

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

October 7, 2019

6:33 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium of the County Administration Facility, with Chairman Roy Costner presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to members of council and local news media on October 1, 2019.

Council Members in Attendance:

Roy Costner, Chairman

Chris Bowers, Vice Chairman

Wes Hendricks, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Trey Whitehurst

Ensley Feemster

Carl Hudson

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Acting Administrator

Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Roy Costner called the meeting of October 7, 2019 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Vice Chairman Chris Bowers led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Caroline Sweatt, with Southern Wesleyan University, sang the National Anthem.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Roy Costner opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to call upon the citizens signed up to speak. The Clerk called on the following speaker:

1. Travis Garner: Mr. Garner stated he is looking to address item #11 on the agenda this evening. He stated he isn't sure if this is regarding his proposed resolution or not, but he is at the council meeting to see if Council does have time to get to it and if they vote. He stated he would like to see how Council votes and to determine who to get rid of down the road.
2. Wesley Wilson: Mr. Wilson stated he would like to speak to Mr. Garner's proposed resolution. He stated he knows it at the end of the agenda, and it's the resolution to regard Pickens County as a sanctuary county for the second amendment. He stated a place where we recognize as citizens of Pickens County, South Carolinians that the second amendment is as Chief Justice Joseph Story said, and the palladium of the rights of the republic. He stated we love hunting here in our county, but we love all of our rights, whether we exercise each one of them or not. Mr. Wilson stated it is because we love those liberties that we hold the second amendment dear, because as Joseph Story said, it is the safe guard of all the other liberties. He stated this resolution would put on record that we, as a county through our elected representatives, are saying we don't support unconstitutional gun laws. He stated we expect our prosecutors, deputy prosecutors, and members of law enforcement to not waste their time enforcing laws that go against our constitution, bill of rights or second amendment rights. He stated we have lots of problems to deal with, lots of laws that need to be enforced, but going out and violating the second amendment is not something we should be doing. Mr. Wilson advised we need to guard those liberties. He stated he is asking Council to get to that agenda item this evening and voting in support of recognizing the importance of the second amendment.

3. Matt Wavle: Matt Wavle introduced himself, stating he is with South Carolina Carry. Mr. Wavle stated he would like to discuss briefly with Council about sensible, common sense gun laws. He stated there is one common sense gun law, quoting “being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” He stated of course we want to take upon ourselves what the fix is if someone who is insane gets a hold of a gun. He stated the proper prescription for criminally insane attacker is rapidly repeated doses of fast moving lead. He stated that is the prescription. Mr. Wavle asked how are we to fix that if we become disarmed. He stated every single one of these proposal that state to do something is all about doing something. He advised how about we stop and figure out if what we did last time works. After more discussion, Mr. Wavle stated gun free zones kill. He stated when an armed citizen stops a mass shooting, the average gun death drops from 14.3% to 2.3%. Mr. Wavle stated these gun free zones kill 12 more people each time. He asked Council to do something effective for a change. He stated there is a principal of the lesser magistrate, which means it is their duty to interpose on those represented. He stated a number of other counties and a number of other states have created self-protection sanctuary areas out of their counties. Mr. Wavle stated Washington State, Oregon, Colorado, and New Mexico have nearly 2/3 of more counties doing what we are demanding you to do. He stated this is not a request; this is actually your duty. He stated Council put their hand on the bible, raised their hand and quoted “We swear to uphold the constitution of the United States and the state of South Carolina.” He stated in Article 1, Section 20, it states that very specifically in the South Carolina State Constitution, quote “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” He stated it is exactly one comment different than our second amendment, and that is the minimum that we expect you do to. He stated they don’t expect this to be anything other than the can getting kicked down the road, and we will see that as a 0-6 vote. He stated that is okay because they know it is the 11th item and they fully expect the time to run out. He stated that is why there here to figure that out. He thanked Council for their time.
4. Johnnelle Raines: Ms. Raines stated she would like to address three issues this evening. She stated the first issue is regarding the red flag resolution. Ms. Raines stated Conservatives of the Upstate, with over 300 members, want Council to sign the presented resolution to assure them they will not do what Columbia just did and pass red flag regulations that violate the second amendment of due process before seizure of property. She stated second, the members are very concerned that Council is not doing enough to keep Drag Queen Story Hour from happening in our county. She stated they respectfully ask the Library Board members to institute a change in the rental policy to include that anyone renting meeting rooms that will have a direct access with underage children, to turn in a federal criminal background check at their own expense of all who will be presenting the program to those children. Ms. Raines stated our public schools require background checks of anyone with direct contact to children. She stated our libraries should do this as well. Ms. Raines stated third, our members are disappointed in the insistence of this council seeking advice from a United Nations agenda 2030 NGO Ten at the Top. She stated local control of our county’s decisions for our future should be made by our elected representatives, not non-elected, governmental agencies with their own agendas that are clearly in line with globalist and have no place at the table in our county. She stated that is their opinion. Ms. Raines advised Ten at the Top pushes collectivism, and socialist ideology. She stated Pickens County is by far composed of citizens who value individualism, and our constitutional republic, with capitalism being our preferred economics. She stated lastly, Judy Smith, who has not been able to be here due to health reasons, wanted her to ask the Council if there is anything being done about increasing the fee from the cities that arrest people that bring them to put them in the county jail. She stated that Ms. Smith feels that there is not enough being charged for that service.

5. Pat Mulkey: Mr. Mulkey stated he is usually addressing subjects that the public are talking about in the paper, but this is personal. He stated he addressed this with Sheriff Clark, and other deputies. He stated they have had a crime wave in the last ten days in the Pumpkintown/Table Rock area. Mr. Mulkey stated in the last ten days, he along with three other, have been hit. He stated they have had four campers broken into, and they have done everything they can do on their own. He stated he is there this evening because each time they call dispatch; officers seem to be at different parts of the county. He stated Sheriff Clark needs more help. He stated he needs more road patrol officers covering that area. Mr. Mulkey stated they have cars speed, and the officers are taking reports while 20 motorcycles come flying by. He stated we should have officers up there patrolling on Hwy 11 and the Pumpkintown area. He stated this has been going on for a while now and it needs to be addressed. He stated he has been hit for over \$25,000 worth of copper, machines, chainsaws, trailers, and most of it is not covered by insurance because it does not have a serial number. He stated it is hard to replace a \$400 connector cord that a crack head is going to go get \$20 for. He stated he goes out and works to pay for these cables. He thanked Council for their time.

