

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
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, November 1th, 2021. All members of the committee were in attendance, 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:

CLEMSON PAW PARTNERS

- Mr. Roper welcomed Ms. Thompson from Clemson Paw Partners to speak.
- Ms. Thompson provided council with financial information and supply costs for Clemson Paw Partners.
- Council, staff and Ms. Thompson and went into discussion that included but was not limited to:
 - Hiring a county vet
 - Cost for neuter supplies
 - Revenue stream for the clinic
 - Anderson County vet
 - Price of cat vouchers
 - Possibility of county contract services to a specific vet
 - Difference in budget if county hires a vet
 - Temporary workers

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

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2021 ACCOMMODATIONS TAX FUNDING REQUEST MILE CREEK PARK – Log No. 167

- Council received an updated itemized budget from staff for Mile Creek Park Amenity Improvements:

**MILE CREEK PARK AMENITY IMPROVEMENTS
ITEMIZED BUDGET**

EXPENSES

Item	Cost
80 Fire Rings	\$21,092.80
Picnic Tables	\$11,000.00
Total	\$32,092.80

INCOME

Item	Cost
ATAX Funds	\$29,000.00
Pickens County General Fund – PRT	\$3,592.00
Total	\$32,592.00

ADDITIONAL QUOTES

Item	Notes	Cost
80 Fire Rings (Option 1)	PilotRock	\$21,092.80
80 Fire Rings (Option 2)	Jamestown Advanced	\$16,417.61
20 Fire Rings (Option 3)	PilotRock	\$6,720.00
80 Picnic Tables (Option 1)	Complete replacement with all treated wood	\$11,000.00
80 Picnic Tables (Option 2)	Replace wood with wood, use existing metal frames	\$6,283.04
80 Picnic Tables (Option 3)	Replace wood with wood, use existing metal frames (other vendor)	\$8,266.00
80 Picnic Tables (Option 3)	Replace wood with Trex, use existing metal frames	\$8,893.84
80 Picnic Tables (Option 4)	Complete replacement with fully sustainable materials	\$66,422.29



**PARKS, RECREATION
& TOURISM**
ALLISON FOWLER
DIRECTOR

After researching additional sustainable options for picnic tables, staff recommends using the existing metal frames and replacing the wood with new treated wood, which would be an approximate cost of \$6,500-\$8,300. The vendors we spoke with do not recommend using a sustainable material like Trex on open air table because it holds too much heat.

After researching additional local options for metal fire rings, staff recommends triaging the existing rings if purchasing all new is not an option. The Pickens County Career and Technology Center students do not have the capability to craft new rings, but can assist with repairs to the grates. We can begin working with them for those repairs in late January. We are still awaiting word from a local manufacturer about adding a new layer of metal around the bottom of the existing rings. If that option falls through, we will order a reduced number of new fire rings and work with the Career Center to repair the others. Then next year we would need to order another reduced number of new fire rings.

- Council and Staff had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Price of long term options
 - More affordable fire ring options
 - Machinery needed at the Pickens County Career and Technology Center
 - Picnic Table options

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- Timeline of replacing fire rings
- ❖ **Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to move forward with the fire rings using Jamestown Advance and for county staff to refurbish picnic tables. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).**

FIRE REVENUE STRUCTURE

- Mr. Gibson presented council with the following supporting documentation:

FIRE REVENUE STRUCTURE

RESIDENTIAL FIRE FEE AMOUNTS	
SQUARE FOOTAGE	RESIDENTIAL FEE
0 - 1,249	\$90.00
1,250 - 1,499	\$110.00
1,500 - 1,749	\$130.00
1,750 - 1,999	\$150.00
2,000 - 2,249	\$170.00
2,250 - 2,499	\$190.00
2,500 - 2,999	\$210.00
3,000+	\$230.00

COMMERCIAL FIRE FEE AMOUNTS	
SQUARE FOOTAGE	FEE
0 - 3,000	\$350.00
3,001 - 5,000	\$500.00
5,001 - 10,000	\$700.00
10,001 - 20,000	\$1,000.00
20,001 - 30,000	\$1,350.00
30,001+	\$1,600.00

Information from the Assessor:

How the Commercial (income producing) Fire Fee schedule was implemented:

Commercial fire fees were applied to income producing (commercial) properties that fall within the following classifications:

- Commercial (retail, restaurants, etc)
- Multi-unit (apartments)
- Mini Warehouses
- Assisted Living
- Homeowner's Associations

The fire fees within the County Fire Service Division are added to each account based on the number of taxable buildings on the account and the square footage of each taxable building.

Example:

An account with five 1,200 sf mini-warehouses for rent would have the following fire fee:

Fire Fee Code - PCF:**J5**
(J=0-3000sf commercial, 5=5 Bldgs)
 J=\$350
 $\$350 \times 5 = \$1,750$
 Fire Fee = **\$1,750**

An account with one 6,000 sf restaurant would have the following fire fee:
 Fire Fee Code – PCF:**L1**
(L=5,001-10,000sf commercial, 1=1 Bldg)
 L=\$700
 $\$700 \times 1 = \700
 Fire Fee = **\$700**

NOTE: The Fire Fee Codes are for internal purposes only. They do not print on the tax bill.

