

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, April 19, 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:

Council Rules – Log No. 161

- Chairman Bowers stated at our last Committee of the Whole meeting, Council ended this discussion on Section 3.5: Council to Act Collectively.
- Councilman Alex Saitta quoted Section 3.5, stating *“Members shall not participate, or attempt to influence, day-to-day operational activities of the County...”* He stated this is in compliance with the law. He quoted the next part of Section 3.5, stating *“...nor should members communicate with County Employees...”* and Councilman Saitta stated this goes way behind the law because the law only says Council cannot give employees instructions or orders. He stated he believes Council should not give orders but it goes too far stating Council cannot communicate. He stated he suggests we change Section 3.5 to say *“Members shall not participate, or attempt to influence, day-to-day operational activities of the County, nor give order or instructions to any County officers or employees, and must abide by Home Rule Act and/or other provisions of state law.”*
- Chairman Bowers stated he would like to keep the following in Section 3.5, as he feels it is needed: *“(Other than the Administrator, an employee designated by the Administrator for a specific, limited purpose, or the Clerk to Council).”* He stated he would like to make this a separate sentence at the end of Section 3.5.
- Mr. Hendricks provided Council with information regarding the State Law and The Home Rule Act.
- Chairman Bowers stated we could remove the word “Communicate” from Section 3.5 and change it to “act in the role of the Administrator.”
- Councilman Saitta explained a situation regarding how Council members could violate this rule.
- Councilman Henry Wilson explained another situation regarding how Council could violate this rule, stating this has happened to him in another situation.
- Vice Chairman Costner stated what if we kept part of Section 3.5, quoting, *“Members shall not participate, or attempt to influence, day-to-day operational activities of the County...”* and add Section 4-9-660 to it, quoting, *“Except for the purposes of inquiries and investigations, the council shall deal with county officers and employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the county administrator solely through the administrator, and neither the council nor its members shall give orders or instructions to any such officers or employees.”*

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- After much more discussion between Council and staff, Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to remove Section 3.5 (C) in the Council Organizational Rules, to replace with Section 2.2 (E). Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).
- ❖ **Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to remove Section 3.5 (C) in the Council Organizational Rules, to replace with Section 2.2 (E). Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).**

Discuss Policy behind reserving County Property – Log No. 135

- Mr. Roper stated that County staff is faced with requests from time to time to allow consumption of alcohol at county-owned facilities. He stated the current policy of Council is that no alcohol is allowed on county property, regardless of circumstances. He stated this is a wise-policy, and he would not recommend we abandon, given that the family-oriented nature of our county parks necessitate strict no-alcohol operations. He stated it is his recommendation that council consider allowing staff to develop guidelines for permitting temporary and limited consumption at county facilities, which would require specific hours of alcohol service, and only beer and wine. stated he would ask Council to consider allowing staff to permit temporary one-time events on County Property. He stated we do not want to change the nature of the county properties, but come up for a perimeter permit to hold beer/wine at events. He stated staff would also require proof of insurance and verification that reasonable precautions will be followed to prohibit overindulgence. He stated we could put language where they're insurance must come first, before ours. Mr. Roper advised that staff would need to develop a written application, which would set parameters around timing, notice and buffering from other events and the public.
- Vice Chairman Costner asked what the neighboring counties are currently doing regarding this.
- Mr. Roper stated he is not exactly sure, but he will check and report back to Council.
- After more discussion between Council, Councilman Saitta stated he does not support this. He stated over the next 20 years, Pickens County will change substantially with people moving here. He stated his advice is to hold on to what you can, because in the end, that is all you have left.
- Chairman Bowers stated he understands what Councilman Saitta is saying.
- Councilman Feemster stated as long as you limit the crowd and not do it every weekend, he believes this should be fine.
- After more discussion, Council stated they would like for staff to come up with a proposal and application to bring back to Council.
- ❖ **No action taken by the committee.**

Budget Work Session – Log No. 172

- The Committee reviewed the 2021 recreation funding recommendations provided by the Recreation Funding Advisory Board and had detailed discussion. Council had detailed discussion on the definition of recreation and how they have spent money in the past years.
- Administrator Ken Roper reviewed the available Recreation Funding Budget with each district for this Fiscal Year up until June 30, 2021. He stated there will be another \$50,000 deposited to each District on July 1st, 2021, if Council decides to leave the budget the same.
- After detailed discussion between District 1's applications and recommendations, Councilman Ensley Feemster recommends approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund account for District 1.

