

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

March 2, 2020

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 February 27, 2020.

Council Members in Attendance:

Roy Costner, Chairman

Chris Bowers, Vice Chairman

Wes Hendricks, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Carl Hudson

Trey Whitehurst

Ensley Feemster

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Acting Administrator

Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

Les Hendricks, Contract County Attorney

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Roy Costner called the meeting of March 2, 2020 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Carl Hudson led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Cameron Tarrent, with Southern Wesleyan University Alumni, 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. **Melvin Worsham:** Mr. Worsham thanked Council for allowing him to speak. He stated he is there this evening to say do not raise our taxes. He stated he would like to tell council a little about himself. He stated his doctor advised him to not put himself in stressful situations. Mr. Worsham stated he does not tell Council this for sympathy, but because he is concerned of what Council is talking about. He stated he used to run a business and he has always enjoyed government. He stated when he was working; he did not have time to delve into it. He stated he has participated in every election since 1980. Mr. Worsham stated he elected Ronald Reagan as our president. He stated during the years he worked, he did not have time to look at all that was going on and to keep up with all the facts. He stated sometimes when he went to the voting booth; he did not know some of the names on the ballots. Mr. Worsham stated he is now retired and he is beginning to see a little more of what goes on in government. He stated he is getting to study more about our county government and what he is concerned about is that there are citizens in this community who are in the same position as he was when he was working. He stated they do not have time to focus on politics and they have families to take care. Mr. Worsham stated his daughter and son-in-law have a daughter and a son on the way. He stated they both work, and he keeps his granddaughter to help them keep the cost of daycare down. He stated he is concerned about the citizens who are not able, and not willing to know what's going on in our government. He stated he would like to close by saying do not raise our taxes, and Council has met one of their bosses.
2. **Matthew Lusk:** Mr. Lusk thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and taking time to listen to his concerns. He stated this is his first county council meeting and he hopes he is bringing them

up at the right place. Mr. Lusk stated he lives on the Georges Creek water shed in the Crosswell community and his daughter is the seventh generation living on this hill. He stated they have always tried to be neighborly, as they believe community service is important. He presented Council with a handout, stating the first page is an aerial view of the Greenville-Pickens off Road Vehicle Park. He stated on the second page of the handout, there is a tax map. Mr. Lusk stated looking at the tax map, his families lands is the Mercer, Kirkland & Lusk. He stated on the third page, there is a trail map that is published by the Greenville-Pickens off Road Vehicle Park. He stated it is mostly on Kevin Whitakers property, but some of the trails run on his families' property. He stated the rest of the pages in the handout are pictures of their events that go on at this park. He stated he can hear the midnight off road rides at his house, which is about half of a mile away, and so do his parents. Mr. Lusk stated alcohol is prohibited but he has pictures of riders drinking beer. He stated customers post pictures on the Facebook page that are clearly taken on Mercer property. He stated it is not their fault, because the website shows that is the trail. He stated the photo locations are also marked. Mr. Lusk stated that night riders use off road lights that light up like it is daytime and it disturbs them. He stated driving on the creek banks of flood plains is unsafe. He stated there are overhangs that regularly collapse in the meanders after heavy rain. After more discussion, he stated this is not a call of action and he has questions that he would like answers too. He stated he listed these questions and concerns in the packet he gave council. Mr. Lusk stated he would like to be followed up with if possible, because it does not seem like this is beneficial to the county and it seems like it is going to be value property.

3. Allan Quinn: Mr. Quinn stated he is from Easley and he is here to discuss Economic Development in Pickens County. He stated that this is the sixth month he has addressed this problem and he stated this will be the last month he talks about this subject. Mr. Quinn stated he has tried to give Council the information gathered and the result of the root call analysis they did. He stated it is now time for him to try something different to help with the problem here. He stated this last chapter dealt with excuse giving that we do not have enough major highways in Pickens County; Mr. Quinn stated this is not true. He presented Council with a map of all highways in Oconee, Pickens, Greenville, & Anderson Counties. He stated we have the same number of highways as Greenville County, which is 10 highways, with Oconee County having 8 highways and Anderson County having 11 highways. He stated he would like to address the most important highway we have for economic development, which is Highway 123 between Easley & Clemson. Mr. Quinn stated that Highway 123 is a limited access highway, which means it could never become another Woodruff Road. He stated you can only get on and leave the highway at designated exits, and limited signage is allowed. He stated they do not let politicians put their signs out there. He stated among these designated exits are thousands of acres of land that could and should be developed to provide high quality, high paying jobs for our citizens in Pickens County. Mr. Quinn stated Highway 123 would look the same as it does today. He stated that Pickens County has the career center to train high school students for jobs, as well as Clemson University & Tri-County Technical College. Mr. Quinn stated that Pickens County is part of the Appalachian Council of Governments, which consists of six counties: Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Spartanburg, Oconee & Pickens Counties. He stated that Pickens County is far behind these counties, and we have a great piece of real estate off highway 123 where this development should happen. He stated if council does not do something quickly, it will be too late. He stated that all counties mentioned are in the Interstate 85 corridor, which is the fastest growing area in South Carolina. He stated we are already getting low paying jobs from Greenville County now. Mr. Quinn stated this will continue unless Council makes good decisions to correct the problem in Pickens County. He stated the growth rate in this area is going to increase fast if we do not plan, and are not prepared. He stated Pickens County will be the dumping ground for surrounding counties, and our children and descendants are going to move.

4. Johnnelle Raines: Ms. Raines thanked God for the right to be here this evening and speak freely. She stated that she is a fan of freedom and God is too. She stated none of Council ran on a platform that said they would raise taxes, except for Wes Hendricks. She stated he gave us a little bit of a hint with using progressive on his yard signs. Ms. Raines stated what bothers her is that Council has enough funds, and we the taxpayers pay a lot of taxes. She stated Council does not have a funding problem; but that Council has a problem with how to prioritize their spending. She stated for instance, one of Council's priorities was to "get on the global map." She stated some members went all the way to Germany seeking a sister city, with a city that is overrun by Islamic, jihadist people. She stated council was not worried about our roads then. She stated Council also put on their agenda their priority was to increase our tourism here. She stated the roads are not safe and Council is not prioritizing the citizen's safety, and that is wrong. She stated she is embarrassed that all of Council claim to be a Republican and are even considering those options. She stated do not tell her that Council is not considering them, and stated that Roy Costner can say that, but they are considering tax increases. Ms. Raines stated she is embarrassed by this and they should not have an "R" beside their name. She stated to read the Republican platform and see what it says. Ms. Raines ended stating the bottom line is, do not raise their taxes.
5. Sandy Arthur: Ms. Arthur stated she is there to second everything Johnnelle Raines just explained in adequate detail. She stated her family moved her 16 years ago, and one of the reasons is the beauty of Pickens County and the wonderful people who live her. She stated the tax situation was a little above Tennessee, where they came from, and stated Tennessee does not have an income tax. She stated they do have a fairly high sales tax, but that's it. Ms. Arthur stated we are now looking at a sales tax that is going on 9-10%, depending on what you are buying in Pickens County. She stated she is afraid this could back fire on our merchants, restaurants, grocery stores, etc. because some people like her, on a limited income, might be thinking they have to go to Greenville County for certain things. She stated she will start shopping over there and not shop, or eat out in Pickens County. Ms. Arthur stated this hurts her because she loves her county, her people, and the people who work hard in the restaurants and stores. She stated the other thing is that Johnnelle mentioned the lack of prioritization in the tourism tax for the roads. She stated the tourists are not going to like Pickens County very well if the roads are not fixed, but prioritization is where that should come in the already passed tourism tax. She stated no more trips to Europe, no more frills, just fix the roads and call it benefiting tourism. She thanked Council for their service.
6. Amy Williams: Ms. Williams stated she usually likes to speak extemporaneously, but three minutes goes very fast and she will be reading her statement. She stated her name is Amy Williams, and she has been a resident of Pickens County since 1994. She stated she is a mom of a 13 year old, and her 80 year old folks are her next door neighbors. Ms. Williams stated she is here to express her opinion on the proposal to raise sales tax from 7% to 8% for our roads. She stated that everyone here, and in our County, has had a time when their money was tight; like an unexpected car repair, heat pump at the house dies, or facing the daunting task of sending a child to college. She stated all these put demands on a family budget. She stated they cannot magically raise their right hands and raise our salaries at work. Ms. Williams stated in the back of their minds, they hear that they have to tighten their belts. She asked what you do when you have to tighten your belt. Ms. Williams stated first, you have to cut out the nice haves, and look for ways to cut wasteful spending. She stated she has cut things out like cable TV, trimmed their cell phone service, dialed back the thermostat or skipped going out to eat after church. Ms. Williams stated what they are asking Council to do first, before considering raising taxes, is to tighten the proverbial belt. She stated for Council to show a list of where they have tightened their belt and then some of us would be more open to listening to their plans of raising taxes. She stated they all ran as fiscal conservatives and promised us they had the answers and solutions. Ms. Williams

stated it is not her job to go online, look through item by item at the spending and decide if it is a “nice have”, or a “have to have.” She stated it is also not her job to decide what to cut – this is Council’s job. She stated they said they could do it, and to elect them and the people did. She stated that Council is paid around \$12,000 a year; get medical benefits and a state retirement. She stated she thinks they should go back to the drawing board, come up with some of the fabled solutions, and earn their pay. Ms. Williams stated secondly, she is hearing that they are hiring a consultant called POND for \$99,400 fee, and their claim to fame on their website says Gwinnett Georgia, 2040, with a lot of pretty parks, fences, fountains, and museums pictured. She stated she personally hates Gwinnett Georgia, and all surrounding areas in Atlanta, and avoid it like the plague. She stated she does not even like driving to Greenville, and stated she moved to Pickens SC because it is Pickens SC. She stated it is a small town with wonderful people and low taxes. She stated if anyone wants to live in Gwinnet Georgia, please do move. Ms. Williams stated as for the rest of us, they like their small town and she knows she speaks for many when she says they do not want a lot of outsiders coming in to tell them how they can get a few people rich, raise taxes so founding families here cannot afford their own family land anymore, and haul in a lot of folks who want to change the feel, and flavor of our town.