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- Council and staff had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Basing the Fire Revenue Structure on square footage of aa building
 - Relief for mini- warehouse storage
 - Possible Fire Fee Cap
 - Impact on this year’s budget
 - 533 multi-building properties in the county
 - Surrounding districts fire fees
 - Surcharges

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

AMERICAN RESCUE ACT FUNDING – Log No. 177

- Mr. Roper presented council with the following supporting documentation:

American Rescue Plan Act

Council has expended \$3,871,795 to date. The following have been approved uses of ARPA funding by Council:

Broadband Initiative \$200,000 per box	\$1,600,000.00
Supplemental Pay for First Responders and Essential County Staff	\$2,084,795.00
Replacement of Solid Waste Collection Containers (From Lost Revenue)	\$187,000.00

ARPA FUNDING PROPOSALS FROM COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS					
Organization	Division	Department	Brief Description	Amount	Recurring Costs to Consider
Pickens County	Emergency Services	Emergency Services	County-wide Radio System	\$12,390,000.00	\$40,000 yearly maintenance + \$55,000 staff
Pickens County	Finance	GIS	Broadband Initiative \$200,000 per box	\$ 1,600,000.00	
Pickens County	Finance	IT	Replace Wireless Network for Pickens County Offices and Bandwidth Updates for the Administration Building and Courthouse (additional cost of \$6,214 yearly)	\$ 19,000.00	
Pickens County	Alliance Pickens	Alliance Pickens	Sewer line extension to serve Site A-1 and the Peabody Engineering site	\$ 300,000.00	
Pickens County	Alliance Pickens	Alliance Pickens	Sewer line extension to serve the Farmhouse site	\$ 1,400,000.00	
Pickens County	Alliance Pickens	Alliance Pickens	Stormwater Infrastructure on Farmhouse	\$ 1,000,000.00	
Pickens County	Operations	Building Maintenance	The Cornell Water Tank tie in to Liberty City Water, Saves \$6,000 per year and \$160,000 in needed repairs	\$ 250,000.00	
Pickens County	Public Works	PSC	Concrete Replacement of Stormwater Basin Liner at the Liberty/Roper WWTP	\$ 200,000.00	
Pickens County	Public Works	PSC	Construction of EQ Basin at Middle WWTP	\$ 500,000.00	
Pickens County	Public Works	PSC	Construction of EQ Basin at Upper WWTP	\$ 500,000.00	
Pickens County	Public Works	PSC	Middle WWTP UV Light disinfection system replacement	\$ 292,000.00	
Pickens County	Public Works	PSC	UPPER WWTP UV Light disinfection system replacement	\$ 292,000.00	
Pickens County	PRT	Pick Up Pickens	Funding to 501 c 3s for litter clean up	\$ 75,000.00	
Behavioral Health Services			Relocation of Facility	\$ 300,000.00	
United Way			Pathways from Poverty Initiative	\$ 100,000.00	
YMCA			Proposal for Pickens County Support of the Childhood Development and Training Center as a Part of the New Easley Campus.	\$ 300,000.00	
Meals on Wheels			Mortgage Payoff \$ Endowment to support program growth	\$ 106,549.71	
Pickens County	Emergency Services	Fire/EMS/Rescue	Add new stations and crews (\$650,000 building, \$220,000 equipment, \$105,000 crew)	\$ 975,000.00	\$105,000 for crew
Pickens County	Emergency Services	Fire/EMS/Rescue	Partner with Town of Norris to modify Fire Station with EMS (\$200,000 building mod)	\$ 525,000.00	\$105,000 for crew
Pickens County	Airport	Airport	Project Arnold - Building Renovations (Replace AC, Install 3 hr firewall, Install fire rated hood - at \$60K each)	\$ 180,000.00	
Pickens County	Human Resources/Operations	HR	Supplemental Pay for First Responders and Essential County Staff	\$ 2,084,795.00	
Pickens County	Finance		Lost Revenue Calculation	\$ 2,359,069.00	
TOTALS OF PROPOSED ARPA FUNDING REQUESTS				\$23,389,344.71	

Lost Revenue Uses					
Organization	Division	Department	Brief Description	Amount	
Pickens County	Public Works	Solid Waste	Shredder purchase in June 2021 (From Lost Revenue)	\$900,000	
Pickens County	Public Works	Solid Waste	Baler (From Lost Revenue)	\$750,000	
Pickens County	Public Works	Solid Waste	Replacement of Solid Waste Collection Containers (From Lost Revenue)	\$187,000	
				\$1,837,000	
				Lost Revenue Calculation	(\$2,359,069)
				Remaining Lost Revenue Funds After Listed Uses	(\$522,069)

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- Council and staff had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Requests from nonprofit organizations
 - Opening this opportunity for all nonprofit organizations
 - County-wide radio system
 - Meals on Wheels Mortgage
 - Timeline to spend ARPA funding
 - Recycling Bailer
 - Incentives for county staff
 - Prioritizing county services

- ❖ **Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to use the lost revenue to purchase a bailer for \$750,000. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).**
 - **Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to amend to add a refund of \$75,000 for the Clean Up Pickens Program. Motion was seconded by Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).**

- ❖ **Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion for staff to create a process for Non-Profits to apply for ARPA funding based on the principles set forth. Motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers.**
 - Councilman Henry Wilson stated he feels the is important because they all benefit the County, and there are non-profits in the county that provide services that we do not have to duplicate as a government entity.

- ❖ **After much more discussion, the motion carried (4-2), with Councilman Alex Saitta and Trey Whitehurst opposed.**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN – Log No. 183

- Mr. Roper presented council with the Capital Improvement Plan – 5 Year Plan for Capital Purchases.
- Council and staff had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - When to review before next budget
 - Staff requests
 - Total to be considered
 - Solid Waste roll off truck

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

SHOOTING RANGE ORDINANCE

- ❖ **Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to table the Shooting Range Ordinance to the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers and carried (6-0).**

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SUNDAY ALCOHOL – Log No. 181

- Mr. Hendricks went into discussion on Sunday Alcohol Sales.
- Council and staff had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - The process of voting on this
 - Petition method
 - If a referendum is needed
 - Renewal process

❖ 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 Ensley Feemster, seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0). Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.