6. Robert Sams: Mr. Sams stated he is on the Hagood Mill Foundation Board, and according to the Memorandum of Understanding, they must give a quarterly report about their first quarter. He presented Council with a copy of the budget for the first quarter. Mr. Sams stated they have had a good number of activities. He stated in July, they had the banjo extravaganza and they hosted a watermelon crawl, which brought in 3200 people. Mr. Sams stated in August, they were a little in the red, but each event they are trying to review it and see how they can improve. He stated in September, they had the state fiddling championship and had over 2,000 people attend. He stated it was very well received. He stated he wanted to report that they have strong committees in place, and they are making progress on building the grounds. Mr. Sams stated this month; they are having a fundraiser on October 26. He stated they have great events and they are ATAX sponsored. Mr. Sams stated with the ATAX money, they bought an ad in the South Carolina Living magazine and he believes it helped contribute to the fiddling championship. He asked Council if they had any questions.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if Council could receive a detailed budget summary report next time. He asked Mr. Sams to work with Ralph Guarino, Finance Director, to review. He stated it would be very much appreciated.

7. Alex Saitta: Mr. Saitta stated he would like to echo comments of the public speaker a couple of month ago concerning the rising drug problem in Pickens County. Mr. Saitta stated years ago, we had a severe meth problem and today, there is a severe meth problem and opioids problem. He stated in 2018, the overdose rate in Pickens County ranked 10th in the state and the overdose death rate was 5th in the state. He stated in Pickens County, we rank 3rd in the state in the administration rate of narcan, which is the lifesaving opioid overdose antidote. Mr. Saitta stated while opioids are getting most of the national attention, behavioral health services say that meth remains the leading problem in our county. He stated Pickens County ranks 4th in the state for amphetamine and meth abuse. He stated our county is #1 in suicides in the state. Mr. Saitta stated this growing challenge cuts across crime and law enforcement, educating our children, DCC clinical needs, and economic challenges. He stated he believes Council's endorsement of the COPE program was a good step, but the problem requires a coordinated bold action by our city and county councils, school board, and our state leaders in order to address and solve the problem. Mr. Saitta stated it is October and the new detention center is still not open. He stated the original opening date, according to minutes, was April but got pushed back to May because of the rain. He stated

this long hold up is not due to a punch list or installing equipment, but poor planning on the hiring front. Mr. Saitta stated he credits Trey Whitehurst for asking the tough questions a couple months ago and Chris Bowers for not voting to allocate more money for the problem without a deeper look at the situation. He stated last year, the Sheriff came to the county council and stated to give him authority in the funding and he will take care of the hiring. He stated Council voted to do that, but did not get ahead of the problem, and as a result we have a brand new jail that is sitting there empty. Mr. Saitta stated you can yell at me all you want, but the Council has some responsibility in this. He stated the Council is giving the county checkbook, so they have oversight responsibility. He stated it is not Council's job to write the checks then go on your merry way. Mr. Saitta advised you are paying for all of this so you have to ensure the money is being spent correctly, efficiently, and spent on time. He stated this did not happen here. He stated this often means questioning things, investigating, shining light on things and making recommendations all along the way. He stated the aim was to fill 14 new positions when you approved those funds last year. Mr. Saitta stated not only did they not hire the 14 positions, they lost another 8 and the Administration/County Council did not figure that out until July when the jail was actually finished. Mr. Saitta stated Council was not asking the right questions during the process and was not on top of how the money was being spent throughout the process.

8. Eleanor Hare: Ms. Hare stated on November 5th, six municipalities in Pickens County will hold municipal elections. She stated these are difficult for people to find out about frequently, so the League of Women Voters has an online candidate form. She stated they have entered pages for every candidate in any of these six municipal elections. She stated they have sent letters to them telling them how to get to their own page, where they can answer questions such as, "Why am I running for this Council/Mayor?" She stated they have also sent emails to all candidates that we could reach by email. Ms. Hare stated she hopes the word will spread that this is available. She stated the Easley Chamber of Commerce is having candidate forums for Mayor and for Council that people may want to attend.
9. Allan Quinn: Mr. Quinn stated he is at the Council meeting to discuss the lack of Economic Development in Pickens County. He stated when he first started a dialog with Council three years ago; Council was giving him reasons and excuses about why we do not have Economic Development like the counties surrounding us. He stated half of Council was saying all is good in Pickens County, but the other half was giving the excuses. Mr. Quinn stated Chairman Costner gave a rebuttal last meeting after he spoke that was obviously sent to him from the Economic Director of Pickens County. He stated he compared Pickens County to counties of equal size in South Carolina. He stated while getting a degree in Business Management, he had an economics professor that said do not pay attention numbers and graphs until you have embedded the forces. Mr. Quinn stated you can make number say anything you want to, and they are used to deflect and deceive. He stated Chairman Costner compared Pickens County to Sumter, Florence, Lancaster and Orangeburg Counties, which are agricultural counties. He advised Pickens County is like an island in the middle of the highest performing counties in the State. Mr. Quinn stated we have a problem with what is being produced at the Commerce Park. He stated this problem must be addressed. Mr. Quinn presented Council with numbers from surrounding counties, which included investments, new jobs, etc. He stated Council must recognize we have a recruitment problem and address it by taking action at Pickens County Commerce Park. He stated time is wasting, and if Council does not do something positive then other surrounding counties will eat Pickens County alive. He asked Council if they have any information or rebuttals that he can respond to.

Chairman Costner stated they do not use this forum as a town hall meeting. He stated it is for Council to gather information and to try to return additional information to you. He stated that based on the information received from the SC Department of Commerce, comparing all 46 counties, in 2019 Pickens County is #6 in the state as far as number of jobs created. He stated Pickens County is #8 in the state as far as revenue investment. He stated our Commerce Park is paid for and is generating a million dollars in tax revenue back to the County. He stated we do have a long way to go, but we are by no means last.

Councilman Ensley Feemster stated when he was elected to County Council nearly 5 years ago; the governor sent him a message stating he needs to do something about Economic Development. He stated we have made some progress and he hopes we continue to have increased progress.