7. Deborah Davenport: Ms. Davenport stated she appreciates the service Council provides to our county. She stated she is new to Pickens County, so she represents someone that has new eyes on this subject. She stated she is disturbed. Ms. Davenport stated she has heard most of what the people have referred to this evening about the priorities Council has put on, and how they have been spending our money. She stated she is on disability and she cannot go out and make more money. She stated there are lots of people like her. She stated she cannot afford to give Council more money to spend on things that are not right. She stated do not raise her taxes.
8. David Hinton: Mr. Hinton stated he has lived in Easley for a number of years and some know him very well. He stated he is like everyone else – don’t raise our taxes but we have other problems in Pickens County that we need to deal with. He stated roads are definitely a problem, but if you look at the trees driving through the mountains, they are leaning over the roads and breaking off on cars. He stated we have lost news media over this and he is concerned about it. Mr. Hinton stated we do need to work around the taxes and keep them down, and low for citizens. He stated roads do need to be repaired and we have traffic problems of people flying down roads as well. He stated he saw a car hit a pothole the other day and crashed in a ditch. He stated we have to get this taken care of. Mr. Hinton stated everyone in this room knows we are getting taxed to death as it is, but it is what it is. He stated we all need to get together, tighten the reigns, and do something.
9. Dr. David R. Jones: Dr. Jones thanked Council for serving and for allowing him to speak. He stated he is there to oppose the taxes once again. He stated he also feels the videos seen in the past we do not get sound and he does not understand why that is such a problem. Dr. Jones stated he cannot always be here, as he works late nights so he can pay his taxes. He stated it would be nice if we could get sound. He stated if taxes aren’t raised, then they will probably do a fee of some sort and he prefers not to pay the fee as well. He stated he believes they pay enough. Dr. Jones stated he has a business downtown and he pays plenty of taxes and he also has a home in downtown Easley. He stated he wishes Council would look at the budget and tighten their belts. He thanked Council for allowing him to speak.
10. Rusty Duncan: Mr. Duncan thanked Council for allowing him to speak. He stated he is concerned regarding the sales tax. Mr. Duncan stated that he is concerned people are going to spend their money outside of the county. He gave an example, stating someone wants to buy a \$1000 refrigerator. He stated if you go to a Lowes in Pickens County, you will have to pay the extra tax, but not if you drive to Greenville County Lowes. He stated he is concerned about restaurants and

businesses suffering because of this tax. Mr. Duncan stated he is blessed to be able to go out to eat on Friday nights and Sundays after church, and he usually stays in Pickens County, but he will get second thoughts on going to Greenville County if he has to pay extra taxes. He stated Council better think deep and hard about doing this 1% sales tax.

11. Rick Spencer: Mr. Spencer stated we have retailers who should be very concerned about this. He stated if someone is going to Lowes to buy \$1000 material, it is only 12 miles further to go to the one in Greenville, and 6 miles further to go to the Wal-Mart in Greenville. He stated for the difference in price, which will pay for the gas a lot of times. Mr. Spencer stated there are auctions held out at the County Fair Grounds and if the sales tax goes up, he will find him a place in Greenville County to hold this auction. He stated we are talking about equipment that is \$10,000-\$12,000 and there is a lot of taxes on this. He stated another thing he would like to address is the \$100 road fee. Mr. Spencer stated they are talking about putting a fee on cars, that for many people be more than the price they paid for the taxes and plates combined. He stated we already have the \$20 road user fee, and he drives a car that is 27 years old. He stated his taxes are low, but that road fee is already more than the taxes. He stated it is the same as what has happened with the fire fees and we are seeing fire fees on many of the smaller houses that are more than the taxes are on the houses. He stated they have continued to go up over the last several years. Mr. Spencer stated the commercial buildings have more than doubled in the Liberty area, but he does not want to see this happen with the cars as well. He stated not to raise their taxes at all.
12. Margaret J. Thompson: Ms. Thompson stated she noticed that Clemson Paw Partners is on the agenda for this evening. She presented Council with a statement of financial income and expense for Clemson Paw Partners of January 2020. She stated we spent over \$6,000 of taking care of animals, ranging from spay-neuter to injured animals. Ms. Thompson stated they took in almost \$5,000 for the month of January, and they were sensitive to it being after January and Christmas to asking people for donations. She stated they did not spend any money on themselves, like always, and they do not pay themselves. She stated the only expenditure they had that she would say was out of the normal was that they bought sweatshirts, and sold them, but other than that they do not do anything other than help animals. Ms. Thompson stated she has talked to different veterinary equipment groups. She stated they have the funds to pay to equip the clinic. She stated this is the surgical tables, anesthesia machines, etc. and this is money that has been fundraised. She stated this is something that people have decided on their own to give out of their own pockets. She stated this is how they run their organization. Ms. Thompson stated they are also checking on the basic things, such as bandages, syringes, microscopes, etc. but our community that helps us, in Clemson, has been very supportive of this. She stated the recent break in at Anderson County Vet was unfortunate and if we could have already been up and running, they could have helped those people. She stated she appreciates being on the agenda this evening and she looks forward to seeing how Council votes. Ms. Thompson stated as far as the road tax, she gets it. She stated no one wants to be taxed anymore. She stated she lives in Clemson and it is the highest taxed place in the county. She stated we have great roads, no one seems to stop going to the restaurants but it is a different segment of the county and the economics is a lot stronger where she lives. She stated so naturally, people are willing to pay more for these services.

Due to the thirty minute time limit on Public Forum, the Clerk to Council stated the thirty minutes has passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

- February 3, 2020

- Motion was made by Councilman Carl Hudson, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and the motion carried (6-0).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Director of Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Mr. Roper introduced Allison Fowler, Director of Parks, Recreation & Tourism. He stated that Allison graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in History from Clemson University, and also holds a Master's Degree in Historic Preservation from Savannah College. Mr. Roper stated she is a native in the Upstate. He stated she worked in the private sector for many years at Trehel Corporation as their Marketing Director, and then worked in Promotions and Tourism for governments. He stated she has worked as a Director with the Pickens Revitalization Association. After more discussion, Mr. Roper stated she comes to us with great recommendations and has already hit the ground running working with our Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department.

Mr. Roper also introduced Miranda Mixon, Marketing Specialist in the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department.

Mr. Roper stated he is excited to have them both as Pickens County Employees and looks forward to good things for the County.

Flooding Update

Mr. Roper stated he would like to give Council an update on the flooding from the past couple of weeks. He stated on February 6th, we had close to six inches of rain within a 24 hour period in the county. He presented pictures of Catechee Landing, flooding around county, & Jaycee Park Pickens City. He stated at one point, there were 64 roads in the County closed due to flooding, and that has changed to 6 roads now. He stated that Council declared a State of Emergency for the 24 hour period, and also to try helping qualify the county for funding reimbursements in the future. Mr. Roper presented photos of the swift water and rescue teams helping mobilize during the emergency.

Mr. Roper presented the following information:

- On February 6th Pickens County received heavy rain totaling 5-6 inches across the County within a 24 hour period.
- 64 roads closed due to flooding, multiple roads, bridges and culverts damaged; 6 roads still remain closed.
- Water Response Team (Swiftwater) responded to 7 water rescues
- Emergency Operations Center Activated
- State of Emergency for the County declared
- Emergency Management issued a voluntary evacuation in two communities Six Mile and Easley; First Responders notified 72 residents. (conducted door to door notification)
- February 7th County Damage Assessment teams w/ Water Response teams conducted damage assessment across the County
- February 19th the State and FEMA conducted a Preliminary Damage Assessment across the county determining if the County met their damage threshold of \$457,820.
- February 26th the State confirmed Pickens met their threshold with damages totaling \$1.1 million; surrounding counties also met their threshold.
- The state reached their threshold of \$7 million; the Governor will request from the President a declaration of disaster in SC.

- Once Presidential Declaration declared FEMA will begin collecting information from the County and each jurisdiction regarding damages; to include but not limited to repair costs, insurance policies, employee and equipment costs, etc.
- What that means practically speaking is that FEMA will contact us and we will give them documentation as requested. It will help offset our local government damages and will also provide programs to assist private entities.

Road Closure Update

Mr. Roper stated six roads remain closed. He stated that Cedar Hill Road and North Homestead can be repaired as soon as we have dry weather. He stated that Holders Ford is the bridge and will remain closed as we continue to monitor and evaluate. Mr. Roper stated the Roads and Bridges Department are doing in-house hydrology studies for Sandalwood, Sweetbriar and Windmont. He stated that Windmont was originally planned for quick repairs but as repairs began, additional issues became evident.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated Pike Road is a state road, and we have had failures on this road before. He stated they put a new culvert on the road and it was not put in properly and has failed. He stated we need to make sure we contact the state to fix it.

COVID-19 Preparation

Mr. Roper advised that the COVID-19 is the Coronavirus. He stated there is really no panic among our Emergency Management Division or County Employees, but we have been in contact with neighboring counties EMD and the State EMD. He stated we have developed new procedures for dispatch and first responders. Mr. Roper stated if a call comes in to dispatch regarding the coronavirus, we want to be prepared to answer the corrections correctly. He stated we are also assembling kits for hazmat to respond in appropriate dispatch situations. He stated the EMD recommends the public use good common sense and we will continue to update as we receive more information.

Chairman Costner asked if we have the test kits here.

Mr. Roper stated no, we do not have the test kits here, but he will follow up with the Emergency Management Department to see if there is something we are doing to request those.

Vice Chairman Bowers stated he knows the state is working to be able to test more locally. He stated we are close to a CDC in Atlanta, GA, but the kits are in short supply nationwide and he does know the state is working to try to get something in South Carolina.

Request to add Personnel Item to Executive Session

Mr. Roper asked Council to consider adding a personnel item to Executive Session regarding the Pickens County Board of Voter Registration and Elections

Other

Mr. Roper stated he would like to address a question regarding the Comprehensive Plan. He stated he wanted to make sure people understood the thought process here. He stated for many years, the planning and building codes department has seen an increase in their workload. He stated there has been more building inspection request, more planning requests, etc. He stated the planning department has asked each year for additional staff members to try to meet this workload. He stated it was determined rather than try to add another county position, that the more frugal thing to do is look at outsourcing our Comprehensive Plan, since we only do the plan once every ten years. He stated if the public is concerned with the firm who is going to manage the process, there is a good solution and that is to participate in the process. Mr. Roper stated there will be numerous public hearings and at the end of this process, we want

this to be Pickens County View of what this county should look like. He stated the only way to ensure this is if we all work together.

He stated there was also a question about the video during public forum. Mr. Roper stated the longstanding issue is that it is a YouTube issue. He stated he is informed that an iPhone 6 or earlier, has an external speaker that has a driver issue and makes live streaming with YouTube not compatible. He stated if you will plug your headphones into the phone, or use another speaker jack you will have good sound quality. Mr. Roper stated we will continue to try to find better solutions regarding this.

Chairman Costner stated we had a gentleman speak during public forum about the Greenville-Pickens Off Road Vehicle Park. He stated he would like for staff to begin looking into those questions this gentleman had.

