

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

April 5, 2021

6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium of the County Administration Facility, with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to members of council and local news media on March 30, 2021.

Council Members in Attendance:

Chris Bowers, Chairman

Roy Costner, Vice Chairman

Trey Whitehurst, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Alex Saitta

Ensley Feemster

Henry Wilson

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Les Hendricks, Contract Attorney

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the meeting of April 5, 2021 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Vice Chairman Roy Costner led the Invocation, and Veteran Fred Wakefield led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council presented a Certificate in Honor to Veteran Fred Wakefield, thanking him for his service.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Chris Bowers opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to call upon the citizens signed up to speak, and who left a voicemail through the County phone in Council Chambers.

1. Elaine Masceri: Ms. Masceri stated she is here this evening to discuss concerns that many of us in Pickens County have about the lack of specifics in the Animal Control Ordinances in this county. She stated our concerns deal with the safety of our children and our pets. She stated too many times, there is an act of aggression by a dangerous dog or animal and there is a reluctance to prosecute because of the vagueness in the interpretation of the law. Ms. Masceri stated to be clear, she is not here to change the law but to add more specifics to it. She stated she is basing some of her suggestions on a comparison with other SC County Animal Ordinances. Ms. Masceri cited the following:
 - a. Section 4.4, items 1&2: we'd like the words domestic animals included with people & property when a dangerous dog threatens.
 - b. Section 4.5, abandonment: we'd like a specific amount of time stated that a dog owner in violation has to respond to a citation. And, how many days can a dog be abandoned before the owner is cited.
 - c. Section 4.7, animal care: state the specific time that a dog owner in violation has to respond to a citation. And, how many days can a dog be without food, water and shelter before it is considered a violation.

Ms. Masceri stated there are no specific fines listed for impounding and violation notices. Ms. Masceri ran out of time to speak, she presented a handout to Council with the remaining changes she would like to see in the Animal Ordinance for Pickens County.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to approve the following minutes as presented:

- March 1, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

- Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, and seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion:
 - Vice Chairman Roy Costner moved to amend the motion, stating the title for his name on page 13 of the minutes needed to be changed to Vice Chairman, not Chairman. Councilman Ensley Feemster seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously (6-0).
 - Councilman Alex Saitta moved to amend the original motion, stating he would like the cost of the Highway 11 ACOG study to be in the minutes.
 - The Clerk to Council pointed out that the cost, \$7,500, was in the minutes.
 - Councilman Saitta pulled his motion from the floor.
- Seeing no other discussion, the motion carried unanimously (6-0).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

COVID-19 Response Briefing

Mr. Roper updated Council on COVID-19 cases in Pickens County. Mr. Roper stated there are currently 431 active cases reported in Pickens County, within the last 14 days. He stated there have been two hundred eighty-two (282) deaths in Pickens County due to COVID-19. He advised a total of 17,708 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Pickens County since March 20th, 2020.

Mr. Roper presented a photo of the jonquils planted in honor of the 200+ deaths in Pickens County due to Covid-19. These jonquils are planted in front of the Administration Building sign.

Mile Creek Park

Mr. Roper gave a brief update on Mile Creek Park's Total Revenue, Camping Revenue, Annual Pass Revenue and Day Pass Revenue between 2019 and 2020.

Mr. Roper stated due to several issues regarding parking in the day use area, PRT has implemented a policy change regarding shelter rentals. He stated shelters will now only be available to rent during weekdays through Reserve America, Shelters will be first come, first serve on weekends.

Chief Chris Rowland and Lieutenant Jonathan Bryant, Liberty Fire District

Mr. Roper stated on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 1:26 p.m., Liberty Fire Department was dispatched to a structure fire on Pickens Drive. He stated Chief Chris Rowland arrived on scene to find a working, active fire with two males attempting to rescue a female and throwing a rope through a window. He stated as Chief Rowland went to assist the two men, the men were forced to retreat because of high heat and smoke. Chief Rowland continued the rescue attempt anyway, but an obstruction inside the window was making it impossible to pull the lady to safety. He stated Lieutenant Jonathan Bryant arrived with the first fire engine and joined Chief Rowland at the window. Despite heavy smoke and the fire conditions in the structure, these two men stayed the course and successfully removed the female from the residence. Mr. Roper stated the patient was treated by our own EMS, airlifted from the scene to the Augusta Burn Center, and got further treatment there. He stated the two civilians who attempted to rescue were also treated for smoke inhalation by Pickens County EMS. He stated that Billy Gibson stated, "*Although firefighters are trained to handle emergency situations, this structure fire with a confirmed entrapment and rescue in*