10. Deborah Rice: Ms. Rice stated she does not have a planned speech. She stated she found out about this meeting and came straight here regarding gun safety in Pickens County. She stated as far as the domestic violence rate in Pickens County, if you have not studied the red flag laws, this right here will affect every single female who is a victim in domestic violence. She stated she has a daughter, and if someone broke into her home to try to assault her daughter, our law enforcement would try their best to get to their home before anything bad happened to her. Ms. Rice stated if her daughter does not have a CWP or a gun registered in her name, she would not be able to use her weapons to defend herself. She advised if Council has not studied all these red flag laws and all the details, you cannot sit back and watch this happen. She stated once it is implemented, it will be too late. Ms. Rice stated our law enforcement will not be able to get across the town fast enough to save our lives. She stated we cannot let them borrow our weapons under these red flag laws. She stated there have already been women lost across this nation because of the laws implemented. Ms. Rice stated we have officers who have been injured and people who have died because good officers were doing their jobs. Ms. Rice stated under these laws, there is no due process. She stated she is not sure if Council has studied these laws, but she is begging to consider what has been implemented and what they are asking Council to do to help them. She stated once this has been passed, it is going to be too late.
11. Grayson Grant: Mr. Grant stated he is there to explain to Council while red flag laws are extremely unconstitutional, illegal and immoral. He stated he finds it disturbing that he has to be there to tell Council while it is unconstitutional. Mr. Grant stated it is a violation to the 1st Amendment of the Constitution, which guarantees everyone has freedom of speech, press and religion. He stated with these laws, all of those could be circumvented. Mr. Grant stated it is a violation of the 2nd amendment, quoting "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a Free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." He stated that arms defined in the dictionary include guns, artillery, tanks, etc. He stated shall not be infringed is pretty clear, and you cannot strip people of their rights without due process. Mr. Grant stated it violates the 4th amendment of the Constitution, quoting "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause." He quoted the 5th amendment, stating "No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury." Mr. Grant stated our founding fathers put this in place as means to secure our life, liberty and property from being violated without due process of law. He quoted the 6th amendment, stating "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury." After more discussion, Mr. Grant stated by passing and enforcing this legislature, you will be persecuting the law abiding gun owners of Pickens County and completing disregarding the constitution, which Council sworn oath to. Mr. Grant ended, stating Thomas Jefferson once said, "the tree of liberty

must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.” He stated to spare our children something so nasty and vile, it is better to uphold that constitutional oath.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to approve the following minutes as presented:

- September 9, 2019
 - Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, and seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Acting Administrator Ken Roper discussed the new Mile Creek Park dock installation. He presented a few pictures of the new docks. He stated these docks were paid for with state grant money to increase recreation for Mile Creek Park. He stated the docks are handicap accessible, and there will also be rails put in on the docks as well. Mr. Roper stated in the next few days, these boat docks will become available. He stated when you rent a cabin, it includes a boat slip. He stated there will be two other sets of docks available to people using the campsite. Mr. Roper encouraged all citizens to take advantage of what Mile Creek Park has to offer.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked if the other two sets of docks are complete as well, or are they being put in at a different time.

Mr. Roper stated he believes the other docks are in as well.

Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if there will be signage stating the docks are for cabin rentals only.

Mr. Roper stated they will be marked that they go specifically with the cabins.

After more discussion, Mr. Roper stated he would like to give the Sheriff an opportunity to give an update on the new detention center.

Sheriff Rick Clark stated he wanted to give Council an update on where they are at the new Detention Center. He stated they are getting close and everything is looking great. He stated as Council saw when they came in for the tour, they saw where the new detention center is steel celled. He stated the architects stated there is a gap beneath the closed doors of cells and it is only supposed to be no more than five-eighths of an inch. Sheriff Clark stated they have found some of the doors that are a little bit over an inch, and some of them are maybe an inch and a quarter, and an inch and a half. He stated the doors have already been installed, and this just came up last week. He stated they are going to have to go back and put sweeps on the bottom of the doors to fill the gaps. He advised there will be security screws and tight welded in the back so they’ll be just as strong, if not stronger, than the door themselves. He stated the bad part about it is that it will add about three weeks.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked who is paying for this.

Sheriff Clark stated they are. He stated they installed the doors incorrectly, so they are buying it. He stated it is only going to cost us 2-3 weeks, and it is a setback, but it is what it is. He stated it is a 73,000-square-foot facility that is designed to keep people in. He stated it is not easy, and we think of this as our

house. He stated we can't move people in until this is done. Sheriff Clark stated Pickens County has never built a facility this complicated, and he stated they want to do it right. He stated it will be 40-50 years before the next one is built, so he wants to do it right. Sheriff Clark stated Council has done everything they've asked and more. He stated the previous Council started, and this Council carried on building this facility. He stated we should have been doing these 15-20 years ago. He stated they are only three people short of filling all of our slots. Sheriff Clark stated at one point, they were down 15-20 employees. He thanked Council for raising the base salary of detention center officers so they could complete with Oconee, Anderson and everything else. He stated the current jail is rated for 93 inmates, and they had 236 on the boards on Saturday morning. Sheriff Clark advised that staff handles the overcrowding issue very well and our staff cannot be praised enough. He thanked Council for what they have done.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated that he had a question, and asked about the staggering drug problem in Pickens County. He stated it concerns him that Pickens County is that highly ranked and he knows the Sheriff is working on a solution, but he would like to have an update on a plan. He stated he hates being in the top 5 of that category, and he knows the Sheriff does too. He stated Council is going to start getting questions about this and he would appreciate the Sheriff updating them on what is being done about it.

Councilman Hudson stated we all know that drug use is directly tied to property crimes. He stated when you work on the drug problem, the property crimes should come down. He stated he feels it is all tied together. He stated it is hard for him to believe that we have more of a drug problem than Greenville County does, and the whole west side of Greenville County being as it is. He stated if this is true, then we have a serious problem.

Sheriff Clark stated we are talking about per capita. He stated our new jail will open in a few weeks, and we will have the ability to put people in there. He stated we will have the ability to change their lives. He stated we are doing something out of the box, and not doing arrest and forget.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated he personally believes that crime, drugs, mental health and behavioral health all runs together. He stated one thing we are really good at doing in this county is building silos. He stated silos have a purpose, but your silo is not the only thing in the county. He asked the Sheriff if he would be interested in getting with Behavioral Health, Coroner's Office, Sheriff's Dept., etc. to see what everyone is doing. He stated maybe even Council needs to intervene. He stated he is sure the Sheriff is already doing this, but Council is not aware.

Sheriff Clark stated he has been doing that since he was elected. He stated on Friday, he, Eric Turner and two ladies from Behavioral Health drove to Athens Georgia and they have a great Behavioral Health/Mental Health program. He stated they discussed their program with them for several hours. Sheriff Clark stated they have also visited Charleston. He stated he knows what they are doing now is not the best they can do, and he wants to change that with Council's help.

Chairman Roy Costner stated Behavioral Health and the COPE program are making great strides to help better the county. He stated there is a lot to do and we are anxious to begin to work on that.

Seeing no other discussion, Acting Administrator Ken Roper stated that is all for the Administrators Report.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Committee of the Whole met in the Main Conference Room, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, September 16, 2019 at 6:00 PM. All members of the committee were in attendance, with the exception of Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, with Chairman Roy Costner presiding.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Roy Costner called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order. Councilman Carl Hudson led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Chairman Roy Costner stated we will begin with Executive Session to discuss the pending board applications.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a):
Boards and Commissions – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)**

- Pending Board Applications

Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to convene into Executive Session as defined by S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a).

- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (6-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers called the Public Session back to Order and advised the following:
 - Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to recommend the following citizens to serve on the Pickens County Performing Arts Center Non-Profit Corporation Board:
 - a) **Pickens County Performing Arts Center Non-Profit Corporation Board – Moved to appoint Justin Ray Williams, Chad Hope, Terry Garrison, and Carrie Tidwell to the Pickens County Performing Arts Center Non-Profit Corporation Board.*
 - Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council Action on Executive Session-Pending Board Applications:

- **Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to recommend the following citizens to serve on Pickens County Performing Arts Center Non-Profit Corporation Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (5-0).**
 - a) ***Pickens County Performing Arts Center Non-Profit Corporation Board – Moved to appoint Justin Ray Williams, Chad Hope, Terry Garrison, and Carrie Tidwell to the Pickens County Performing Arts Center Non-Profit Corporation Board.**

Chairman Roy Costner stated no second is required because this comes as a recommendation from the committee. He asked for all those in favor for accepting this recommendation to please signify by raising your hands. Motion carried (6-0).

Solar Farm Ordinances – Log No. 132

- Mr. Roper informed Council that we have not had first reading on this ordinance. He stated many of the council members will be seeing the language for the first time this evening. Mr. Roper stated there will be a public hearing with the Planning Commission on November 12. He stated we are a little out of order in the sense we would usually do first reading in title only before the public hearing, but this is a new concept for Council and staff came up with language for Council to look at. He stated that Chris Brink, Director of Community Development, is here with us tonight to discuss the Solar Farms with Council.
- Mr. Brink had detailed discussion on Chapter 12 of the proposed Solar Farm section in the Pickens County UDSO to include, but not limited to: Solar Farm Ordinances in Jasper, Darlington and Jasper Counties; Sec. 1203(a) Land use permits- #20 Renewable Energy Systems – Solar Farms; Sec. 315(a) – Renewable Energy Systems – Solar Farms Definitions; 315(b) Use Standards – Size and Location; 315(b)(2) Setbacks and Buffers; 315(c) Application Materials;

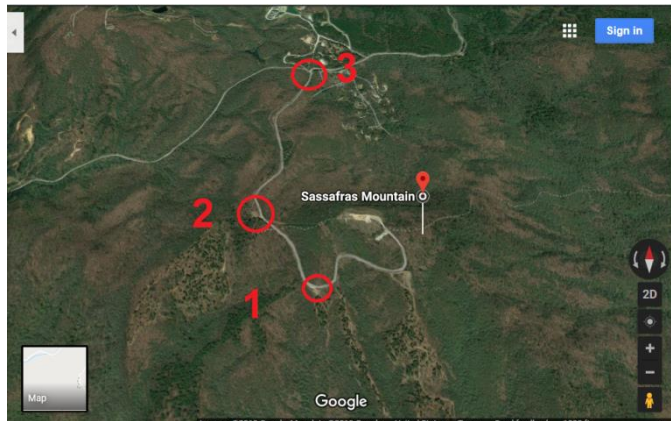
315(d) – Decommissioning; 315(e) – Site Restoration/Stabilization.

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if this was going on private property.
 - Mr. Brink stated yes.
 - Councilman Whitehurst stated when we say we are applying as a county; we are asking the property owner to bring the site back to what it was. He asked if we are requiring them to have a bond with the owner of the property. He stated that we have stuff written in the UDSO that if it were the County's property, but this is mostly going to be on private property.
 - Mr. Brink stated it will, unless the company buys the property. He stated regardless, we would still require a decommission process to protect whoever.
 - Councilman Whitehurst asked if this would have to go before the Planning Commission.
 - Mr. Brink stated yes, when it is above 15kw, which is small.
 - After more discussion, Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he had a question regarding page 3-23. He asked if it was ever discussed to do the buffer width 100 feet in the local street use.
 - Mr. Brink stated it was not discussed, but he does not see a reason why we cannot raise it to 100 feet.
 - Councilman Hendricks stated he has done a lot of research on this topic, and he stated he has researched a few other counties who have a solar farm ordinance. He stated a county in the lower part of the state recommended 100 feet on the local street use, and they had a successful ordinance.
 - Councilman Whitehurst asked how we came up with 75 feet.
 - Mr. Brink stated he took what someone else put in their solar farm buffer standards. He stated without having this interaction, there is no way for him to know.
 - Councilman Hendricks stated on page 3-24, in section c, he had a question about the greenery around the fence. He asked if that includes greenery around all sides of the fence.
 - Mr. Brink stated when you apply standards to a use; you can't make them comply with what changes around them. He stated it could be an instance to where today it might by one use that does not require it, but another day it might.
 - Councilman Hendricks stated he feels it should have greenery all around the fence.
 - After more discussion regarding buffering and screening, Mr. Roper stated he met with one of the representatives of the industry in preparation for this meeting and they do think the setbacks are excessive but he thinks the setbacks are a good idea. He stated the height of equipment at 10 feet is something they identify as a problem. He stated they want the equipment to be higher, so it is not obstructive.
 - Mr. Roper stated there have been some announcements of other solar farms in other counties and a lot of these larger solar farms that are multi-million dollar investments have FILOTS attached, are happening in the lower part of the state. He stated we have not had any proposal on that scale here. He stated it is a decision that Council needs to make.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if they originally asked for a FILOT.
 - Mr. Roper stated they originally did, but we weren't ready for the conversation at the time.
 - Councilman Whitehurst asked if they were going to put this before the Planning Commission, and then they will talk about it and bring it back to Council.
 - Chairman Costner stated yes, the Planning Commission will have a public hearing as well on November 12th.
 - Seeing no other discussion, Mr. Roper stated this is the beginning of this conversation and this is new for Pickens County.
- ❖ **No Action Taken by the Committee.**

Council Action on Log No. 132 – No Action Taken by the Committee.