Mr. Roper stated he agrees, and he has asked Les Hendricks, Contract County Attorney, to reach out to Chris Brink in the morning to see what we can try to do there.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated if we have trespassing issues, on top of the other concerns, that is another round of issues and problems. He stated he would like to encourage Mr. Roper to work with the Sheriff's office or whoever on those issues.

Councilman Carl Hudson stated he would like to ask a question regarding the Comprehensive Plan. He stated it is his understanding is that it has been over ten years, but it is another warning of the state mandates.

Mr. Roper stated we do not have a choice on the Comprehensive plan, and we have to do one. He stated the statutes are specific about what has to be in it. He stated it has to have six different components, and those components have to incorporate a lot of census data, local survey data, etc. He stated it is an intensive process and if it is going to accurately reflect the citizen's goals and visions for the county, it needs to have extensive public input. He stated it is state mandated. Mr. Roper stated they are hoping for a good product, and looking for something they can look at say that is our collective vision for Pickens County.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Chairman Roy Costner stated they will be going out of order on the agenda if it is okay with Council. He stated they will start out with Log No. 142 – Discussion on Old Jail.

Discussion on Old Jail – Log No. 142

- Mr. Roper stated just to be clear on the discussion of the old jail; we are talking about the old stockade, not the Law Enforcement Center. Mr. Roper showed Council an aerial view of Old Prison Camp Road in Pickens, where the old stockade was located and housed prisoners before the new detention center opened. Mr. Roper showed Council the old stockade from the aerial view, also pointing out the Animal Shelter, Roads and Bridges Department Building, and Public Works Department Building. He stated the facility is in the same condition it was when the Sheriff's Office turned it back over to us. He stated on the aerial picture presented, there is also a church building beside the old stockade. Mr. Roper advised it is on this evenings agenda to discuss potential uses for that vacant facility. He stated that staff does not have a plan at the moment.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated that Rev. Joe Moss is at the meeting tonight, and he is on Central City Council. He stated he has been the pastor that has been running the program at the stockade for the last 5-10 years. He stated he came to Mr. Roper with an idea and has talked to him about issues we run into when people get out of jail. He stated a lot of them have no family to go home too and when they walk out of the jail, they have no choices. He stated we do not want to get into trying to reeducate, but Rev. Moss had some thoughts and ideas. He stated when people get out of jail; the goal is for them to not come back. He stated he thought his idea was a good idea and he would like for him to present his ideas to Council to start a discussion.
- Reverend Moss thanked Council for having him this evening. He stated he would like to create a transition and transformation center. He stated this facility would offer transitional housing, such as shelter, food and independence

with accountability and responsibility. He stated if we had this facility, we could allow them to come to a six month program to help the community. He stated there would be one on one & group coaching, such as social interaction training, access to work keys training and certification, access to GED services, resume writing technical assistance, and job interview coaching.

- Councilman Carl Hudson asked Reverend Moss if he will be doing this in addition to his prison ministry he is already doing in the detention center.
- Reverend Moss stated yes.
- Councilman Hudson stated he has the infrastructure of the people who are already in place, he is just asking for a physical building.
- Rev. Moss stated that is correct. He stated they put this in place around two years ago.
- Councilman Whitehurst asked Rev. Moss what is his vision for the program, and what will happen to them over a six month period.
- Rev. Moss stated they will help them find a job, help them get an education (GED or Associates/Bachelor's Degree), and help them put forth their best effort.
- Councilman Ensley Feemster stated two years ago, a couple of them helped an inmate who could get out of jail as long as he had a place to stay and a job. He stated someone provided a job for him and he paid his first month of rent. He stated everything fell through because they did not keep up with what the guy was doing. He asked Rev. Moss once they go through the training, is there any thought about what will be done after.
- Reverend Moss stated there will be a follow up on each inmate, who is required to hold responsibility and accountability. He stated we will not cut them off once the six month period is over with. He stated a lot of people go through home of the heart who is not even affiliated with drugs, so they are really taking a bed for someone who isn't even on drugs who really needs a place to stay.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked Reverend Moss who is target audience is; state inmates or those who are out on bond awaiting trial.
- Reverend Moss stated those who have served their time, such as state inmates.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he teaches school and he knows a lot of the kids he deals with ends up incarcerated at some point in time. He stated he knows it is very difficult for a kid to get a GED in six months. He asked Reverend Moss if he has studied available programs or talked with the school district.
- Reverend Moss stated they have a Doctorate Superintendent in Anderson who has a program that he can put in place. He stated they have different people in different areas that can help a lot.
- Chairman Costner asked if this is a program he has developed or is it one that he is immolating from somewhere else.
- Reverend Moss stated they developed this program from scratch.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated part of this program will be the people working as well. He stated the stockade used to have a farm. He stated it is not like being in jail.
- After more discussion, Sheriff Clark stated he would like to support Reverend Moss's program. He stated we are ramping behavioral health and it is going to work good, but when the doors open and these inmates get out of jail, that is when he needs Reverend Moss. He stated we are starting them in the jail and focusing on Behavioral and Mental Health, and on our kiosk system, we have education programs and they may be 90% ready for the GED when they go to Reverend Moss. He stated he feels this will be great for everyone if it can be worked out.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated one thing they learned about from the initiatives of the re-introduction programs is that Tri-County Tech is working with truck drivers and there are federal programs out there. He stated he had a question, asking when we turned this over to the Sheriff; part of the reason for the moth ball building was our sewer plant was going to need an upgrade if we continue to use the building.
- Mr. Roper stated there is some concern there and they will be looking into this, but it is a different issue to have a sewer plant that is supporting 75 inmates vs. a small program. He stated they continue to use this area for office space. He stated these things will have to be determined. He stated Reverend Moss and he have talked about this issue and he has watched in the old jail and new jail people come out after they have seen the judge, and they will walk out and start walking down the highway. Mr. Roper stated we will have to set some standards the program will have to meet in order for us to lease the building to a private entity.
- Councilman Whitehurst asked the Sheriff how many people get out of jail, and wind up getting back into jail.
- Sheriff Clark stated they changed software's, and this is something they are looking into. He stated he will get this information back to Council.
- Councilman Whitehurst asked how much it cost to put someone in jail for one year.
- Sheriff Clark stated per day, he would guess around \$53 per inmate. He stated this is not including the mortgage on the jail; this is day to day operations.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated the national average to house an inmate for one year is over \$15,000 a year.
- Chairman Costner stated he would like for staff to explore what this program would look like and bring back more information for Council.
- Mr. Roper stated he thinks the next step is to start figuring out who we are going to contract with, what their rules will be, standards, etc. He stated we will make sure they are insured appropriately for this and look into utilities/maintenance/etc.
- Councilman Whitehurst asked if we could get Ray Farley to look into businesses in the area who are hiring. He stated

we have resources because we have connections with all businesses in Pickens County.

- Mr. Roper stated he feels we need to reach out to the Work Link board because they just got a grant for similar types of situations. He stated we are in the beginning stages of talking about this and he sees Reverend Moss's vision but he just wants to make sure all of Council is seeing the same vision.
- After more discussion, Councilman Whitehurst stated he would like for staff to reach out to these different groups with Rev. Moss and he feels we are going to be developing a new concept. He stated he likes the idea with the schools, technical colleges, etc. He stated there may be people here who could help with the GED or technical training, etc. He stated it is a unified effort of a lot of different groups.

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

Council Action on Log No. 142 – No Action Taken by the Committee.

Clemson Paw Partners – Log No. 143

- Mr. Roper stated we have representatives from Clemson Paw Partners here this evening. He stated Clemson Paw Partners has been a non-profit organization for two years now and was even saving animals before becoming a non-profit. He stated they are looking at taking the next step. He presented several news articles where people are talking about problems with spay and neuter. He stated we have an animal shelter that turns over a great number of animals trying to find homes. Mr. Roper stated we have hundreds of animals go through the animal shelter per month and there is no way we will be able to adopt and rescue out of this problem until we make some kind of low cost spay/neuter available. Mr. Roper presented a map, showing the drive from Pickens County Animal Shelter to Anderson County P.A.W.S. He stated this is the drive we have to make to get our animals spayed or neutered. He stated they are placed in a van and driven one hour one way to get fixed. He stated the Anderson County P.A.W.S. is happy to take our business but they recognize this is not a sustainable plan long term. He stated it takes a great deal of human resources, gas, logistics, etc. He stated there is also the cost of the actual vetting done. He presented the current year budget for medical services and supplies at the animal shelter. He stated this is not every dollar going to Anderson County P.A.W.S., he stated some of this is medical supplies in our facility. Mr. Roper stated we have spent around \$70,000 this fiscal year just in medical expenses. He stated a good percentage of this is what we pay to Anderson County P.A.W.S. Mr. Roper advised that last fiscal year, we spent around \$75,000 at Anderson County P.A.W.S. and we are on track to spend more this year. He stated Clemson Paw Partners has stepped up and said they wanted to look into a low cost spay and neuter clinic. Mr. Roper stated he has been looking into facilities to where we could have this clinic and he thinks the old Central Magistrate building is the best facility to have this. He presented pictures, and stated he met down there last week with Dr. Sanders, who is the director of Anderson County P.A.W.S., just to take her through the building to see if it was suitable. Mr. Roper stated she used words such as "WOW", and "ideal" when we walked through the building. Mr. Roper presented more pictures to Council of inside the building. He stated this location is centrally located within the County and it is close to where Clemson Paw Partners is already doing their work. Mr. Roper stated they are looking into the possibility of Ms. Thompson doing a lease of the building, in agreement with the County. He stated it would cut our travel time, gas, manpower time, etc.
- Ms. Thompson stated they really want a building and they cannot pay a stiff mortgage or lease every month. She stated they want to be self-identifying and not an organization that becomes dependent on the County. She stated they are proposing to fundraise and furnish the equipment. Ms. Thompson stated there will need to be some structure changes on the inside and that is what they would like from the County. She stated they have architects in Clemson and from a business standpoint; she is going to take any freebies she can get. Ms. Thompson stated before they talk about getting a vet, is fundraise and get the place equipped so people can have a visual. She stated they have a great relationship with Clemson Animal Hospital and they are willing to help out. She stated to save the county some money by not hiring their own doctor right away, let us see how this works with a veterinarian from Clemson Animal to come in. Ms. Thompson stated they can do between 15-20 spay and neuters a day. She stated she does not want to be dependent on the county; all she needs is a building. She stated she will be sharing all finances with the county. Ms. Thompson stated that she believes Clemson Paw Partners and the county should partner, but she does not think we should get too far ahead of ourselves until we get this placed equipped and get a layout of the building.
- Chairman Costner asked Ms. Thompson if she is looking to do a public-private partnership with the County or use of the building.
- Ms. Thompson stated she is just looking for the building right now. She stated they have some money reserved that people have given them for something like this. She stated she does not want something halfway done; she wants it done nicely.