process is a highly stressful scenario requiring personnel perform with the utmost skill and concentration. Chief Chris Rowland and Lieutenant Jonathan Bryant exemplified these characteristics during this incident.” Mr. Roper stated the citizen has returned home and is recovering. He thanked Chief Rowland and Lieutenant Bryant for their professionalism and commitment to our citizens.

Solid Waste Needs

Mr. Roper presented the chart below to Council on the C&D Transfer Station daily totals, tracking from March 1 – March 30.

C&D Transfer Station daily totals											
Date	Loads/Twin Chimney	Avg.Tons	Total tons	Pulls	BG Pulls	AVG.Wait	BG Tons	Scale In	Dumped	No Dump	Rev. Loss
3/1/2021	3	9	27	27	9	55 min.	28.35	55.29	27	28.29	1329.63
3/2/2021	6	9	54	22	8	72 min.	25.20	95.08	54	41.08	1930.76
3/3/2021	2	9	18	27	8	70 min.	25.20	54.74	18	36.74	1726.78
3/4/2021	4	9.25	37	23	11	59	34.65	73.01	37	36.01	1692.47
3/5/2021	3	9	27	22	9	110	28.35	52.57	27	25.57	1201.79
3/6/2021	2	9	18	35	13	0	40.95	40.95	18	22.95	1078.65
3/7/2021			0						0	0	0
3/8/2021	3	9	27	22	8	60 min	25.20	49.32	27	22.32	1049.04
3/9/2021	4	9	36	22	7	55 min.	22.05	52.24	36	16.24	763.28
3/10/2021	4	9	36	24	9	55 min.	28.35	56.03	36	20.03	941.41
3/11/2021	4	9	36	27	10	85 min.	31.50	50.73	36	14.73	692.31
3/12/2021	4	9	36	34	12	40 min.	37.80	69.65	36	33.65	1581.55
3/13/2021	0		0	38	20	0	63.00	63.00	0	63	2961
3/14/2021			0						0	0	0
3/15/2021	4	9	36	27	10	35 min.	31.50	57.11	36	21.11	992.17
3/16/2021	3	9	27	33	12	35 min.	37.80	57.38	27	30.38	1427.86
3/17/2021	3	9	27	42	9	20 min.	28.35	52.05	27	25.05	1177.35
3/18/2021	3	9	27	26	9	20 min.	28.35	43.29	27	16.29	765.63
3/19/2021	2	9	18	33	12	20 min.	37.80	58.51	18	40.51	1903.97
3/20/2021	0	0	0	28	12	0	37.80	37.80	0	37.8	1776.6
3/21/2021			0						0	0	0
3/22/2021	2	9	18	46	18	20 min.	56.70	58.15	18	40.15	1887.05
3/23/2021	2	9	18	32	13	20 min.	40.95	101.46	18	83.46	3922.62
3/24/2021	3	9	27	12	7	20 min.	22.05	50.78	27	23.78	1117.66
3/25/2021	2	9	18	22	9	20 min.	28.35	41.34	18	23.34	1096.98
3/26/2021	2	9	18	24	9	20 min.	28.35	43.12	18	25.12	1180.64
3/27/2021	0	0	0	41	20	0	63.00	63.00	0	63	2961
3/28/2021			0						0	0	0
3/29/2021	2	9	18	37	13	0	40.95	85.14	18	67.14	3155.58
3/30/2021	3	9	27	34	12	0	37.8	54.21	27	27.21	1278.87

Mr. Roper also presented data on the Capital Improvement Plan from October 26, 2020. He stated one of the things we budgeted for is for about \$358,000 for landfill roads and the scale house.

