

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

Council Members:

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

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator
Meagan Nations, 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, March 15, 2021. All members of the committee were in attendance, with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding. Councilman Alex Saitta 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:

Solid Waste Needs – *Log No. 133*

- Mr. Roper introduced Mack Kelley, Public Works Director, to Council and stated he is there in case Council has any questions. He stated the reason he asked for this to be on the agenda is that we are about two weeks into a process and that process is long anticipated. He stated the process is that our C&D Landfill is now at its capacity. Mr. Roper stated staff believes the landfill first opened in 1976. He stated in the 1980's, there was a federal law that changed that caused us to reclassify landfills. He stated we had what was classified as a MSW Municipal Solid Waste landfill, and that continued municipal solid waste household garbage. He stated we continued taking that until 1988. Mr. Roper stated he talked with the previous Administrator and previous Public Works Director about this history. Mr. Roper gave an overview on the history discussed with the previous Administrator. He discussed with Council that the past two weeks, staff has seen a lot of lines with contractors and citizens trying to get into the facility. He stated his staff has been telling him this will happen because of the way the system works. He stated we decided the best thing for us to do is to execute the plan, see where the deficiencies work and come back to Council with all recommendations in that regard. Mr. Roper presented photos of the landfill, and a map of the landfill. He gave Council an overview on how the C&D Transfer Station works and an analogy on what happens when people dump their construction, demolition debris, etc. Mr. Roper stated one of the challenges we have is the C&D transfer truck has to drive to Greenville, and we want it to be completely full. He stated he made the call last week to get some rental trucks, that we have a lot of equipment breakdowns, and repurpose our roads and bridges guys. He stated we have had to get caught back up by using roads and bridges personnel to do that. After more discussion, Mr. Roper stated the decision he made was that the services the customers are expecting he needs to provide. He stated the biggest improvement that the Director recommends is getting people to not be contingent upon our placement of things in this facility. He stated a truck should not be sitting there waiting for us to figure out the best way to place material in a trailer. Mr. Roper presented an aerial photo of the landfill and went into discussion on each building and the traffic flow. He stated there is some good news, when we built into the five-year capital improvement plan for Fiscal Year 2022, we actually put in the capital improvement plan "Landfill road and scale house reconfigure." He stated it is scheduled for next fiscal year. Mr. Roper went into discussion on the capital improvement plan. He

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

asked Council to think about going ahead to spend that cash, in fund balance, to reconfigure this road to try and make this facility work more efficiently.

- Chairman Bowers asked what the total amount would be.
 - Mack Kelly, Public Works Director, stated just the sorting area would be around \$120,000, and that is Pickens County staff doing it ourselves.
 - Council and staff had limited discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Round trips to Greenville landfill and pricing
 - C&D Shredder/grinder
 - Sorting Facility
 - Planning 10-15 years out for future
 - Future planning on purchase of new landfill
 - Adhoc Committee to look into the next steps and long-term solution (Henry Wilson, Trey Whitehurst and Alex Saitta)
 - Private companies to transfer trash
 - After much more discussion, Mr. Roper stated he would also like to have the flexibility to buy a truck and a couple of trailers if need be.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to approve moving an allocation of \$358,400 from fund balance, for this capital project, forward into this year's budget for Solid Waste. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).
- ❖ **Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to approve moving an allocation of \$358,400 from fund balance, for this capital project, forward into this year's budget for Solid Waste. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).**

Emergency Services Update – Log No. 169

- Mr. Roper stated that Director Billy Gibson will be giving an update to Council on Emergency Services.
- Director Gibson stated the Emergency Services Board was put into place three years ago to help oversee all aspects of emergency services. He stated the first thing they were tasked was with the fire service, how it is funded, how it is sustained and things of that nature. Mr. Gibson stated the biggest thing that has taking up most of their time has been the reconfiguration of the nine fire-fee based fire districts. He stated that Mr. Roper will be passing out a proposal from the Emergency Services Board on the fire fees. He stated if you recall, in October of last year, there was some discussion about a framework for how we make the fire fees more equitable and more fair, and base it on square footage. Mr. Gibson stated the chairman of the Emergency Services Board wanted to present to Council a recommendation from them on the fire fee structure.
- Below is what the Emergency Services Board recommended to Council:

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

Residential	# of Units	Fee	Revenue
Residential 0 to 1249	11,814	90.00	\$ 1,063,260
Residential 1250 to 1499	5,354	110.00	588,940
Residential 1500 to 1749	4,490	130.00	583,700
Residential 1750 to 1999	3,256	150.00	488,400
Residential 2000 to 2249	1,903	170.00	323,510
Residential 2250 to 2499	1,202	190.00	228,380
Residential 2500 to 2999	1,028	210.00	215,880
Residential 3000+	724	230.00	166,520
	29,771	Total	\$ 3,658,590
Commerical	# of Units	Fee	Revenue
Commercial 0-1500	264	200.00	\$ 52,800
Commercial 1501-3000	330	350.00	\$ 115,500
Commerical 3001 to 5000	228	500.00	114,000
Commerical 5001 to 10000	177	700.00	123,900
Commerical 10001 to 20000	77	1,000.00	77,000
Commerical 20001 to 30000	20	1,350.00	27,000
Commerical 30001 +	59	1,800.00	106,200
	1,155	Total	\$ 616,400
Industrial	# of Units	Fee	Revenue
Industrial			\$ -
		Total	\$ -
Multi Family Living units	# of Units	Fee	Revenue
Multi Family Living units	640	170.00	\$ 108,800
	640	Total	\$ 108,800
		Total Revenue	\$ 4,383,790
		Current Revenue	\$ 4,419,735
		Difference	\$ (35,945)

- Council and staff had limited discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Multi-family living units
 - Vice Chairman Costner explained this fire fee structure to Councilman Saitta and Councilman Wilson, since this ordinance was passed before they came on Council.
 - Amount of calls dispatch receive with cars on fire
 - Budget 2021-2022
 - Industrial property in Pickens County
 - Annual number of calls to dispatch for fire and medical
 - Average price per square footage
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated this is something we can discuss for the budget. He stated this is a preview for what's to come.
 - Seeing no other discussion, the Chairman stated he would like to move forward with the next item on the agenda.
- ❖ **No action taken by the committee.**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 34 OF THE PICKENS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES SO AS TO PROVIDE REMEDIES AND PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL LITTER AND DUMPING IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF PICKENS COUNTY, AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO. – Log No. 171

- Mr. Roper stated if Council deems appropriate, he would like for this topic to be a round table discussion. He stated he is looking for Council's thoughts and feedback on how to go forward. He stated as we go through this process over the next couple of months of talking about this problem, in conjunction with this ordinance, that we publicize this and then we do it with something in mind. He stated he would like an actual plan to address the litter in Pickens County, rather than just pass an ordinance and hope everything gets better in that regard. Mr. Roper stated he would like to present some information that the Sheriff's Office put together for us. He

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

stated it will take Education, Remediation and Enforcement to fix the litter problem in Pickens County.

- **Education** – Keep America Beautiful
 - **Remediation** – Litter Crews/inmate labor, Team Up and Clean Up, Five on Friday
 - **Enforcement** – Updating ordinance to enhance enforcement
- Mr. Roper stated there is a larger problem here than just having the right number of people pick up trash.
 - Chief Chad Brooks gave an update on inmate labor. He stated when COVID struck, most of our inmate labor that is on litter crews comes from family court commitments or county sentenced inmates. He stated when COVID hit, the Chief for the entire state sent out an order that all family court committed inmates will be released, so they released every family court committed inmate.
 - Mr. Roper stated continuing the conversation and continuing to publicize what we all talk about is a part of what we need to do. He stated we need to identify the problem before we get too far out there.
 - Council and staff had limited discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Enter into long-term lease with Forestry for Long Shoals
 - What happens when caught littering (by getting licenses plate number)
 - Trash Bash Program
 - More discussion on inmates doing litter pickup
 - Litter Control officer
 - Council's generosity to the Sheriff's Office
 - General sessions case on illegal dumping
 - "Team Up Clean Up" Pickens County
 - Partnerships
 - Mr. Roper stated the next steps would be that Keep America Beautiful program is ready to roll out, and Council will have a resolution authorizing to move forward hopefully at the next Council meeting. He stated staff will continue to talk with the Sheriff's office and magistrate on how to adapt to our county ordinance and continue with public campaigns that we have going on. He stated we do not have an employee "Team Up and Clean Up" scheduled but employees are doing this in their own way. He stated we have tried to publicize the five on Fridays each Friday. He stated as staff, we need to come up with a comprehensive marketing strategy.