- After more discussion, Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he likes that Ms. Thompson is doing this independently and is reaching out to resources so we do not put a strain on the taxpayers.
- Ms. Thompson stated that is their goal and before we go hiring a doctor, let's take baby steps. She stated there is no doubt in her mind that we will eventually outgrow the place.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked if this was a freestanding building or is there a building attached.
- Mr. Roper stated the back of this building is the Pickens County EMS Station.
- Vice Chairman Bowers stated he is assuming we are not talking about totally structurally overhauling this building as much as a couple of things here and there, and utilizing the court room.
- Ms. Thompson stated from looking at the pictures, it would be an excellent surgical and recovery room.
- Vice Chairman Bowers stated he agrees with Ms. Thompson, if they are successful they will definitely outgrow this building. He stated with it being a county building, he wants to make sure we do not do anything that will inhibit anything in the future. He asked if there will be overnight stays at this clinic.
- Ms. Thompson stated not currently, but they have run into some things recently that might require an overnight. She stated they would like to have an enhanced security system and they will pay for that.
- Vice Chairman Bowers stated there is asphalt all around the building and asked if there was any outdoor grass space if need be.
- Mr. Roper stated not really. He stated there is some potty area but not near the library.
- After more discussion, Ms. Thompson stated they will be relying more on volunteers more than anything and they know at some point, we are going to have to pay a vet & a vet tech.
- Councilman Whitehurst asked if she had a plan for the outdoor animals. He stated it is a concern because there is a lot going on there with the EMS Station and Library.
- Ms. Thompson stated yes, Jennifer will be taking care of that. She stated she does not want to put too much finances in just yet, when we have people who are willing to help us do this.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated let's look at the next step, stating this does well and we look at the step of hiring a vet. He stated how would this partnership work, and how will it affect the vets in the area that you are going to now.
- Mr. Roper stated he feels the next step is they are up and running in the building, doing what they do now, but they are able to expand because they have the building. He stated he feels it will be 2-3 years before a vet is hired.
- Councilman Whitehurst asked how much a vet will cost the county.
- Mr. Roper stated it will be around \$140,000.
- Councilman Hendricks asked what the chances are of the vet recouping fees through surgery from the public.
- Mr. Roper stated that is what you hope to happen.
- Ms. Thompson stated she does not feel the need to hire a vet at the moment since they have vets willing to help out.
- Chairman Costner stated she just wants to use the building and she is going to help with the equipment.
- Ms. Thompson stated even though they are occupying the building, if council asked if they wanted to see her numbers, she does not have a problem with that.
- Councilman Whitehurst asked if we pay the same rate to Clemson Animal Hospital as we do Anderson County P.A.W.S.
- Ms. Thompson stated she does not think so. She stated we will pay less than what we pay Anderson. She stated we are allowing people to come off the streets.
- Mr. Roper stated it will cost us less and give us an avenue to grow out of the system we have now. He stated Clemson Paw Partners has been a huge partner with the Animal Shelter and they have a track record with us. He stated they are asking for this facility that we are currently not using. He stated the recommend action for this evening is to recommend first reading in title only at the next council meeting.
- After more discussion, Councilman Whitehurst asked if we will be doing the dollar lease, and will we do the liability insurance.
- Mr. Roper stated yes to the lease, and no, they will have to carry their own insurance. He stated we would do basic maintenance since Pickens County EMS.
- Vice Chairman Bowers ended the conversation stating when he took his dog to the Greenville Humane Society to get fixed; there was a two week waiting list. He stated he guarantees this will be successful.
- Chairman Costner made a motion to take this out of committee for first reading in title only at the March 2nd Council meeting. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers & carried unanimously (6-0).

❖ **Chairman Costner made a motion to take this out of committee for first reading in title only at the**

March 2nd Council meeting. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers & carried unanimously (6-0).

Council Action on Log No. 143 –Chairman Costner made a motion to take this out of committee for first reading in title only at the March 2nd Council meeting. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers & carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Costner read: FIRST READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE LEASING OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 116B COMMONS WAY CENTRAL, SC TO CLEMSON PAW PARTNERS, A NOT FOR PROFIT AGENCY ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF SC AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Chairman Costner stated no second is required since this comes from a recommendation by the Committee. He asked for all those in favor to please signify by raising your hand. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Boards and Commissions Communication – Log No. 130

- Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council, stated where we left off last meeting on this discussion was council asked her to reach out to Greenville Clerk of Council with a few questions. She stated that Greenville's procedures include sending a list of vacant seats to Council weeks in advance to appointing. She stated they only have the application available during the designated application period. Ms. Bradford stated that Greenville County Council finds support for citizens at local churches, community groups and municipal meetings. She stated that social media, newspapers ads, and other online resources help find citizens willing to serve on a board or commission. She stated that the Greenville Clerk advised they use their policy as a framework, and makes changes as needed. Ms. Bradford stated that Ms. Varney, Mr. Ropers Executive Assistant, has been working on a Boards and Commissions Book for Pickens County that includes descriptions of boards, FOIA Laws, Pickens County Boards and Commissions Policy, Responsibilities, etc.
- After some discussion, Ms. Bradford stated she sat down with Mr. Roper and this is their plan they recommend to council for transitioning:
 - March – August: Prioritize appointment only where a quorum is an issue.
 - September 1-30: Application period opens
 - October – November: Council reviews applications and interviews candidates
 - December Council Meeting: Appointments made
 - January 1st, 2021: New terms begin
- Mr. Roper stated when someone is appointed to a board or commission, they serve for indefinite term. He stated the Resolution specifically says they continue to serve at Council's pleasure until reappointment. He stated there may be some people whose term has expired and they carry on serving until the next application period or reappointment. He stated this is in our favor that they carry on.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated so we will be making appointments once a year.
- Mr. Roper stated yes, that is correct unless there is an emergency situation.
- Councilman Hendricks asked how long Greenville County has been doing it this way, and have we heard any feedback from Greenville County Council on how this works for them.
- Ms. Bradford stated their policy was updated in 2017.
- Mr. Roper stated Greenville County staff loves the way this works and we are assuming Council enjoys it this way since they do not have to meet monthly to appoint board members. He stated after appointments are made, they receive a binder that includes all information they will need to know and give the training up front.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated he feels this is more formal and adds value to Boards and Commissions. He stated if we make it important, then citizens will feel that it is more important.
- After more discussion, Councilman Whitehurst made a motion to move forward with the proposal

from staff on Board and Commission Procedure. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

- ❖ **Councilman Whitehurst made a motion to move forward with the proposal from staff on Board and Commission Procedure. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).**

Council Action on Log No. 130 – Councilman Whitehurst made a motion to move forward with the proposal from staff on Board and Commission Procedure. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS TO CERTAIN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Chairman Costner stated this is setting Council up to where we are not stuck doing boards and commissions every meeting. He stated this will help with a more structured plan, and is giving more opportunity for citizens who want to be involved to apply and get on to those boards and commissions.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated for the record, he feels it is important that it will add structure and add more understanding. He stated everything about it makes more sense.

Chairman Costner stated no second is required since this comes from a recommendation by the Committee. He asked for all those in favor to please signify by raising your hand. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

- Mr. Roper stated Council and staff discussed these six options at the council meeting on January 6, 2020:
 - Option 1 – Do nothing; continue at same pace
 - Pave 6 miles per year for a 75+ year life cycle
 - Option 2 – Increase User Fee
 - \$20 road user fee generates \$2,200,000 per year for 658 miles of County roads; County retains 75% or \$1,650,000 for roads, bridges and litter crew. 20 year life cycle would cost \$8,225,000 per year. Increase the road user fee to \$100.00 per vehicle.
 - Option 3 – Raise Property Taxes
 - Under Act 388, the County would be limited to raising taxes by population and CPI growth. First year would increase millage by 5.0 by using rollback allowance and generate about \$2,810,000. The following years would generate an additional \$843,000 per year.
 - Option 4 – Implement Capital Project Sales Tax
 - Add a 1% sales tax for capital improvement type projects. The County currently collects about \$10,000,000 per year. This amount does not include the amount of sales tax for cities. Revenue generated by the cities will be determined by the State.
 - Option 5 – Issue GO Bonds
 - Current debt capacity is \$16,000,000. Issue GO Bonds every two years to generate the \$8,225,000 needed to replace roads each year. Increase debt service millage by 29 mils. No CAP debt service millage under ACT 388.
 - Option 6 – General Fund Balance

- June 30, 2019 unassigned fund balance is \$24 million. This would be a one-time infusion of funds that would cover 3 years' worth of paving. It would reduce investment income for operations to zero. County would have to issue debt to fund operations until taxes come in from taxpayers in December each year. **These are approximate numbers**

- Mr. Roper stated Council may have new questions they would like for him to research further.
- Chairman Costner stated the Municipal Association had their meeting where they discussed being partners with them if we do anything because they have to pay for roads too.
- Mr. Roper stated he received feedback from three of the cities, as well as the Municipal Association itself and they have asked him to come to their next meeting and talk about this process. He stated he has received positive feedback and they are overwhelmingly positive and excited about the process. Mr. Roper stated they see the value in the penny sales tax avenue. Mr. Roper stated they are a step forward, and Council is still discussing on the best way to move forward.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated he would like to look into the report on the condition of our roads. He stated we paid for a study and he would like to know a breakdown of our road conditions on what the cost is to pave our roads. He stated some roads will cost more to pay than other roads, and some roads are in need of being paved than other roads. He stated if you let a road go past a certain point, then the cost goes way up. Councilman Whitehurst stated we need to figure out the funding and also the accurate score of the roads. He stated if 10% of our roads are at a real dire need, then doing a sales tax a year from now may be more expensive to fix that road now than it is to fix it now. He stated we may need to look into taking something out of a surplus or reserves. He stated he wants to know the real score. Councilman Whitehurst stated he wants to know what our critical roads are. Then, he would like to make them into four categories and put a number to what it cost to fix it.
- Mr. Roper stated we have all of this data, and we do need to get it to Council and the public to digest.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated he would like to know the number to fix all the roads, and what the number is for the critical road.
- Councilman Hendricks stated he asked the Clerk to forward an email from a citizen about the gas tax stuff. He asked if Counties could raise gas tax.
- Mr. Roper stated no, this has been confusing for some citizens. He stated the gas tax is a state tax that is placed on every gallon of gas. He stated they are ramping it up trying to address roads. Mr. Roper stated most of that money is going to state highways, and a small percent comes back to the organizations that are confusingly called the county transportation committees. He stated the county transportation committees are state committees and are mandated by their rules to dedicate a portion of it to state paving. He stated they will spend it on local county roads but that are state highways, such as Highway 93. He stated we do not have control over that money.
- Councilman Hendricks stated Councilman Whitehurst asked about the county having an asphalt plan. He asked if there has been any research on this.
- Mr. Roper stated yes, we have started looking at this and we do not have any specific data for Council this evening. He stated our Public Works Director has some experience with this same conversation and he has started pulling some data from Oconee County when they considered it and had the same issue.
- Chairman Costner stated he thinks the asphalt plan is a different idea, but he believes if the government gets into the production of manufacturing, it almost sounds like we are getting into business to compete with other businesses. He stated he feels we will open ourselves up with lawsuits. Chairman Costner stated he thinks we need to do a better job with negotiating with some of the entities that already exist in Pickens County. He stated if we are going to get into the production of manufacturing, then this is like socialism and he does not agree with this.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bower stated he understands Chairman Costner point, but he does not think it hurts to look into doing this.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated he has concerns with this idea. His concern is the expansion of government and outside the role of government. He stated he has struggled with this over the past week as he thinks more about it. He stated he is trying to figure out the most cost effective way. He gave an example, stating we have our own maintenance department who takes care of county owned buildings. He gave another example, stating we do our own payroll services. Councilman Whitehurst stated his struggle is with all governments, we grow and his fear is as government grows, we create jobs with people who have job titles and they do not know what they are supposed to do in their job. He stated they get hired because they knew somebody. He stated as a private sector, as the demand goes up and supply stays the same, the price will increase. He stated what happens is you're paying a higher dollar every time because it demands a higher dollar.