Sassafras Mountain Overlook – Log No. 115

- Mr. Roper stated this has been on the Committee Log for a while now and he wanted to bring Council up to speed on this log number. He stated the county was involved in the project within various stages and at one point, the County was going to be the ones who maintained this facility, but we did not agree to do that. Mr. Roper presented to Council some pictures of the finished Sassafras Mountain Overlook, stating it is complete. Mr. Roper stated the only reason he wanted to keep this on the log is because there are some issues with access. Mr. Roper presented this map to Council:



- Mr. Roper stated at #3, that is an intersection with Glady Fork Rd. and F. Van Clayton Memorial Highway. He stated there are people who live around this intersection, and there is a youth camp right by it as well. He stated the left hand side of this map is South Carolina, and the right hand side is North Carolina. He stated the elevation from #3, to #2, to #1, to the Sassafras Mountain is a pretty steep grade. Mr. Roper stated even in a car, it is a challenging climb. He stated the issue is now that the Sassafras Mountain overlook is up there; there are concerns about inclement weather. Mr. Roper stated there is an “end of state maintenance” sign on F. Van Clayton Memorial Highway, before you get to the #3 point in the picture above. He stated the State of South Carolina believes that Pickens County is responsible for the road leading up to the overlook.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated the county has had this conversation with state officials before, stating this is not the county’s road. He stated they admitted it was their road, and they wanted the county to maintain it.
- Mr. Roper stated what ends up happening is during inclement weather, the county will receive calls saying county staff needs to “sand, scrape and maintain that road.” He stated the Roads and Bridges Department think it’s actually not safe for our county trucks to travel up that road in bad weather. Mr. Roper advised the state will not maintain that road, and they have an end of state maintenance sign. He stated the issue is more complicated and that road actually runs along the state line. He stated the right hand of the roads are in South Carolina, and the left hand side of the road’s in North Carolina for several hundred yards, then it comes back into South Carolina. He stated he does not know how Pickens County could ever have maintenance responsibility on a road that is located in North Carolina. Mr. Roper stated there have been ongoing conversations with the state over this issue, but we are not reaching an agreement and foul weather’s coming. Mr. Roper proposed that the county creates a fence and a gate. He stated at the point where it says “end of state maintenance”, when it is foul weather, rather than accessing that dangerous section of a road and putting county employees in danger, we close the gate. He stated it will not come back open until we have good weather. He stated he wanted Council to be aware of the issue and his proposed fix. He stated he did not want to take this step without Council knowing, and would like feedback about whether this is a good solution. Mr. Roper stated this is the solution in his mind right now because it ends the conversation, and we know we’re not going to put our citizens and our county employees at risk as they go up that highway in foul weather. He advised he believes it will only be closed a tenth of a percent of a year. He stated 99.9 percent of the year, it will be wide open for everyone to use and enjoy.
- Councilman Carl Hudson stated usually when it snows; citizens jump in their vehicles and go there first. He stated if state officials balk at the county putting a gate up, that solves the road responsibility question.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated if it is a state road, which they acknowledge that it was and they wanted the county to maintain, then can we put a gate in front of their state road.
- Mr. Roper stated we have been providing that service every winter, every year.
- Councilman Carl Hudson stated if the state officials say that the county cannot put up the gate, then that will solve who is responsible for the road.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks stated DNR officials would like to put a gate to close off the overlook at night, to cut out chances of vandalism. He stated it is a multi-million dollar facility and it has done a lot for our area.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked how much it would cost to put the gate up.
- Mr. Roper stated they have already ordered the parts.
- After more discussion, Councilman Whitehurst stated procedures needed to be established regarding closing the gate for inclement weather, to make sure no cars are behind the gate before closing.
- Mr. Roper stated we have a few weeks until we put this gate in place. He stated the gate itself will be constructed in the county’s welding shop. He advised that he just wanted to put this on Council’s radar.
- Chairman Costner stated he would like to develop a procedure in the future for inclement weather gate closure, when the gate is almost completed.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if the county could put more signs near the outlook roads with clearer directions. Also, if there was any way to be able to type in Sassafras Mountain Overlook into maps on cell phones to give a clearer direction.

- Mr. Roper stated he will talk with the GIS Department on this.
- ❖ **No Action taken by the Committee.**

Council Action on Log No. 115 – No Action Taken by the Committee.

Tourism Plan – Log No. 74

- Chairman Costner stated he wanted Council to have a conversation on the future of a tourism plan. Chairman Costner stated to him, Tourism is a part of Economic Development and getting people to come and visit Pickens County. He stated we made great strides to get to where we are today. He stated he wanted Council to begin to talk about what we envision our tourism to be like 20 years from now. He stated we are big on property rights, and we do not have zoning. Chairman Costner asked what Council's thoughts are for tourism and what we can accomplish.
- Councilman Ensley Feemster stated we have some beautiful waterfalls, and people do not know how to get to them. He stated he feels we should have signage and ways to prevent erosion.
- Chairman Costner stated he feels Oconee County is doing a good job on what they have done recently. He stated the signage is the same throughout the cities and the county. He stated he keeps hearing from the commerce park that we have our conventions in Greenville all the time because there is no place to do one in Pickens County.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if there was a brochure of Pickens County waterfalls. He stated other counties have brochures of different waterfalls in the counties.
- Jay Pitts, Tourism Director, stated he has meet with Lake Hartwell Country over the last two months. He stated his next step was to take "Your Natural Destination" and to do exactly what council is talking about. He stated he would like to partner with them and become a part of Lake Hartwell Country, which encompasses Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties. He stated they will do a brochure on hiking trails, waterfalls, a historic scenic site map, etc. Mr. Pitts stated they produce 30,000 of these brochures and have a mechanism where they go out to different zones in the state. He stated everything we have in Pickens County is incorporated in this brochure within the three counties. He stated the cost is minimal to get this done. Mr. Pitts stated in addition, we are a part of a digital marketing program, which you can go on the internet to find these things. He stated the last part of what we would do is being a part of a visitor's guide app. He stated Pickens County would have an app where everything is located throughout Pickens County.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated most of the waterfalls in Pickens County are on state or federal lands. He stated we do not have the control over the development, maintaining, etc. He stated what we have control is how we advertise it. He stated our biggest resource we have is our lakes. He stated he does not feel we have utilized with what we can do with our lakes. He stated the only place he believes is a convention spot is the Madren Center in Clemson. He stated it is a very nice venue.
- Chairman Costner stated he believes we do not need to be in the business of building stuff. He stated he believes we need to be in the business of inviting people to come, meaning investors, marketing people to persuade people to come here.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated we could individually get people to come here, or we can advertise to investors to build here, because that is what brings people. He stated if you attract investors, they will bring the people.
- Chairman Costner stated what if we had an expo and invited people to share ideas about Pickens County to investors, etc.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated we have an Economic Development Director, and we always target manufacturing. He stated that is what we have always done. He stated himself and Chairman Costner often travels due to work, but they choice to live in Pickens County. He stated our tourism is very new in this county, as we just hired our first tourism director a few years ago. He stated we are still figuring our way out here.
- Councilman Feemster stated he was very impressed with the hotels in Clemson. He stated he took 100 Hagood Mill brochures, and divided them between each other, and stated that all the hotels were thrilled to get the brochures.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he feels that is what the Tourism Department should be doing, not Councilman Feemster.
- Chairman Costner stated he likes Mr. Pitts idea about a Pickens County app, where you can access all information regarding Pickens County including parks, waterfalls, hiking trails, maps, etc.
- Mr. Roper stated we do have an active request from Lake Hartwell Country for this. He stated it will fit with the 30% money designation.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he has heard complaints about why we do not have more brochures on the state line visitor centers. He stated some of the brochures state that Pickens County only has two waterfalls.
- After more discussion, Chairman Costner stated this company has no incentive to put anything else in those brochures because we are not giving them any money for it.
- Mr. Roper stated Council has not designated the 30% money yet. He stated it is Accommodations Tax money that has to be used for a specific purpose. He stated this is not the money that goes into the general fund that is used to fund different tourism activities within the county, and it is not the money that is sent to the ATAX Committee to

be sent to different organizations. He stated this is the 30% money which specifically has to be used for a limited purpose. It has to be used for advertising and promotion of tourism to develop and increase tourism through the generation of publicity.