Budget Calendar

Mr. Roper stated that Council received their budget notebooks this evening and in that notebook, there is a budget calendar for this fiscal year.

Mr. Roper asked if Council had any questions for him.

Councilman Saitta asked how many of the roll-off trucks at the landfill are typically rolling throughout the day on the road.

Mr. Roper stated we usually have 4 rolling, but we need 6-7 to be self-sufficient.

Councilman Saitta asked about the Highway 11 overlook.

Mr. Roper stated the Highway 11 overlook went out to bid. He stated we have gotten some grant funding to help us with that. He stated we received \$100,000, committed from CTC funds, we had \$57,000 committed to us in a grant from State PARD, and then our portion of that would be \$14,500 as our local match. He stated we had a total budget of around \$170,000. He stated the only bid that came back was from Thrift and that bid was for \$195,000. He stated he has instructed our engineer to go back to Thrift and see

if there are some things that we can do ourselves to get it back to the budget amount. He stated this should be resolved by the end of the week.

Councilman Saitta stated he would like to visit all the EMS stations.

Mr. Roper stated he will get with Director Billy Gibson to see when he is available to escort Councilman Saitta around the EMS stations.

Vice Chairman Roy Costner thanked Mr. Roper for the information he sent regarding the Fire Departments dispatch calls. He stated we also asked for the same information from the Sheriff's office. He asked if we have that information.

Mr. Roper stated he has talked with the Sheriff and Chief Deputy regarding this request. They have stated it will be very time consuming on their part and they have not given that data.

Vice Chairman Costner stated he has spoken with former Councilman Hudson and he stated it is a CAD report that you can pull in a day. He stated this will be information that we all need as a part of our budget process. Vice Chairman Costner asked since it is a CAD report, can our IT Department not pull this data.

Mr. Roper stated he does not believe they can pull this report but he will double check.

- After more discussion, Councilman Wilson stated the budget process is a very methodical process and as a body, we feel this information is cogent to the discussion of the budget. He made a motion to remove the discussion of the sheriff's department from the budget until they provide the information necessary. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Committee of the Whole met in Main Conference Room, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, March 15, 2021. All members of the committee were in attendance, with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding. Councilman Alex Saitta led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Solid Waste Needs – Log No. 133

- Mr. Roper introduced Mack Kelley, Public Works Director, to Council and stated he is there in case Council has any questions. He stated the reason he asked for this to be on the agenda is that we are about two weeks into a process and that process is long anticipated. He stated the process is that our C&D Landfill is now at its capacity. Mr. Roper stated staff believes the landfill first opened in 1976. He stated in the 1980's, there was a federal law that changed that caused us to reclassify landfills. He stated we had what was classified as a MSW Municipal Solid Waste landfill, and that continued municipal solid waste household garbage. He stated we continued taking that until 1988. Mr. Roper stated he talked with the previous Administrator and previous Public Works Director about this history. Mr. Roper gave an overview on the history discussed with the previous Administrator. He discussed with Council that the past two weeks, staff has seen a lot of lines with contractors and citizens trying to get into the facility. He stated his staff has been telling him this will happen because of the way the system works. He stated we decided the best thing for us to do is to execute the plan, see where the deficiencies work and come back to Council with all recommendations in that regard. Mr. Roper presented photos of the landfill, and a map of the landfill. He gave Council an overview on how the C&D Transfer Station works and an analogy on what happens when people dump their construction, demolition debris, etc. Mr. Roper stated one of the challenges we have is the C&D transfer truck has to drive to Greenville, and we want it to be completely full. He stated he made the call last week to get some rental trucks, that we have a lot of equipment breakdowns, and repurpose our roads and bridges guys. He stated we have had to get caught back up by using roads and bridges personnel to do that. After more discussion, Mr. Roper

stated the decision he made was that the services the customers are expecting he needs to provide. He stated the biggest improvement that the Director recommends is getting people to not be contingent upon our placement of things in this facility. He stated a truck should not be sitting there waiting for us to figure out the best way to place material in a trailer. Mr. Roper presented an aerial photo of the landfill and went into discussion on each building and the traffic flow. He stated there is some good news, when we built into the five-year capital improvement plan for Fiscal Year 2022, we actually put in the capital improvement plan "Landfill road and scale house reconfigure." He stated it is scheduled for next fiscal year. Mr. Roper went into discussion on the capital improvement plan. He asked Council to think about going ahead to spend that cash, in fund balance, to reconfigure this road to try and make this facility work more efficiently.