- Chairman Costner stated another problem is the longer we wait to fix the roads, the worst condition they become and it becomes more expensive.
- After more discussion, Mr. Roper stated our Roads and Bridges maintenance crews are stressed right now with doing shoulder work, pot holes, municipal special projects, etc. He stated if we looked at doing asphalt and paving ourselves, we are talking about growing the Roads and Bridges Department.
- Vice Chairman Bowers stated we started building our own bridges a couple of years ago. He stated at the time, the problem was it was not cost affective and we couldn't get anyone to do the work because they were so far out. He stated if you look at the landfill project, it went up in budget because the economy was doing well. He stated the capital it will cost the staff, it may actually cost you more money to run our own asphalt plan.
- After more discussion, Councilman Whitehurst stated if we did not do this route, then we need to look into bringing someone on board who is an expert in this field to manage these projects. He stated let's say we move forward with the penny sales tax, and then we need to bring in an expert to focus specifically on the roads for the \$16 million dollars we would bring in a year.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated when you see these asphalt companies out paving state roads, you always have the DOT crew managing the project. He stated he is not a paver, but he is an expert making sure it is done correctly. He asked if we have looked to see if the 65+ roads that were closed due to flooding where on the list. He stated he is curious to see how many of those roads are in worse condition now due to flooding/rain.
- Mr. Roper stated we have not looked at this.
- Chairman Costner stated SCDOT Deputy Secretary for Engineering, Leland Colvin, came up during the flooding and followed up with a call specifically about some of the state roads where they can see there is a problem and they will start working on them right away. He stated he was impressed with that response and the desire to try to help. He stated we declared the state of emergency so it could set us up based on future opportunities to get funding. He stated there is still a lot out there that they have to figure out. Chairman Costner stated the day after he did a podcast; there was a terrible wreck on Highway 183 where a young man was airlifted to the hospital. He stated this highway is a dangerous road and these are things that we have to put at the forefront of what we are talking about. He stated it is not so much paving a road so it is safe, but it also fixing the roads where it is safe for people to travel. Chairman Costner stated as we continue to look into this, we are going to be under a time constraint based on some the options. He stated if we go the route of the capital penny, then you still have to put together a committee who has to meet and come back with a plan that we may not even want to follow through with. He stated there is a timeline that we have to set in place if we want to explore that avenue.
- Councilman Whitehurst asked what the latest timeframe would be if we decide to make this work.
- Mr. Roper stated based on what Pope Flynn folks were saying that commission would need to be appointed by March-April. He stated Council would appoint the three members from the County.
- Chairman Costner stated there is a Municipal Association Meeting coming up at the end of the month where they would like to have a conversation on this topic and he encouraged Council to attend.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if there were any other funding sources. He stated we have no choice at a half cent and we are looking at \$16 million a year, which is a lot of money to even try to get that much paving done in a year.
- Mr. Roper stated the commission will come back with a list of projects. He stated they may come back with things beyond the scope of paving.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated we have a \$20 road fee now. He stated this tax does not affect unprepared foods, such as grocery store food. He stated he would like to look at what the impact is on the average person on how much tax they will end up paying. He stated if you take away the \$20 road fee, how much this 1% will affect the average income in Pickens County. He stated the people will be voting on this if they know what the impact is and then you can make more of a rational decision if it makes sense or not. He stated having these numbers will better help them understand if this makes logical sense or not.
- Councilman Hendricks stated he feels this needs to be out there as well, what the alternative is to a penny sales tax if that is not the solution. He stated a \$20 road user fee per car is not enough.
- Chairman Costner stated he thinks the people who are driving on the roads should also be paying for the roads. He stated there is a ton of students at Clemson University who use our roads every day and live in different counties/states/countries.
- Councilman Carl Hudson stated if we decide to go down this road, he does not think it should be for anything other than roads. He stated he feels we do not need to have a capital penny sales tax for roads and something else. It should specifically be only for roads. He stated if we go away from this, the public won't support this because the public has been lied to on several occasions. He stated he hears a lot about the referendum on the

school several years ago that did not go right. Councilman Hudson stated this has to be focused and he would not be opposed to putting every road in Pickens County on this list and say roads only.

- Chairman Costner stated the school referendum made him mad as well. He stated we are going to find ourselves in a position where we don't have a choice to pave the roads so we have to have a plan b. He stated if the citizens vote against this, then we can't do it, but we still have to have another way to pay to pave the roads.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated the public needs to understand our roads are paved through that \$20 road user fee. He stated it is not paid out of property taxes, and is not a part of our budget. He stated it is a quarter million dollars a mile to pave. He stated right now, we can pave around 6 miles a year from the money they gather from citizens with the \$20 road user fee. He stated we have 648 miles of road in the County. He stated if this does not pass, the only thing we are going to be able to do is we are going to have to dip into reserves and raise the road user fee.
- Chairman Costner stated the road user fee was put into place in 2001. He stated the cost of everything has gone up over the past 19 years.
- Councilman Feemster stated we cannot do the \$100 road user fee because citizens will not be prepared at first. He stated it would gradually have to increase.
- After more discussion, Chairman Costner asked if the mileage was raised by one mil, which would equate to \$552,000, what this equates to the average tax payer. He stated he does NOT want to do this, he is just asking for clarification.
- Mr. Roper stated he will get this data and let Council know.
- Chairman Costner stated he hates the road user fee because we could tack on \$100, and raise it up to the equivalent of how many mils. He stated he does not like fees because it is a tax and a way to cheat the millage system.
- After more discussion, Councilman Whitehurst stated the one problem with the sales tax is it is not sustainable unless you redo it every eight years. He asked if there was a way to create funding, where the user pays for the funding, where it does not wipe citizens out. He stated a lot of the people using the roads are not paying the road user fee since they live elsewhere.
- Vice Chairman Bowers stated if our ultimate goal is to capture the people using the roads, how we would do this. He stated if we go the route of the penny, it is not really sustainable unless in the seven year period, you prove that you are doing what you are supposed to be doing and the people will see the value of their penny. He stated the penny is sustainable as long as you truly have a plan.
- Councilman Carl Hudson asked what if we go down this road, and it is voted down. He stated there needs to be a real discussion because if it is voted down, it will be voted down because people in Pickens County do not think we need the money. He stated if it is voted down, there needs to be a real discussion on where the taxpayers think we need to cut.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated if voted down, the question is do we raise the road user fee or go back to millage.
- Chairman Costner stated we have been fortunate to have a high revenue stream come through because of how much our county is growing.
- After much more discussion, Councilman Whitehurst asked staff to get the numbers on our cost, and the impact of the 1% sales tax on the average household with different level incomes. He stated this will be good for council so we have an idea and can educate the public with what the impact is.
- Mr. Roper stated as we gather this data, he thinks its best we put this out to the public since it will be on the record anyways.
- Councilman Hudson stated this will not be our information; this is the same information we would get that is being put out to citizens.
- Mr. Roper stated another point he would like to bring up is the county wants this penny sales tax to purely be only for roads, but the municipalities have an equal voice and they may want it to go towards special projects also.
- Councilman Hudson stated he thinks it is important to know that if the municipalities come up with anything other than roads, he is not voting for it. He stated us as Council will not vote for it if it contains buildings, landscaping, etc. because we have to have trust in the people.
- Vice Chairman Bowers stated when we make the list of projects and vote on this, and it is a 3-3 tie, what exactly happens.
- Mr. Roper stated it will not go on the list if it is a 3-3 tie.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated he would like all the information he can get before making a decision, and once the decision is made, it seems things will go quickly.
- Mr. Roper stated Council wants to be transparent, and fully informed.

- Chairman Costner closed, stating he would like for council to have an update at the March Council Meeting.

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

Council Action on Log No. 139 – No Action taken by the Committee.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (6-0).

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Roy Costner announced the following:

- The Committee of the Whole meeting will be on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 6:00 PM in the Main Conference Room of this facility.
- The next Council Meeting will be on Monday, April 6, 2020 at 6:30 PM in this auditorium of this 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.

- Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to add a Personnel Item regarding the Pickens County Board of Voter Registration and Elections. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to add 1st Reading in Title only to amend an existing ordinance of taxes to put is in line with the state accommodations tax collection for AIRBNB and VRBO. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster. Chairman Costner asked if there was any discussion:
 - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers moved to amend Chairman Costner's motion, stating to include it to the Consent Agenda.
 - Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster 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.

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

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION No. 2020-02 RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 52 FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVICE IN PICKENS COUNTY.

Chairman Costner read the resolution as followed:

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 52 FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVICE IN PICKENS COUNTY

WHEREAS, the American Legion is our country's largest veteran service organization, which assists veterans, mentors youth, provides college scholarships and improves communities; and

WHEREAS, American Legion Post 52 was activated in 1945 in Easley, South Carolina, with the emphasis placed on service in the community, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, Post 52 has been in the forefront of working with the youth of the community through sponsoring and being active in projects such as the American Legion Junior Baseball, Boy Scouts, Boys State, Oratorical Contest, and citizenship awards to Junior and Senior High School students; and

WHEREAS, Post 52 has been welcoming veterans from all branches of our Armed Forces for 75 years and will continue to welcome all military personnel serving our country for years to come;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Pickens County Council does hereby recognize The American Legion Post 52 for 75 years of service to Pickens County.