- Mr. Pitts stated they are working on developing digital marketing with them, and we are going to be represented on these brochures.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked when this will be completed.
 - Mr. Pitts stated they have asked for \$12,500 to start out.
 - Councilman Whitehurst asked what the county gets for that price.
 - Mr. Pitts stated we get represented on the brochures, and we get 30,000 brochures printed that go to all the different venues discussed. He stated we get 3,500 of those brochures that the County gets to do whatever they would like to do with them.
 - Councilman Whitehurst asked if they currently have an app.
 - Mr. Pitts stated not yet, but that is fixing to happen. He stated he has a proposal that they are working on right now to show Council. He stated he has asked Lake Hartwell Country to come in to present to Council.
 - Chairman Costner stated his goal of putting this on the agenda was to hear their voices on what they see and envision in 20 years.
 - Mr. Roper stated he has a very specific deadline that he is dealing with the 30% money. He stated he recommends Council saying the money available is designated to the Tourism department for marketing purposes.
 - Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if there was a need for the money somewhere else.
 - Mr. Roper stated there is not another way we can use it other for marketing purposes. He stated if they designate it to the Tourism department, which is qualifying.
- Chairman Costner made a motion to move the 30% money from ATAX to specifically marketing and tourism to be determined by Council on how it will specifically be spent. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster. Chairman Costner asked if there was any other discussion:
- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if it had to be specifically used on marketing.
 - Chairman Costner stated it has to be spent on marketing tourism. He stated based on the definition, marketing is broad.
 - Mr. Roper stated the actual definition states “used only for advertising and promotion of tourism to develop an increase tourism attendance through the generation of publicity.”
 - Chairman Costner stated he would like for that to be added to the motion.
- **Update motion:** To move the 30% money from ATAX to the county tourism department to specifically be used only for advertising and promotion of tourism to develop an increase tourism attendance through the generation of publicity, and to be determined by Council on how it will specifically be spent.
- Seeing no other discussion, motion carried unanimously (5-0).
- ❖ Chairman Costner made a motion To move the 30% money from ATAX to the county tourism department to specifically be used only for advertising and promotion of tourism to develop an increase tourism attendance through the generation of publicity, and to be determined by Council on how it will specifically be spent.. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (5-0).
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he would like to ask Ray Farley, Economic Development Director, to broaden his scope. He stated he would like to see large tourist companies come in to develop venues on the lake.
 - Mr. Roper stated as we look at the different tools that different people have, the person that is going to develop the Economic Development plan, the marketing plan, etc. for the county is Mr. Pitts, the tourism director.
 - Chairman Costner stated Dr. Voss, from Southern Wesleyan, was talking about the classes they have at SWU and they already have a group of students who would love the opportunity to work in hotel hospitality.
 - Mr. Pitts stated some of the things Council has discussed tonight; he has had two meetings with business men/women who are interested in doing exactly what Council is talking about doing. He stated it will be developing in this county. He stated we would be the go between government and private enterprise, who want to come in and bring these types of venues in the county. He stated they will also be coming to Council to make presentations.
 - Chairman Costner stated out of the 46 counties in SC, Pickens County is much bigger than what most people want to believe. He stated we are a growing county of opportunities and he feels we need to be thinking along these lines so that we have a plan in place. He stated he would like to think about what we want Pickens County to look like in 20 years.
 - Mr. Roper stated he had a great conversation with Clemson Chamber of Commerce a couple weeks ago. He stated they offered stern criticism about the way we approach tourism because of the difference between the way Clemson looks at it, and the way Pickens look at it. He stated one thing they really liked was the “Your Natural

Destination.”

- After more discussion, Chairman Costner stated he feels we need to have more conversations with our local chambers. He stated we have a group of business, leaders, and individuals who take part in the individual communities and he feels they can help us create those conversations.

Council Action on Log No. 74

- Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to move the 30% money from ATAX to the county tourism department to specifically be used only for advertising and promotion of tourism to develop an increase tourism attendance through the generation of publicity, and to be determined by Council on how it will specifically be spent. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (5-0).

Chairman Roy Costner stated no second is required because this comes as a recommendation from the committee. He asked for all those in favor for accepting this recommendation to please signify by raising your hands. Motion carried (6-0).

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (5-0).

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Roy Costner announced the following:

- Chairman Roy Costner stated the October Committee of the Whole meeting will be next Monday, October 21, 2019 at 6:00 PM in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Facility.
- Chairman Roy Costner stated the November Council Meeting will be on Monday, November 4, 2019 at 6:30 PM in this Auditorium of the Administration Facility.

Chairman Roy Costner called for other council correspondence.

Seeing no other correspondence, Chairman Roy Costner announced moving to Motion Period and New Business.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Roy Costner opened the floor for motion period.

- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to add to the Consent Agenda to Discuss Policy behind reserving County Property. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made motion to add to the Consent Agenda to Discuss Behavioral Health and other partners related to the discussion of our current crisis. Motion was seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (6-0).

Hearing no other items for Motion Period, Chairman Roy Costner closed the floor.

Chairman Roy Costner opened the floor for new business.

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he would like to ask Mr. Ken Roper a question regarding Johnnelle Raines comment during Public Forum. Councilman Whitehurst stated this happened during previous administration. He stated he believed we have changed our policies on background checks and we did that the first time it came up.

