

## 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  
Lisa Bryant, Director of Human Resources  
Allison Fowler, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism

**The Committee of the Whole met in Main Conference Room, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, July 19, 2021. All members of the committee were in attendance, with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding. Councilman Trey Whitehurst 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:**

#### **2021 Accommodations Tax Funding Requests – Log No. 167**

- Ms. Allison Fowler, PRT Director, stated the ATAX money that Council will be discussing this evening is the 60% money that we are required to hand out to outside organizations or accommodations tax.
- Council & Staff had detailed discussion on these Accommodations Tax Applications that included:
  - Definition of what Accommodations Tax funding can be spent on
  - ATAX Application Format
  - Clemson Spring Rowing Project – Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce
  - Pickens County Marketing & Promotion with Lake Hartwell Country
  - Glamping – Hagood Mill Foundation
  - Veteran’s Appreciation Show at Pickens County Performing Arts Center
  - Rensing Artist Program – The Rensing Center
- After much more discussion between Council, Council made motions on the following:
  - Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to amend the Committee’s recommendation and fund the Veterans Appreciation Show, at the PCPAC, for \$8,650.00. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously (6-0).
  - Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to amend the Committee’s recommendation and fund the Mountainview Americana Art Show, with Foothills Art Foundation Inc., for \$5,000.00. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).
  - Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to amend the Committee’s recommendation and fund the Dacusville Farm Show, with Dacusville Heritage Association, for \$2,000.00. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).
  - Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to pull out the SC Entertainment Hall of Fame Transition to Pickens, with the SC Entertainment Hall of Fame, for further discussion and to find out more information. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).
  - Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to pull out the Rensing Artist Program, with The Rensing

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

Center, for further discussion and to find out more information. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously (6-0).

- o Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to approve the following as amended. Motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

Ref No.	Name of Organization	Name of Project	Recommended Amount	Comments
1	Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail	Promotion of Pickens County through the Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail	\$ 4,675.00	
2	Six Mile Issaqueena Festival	Six Mile Issaqueena Festival	\$ 5,000.00	
3	Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce	New Website for Visit Clemson	\$ 4,500.00	
4	Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce	Clemson Spring Rowing	\$ 8,500.00	
5	Lake Hartwell Country	Pickens County Marketing & Promotion	\$ 10,000.00	
6	Palmetto Conservation Fund	Palmetto Trail – Pickens County partnership	\$ 5,000.00	
7	Pickens Rotary Club	Ride to the Rock	\$ 600.00	
8	Dacusville Heritage Association	Dacusville Farm Show	\$ 2,000.00	
9	The Rensing Center	Rensing Artists Program	\$ 0.00	<i>Would like more information and to have further discussion.</i>
10	Town of Central/Friends of the Green Crescent Trail	Green Crescent Trail Connector	\$ 30,000.00	
11	Hagood Mill Foundation	Glamping	\$ 25,000.00	
12	Pickens Azalea Festival, Inc.	Pickens Azalea Festival	\$ 12,000.00	
13	Pickens County Performing Arts Center	Veterans Appreciation Show	\$ 8,650.00	
14	SC Entertainment Hall of Fame	SC Entertainment Hall of Fame Transition to Pickens	\$ 0.00	<i>Would like more information and to have further discussion.</i>
15	Foothills Art Foundation, Inc.	Mountainview Americana Art Show	\$ 5,000.00	
16	Clemson Aquatic Team	Clemson Aquatic Team Meets	\$ 14,490.00	
17	Town of Central	HUK Disc Golf Tournament	\$ 4,000.00	
18	City of Clemson	Twelve Mile Recreation Area	\$ 18,500.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 157,915.00</b>	

## COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

### **Discussion of County Road User Fee – Log No. 139**

- Mr. Hendricks stated on June 30, 2021, our Supreme Court issued an opinion in the Burns vs. Greenville County, which changed the previous attest that was used by the courts to determine what was a tax, and what was a fee. He stated our Road User Fee that we passed in 2001 falls clearly to being illegal. Mr. Hendricks gave more detailed information on the Supreme Court’s opinion and how they met their conclusion. He stated he has had conversations with the Pickens County Treasurer and Pickens County Auditor to make sure they were aware of the case and knew what was going on. He stated our road user fee is no longer valid, and once we knew it was illegal, we cannot collect that fee anymore. He stated they have not sent out any bills in August with the road user fee on it. Mr. Hendricks stated one of the issues is we pay a portion of our road maintenance fee to the municipalities. He stated we collect \$2.2 million, and 75% goes to the County; the remainder goes to the municipalities.
- Council & staff had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
  - Municipalities
  - Mr. Hendricks referenced to Council Justice Kittredge’s concurring opinion
  - Millage caps
  - Council would like more information from staff on:
    - Total amount collected by Road Use Fee in FY21
    - Total amount paid to the County from this fee
    - Total amount paid to each City from this fee
    - Revenue lost per Supreme Court decision
    - Anticipated Fee to be collected for August-December
    - Estimated loss by October 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Tax Bills go out in October
- After much more discussion, Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to move forward with 1<sup>st</sup> Reading in Title Only at the next Council Meeting, to keep things the same with the municipalities and do the \$2.2 million to Roads and Bridges, and eliminate the road user fee. Chairman Chris Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).
- ❖ **Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to move forward with 1st Reading in Title Only at the next Council Meeting, to keep things the same with the municipalities and do the \$2.2 million, and eliminate the road user fee. Chairman Chris Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

### **CONSIDERATION OF A PLAN FROM STAFF FOR FY2022 COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS WITHIN EXISTING COMPENSATION PLAN UTILIZING FUNDS (1%) PREVIOUSLY ALLOCATED BY COUNCIL – Log No. 179**

- Mr. Roper recognized Lisa Bryant, Director of Human Resources. Ms. Bryant presented Council with a Memorandum regarding compensation adjustments utilizing 1% allocated by Council. She stated in 2016 a compensation study was requested and conducted, and in July 2016, Council approved to send the received compensation plan to committee for review. She stated staff is attempting to extend the life of that compensation plan as much as possible by specifically targeting those positions within the county that, because of market changes we are having trouble filling, or because the duties of a position have changed during these past five years and therefore the compensation for the position needs to be adjusted accordingly.
- Mrs. Bryant shared the following information to Council to note when reviewing this information:
  1. *All job positions within the county are slotted in pay grade, and each pay grade has a minimum, mid-point and maximum pay range.*
  2. *In calculating the overall cost to implement these changes, we must also include the additional costs as a result of making these changes such as the increase in payroll costs (ex: FICA, etc.) as well as the*

## COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

*resulting increase in the employer contribution to the South Carolina Retirement System. Therefore, you will note that the total cost to implement is less than the total 1% (\$255,000) allocated.*

3. *And finally, sometimes with compensation changes the individual increase amount might seem small, but the overall impact to gross income for the employee is much more significant. Such is the case for our EMS employees, as their regular schedule involves built-in over-time. Additionally, there is often over-time involved as a result of helping covering shifts for reasons such as vacations, illness/injuries, leaves of absence, and/or vacant positions.*
- Council had detailed discussion that included but was not limited to:
    - Were incentives, signing bonuses, etc. included a part of the plan?
    - Differences between MEO I, MEO II and MEO III (Driver)
    - Recommendation from Staff on positions in EMS, Solid Waste/Roads & Bridges, Airport, Register of Deeds, Voter Registration & Probate Court
    - Public Education Campaign of requirements for recycling attendants
    - Discussion on competitiveness pay for drivers; an extra \$20,000 is needed to fix the pay for the drivers and to retain employees
    - Council would like for staff to bring back information on annual salaries at the next 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 (6-0). Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.