for the Independence Day event. Motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers. Discussion included:
 - Question regarding State Law on approving ATAX applications after deadline
 - Discussion on campaign events using ATAX Funding
 - Chairman Bowers made a substitute motion to set aside this amount of funding pending the outcome of research from County Attorney on campaign laws. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Councilman Henry Wilson retracted his motion.
- After more discussion, Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to allow any organization to come before Council to apply for ATAX Funding, even after the application deadline period. Motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers. Discussion included:
 - Chairman Chris Bowers amended the motion, stating the application must be turned in and approved by October 1st each fiscal year. Motion was seconded Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Seeing no other discussion, the original motion carried (6-0).

Ref No.	Name of Organization	Name of Project	Recommended Amount	Comments
1	Holly Springs Center	Home and Handcrafters Fair	\$ 3,200	
2	POSAM	Winter Bluegrass Jubilee	\$ 12,000	
3	Brooks Center for Performing Arts	Advertising	\$ 20,000	
4	Discover Upcountry Carolina Association	Marketing	\$ 15,000	
5	Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce	1 st Annual Pickens Appalachian Folk Fest	\$ 10,000	
6	Lake Hartwell Country	County Marketing and Promotion	\$ 5,000	
7	Hagood Mil Foundation	Selugada – Native American Celebration	\$ 10,000	
8	Pickens Rotary Club	Ride to the Rock	\$ 1,200	
9	Pickens County 250 Committee	Brochures	\$ 2,000	
10	Pickens County VA	Veterans Appreciation Parade and Patriotic Show	\$ 8,130	

11	Pickens Azalea Festival	Marketing and entertainment	\$ 12,000	
12	Clemson Aquatic Team	Clemson Aquatic Team Meets	\$ 15,536	
13	Central Parks & Recreation Department	HUK Disc Golf Tournament	\$ 4,000	
14	Pickens View Wesleyan Church	Live Nativity	\$ 7,408	
15	Senior League World Series	Marketing of Event	\$ 30,000	
TOTAL			\$ 155,474.00	

Council Action on Log No. 210:

- Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to approve all requests recommended from the Accommodations Tax Committee. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill.
- Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to allocate \$7,000 to the City of Pickens for the Independence Day event. Motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers.
 - Chairman Bowers made a substitute motion to set aside this amount of funding pending the outcome of research from County Attorney on campaign laws. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to allow any organization to come before Council to apply for ATAX Funding, even after the application deadline period. Motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers.

Chairman Chris Bowers stated no second is required as this comes as a recommendation from the Committee. He asked if Council had any discussion. Seeing none, the motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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 Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0). Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Chris Bowers announced the following:

- A Special Called Meeting and the Committee of the Whole meeting will take place on Monday, July 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, August 7, 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.

- Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to move our discussion of boards and commissions out of executive session to be discussed after the normal application period. The motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta. Discussion included:
 - Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made an amended motion to make the deadline August 15th. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. Discussion on the amendment included:
 - The Library board still has enough members for a quorum so it is still an active working board that can meet currently.
 - Boards and Commissions Notebook with clear expectations for board members
 - After much more discussion, the amended motion failed (1-5), with Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill in favor of the motion.
- Regarding the original motion, the motion carried 6-0.

Seeing no discussion, Chairman Bowers closed the floor.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING AND/OR RESOLUTIONS:

- a) CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR PICKENS COUNTY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN FLOOD COALITION
 - Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to consider this Resolution. Chairman Chris Bowers seconded the motion. Discussion included:
 - Councilman Chris Lollis stated he researched and he is not sure of the benefit of joining this coalition.
 - The Administrator went into discussion on the benefit of joining this coalition.
 - The Administrator stated it does not cost the county anything to join the organization.
 - After much more discussion between Council and the Administrator, Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to table this discussion to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion. Motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers.
 - Councilman Alex Saitta went into discussion on why he will not be voting in favor of this Resolution, as well as sending to Committee.
 - The amended motion carried (4-2), with Councilman Alex Saitta and Councilman Chris Lollis opposed.

- b) FIRST READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT EXCEEDING TWELVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$12,750,000) AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS SHALL BE EXPENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF, AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.
 - Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to constitute first reading in title only. Motion was seconded by Councilman Roy Costner. Discussion included:

- The Administrator discussed in great lengths the overall strategy of this funding, which is aimed at improvements at SC Hwy 183.
- Councilman Alex Saitta went into discussion on his top priorities for roads in Pickens County.
- Discussion on list of fatalities/wrecks on major roads in Pickens County
- Discussion on ACOG and GPATS Information
- After much more discussion, the motion carried (4-1), with Councilman Alex Saitta opposed.

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 continued to pursue 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 that Council reschedule third reading to August 7th Council Meeting 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:

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Workforce/Childcare Task Force
- b) Proposed Changes to Pickens County Solid Waste Management Plan to *ad hoc* Solid Waste Committee
- Chairman Chris Bowers asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was made by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and Councilman Henry Wilson. Discussion included:
 - Councilman Alex Saitta asked for explanation on Workforce/Childcare Task Force and the intent.
 - Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill stated she asked for this to be added to Consent. She stated she has started some research on the effect of Child Care availability on the ability of our workforce and it has started a couple of conversations. She stated she was advised that she could bring more people together to have a better conversation to create a task force to discuss how child care affects our ability to hire people and keep people working in Pickens County. She stated she does not know that County Council or Government has a role to fix the problem, but she believes we have a role to acknowledge it.
 - Councilman Saitta stated he just doesn't know what the role of government has to do with this item and he opposes. He stated he also opposes sending the proposed changes to the Pickens County Solid Waste Management Plan to *ad hoc* and went into discussion on why he opposes sending to committee.

- After much more discussion, the motion carried (5-1), with Councilman Alex Saitta opposed.

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.

Contractual – Section 30-4-70 (a) (5)

- Project Farmhouse
- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis 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:

Contractual – Section 30-4-70 (a) (5)

- Project Farmhouse – **No Action taken**

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council