

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

Council Members:

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

Staff in Attendance:

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

The Committee of the Whole met in Main Conference Room, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, September 20th, 2021. All members of the committee were in attendance, with the exception of Councilman Ensley Feemster, with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding. 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:

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM LIBRARY BOARD FOR EXPANSION PLANS FOR HAMPTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY – Log No. 185

- The Library representatives presented their vision for the Library, which included architectural documents, cost estimates and funding sources.
- Council and the Library Representatives had detailed discussion on the request for expansion plans for the Hampton Memorial Library.
 - Concerns that Council discussed about the expansion plans:
 - ADA Compliance
 - Recent lack of judgement from the Library Board decline of visitors
 - Too big of a project in the current economic climate
- Council had detailed discussion on the Library phasing the expansion plan.
- The Library stated that it would cost more to do the expansion project in 2 phases. Staff stated if the expansion is done all at once, there would be less disturbance at the library. Staff preferred for the expansion to be done at once.
- Attorney Les Hendricks explained that the Council has authority over the Library Board, and Council has to vote on whether the library can use their funding.

- ❖ **Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion for the Library to move forward with a design and bring Council a final, confirmed budget of the expansion project. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and the motion carried (3-2), with Councilman Trey Whitehurst and Councilman Alex Saitta opposed.**

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AMERICAN RESCUE ACT FUNDING – Log No. 177

- Mr. Roper addressed council's priorities and provided an updated list of American Rescue Act Funding recommendations. He suggested the following:
 - Paying the first bill for Broadband
 - Solid Waste Collection Containers
 - Supplemental Pay for Frontline Workers
- Council and Staff had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Prison Litter Crews
 - C&D Shredder
 - Pick Up Pickens Litter Initiative
 - County COVID protocols in building
- ❖ **Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to use American Rescue Act Funding towards Blue Ridge Electric/Pickens County Broadband Initiative, and towards twenty Solid Waste Containers for the Solid Waste Department. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and the motion carried (5-0).**

UNIFIED DISPATCH PLAN FROM STAFF – Log No. 182

- Mr. Roper stated Emergency Services Director, Billy Gibson, is with us tonight to give Council their Unified Communications Proposal.
- Emergency Services Director Billy Gibson and staff presented the following:
 - Coordinated effort to combine resources and eliminate duplication of services – 3 PSAP's into 1 which results in:
 - Share duties
 - Better information flow
 - More efficient service to our citizens & internal customers
 - Would entail adding personnel
 - Cost sharing/ savings with other stakeholders
 - Create an Advisory Board to ensure all agencies are equally represented
 - Employee Center Coordinator
 - Could be an existing employee
 - Phase in the plan
 - Allow for gradual change
 - Evaluate the process and redirect as needed
- Mr. Gibson stated that the project could be completed by January 1st, 2022. He chose this date to ensure it would not be rushed and explained that it takes 6 months complete training for one person.
- Council and staff had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Timeline
 - Room to grow

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- Cost to bring Liberty in
 - Pay Scale and recouping money
- ❖ **Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to authorize the Administrator to enter into negotiations with the City of Liberty for assuming dispatch responsibility. The motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (5-0).**

CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATION FROM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FOR PROVISION OF SEWER FOR THE GRANGE SUBDIVISION – Log No. 184

- Mr. Hendricks stated that the Public Service Commission passed a resolution for Central to take ownership of the entire sewer system in the Grange Subdivision. He explained that there are three ways to go about this:
 - Comply with the Ordinance
 - Pickens County does the sewer system themselves
 - Statutes provide for a municipality to take over the sewer system
- Mr. Hendricks stated that this will double the number of houses serviced in Central but the subdivision will be done in phases. He stated that Pickens County doesn't control the water and the Public Service Commission suggests giving ownership to Central, as they are on board.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst requested a written letter from Central for their approval.
- Mr. Hendricks will provide Council with a Resolution to the October 4th, 2021 Council Meeting.

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

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 (5-0). Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.