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

501-C3 Boards that Pickens County is currently supporting – Log No. 170

- Mr. Roper stated that Council has some information in their package showing the 501-C3 boards that staff came up with. He stated some of these boards work better than others.
- Mr. Roper presented the boards to Council.
 - 501(c)3 Organizations
 - Alliance Pickens
 - Economic support for the county
 - Function as an adjunct of county staff
 - Two representatives from Council serve on this board
 - Hagood Mill Foundation
 - Promotes and operates the Hagood Mill
 - Finance Director, Ralph Guarino, has helped this board with their financial reports
 - Friends of the Library
 - Raises funds for Library system
 - Excellent job with paperwork
 - Performing Arts Center

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

- Raises funds for the PAC
 - Museum Board
 - Raises funds for the Museum
 - Pickens County Meals on Wheels
 - Note: outstanding mortgage in favor of county
 - Rescue Squads
 - Note: equipment provided by County
- **Council and staff had limited discussion that included, but was not limited to:**
 - Detailed background information on rescue squads and how they started
 - Bylaws and tax returns for these boards
 - Who has institutional control of these boards
 - Ordinance to create these 501-C3's
 - Mortgage for Pickens County meals on wheels
 - American Rescue Act – includes money that specifically made available to the counties to provide the non-profits
 - Policy for county funding
- After much more discussion, Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion for staff to come up with a format with a formal application for people who are applying for county funds. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).
- ❖ **Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion for staff to come up with a format with a formal application for people who are applying for county funds. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).**

Council Rules (Section 3.5, Rule 2, and Section 4.3) – Log No. 161

- Chairman Bowers stated that Councilman Saitta asked for this to be on the Committee of the Whole agenda.
- Councilman Saitta stated there are three items in the rules that he wanted to look at:
 1. **Section 4.3: Agendas**
 - Councilman Saitta stated he originally had an older version of Council Rules, but realized that public input was in Council rules so he no longer would like to discuss this item.
 2. **Rule 2: County Officers**
 - Councilman Saitta stated he would like to throw 4 ideas to Council to change this.
 - The first idea is to limit the term for Chair & Vice Chair from 2 years to 1 year.
 - The second is to put a term limit on the Chair & Vice Chair to a 2-year, or 4-year limit.
 - The third is if someone resigns from an officer's position, he would like for the officer below to rise. So, if the Chairman resigned, the Vice Chair would immediately move to being Chairman. Councilman Saitta stated the rules state two different things: In the Chairman section, it states if the chairman leaves, counselors vote to replace the seat and in the Vice Chairman section, it states when the Chairman leaves, the Vice Chair becomes the Chair.
 - The fourth is that if there is ever a 3-3 vote, when electing an officer, the meeting ends. He stated if an agreement still does not happen, the Vice Chair would rise up automatically.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to add in the Council Rules that the Chairman and Vice Chairman be on the agenda conference calls, to add in Rule 2.1 that you can only run for Chairman twice (4 years total),

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

and if there is a vacancy during the Chairman's term, the Vice Chairman will automatically become Chairman to finish the term. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).

3. **Section 3.5: Council to Act Collectively**

- Councilman Saitta pointed out Section C, and quoted: "Members shall not participate, or attempt to influence, day-to-day operational activities of the County, nor should Members communicate with County employees (other than the Administrator, an employee designated by the Administrator for a specific, limited purpose, or the Clerk to Council) on matters reserved to the Administrator under the provisions of the Home Rule Act and/or other provisions of state law."

Council had limited discussion that included, but was not limited to:

- State law and Home Rule Act
 - Councilman Saitta quoted the Home Rule Act regarding Council Members having conversations with employees
 - Administrator 2.2 (E) – Councilman Saitta referenced this section in Council Rules, stating he would like to remove Section 3.5 (C) and keep Section 2.2 (E)
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to remove part C in Section 3.5 and add to Section 2.2 (E) a reference to Home Rule Act. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta.
 - Chairman Bowers stated his concern with removing part C in Section 3.5 is you are literally taking the burden off of Council, and just addressing it under the Administrator's section. He asked if it would be easier to remove the word "communicate" and add the word "action."
 - After much more discussion, Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion stating he would like to table this discussion until our next meeting in April, and ask our Attorney to look into the changes made this evening on Council Rules to make sure it is accurate. Motion was seconded by Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).
 - ❖ Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion stating he would like to table this discussion until our next meeting in April, and ask our Attorney to look into the changes made this evening on Council Rules to make sure it is accurate. Motion was seconded by Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0). Meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.