Chairman Roy Costner asked for motion to approve Resolution 2020-02.

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

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL UPDATE BY THE APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS.

Steve Pelissier, the Executive Director of the SC Appalachian Council of Governments, presented Council with a copy of their 2019 Annual Report. He thanked Councilman Ensley Feemster and Chairman Roy Costner for their service on the Board of Directors of the Council of Governments, as well as Ms. Margaret Thompson as a citizen member of the board.

Mr. Pelissier provided an overview of the report to include: the many services provided to Pickens County and other local governments; a review of the return on investment that equated to \$116 to \$1 for Pickens County in 2019 that include funding from Rural Transportation Improvement Program, Federal Direct Grants, Workforce Development, Transit Services and Services to Seniors; grant administration; staff training; etc. Mr. Pelissier also discussed the services that are forthcoming in 2020.

UPDATE FROM ALLIANCE PICKENS

Mr. Roper recognized Ray Farley, Pickens County Alliance Pickens Economic Director. Mr. Roper advised that Mr. Farley has been presented two awards in the past year:

1. The South Carolina Economic Developers' Association Local Developer of the Year for 2019
2. 2019-2020 Appalachian Leadership Fellow in the Appalachian Leadership Institute's Inaugural Class

Mr. Farley stated if any of us have enjoyed any individual success, it is because all of us are pulling the rope together. He stated he is here this evening to discuss two items that Mr. Roper has asked him to present. He stated the first topic is a DOR Summary of Pickens County Fee Agreements, and the second topic is the Pickens County Economic Development Case Study.

Mr. Farley stated in looking over the Department of Revenue Summary of Pickens County Fee Agreements, he stated that two things stuck out to him right away. He stated over the course of the last 18-20 years, this community has clearly tried to diversify its Economy off of the single focus textile activity. He stated some of the diversity of sectors served are textiles, advanced materials, aerospace, fluid control, heavy equipment, space, defense, railroad, lawn equipment, ATVs, fire suppression, medical device, golf, automotive & hydraulic protection. He stated we also look at the diversity of International Ownership, including USA, Germany, Canada, Finland and Denmark.

Mr. Farley stated the State of South Carolina empowers counties like Pickens County to negotiate a fee in lieu of property tax off the 10.5% assessment ratio for manufacturers, down to a statutory low of 6% assessment rate. He stated you can lock this in for a period of 20-30 years, and there is a 5 year capture period by the company.

He presented the following companies:

Milliken & Company

Term	Investment Commitment	Investment	Fee Revenue this Year
2000 – 2030	\$5,000,000	\$27,474,758	\$34,961
2011 – 2041	\$2,500,000	\$8,548,016	\$60,118
2019 – 2049	\$2,500,000	-	-

BASF & Shaw Flooring

Term	Investment Commitment	Investment	Jobs to Date	Fee Revenue this Year
1999-2019	\$26,000,000	\$25,143,385	50 (249 job closure Shaw)	\$38,760

Champion Aerospace

Term	Investment Commitment	Investment	Jobs to Date	Fee Revenue this Year
2010 – 2030	\$2,500,000	\$2,310,068	247	\$10,047

Central Textiles

Term	Investment Commitment	Investment	Jobs to Date	Fee Revenue this Year
2014 – 2034	\$2,900,000	\$5,768,324	140	\$48,665

Danfoss Power Solutions

Term	Investment Commitment	Investment	Jobs to Date	Fee Revenue this Year
2003 – 2023	\$12,000,000	\$13,744,849	258	\$24,036

KP Components

Term	Investment Commitment	Investment	Jobs to Date	Fee Revenue this Year
2012 – 2032	\$10,000,000	\$8,282,315	60	\$44,769

KP Components is growing and building their own building in 2020

Term	Investment Commitment	Investment	Jobs to Date	Fee Revenue this Year
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2020 – 2040	\$14,000,000	-	(35 committed)	-
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Ipsium Technologies/BACI Real Estate/Tri Tech USA

Term	Investment Commitment	Investment	Jobs to Date	Fee Revenue this Year
2010 – 2030	\$4,000,000	\$4,300,000	40 (Tri Tech USA)	\$44,240

IPSUM Technologies – Personal Property

Term	Investment Commitment	Investment	Jobs to Date	Fee Revenue this Year
2019 – 2039	\$13,000,000	-	18 (55 committed)	-

ERA Contact

Term	Investment Commitment	Investment	Jobs to Date	Fee Revenue this Year
2018 – 2038	\$3,360,000	\$4,279,228	25	\$59,044

Wilbert Plastics / Easley Custom Plastics

Term	Investment Commitment	Investment	Jobs to Date	Fee Revenue this Year
2017 – 2037	\$5,000,000	\$6,169,133	280	\$66,103

Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company

Term	Investment Commitment	Investment	Jobs to Date	Fee Revenue this Year
2006 - 2026	\$22,500,000	\$ 28,705,661	713	\$ 248,641
2015 – 2035	\$12,500,000	\$25,127,907	713	\$208,701
2019 – 2039	\$23,100,000	\$10,731,860	713	\$136,048

St. Jude (Now Abbott) Capacitor Facility

Term	Investment Commitment	Investment	Jobs to Date	Fee Revenue this Year
2007 - 2027	\$12,000,000	\$42,779,307	415 (combined)	\$125,815

St. Jude (Now Abbott) Hybrid Facility

Term	Investment Commitment	Investment	Jobs to Date	Fee Revenue this Year
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2010-2030	\$5,300,000	\$30,043,359	415 (combined)	\$83,419
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TaylorMade Golf

Term	Investment Commitment	Investment	Jobs to Date	Fee Revenue this Year
2016-2036	\$13,000,000	\$13,592,628	245	\$158,102

United Tool and Mold

Term	Investment Commitment	Investment	Jobs to Date	Fee Revenue this Year
2019 - 2039	\$11,100,000	\$2,587,466	73	\$32,912

Safeplast

Term	Investment Commitment	Investment	Jobs to Date	Fee Revenue this Year
2019 – 2024	\$4,330,000	\$4,294,474	20	\$58,577

Mr. Farley stated when we were recruiting era contact, they very quickly got a hold of our medal. He stated they know we like to educate children in Pickens County and we do it the best county wide in the state of South Carolina. He stated we have the best technical high school in the state of South Carolina. Mr. Farley stated they like our philosophy and they got it real quick. He stated they put their facility in our community and we partly won this project because of the mentality and philosophy of the community, and the Pickens County Career and Technology Center. He stated they build the plant, the plant was up and running for about a year and the ownership gives him a call asking him how they can educate their adults to the same level as the students hired out of the career and technology center. Mr. Farley stated he contemplated with Danny Merck, SDPC Superintendent, Ken Hitchcock, Jeremy Arnett and very quickly, a training program got put together where that technical high school would condense the school year of the electricity program into a 15 week program for the adults from era contact. He stated this program just ended about 4 weeks ago and the company is ecstatic about it. Mr. Farley stated that word got out, and they have other technology based companies in our community who want to also join this next electricity class. Mr. Farley stated pat on the back to the School District of Pickens County, the Career Center, Jeremy Arnett and others for being prepared. He stated it is all a part of our scholar technician initiative. Mr. Farley asked Council if they have any questions for him.

Councilman Feemster stated one of the things he noticed in public education is that the machining students, who is a senior, was selected to be one of the first people employed at a new industry in Anderson County.

Seeing no other questions, Chairman Costner thanked Mr. Farley.

DISCUSSION ON ROAD USER FEE

Mr. Roper stated he would like to talk a little following the conversation from the last Committee of the Whole meeting on February 10th. He stated he wanted to add some additional information regarding the questions Council had asked for.

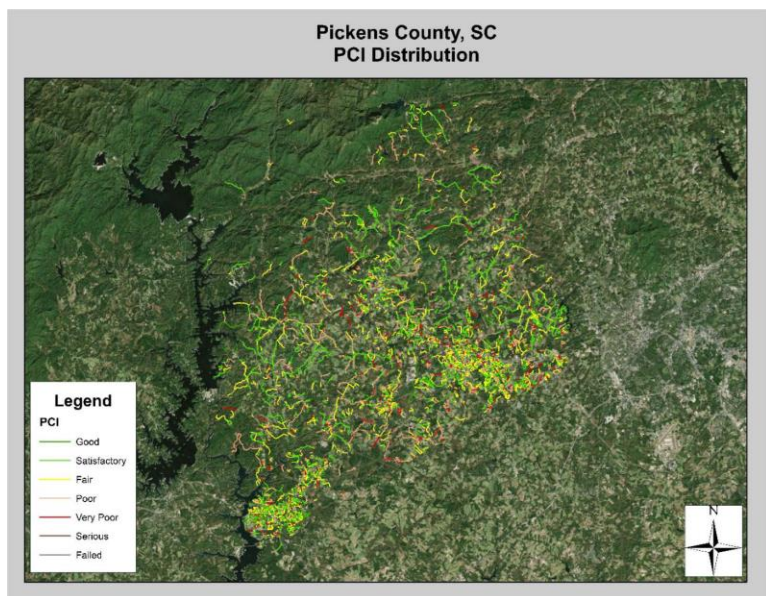
Mr. Roper started off stating he would like to inform Council and the public on the PCI, which is the Pavement Condition Index. He stated a couple of years ago, Council funded a study on all of our roads and most of the data comes from that study. He stated they come up with a PCI rating for each road, with 100 being a perfect road. He presented the chart below:

Pavement Condition Index (PCI)		CONDITION DESCRIPTION
100 86		GOOD
85 71		SATISFACTORY
70 56		FAIR
55 41		POOR
40 26		VERY POOR
25 11		SERIOUS
10 0		FAILED

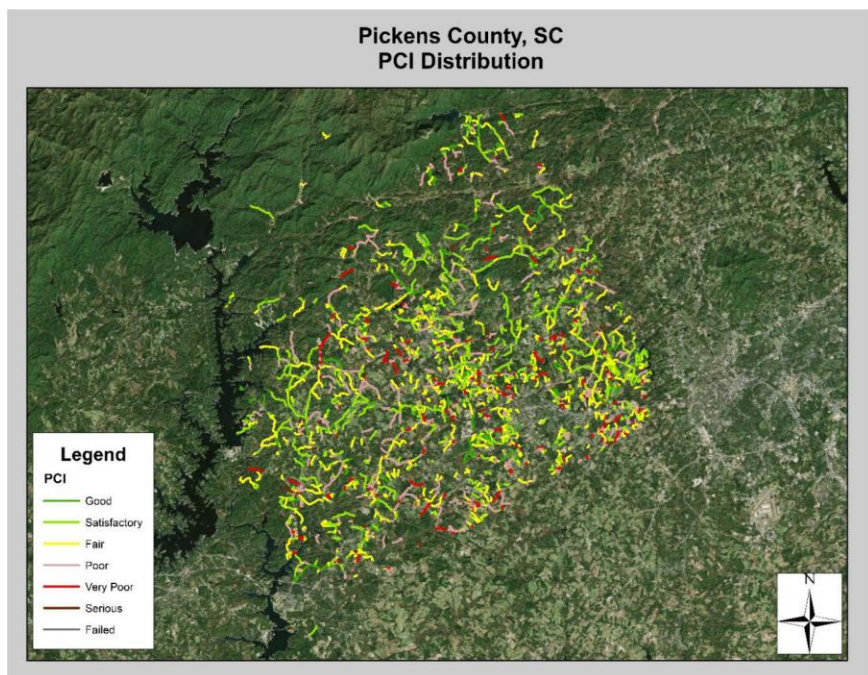
Figure 16: ASTM D6433 PCI Description Groups

Chairman Costner asked if this is the same index used across the state.