- Ken Roper stated at that time, Council instructed staff to get with the Library Board to tighten up the policy and to see what we could do. He stated that was done. He stated these questions should go to the Library Board because this Council does not have the authority to tell the Library about this. He stated it is a Library Board question. He stated this Council appoints that Library Board, so they can hold them accountable.
- Chairman Costner asked if we could send them a letter asking that specific question.
- Mr. Roper stated at that point in time, he was the County Attorney and he is not wanting to get into every detail with what was discussed with the Library Board other than to tell everyone that they did address this, and that he spoke with the Library Director this morning, and no requests have been received to host a group like this.
- Councilman Whitehurst asked if the Library was not county property.
- Mr. Roper stated it is county property.
- Councilman Whitehurst asked if we could make it a policy for anyone going on county property for meetings, etc. have to have a background check.
- Mr. Roper stated he would like for Council to receive legal specific advice about unintended consequence of this question.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated he would like to discuss this if it is not already being done.
- Mr. Roper stated for us to do it, we will need some legal advice about this issue. He stated the Library Board has authority when it comes to day to day operation of the Library. He stated Councilman Whitehurst has his finger on the issue, but he would like to seek legal advice before moving forward.

Hearing no items for new business, Chairman Roy Costner closed the floor.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION 2019-20 IN SUPPORT OF SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY COMMISSION'S PRESCRIBED FIRE PROGRAM FOR LAND MANAGEMENT.

Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2019-20.

- Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION 2019-21 IN HONOR OF PICKENS COUNTY'S SURVIVING PRISONERS OF WAR ON THE OCCASION OF POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY.

Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2019-21.

- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, and seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks.

Chairman Roy Costner read the resolution as followed:

A RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF PICKENS COUNTY'S SURVIVING PRISONERS OF WAR ON THE OCCASION OF POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

WHEREAS, Pickens County and its citizens enjoy the benefits, rights, and freedoms guaranteed in these United States; and

WHEREAS these freedoms are not free, but come at a cost paid by patriots throughout our history, including sacrifices by those service members who are taken as prisoners of war; and

WHEREAS, Pickens County recently celebrated "POW/MIA Recognition Day" in South Carolina by flying the POW/MIA flag, as well as the state and national flags, at half-staff on the third Friday in September; and

WHEREAS, Pickens County expresses gratitude for the military service of COL Bill Austin, 81, an F-4 Phantom pilot who was shot down on his 81st combat flight over North Vietnam and survived 1,986 days of internment by the North Vietnamese Army, 1LT Bill Funchess, 91, who lived through 1,038 days as a prisoner of the North Korean Army after his entire platoon was killed or captured, and COL Ben Skardon, 102, who endured 1,255 days in Japanese POW camps after surviving the Bataan Death March in WWII;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Pickens County Council does hereby recognize our County's veterans who were prisoners of war, COL Bill Austin, 1LT Bill Funchess, and COL Ben Skardon, commending them for their valor and determination during unspeakable hardships throughout their captivity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Pickens County honors all men and women in the Armed Forces throughout the state and across the country who were prisoners of war or remain missing in action.

Chairman Roy Costner asked if there was any discussion. Seeing none, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Costner presented a copy of the resolution to 1LT Funchess and COL Skardon.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION 2019-22 RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH.

Chairman Roy Costner read the resolution as followed:

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society established Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October of 1985 to raise awareness of breast cancer and promote the importance of early detection; and

WHEREAS other than skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women; and

WHEREAS, a woman living in the US has a 12.4%, or a 1-in-8, lifetime risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer according to statistics by the American Cancer Society; and

WHEREAS, throughout the month of October, women nationwide are encouraged to renew their commitment to their health by following recommended screening guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by a resolution in April of this year, recognized the importance that mammography provides in the early detection of breast cancer and declared Monday, October 7, 2019, "Mammogram Awareness Day" in South Carolina;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Pickens County Council does hereby recognize October 2019 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and encourages the residents of Pickens County to get their routine medical screenings and mammograms as recommended.

Chairman Costner asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2019-22.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (6-0).

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION 2019-23 REAFFIRMING PICKENS COUNTY'S CONTINUED SUPPORT OF, AND ADHERANCE TO, THE SECOND AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Chairman Roy Costner read the resolution as followed:

A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING PICKENS COUNTY'S CONTINUED SUPPORT OF, AND ADHERANCE TO, THE SECOND AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, Pickens County is a political subdivision of the state of South Carolina, one of the original thirteen colonies of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, our state and federal governments have certain foundational documents, including the Declaration of Independence and the South Carolina and United States Constitution, which guarantees certain basic and inalienable individual rights for all of their peoples; and

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment to Constitution of the United States reads, "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed"; and

WHEREAS, the same basic and fundamental right is affirmed by the Constitution of the State of South Carolina in Article 1 Section 20, "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed"; and

WHEREAS, certain citizens of Pickens County are desirous of a statement by the County Council in support of the basic rights guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Pickens County Council does hereby reaffirm the basic right of citizens to keep and bear arms as outlined in the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and in the Constitution of the State of South Carolina.

Chairman Costner asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2019-23.

- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, and seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson.

Chairman Roy Costner asked if there was any discussion.

- Councilman Carl Hudson stated he does not agree with red flag laws, and he believes they erode our freedoms. He stated his problem with them is that it takes away due process from the citizens. He stated he can see situations come up to where someone in a domestic situation uses this to take someone's freedom away and it cost them thousands of dollars to fight this. He stated if they don't have the money, then they lose their freedom. After more discussion, Councilman Hudson stated he'd like to see our state legislature and our Congress pass laws making counties and municipalities unable to pass individual red flag laws. He stated if there's a state law or a federal law, we can't pass an ordinance that circumvents that law. He stated his point is that we need to elect people that will not pass laws like this in our state legislature and in our Congress. Councilman Hudson stated he will never support gun legislation on a county wide basis through an ordinance, but the sad thing is if we don't have that support in Columbia, that could happen. He advised you can't tell a sheriff not to enforce a law that the state passes. He stated the Sheriff is the most important person in the County to have on your side.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated one of the gentlemen who spoke during public forum continued to read the constitution and everyone said that Council swore under oath. He stated why he does not have an issue stating he supports the second amendment, and he stated "federal trumps state, state trumps local, every day of the week, county trumps municipality, and every day of the week". He stated they do that on purpose and we can't pass something say that we are not going to enforce a state or federal law. He stated his concern with this resolution is that its second amendment only. He stated we all swore under oath to support the whole constitution of this great nation and he believes that's what we ought to support.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated we have no jurisdiction here, and he thinks the idea is wonderful. He stated unfortunately, you're talking to the wrong group. Councilman Whitehurst stated if everyone took that energy and went to Columbia or went to our U.S. Congress, that's where these laws are made. He stated these are dictated to us. He stated the resolutions are more political than they are realistic. He stated he admires everyone's energy and he agrees 100%. Councilman Whitehurst stated let's do something practical and not political, stating everyone needs to get to Jeff Duncan's office, or Lindsey Graham. He

stated everyone needs to get to the people who pass the laws. He stated we are a subset of the state.

