

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
Miranda Craig, Deputy Clerk to Council
Les Hendricks, Contract Attorney
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, August 30th 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:

American Rescue Act Funding – Log No. 177

- Mr. Roper stated the council passed a resolution a couple of months ago about how staff should approach American Rescue Act funding Proposals. Pickens County will receive a total of \$24.6 million in ARPA funding. He stated the resolution caused staff to consider options out there, including one time costs that council could not do in their regular budget cycle. Mr. Roper advised that the county has received half of the funding, a little over 12 million dollars and the county will receive the second half of funding summer of 2022. He gave council detailed information regarding ARPA Laws. He stated that Pickens County took in more money this past year than years before, but using the federal formula, the loss revenue was \$2.395 million. He stated of the \$12.3 million that is in the bank, \$2.359 million is the loss revenue which can be spent in a way council finds appropriate. Mr. Roper advised it is probably best for council to discuss ARPA funding in big strokes and big priorities before discussing staff proposals. Mr. Roper stated that the municipalities are receiving money under other funding mechanisms. Mr. Roper stated that the ARPA funding has to be allocated before the end of the year end 2023.
- Some ideas that council mentioned regarding ARPA funding included, but was not limited to:
 - County Radio System
 - Focus on providing basic services
 - Capital items (non-recurring expenses)
 - Broadband
 - Sewer infrastructure
- Council and staff had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Possibility of new EMS Station
 - Possibility of using some ARPA funding on roads
 - Census tracks
 - Nonprofit organizations
 - Pick Up Pickens program

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

- Fort Prince George
- Supplemental pay for essential employees
- Mr. Roper gave council a list of ARPA funding requests for consideration from staff. Council and staff reviewed the funding requests.

❖ **No action taken by the committee.**

2021 Accommodations Tax Funding – Log No. 167

- Council and staff discussed the applications received for Accommodations Tax funding from the Rensing Center and the SC Entertainment Hall of Fame. Mr. Roper stated that Allison Fowler, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, is here to answer any questions.
- Council and staff had detailed discussion on the requested additional information from Rensing Center. The Rensing Center requested \$12,000 Accommodations Tax funding. Staff stated the Rensing Center does not collect accommodations tax but runs as an Airbnb. Council made no motions on the Rensing Center.
- Vice Chairman Roy Costner moved discussion towards the SC Entertainment Hall of Fame's Accommodations Tax funding request. The SC Entertainment Hall of Fame requested \$55,773.56 funding to market and relocate to the Pickens County Performing Arts Center. Council and staff had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Concerns that Council discussed about the SC Entertainment Hall of Fame Transition Budget:
 - Changing the use of the atrium
 - Building Codes
 - Purchasing the memorabilia
 - Building a kitchen
 - Cost of wall wraps
 - Discussion on making the Pickens County Performing Arts Center a drive to destination for people to see South Carolina music memorabilia
 - Discussion on wanting a designed proposal of the SC Entertainment Hall of Fame's plan for the building
- Attorney Les Hendricks informed council that one of the tenants of the Pickens County Performing Arts Center is also on the SC Entertainment Hall of Fame Board.
- After much more discussion, Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to allocate \$3,000 towards the Pickens County Performing Arts Center project with the SC Entertainment Hall of Fame, in contingent that the Performing Arts Center Foundation Board matches funding. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried (5-1), with Councilman Alex Saitta opposed.

❖ **Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to allocate \$3,000 towards the Pickens County Performing Arts Center project with the SC Entertainment Hall of Fame, in contingent that the Performing Arts Center Foundation Board matches funding. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried (5-1), with Councilman Alex Saitta opposed.**

Ordinance 533 – 1st Reading in Title only to amend Animal Control Ordinance – Log No. 176

- Chairman Bowers stated Council has a copy of the Animal Control Ordinance in their packet, as well as a letter from Dr. Kim Sanders, with the Anderson County PAWS. He stated Dr. Sanders has been very helpful to us over the years getting the Animal Shelter to the rules and standards.
- Pickens County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Officers, Gary Anthony and Anthony Raines, were present at the meeting to answer any questions Council may have.
- Council had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Proposed changes that Council discussed on Animal Control Ordinance:
 - Tethering – putting the definition of tethering in the ordinance

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

- Domestic Animals definition
- Vicious Animals
- Chain length for animals
- Removing all new wording in Section 4.7 in Ordinance
- Removing 4-10-H in Ordinance
- Add in State Law Wording on Vicious Animal
- Details in Section 7.4 is not included

- ❖ **Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to amend the ordinance, making the discussed proposed changes, and to send it out of Committee for the next reading. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).**

Discussion of County Road User Fee and Alternatives— Log No. 139

- Chairman Bowers opened the floor for Council Discussion of County Road User Fee and Alternatives. Council had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Discussion on funding roads for Municipalities
 - State Funding
 - Council would like a timeline of when Ordinance was enacted to now
 - County roads within each municipality
 - Millage discussion
 - Intergovernmental Agreement on Roads between municipalities and county

- ❖ **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 Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0). Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.