

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF PICKENS)

RESOLUTION # 2021-11

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING GUIDANCE AND PROCEDURES FOR THE USE OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS; AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS since our first case was recorded in March 2020, COVID19 has impacted Pickens County in a multitude of ways, causing disruption and alteration in operations in order to continue serving the public without interruption to services; and

WHEREAS Pickens County has experienced the strain of the COVID-19 pandemic across many departments of County Government and throughout our communities as a whole; and

WHEREAS the federal government recently enacted the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARP”) which, among other things, includes \$65.1 billion in direct, flexible aid to every county in America. These direct funds are allocated based on the county share of the U.S. population; and

WHEREAS ARP funding will come to Pickens County in two distributions, one at some point during the current month, and the other 1 calendar year later; and

WHEREAS the federal government set a deadline of spending the ARP funds of December 31, 2024 but has yet to provide substantive guidance on the proper usage of the funds beyond the limited language in the Act itself; and

WHEREAS Pickens County Council desires to create an orderly, rational, and transparent process for the expenditure of these one-time federal funds, and thereby maximize the intended impact of the funds within our local communities; and

WHEREAS the lack of guidance to date creates uncertainty that prevents adequate planning for the use of ARP funds, and could serve to limit the proposed projects as a result without guidance provided by County Council;


NOW THEREFORE:

- I. Council directs the County Administrator to develop and provide a list of proposed projects for Council’s review and consideration and to rate each proposed project based on the following ARP guidance:
 - A. Is the proposed project type specifically authorized by the language of the Act, such as:
 1. Respond/mitigate the public health emergency by providing assistance to:
 - i. Households
 - ii. Small business
 - iii. Nonprofits
 - iv. Aid to impact tourism, travel or hospitality industries
 2. Offset reductions in County revenues as a result of COVID19
 3. Investments in water, sewer, or broadband
 4. Transfers to nonprofits or special purpose units of state or local government

5. Premium pay to eligible essential or emergency workers of the county for service during the pandemic
- B. Is the proposed project specifically prohibited?
 1. Offset for existing tax revenue
 2. Use in pension accounts
 3. Adverse to guidelines or regulations that may be developed
 - C. Consistent with express regulatory guidance that may be given from federal sources.
 - D. If the proposed project is not specifically authorized, but not prohibited, is there a clear and rational nexus between the proposed project and the specific authorizations in the Act, subsequent regulations, and/or express legislative intent of the Act?
- II. In addition to the ARP analysis listed above, the Council also directs the Administrator to give priority to those proposals that demonstrate a secondary and/or tertiary benefit as opposed to those projects that are of a more limited impact. Council will be interested in receiving proposals that are:
1. Harmonious with the stated 2021 Goals of Council
 2. Supplemental to, and not in Contrast with, the existing FY 2021 Budget, and the proposed FY 2022 Budget currently under consideration
 3. Not requiring expenditures or burdening future budget years unnecessarily
 4. Not establishing programs or projects that are unsustainable
 5. Responsive to the COVID19 Pandemic
- III. To the extent possible, the Administrator is directed to return recommendations to Council during the current budget work session schedule. To the extent that capital purchases are proposed, these will be analyzed during the upcoming capital work session(s) process per the FY2021 Budget Calendar as previously approved by Council.
- IV. The Administrator is hereby authorized to take any and all actions necessary to qualify the County for these and additional funds that may be available under the Act, and to provide periodic reporting as required by the Act contemporaneously to Council on the expenditure of such funds.


Passed and approved, this 3rd day of May, 2021.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PICKENS COUNTY,
SOUTH CAROLINA


Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council
Pickens County, South Carolina

(SEAL)

Attest:


Meagan Nations, Clerk of County Council
Pickens County, South Carolina