Mr. Roper stated yes. He stated Council asked for data back on how our roads rate out. He asked staff to come back with that data. Mr. Roper presented a map of Pickens County PCI Distribution. He stated Green is good, yellow is fair, and red is very poor.

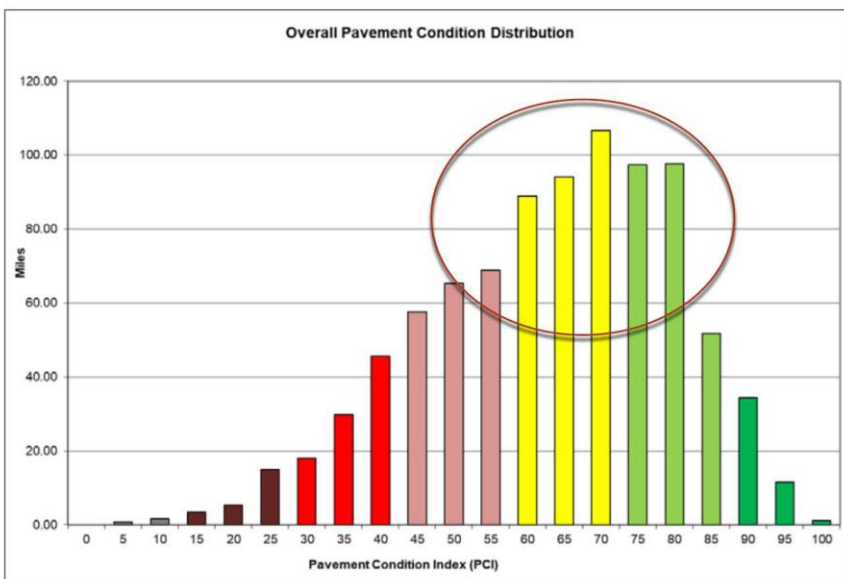


Mr. Roper also presented this map, which takes out all of the Municipal roads.



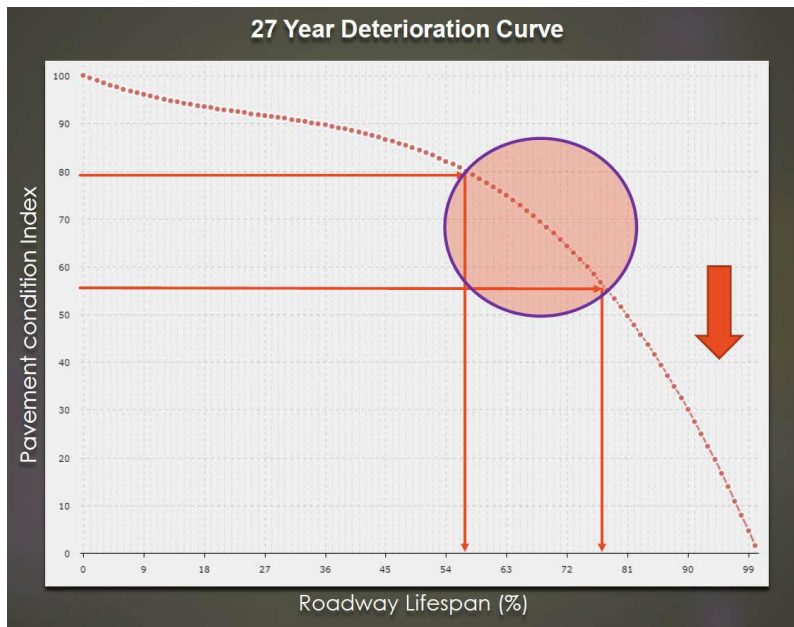
Mr. Roper stated we have every road in Pickens County mapped in our GIS system. He stated we also have a layer this map that shows the condition of this road. He stated he wanted to show Council and the public that we do have this comprehensive view.

Mr. Roper presented the overall pavement condition distribution chart below:

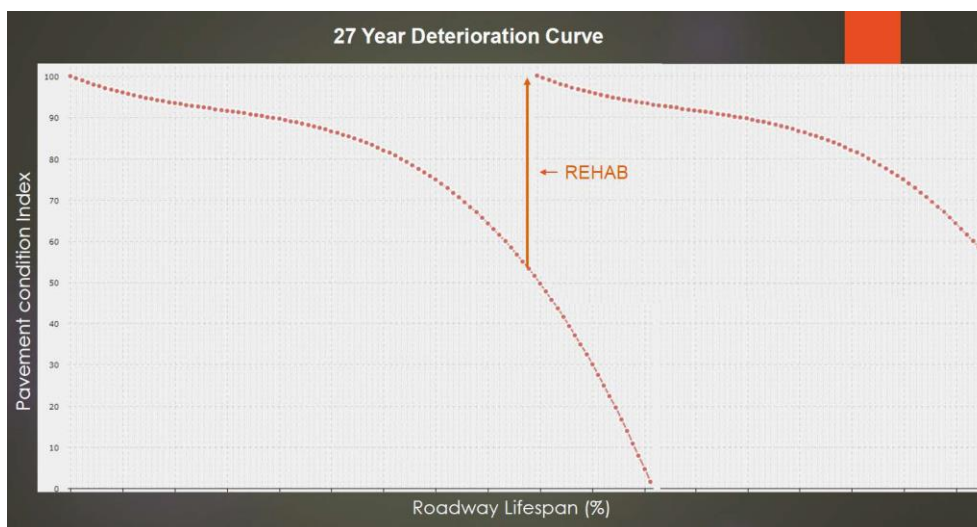


Mr. Roper stated by looking at this map, you will see that we have had 0 roads fail. He stated we have a small amount of roads that need some serious work now, and we have some roads that are beginning to move into the serious category. He stated a majority of our roads are in the fair and good category. Mr. Roper stated we have very few roads that we would rate in excellent condition.

Mr. Roper presented a 27 Year Deterioration Curve chart:

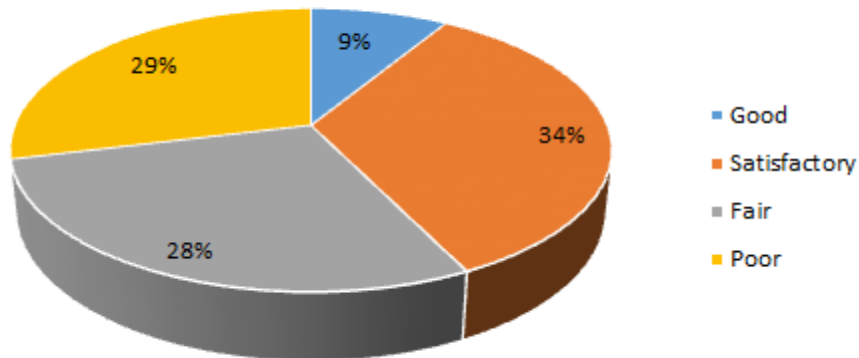


Mr. Roper stated the upper left hand corner is a brand new road, and over time, if left untreated, that road will slowly deteriorate and it is something that people in the industry will tell you is fairly predictable with a curve like that. He stated one of the challenges, when looking at what to do with roads, is how we do what is in the next chart. Mr. Roper presented this chart below:



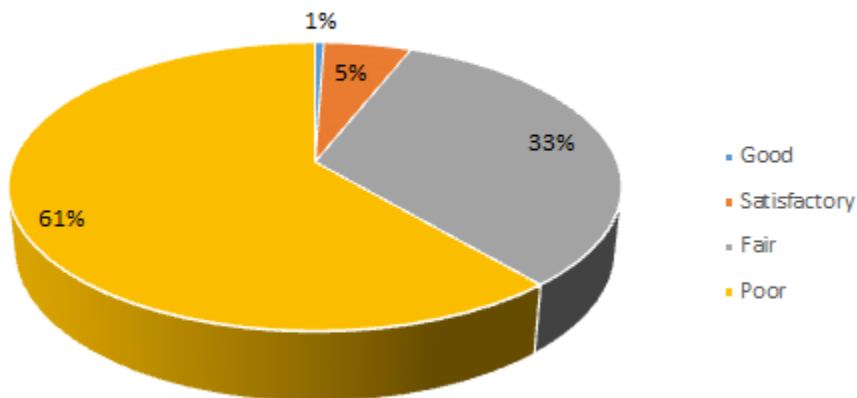
Mr. Roper stated how we shift the curve to where we are delaying that deterioration of the road. He stated this comes from a study they looked at that talk about rehabbing roads. He stated the road is starting to head down that curve, but it hasn't completely failed but can we do things to pop it back up to the top as much as possible. He stated what this chart tells you, if you think about it, are that we can't just look at the old roads, we can't just look at the new roads, and we have to look at a way to blend it. Mr. Roper stated our new Public Works Director, Mack Kelley, has played around with this concept and spent some time explaining this to himself.

Miles of Road Based on PCI - 660 miles



Mr. Roper stated that this chart above represents Pickens County roads. He stated 9% represent good, 34% represents satisfactory, 28% represent fair and 29% represent poor roads. He stated this is taking a PCI Index and looking at all 660 miles of roads in Pickens County and determining how they fall on this chart.

2020 Total Cost to Maintain - \$109M



Mr. Roper stated this chart above is the total cost to maintain roads. He stated if we want to fix everything, it would cost us \$109 million dollars to fix all roads in Pickens County.