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- Councilman Ensley Feemster made a motion to amend the Issaquenna Composite request, stating he would like to add an additional \$15,135.50, for a total amount of \$30,271. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations/ Comments
1	City of Clemson	\$ 29,705.00	
1	Clemson Aquatic	\$ 5,736.00	
1	Issaquenna Composite	\$ 30,271.00	
DISTRICT 1 TOTAL:		\$ 65,712.00	

- After detailed discussion between District 2’s application and recommendations, Councilman Trey Whitehurst he would like to approve the following disbursements from the recreation fund account for District 2. He stated he is waiting on the recommendations from the Rec Committee on the Town of Six Mile’s application.

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations/ Comments
2	Town of Central	\$ 24,500.00	
2	Town of Six Mile	\$ TBD	<i>*Waiting on application and recommendations from Rec. Committee</i>
DISTRICT 2 TOTAL:		\$ 24,500.00	

- After detailed discussion between District 3’s applications and recommendations, Councilman Alex Saitta stated he is not ready to make any recommendations this evening for District 3. He stated he is talking with his applicants and will come back with a recommendation when the Committee discusses Recreation Funding again.
- After detailed discussion between District 4’s applications and recommendations, Vice Chairman Roy Costner recommends approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund account for District 4.
 - Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to amend the Pickens County Airport request, stating he would like to give the Pickens County Airport the remaining District 4 funds, which is \$63,693.00, for the ADA Compliant Playground at the Airport. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Vice Chairman Costner stated he will not be approving the recommended amount for the City of Liberty, as Council just gave funds to the City of Liberty Recreation back in February to fix the gymnasium.

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations/ Comments
4	Pickens County Airport	\$ 63,693.00	
DISTRICT 4 TOTAL:		\$ 63,693.00	

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- After detailed discussion between District 5’s applications and recommendations, Chairman Chris Bowers recommends approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund for District 5.
 - Chairman Chris Bowers state he would like to amend the Committees recommendation, and fund the City of Easley \$23,163.00, instead of the recommend amount. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).
 - Councilman Henry Wilson stated he would like to amend the Committees recommendation, and fund the Pickens County YMCA \$2,500.00 out of District 6 funds, and \$2,500.00 out of District 5 funds, for a total of \$5,000.00. Motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations/ Comments
5	Pickens County YMCA	\$ 2,500.00	
5	City of Easley Parks & Rec	\$ 23,163.00	
DISTRICT 5 TOTAL:		\$ 25,663.00	

- After detailed discussion between District 6’s applications and recommendations, Councilman Henry Wilson stated he is not ready to make any other recommendations this evening for District 6 and he would like to continue talking with his applicants before making any recommendation s.

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations
6	Pickens County YMCA	\$ 2,500.00	
DISTRICT 6 TOTAL:		\$ 2,500.00	

- ❖ Council recommended the recommendations above for District 1-6, but stated they would like to wait until all other recommendations are made before bringing out of Committee to vote.
- ❖ **No Action Taken by the Committee.**

Council had detailed discussion on other budgetary items that included, but was not limited to:

- CAD System Call Reports for Sheriff’s Office (document provided by Chairman Costner)
- Scheduled another Budget Work Session for Tuesday, April 27 to discuss EMS, Rescue, Fire, Library & Roads
- Self-Insurance Discussion

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0). Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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