- Chairman Bowers asked what the total amount would be.
- Mack Kelly, Public Works Director, stated just the sorting area would be around \$120,000, and that is Pickens County staff doing it ourselves.
- Council and staff had limited discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Round trips to Greenville landfill and pricing
 - C&D Shredder/grinder
 - Sorting Facility
 - Planning 10-15 years out for future
 - Future planning on purchase of new landfill
 - Adhoc Committee to look into the next steps and long-term solution (Henry Wilson, Trey Whitehurst and Alex Saitta)
 - Private companies to transfer trash
- After much more discussion, Mr. Roper stated he would also like to have the flexibility to buy a truck and a couple of trailers if need be.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to approve moving an allocation of \$358,400 from fund balance, for this capital project, forward into this year's budget for Solid Waste. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).
- ❖ **Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to approve moving an allocation of \$358,400 from fund balance, for this capital project, forward into this year's budget for Solid Waste. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).**
- **Council Action on Log No. 133:** Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to approve moving an allocation of \$358,400 from fund balance, for this capital project, forward into this year's budget for Solid Waste. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Chris Bowers stated no second is required of this motion as it comes from a recommendation from the Committee. Chairman Chris Bowers asked if there was any discussion:

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he met with the Public Works Director to discuss. He asked Mr. Kelly to give additional information about the shredder.
- Mr. Kelly gave Council a brief update on the shredder; including how it works, costs, etc. He stated a lot of this information will be better discussed in a longer time period like the Solid Waste Adhoc Committee meeting coming up. Mr. Kelly shared his plan on what the \$358,400 money will be used for. He stated the \$120,000 would be for the sorting area, one additional trailer for \$100,000 and \$125,000 to close the landfill.
- Mr. Kelly presented the following decision table:

Decision Table

Can the purchase minimize the pinch point that is causing delays at the scales?

Would this purchase minimize the need for additional staff?

Can this purchase/expense still be used long term?

Note that the cost are order of magnitude cost. Cost noted as "per year X 5" are based on a lease purchase option (5-year) that includes expected maintenance.

PURCHASE	PINCH POINT	MINIMIZE STAFF	LONG TERM	COST
SHREDDER	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$345K per yr X 5
SORT AREA	Yes	No	Yes	\$120K
TRUCKS & TRAILERS	No	No	No	\$360 per yr X 5
EXT LANDFILL LIFE	Yes	Yes	No	\$490K per yr X 5
CLOSE LANDFILL	No	No	Does Not Apply	\$135K
RELOCATE MULCH AREA	Yes	Does Not Apply	Yes	\$185K
PIGGY BACK LANDFILL	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$490 per yr X 5
LANDFILL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unknown
SCALE - 2-LANE	Yes	Does Not Apply	Yes	\$185K
TS CONC SORT AREA	Yes	No	No	\$200K

Notes from above

- 1. The Shredder, if a decision is made soon, can be delivered within 30 days.
- 2. Very limited stock available for trucks and trailers so we don't have a good estimate of cost or expected delivery time (we are told if ordered today, the soonest we could expect delivery would be October).
- 3. The Landfill Compactor is at the end of its life, so we would have to lease purchase a Landfill Compactor for this option.
- 4. As noted above, the Landfill Compactor is at the end of its life (repair costs were quoted to be near \$60k). This cost is for Roads & Bridges staff to do the work and rent the necessary equipment (a rented Landfill Compactor is expected to cost approximately \$20k).

- After much more discussion between Council, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Roper, Councilman Wilson made a motion to remove the \$125,000 to close the landfill and seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).
- Chairman Chris Bowers stated the amended motion from the Committee would be to approve moving allocation funds from Fund Balance in this year's budget for a Solid Waste Capital Project, totaling \$220,000, for a trailer and for a sorting area. The motion carried unanimously (6-0), approving this log item as amended.