- Chairman Roy Costner stated everyone made the same point where we did swear an oath to the constitution. He stated we really need to rally behind our citizens and go talk to our state legislature.
 - Councilman Ensley Feemster stated he feels these folks are starting here, and then going to a bigger segment of the government. He stated he has noticed that churches now, especially in Clemson, have hired security folks when we have services. He stated the problem is you have people who are here from other countries who would like to do a small terrorist activity. He stated a church of 200-1000 people, to the terrorist, would be a wonderful place to do their terrorism. Councilman Feemster stated for that reason, he believes it is important we arm ourselves.
 - Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he is strongly in favor of the second amendment, and he has guns and does not intend on giving them up. He stated he encourages citizens to not give your guns up. He stated he loves the passion that the citizens brought tonight, but he agrees with Councilman Whitehurst, and feels that the citizens should take it to the ones who actually do that voting.
- Seeing no other discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

CONSIDERATION OF 2019 FEMA GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Roper asked Scott Smith, Emergency Services Director, to please step to the podium to discuss this Grant.

- Mr. Smith stated through the process of the Fire Chiefs meeting, and the Emergency Services Board meeting, we have identified a critical need with the self-contained breathing apparatus across the county. He stated we have a large number of those that are expiring within the next couple of years and we would like to address this with the FEMA Grant. He stated it will not be in this current budget year, but the application process will open within the next month. He stated at this time, we have eight county fire departments and four municipal fire departments who want to join in on a regional grant to try to address this across the county.
- Chairman Roy Costner asked if there were any matching funds on this grant.
- Mr. Smith stated yes, it is a 10% match. He stated they are also looking to utilize a grant writer. He stated there is a 2% fee on the grant writer based on what is awarded. He stated they don't have the exact number on what the grant would be, but are thinking around 1.4 million dollars.
- Chairman Costner asked have we already started with the grant writing.
- Mr. Smith stated they have started putting information together and submitting it to the grant writer.
- Chairman Costner asked if we have already hired a grant writer.
- Mr. Smith stated if we do not receive an award, she does not charge anything.
- Chairman Costner stated ACOG provides grant writing services and he wanted to see if this was an opportunity to take advantage of that.
- Mr. Roper stated in this case, this specific grant writer that Mr. Smith is talking about has certain expertise in this grant.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked if the 8 county fire departments, and 4 municipality fire departments were all the fire departments.
- Mr. Smith stated no, the Vineyards just replaced theirs through their operation budget and Pumpkintown Fire Department got this same grant last year. He stated they replaced most of theirs. He stated the municipal fire departments are the City of Easley, City of Pickens, Central

and Norris. The county fire departments are Croswell, Dacusville, Holly Springs, Keowee Springs, Liberty, Pickens Rural, Shady Grove and Six Mile.

Seeing no other discussion, Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to approve the resolution to move forward with the 2019 FEMA Grant Application.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE No. 575 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT EXCEEDING ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,350,000) GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND, SERIES 2019 OF PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS SHALL BE EXPENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to constitute third reading of Ordinance 575.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (6-0).

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE No. 574 ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR THE INSTALLATION AND OPERATIONS OF SPEED BUMPS WITHIN PICKENS COUNTY.

Chairman Costner opened the public hearing for comments regarding Ordinance 574.

Phil Smith: Mr. Smith asked if there was a study done to make sure the speed bumps will actually work.

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated we have done this in several places, and there is plenty of data. He stated all we are trying to do is come up with a standard procedure of doing it. He stated we are trying to standardize it so it is the same process for everyone.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated certain criteria have to be in place for the speed bump. He stated it is a legitimate process.

Seeing no other speakers, Chairman Roy Costner declared the public hearing closed.

Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to constitute second reading of Ordinance 574.

- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to constitute second reading, and for this ordinance to be recommitted to the Committee of the Whole following this meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously (6-0).

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1) Solid Waste Needs
- 2) Mental Health
- 3) Discuss Policy behind reserving County Property
- 4) Discuss Behavioral Health and other partners related to the discussion of our current crisis
 - Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (6-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a):

Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to convene into Executive Session as defined by S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a). Chairman Costner further stated that each issue would be discussed as the Law provides.

- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a five minute recess.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a):

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- Acting Administrator Monthly Report
- Springs Fire Department

Boards and Commissions – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- Board and Commission Vacancies (49):
 - b) Assessment and Appeals
 - c) Beautification Committee
 - d) Construction Board of Appeals
 - e) Economic Development Alliance Board
 - f) Emergency Services Advisory Board
 - g) Library Board of Directors
 - h) Pickens County Grievance Committee
 - i) Pickens, Oconee, Anderson Mental Health
 - j) Planning Commission
 - k) Public Service Commission
 - l) Recreation Funding Advisory Board
 - m) Tri-County Board of Visitors
 - n) Water Authority
 - o) WORKLINK
 - p) Zoning and Appeals
 - q) *Pickens County Museum Non-Profit Corporation Board
 - r) *Pickens County Performing Arts Center Non-Profit Corporation Board

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

Chairman Roy Costner called the Public Session back to Order and advised the following:

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- Acting Administrator Monthly Report – **No Action Taken**
- Springs Fire Department – **Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to accept the Keowee Springs Fire Proposal as presented.**
 - **Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).**

Boards and Commissions – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- Board and Commission Vacancies (49):
 - s) Assessment and Appeals – **No Action Taken**
 - t) Beautification Committee - **No Action Taken**
 - u) Construction Board of Appeals - **No Action Taken**
 - v) Economic Development Alliance Board – **Councilman Carl Hudson moved to appoint Joseph C. Hawkins to the Economic Development Alliance Board. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and**

carried unanimously (6-0).

- w) Emergency Services Advisory Board - **No Action Taken**
- x) Library Board of Directors - **No Action Taken**
- y) Pickens County Grievance Committee – **Councilman Carl Hudson moved to appoint Andrew Rackley to the Pickens County Grievance Committee. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).**
- z) Pickens, Oconee, Anderson Mental Health - **No Action Taken**
- aa) Planning Commission - **No Action Taken**
- bb) Public Service Commission - **No Action Taken**
- cc) Recreation Funding Advisory Board - **No Action Taken**
- dd) Tri-County Board of Visitors - **No Action Taken**
- ee) Water Authority - **No Action Taken**
- ff) WORKLINK - **No Action Taken**
- gg) Zoning and Appeals - **No Action Taken**
- hh) *Pickens County Museum Non-Profit Corporation Board - **No Action Taken**
- ii) *Pickens County Performing Arts Center Non-Profit Corporation Board - **No Action Taken.**

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

Roy Costner, Chairman of County Council