Pavement Maintenance Funding Breakdown
from Data Transfer Solutions, LLC Report dated 2018

Treatment Type	Activity	PCI Range	Cost / SY	Cost / 20' Wide Road Mile	Cost / 24' Wide Road Mile
Preservation	Patch - Crack Seal	86-95	\$0.89	\$10,442.67	\$12,531.20
Preservation	Patch - Crack Seal - Single Treatment	71-85	\$2.25	\$26,400.00	\$31,680.00
Preservation	Patch - Crack Seal - Micro Surface	71-85	\$3.63	\$42,592.00	\$51,110.40
Rehabilitation	Patch - Crack Seal - Thin Lift Overlay	61-70	\$14.91	\$174,944.00	\$209,932.80
Rehabilitation	Mill - Patch - HMA Overlay	41-60	\$16.21	\$190,197.33	\$228,236.80
Reconstruction	Full Depth Reclamation - HMA Overlay	0-40	\$29.87	\$350,474.67	\$420,569.60

Moving on, Mr. Roper presented the information above, which is the Pavement Maintenance Funding Breakdown from Data Transfer Solutions, LLC Report dated 2018.

Summary of Scenarios							
Scenario	Description	Annual Budget	5-Yr Total Budget	PCI End of YR 5	Annual Miles Improved	Miles Improved End of YR 5	Notes
1	Do Nothing	\$0	\$0	41.83	0	0	Not realistic
2	Seal and Crack Seal	\$2,000,000	\$10,000,000	47.97	45	225	Not practical b/c we only have 41 miles of eligible roads
3	Fund Reconstruction	\$2,000,000	\$10,000,000	48.11	5.7	28.5	Overall downward PCI trend.
4	25/50/25 Preserve/Rehab/Reconst.	\$2,000,000	\$10,000,000	50.1	18.4	92	Practical with current funding
5	25/50/25 Preserve/Rehab/Reconst.	\$2,500,000	\$12,500,000	51.14	23	115	More funding still does not achieve desired PCI of 65
6	25/50/25 Preserve/Rehab/Reconst.	\$3,000,000	\$15,000,000	52.23	27.6	138	

Mr. Roper also presented a summary of scenarios, going through each scenario and explaining each description, annual budget, 5-yr total budget, PCI end of year 5, annual miles improved, miles improved end of year 5, and notes.

Fix it all now				
Based on 660 miles (percentage below is based on 937.6 Miles)				
	%	Miles	\$/mile 20'	Cost
Good	6.15	57.7	\$10,500	\$605,455
Satisfactor	23.89	224.0	\$26,400	\$5,913,406
Fair	20.05	188.0	\$190,200	\$35,755,470
Poor	20.28	190.1	\$350,500	\$66,645,921
		659.8		\$108,920,251
Fix worst 10% - 660 miles (i.e. 66 miles) =				\$23,133,000
Estimate Annual Miles				
		\$2,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$3,000,000
		(miles)	(miles)	(miles)
Preserve	0.25	11.7	14.7	17.6
Rehab	0.5	5.3	6.6	7.9
Reconst.	0.25	1.4	1.8	2.1
		18.4	23.0	27.6
20-yr Plan - \$110M				
Rehab \$2M - 10.5 miles				
Recon \$3.5M - 10.0 miles				
Annual \$5.5M - 20.5 miles				
At Year 5, 10, 15 & 20				
Preserv \$0.5M - 13.5 miles				
Rehab \$1.75M - 9.2 miles				
Recon \$3.25M - 9.3 miles				
Annual \$5.5 - 32 miles				

Mr. Roper also presented the above charts, explaining the estimated miles you can get from preserve, rehab and reconstruction at different price points. Mr. Roper stated that Mr. Kelley, Public Works Director, stated this does not come anywhere to addressing the problem. Mr. Roper stated to fix it all right now; it would cost \$109 million dollars. Mr. Roper stated if we fix the worst 10% of the 660 miles, which is 66 miles. He stated this would cost \$23,133,000, and that is because the worst roads are so bad.

Mr. Roper presented Council with other scenarios from Mr. Kelley.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated from an engineer standpoint, he felt these scenarios looked great to him. He stated this is really good news, because when we first talked about this, we projected \$170 million dollars. He stated let's take the data, and look at our roads. He stated \$109 million is a huge number but it is actually good news. Councilman Whitehurst stated we looked into a 1% sales tax, which would generate \$15 million dollars, which is a huge amount of money but it does not solve the problem long term. He stated he was looking the answer for the effect of the 1% sales tax on the average person. He stated we have had this road user fee of \$20 per vehicle since 2001. He stated since 2001, we have added roads and the cost of paving has gone up. He stated he would like to know how many roads we have added since 2001, and the increase in price because all prices fluctuate but he never seems to see asphalt prices fluctuate. Councilman Whitehurst stated as a citizen, he gets pissed when the state comes in and fixes a state road, then it fails 6 months later. After more discussion, Councilman Whitehurst stated looking at the chart to him, the drop off point is still 55. He stated once you hit the 55 mark, the cost of the road skyrockets. He stated we can take some injected funds out of reserve, which we have, and see if we can't do that enough to the point where we can get some control of it.

After more discussion, Chairman Costner stated one of the things that Secretary Hall has been talking about was when we look statewide and how we are trying to get to that PCI. He stated their goal was to get to the 50% mark. He stated in 2001, the previous Council put on a \$20 road user fee and he still doesn't like the fee because it is another way of raising taxes.

Mr. Roper stated that Councilman Whitehurst asked how many roads we had in 2001 vs. now. He stated there is a huge complicating factor in this that Council will not like. He stated apparently we changed the way we counted them in 2007, so it is not a 1:1 relationship. He stated prior to 2007, we went back to research and verified that it wasn't just a typo, but at some point in an financial audit, we decided the roads that we actually worked on (170 miles of road) doesn't accurately affect the entire amount of roads that we have now been devolved by the state and by developers. He stated from 2007 forward, there is suddenly 600+ miles of road on the books. He stated it was something where the information we had at roads and bridges did not match the information we had in the finance department.

Councilman Carl Hudson stated it seems to him we could get a good bit of money from the CTC if we can depend on them. He asked if there was a way we can get our delegation along to get the board that makes decisions on that money to work with us more and come up with a plan. He stated it is supposed to go to County roads. He stated you never know if you don't ask. He stated that money may be better spent in our plan that we did the road study on. He stated we all want the same thing, and that's to get the road in good shape.

Mr. Roper stated it is a little frustrating, like many things, where you are dealing with divided levels of government. He stated for the knowledge of the folks here, the CTC is the County Transportation Committee. He stated the CTC sound like it is us, but it isn't county government. He stated there are 46 County Transportation Committee's and they are set up by state law and their mechanism for the SCDOT to allocate money to local roads. He stated the money comes from the gas tax, goes into the counties CTC, and the CTC's sit down and have different priorities. He stated these committees are not recommended by Council, they are recommended by the Delegation and appointed by the Governor. He

stated through our County engineer, or roads and bridges department, will make an application to send the CTC.

Chairman Roy Costner asked if we could go back and look at the past ten years, the CTC got how much money and what percentage went to the State roads, and what percentage came to the county.

Vice Chairman Bowers asked if this was the same pot of money that the Secretary of DOT was referring to using for the farm market roads and safety improvements. He asked Mr. Roper if he would check on this as well. He stated one of the big issues is that you have three projects across the state, none of which are in Pickens County. He stated we are talking \$45 million in improving Highway 183, which we have been talking about for years.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated as we learned tonight, we also have ACOG funds available. He stated his problem with the state is you see them tearing up a road completely, and repaving it, yet it is a perfectly good road. He stated that is one of his problems is how this stuff is done because it is always wasted. He stated a lot of times, as a person who understands a little about this, it's frustrating and we need to make sure we are analyzing our roads.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated he would like to see the curve for the number of registered vehicles in the counties the past 5-10 years. He stated he would also like to see traffic studies with how many cars have been on the roads the past few years.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if Mr. Roper could share the data received from the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office regarding the estimated sales tax burden from a 1% capital project sales tax.

Mr. Roper shared the following:

Estimated Sales Tax Burden from a 1% Capital Project Sales Tax			
Household Size	Average Annual Expenditures	Average Annual Expenditures on Items Subject to Sales Tax	Average Annual Sales Tax per Household at 1%
1 person	\$30,292	\$7,241	\$72
2 persons	\$55,011	\$13,782	\$138
3 persons	\$61,021	\$14,092	\$141
4 persons	\$67,820	\$15,646	\$156

Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if the money they say we will generate, which is around \$15 million, is that based on just the people in the county, or all people who come out of counties as well.

Mr. Roper stated they are estimating what we would receive in total sales of the year. He stated they do not care for that analysis, whether they are in county or out of county.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if there was a way to figure out how many cars would be in the average household.

Mr. Roper stated we could probably see how many bills go to one address, but that would probably be the only way.

Councilman Feemster stated one of the things he learned is that you can tell which roads are maintained by the state, and which are maintained by the county. He stated the state roads have a white line down the edge of the road and he did not know that until recently.

Chairman Costner asked if there were any other questions.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated we are going to discuss this in more detail during the Committee of the Whole. He stated this is the public's money, and he encourages the public to be a part of this conversation. He stated we are trying to figure this out just like you are.

PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 580 TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE, AT THE TIME OF ITS INITIAL DEVELOPMENT, GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND TO INCLUDE CERTAIN PROPERTY NOW OR TO BE OWNED BY A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AT THIS TIME AS "PROJECT AZTEC" OR ITS ASSIGNEE, AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS 1976, SECTION 4-1-170 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH OCONEE COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE ALLOCATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAX; AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Chairman Roy Costner opened the public hearing for comments regarding Ordinance 580. Seeing none, Chairman Costner declared the public hearing closed.

Chairman Costner asked for a motion to approve first reading in title only of Ordinance 580.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. ATAX Ordinance - *Committee of the Whole (as added during Motion Period and New Business)*
 - Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers 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 Wes Hendricks, 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.

Personnel - Section 30-4-70 (a) (4)

- Pickens County Board of Voter Registration and Elections (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*)

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

- Board and Commission Vacancies:
 - a) Accommodations Tax Committee
 - b) Assessment and Appeals

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) (4)

- Pickens County Board of Voter Registration and Elections – *No Action Taken*

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

- Board and Commission Vacancies:

- a. **Accommodations Tax Committee** – Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to appoint Ashley Corso, and reappoint Dean Andrews, Jr. to the Accommodations Tax Committee. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).
- b. **Assessment and Appeals** – Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to appoint Kathryn Davenport to the Assessment & Appeals Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

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 9:51 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

Roy Costner, Chairman of County Council