Emergency Services Update – Log No. 169

- Mr. Roper stated that Director Billy Gibson will be giving an update to Council on Emergency Services.
- Director Gibson stated the Emergency Services Board was put into place three years ago to help oversee all aspects of emergency services. He stated the first thing they were tasked with was with the fire service, how it is funded, how it is sustained and things of that nature. Mr. Gibson stated the biggest thing that has taking up most of their time has been the reconfiguration of the nine fire-fee based fire districts. He stated that Mr. Roper will be passing out a proposal from the Emergency Services Board on the fire fees. He stated if you recall, in October of last year, there was some discussion about a framework for how we make the fire fees more equitable and more fair, and base it on square footage. Mr. Gibson stated the chairman of the Emergency Services Board wanted to present to Council a recommendation from them on the fire fee structure.
- Below is what the Emergency Services Board recommended to Council:

Residential	# of Units	Fee	Revenue
Residential 0 to 1249	11,814	90.00	\$ 1,063,260
Residential 1250 to 1499	5,354	110.00	588,940
Residential 1500 to 1749	4,490	130.00	583,700
Residential 1750 to 1999	3,256	150.00	488,400
Residential 2000 to 2249	1,903	170.00	323,510
Residential 2250 to 2499	1,202	190.00	228,380
Residential 2500 to 2999	1,028	210.00	215,880
Residential 3000+	724	230.00	166,520
	29,771	Total	\$ 3,658,590
Commercial	# of Units	Fee	Revenue
Commercial 0-1500	264	200.00	\$ 52,800
Commercial 1501-3000	330	350.00	\$ 115,500
Commercial 3001 to 5000	228	500.00	114,000
Commercial 5001 to 10000	177	700.00	123,900
Commercial 10001 to 20000	77	1,000.00	77,000
Commercial 20001 to 30000	20	1,350.00	27,000
Commercial 30001 +	59	1,800.00	105,200
	1,155	Total	\$ 616,400
Industrial	# of Units	Fee	Revenue
Industrial			\$ -
		Total	\$ -
Multi Family Living units	# of Units	Fee	Revenue
Multi Family Living units	640	170.00	\$ 108,800
	640	Total	\$ 108,800
		Total Revenue	\$ 4,383,790
		Current Revenue	\$ 4,419,735
		Difference	\$ (35,945)

- Council and staff had limited discussion that included, but was not limited to:

- Multi-family living units
- Vice Chairman Costner explained this fire fee structure to Councilman Saitta and Councilman Wilson, since this ordinance was passed before they came on Council.
- Amount of calls dispatch receive with cars on fire
- Budget 2021-2022
- Industrial property in Pickens County
- Annual number of calls to dispatch for fire and medical
- Average price per square footage
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated this is something we can discuss for the budget. He stated this is a preview for what's to come.
- Seeing no other discussion, the Chairman stated he would like to move forward with the next item on the agenda.
- **No action taken by the committee.**

Council Action on Log No. 169: No Action Taken by the Committee.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 34 OF THE PICKENS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES SO AS TO PROVIDE REMEDIES AND PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL LITTER AND DUMPING IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF PICKENS COUNTY, AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO. – Log No. 171

- Mr. Roper stated if Council deems appropriate, he would like for this topic to be a round table discussion. He stated he is looking for Council's thoughts and feedback on how to go forward. He stated as we go through this process over the next couple of months of talking about this problem, in conjunction with this ordinance, that we publicize this and then we do it with something in mind. He stated he would like an actual plan to address the litter in Pickens County, rather than just pass an ordinance and hope everything gets better in that regard. Mr. Roper stated he would like to present some information that the Sheriff's Office put together for us. He stated it will take Education, Remediation and Enforcement to fix the litter problem in Pickens County.
 - **Education** – Keep America Beautiful
 - **Remediation** – Litter Crews/inmate labor, Team Up and Clean Up, Five on Friday
 - **Enforcement** – Updating ordinance to enhance enforcement
- Mr. Roper stated there is a larger problem here than just having the right number of people pick up trash.
- Chief Chad Brooks gave an update on inmate labor. He stated when COVID struck, most of our inmate labor that is on litter crews comes from family court commitments or county sentenced inmates. He stated when COVID hit, the Chief for the entire state sent out an order that all family court committed inmates will be released, so they released every family court committed inmate.
- Mr. Roper stated continuing the conversation and continuing to publicize what we all talk about is a part of what we need to do. He stated we need to identify the problem before we get too far out there.
- Council and staff had limited discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Enter into long-term lease with Forestry for Long Shoals
 - What happens when caught littering (by getting licenses plate number)
 - Trash Bash Program
 - More discussion on inmates doing litter pickup
 - Litter Control officer
 - Council's generosity to the Sheriff's Office
 - General sessions case on illegal dumping
 - "Team Up Clean Up" Pickens County
 - Partnerships
- Mr. Roper stated the next steps would be that Keep America Beautiful program is ready to roll out, and Council will have a resolution authorizing to move forward hopefully at the next Council meeting. He stated staff will continue to talk with the Sheriff's office and magistrate on how to adapt to our county ordinance and continue with public campaigns that we have going on. He stated we do not have an employee "Team Up and Clean Up" scheduled but employees are doing this in their own way. He stated we have tried to publicize the five on Fridays each Friday. He stated as staff, we need to come up with a comprehensive marketing strategy.

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

Council Action on Log No. 171: No Action Taken by the Committee.

501-C3 Boards that Pickens County is currently supporting – Log No. 170

- Mr. Roper stated that Council has some information in their package showing the 501-C3 boards that staff came up with. He stated some of these boards work better than others.
- Mr. Roper presented the boards to Council.
 - 501(c)3 Organizations
 - Alliance Pickens
 - Economic support for the county
 - Function as an adjunct of county staff
 - Two representatives from Council serve on this board
 - Hagood Mill Foundation
 - Promotes and operates the Hagood Mill
 - Finance Director, Ralph Guarino, has helped this board with their financial reports
 - Friends of the Library
 - Raises funds for Library system
 - Excellent job with paperwork
 - Performing Arts Center
 - Raises funds for the PAC
 - Museum Board
 - Raises funds for the Museum
 - Pickens County Meals on Wheels
 - Note: outstanding mortgage in favor of county
 - Rescue Squads
 - Note: equipment provided by County
- **Council and staff had limited discussion that included, but was not limited to:**
 - Detailed background information on rescue squads and how they started
 - Bylaws and tax returns for these boards
 - Who has institutional control of these boards
 - Ordinance to create these 501-C3's
 - Mortgage for Pickens County meals on wheels
 - American Rescue Act – includes money that specifically made available to the counties to provide the non-profits
 - Policy for county funding
- After much more discussion, Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion for staff to come up with a format with a formal application for people who are applying for county funds. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).
- ❖ **Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion for staff to come up with a format with a formal application for people who are applying for county funds. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).**

Council Action on Log No. 170: Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion for staff to come up with a format with a formal application for people who are applying for county funds. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Chris Bowers stated no second is required of this motion as it comes from a recommendation from the Committee. Seeing no discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Council Rules (Section 3.5, Rule 2, and Section 4.3) – Log No. 161

- Chairman Bowers stated that Councilman Saitta asked for this to be on the Committee of the Whole agenda.
- Councilman Saitta stated there are three items in the rules that he wanted to look at:
 1. **Section 4.3: Agendas**
- Councilman Saitta stated he originally had an older version of Council Rules, but realized that public input was in Council rules so he no longer would like to discuss this item.

2. **Rule 2: County Officers**

- Councilman Saitta stated he would like to throw 4 ideas to Council to change this.
 - The first idea is to limit the term for Chair & Vice Chair from 2 years to 1 year.
 - The second is to put a term limit on the Chair & Vice Chair to a 2-year, or 4-year limit.
 - The third is if someone resigns from an officer's position, he would like for the officer below to rise. So, if the Chairman resigned, the Vice Chair would immediately move to being Chairman. Councilman Saitta stated the rules state two different things: In the Chairman section, it states if the chairman leaves, counselors vote to replace the seat and in the Vice Chairman section, it states when the Chairman leaves, the Vice Chair becomes the Chair.
 - The fourth is that if there is ever a 3-3 vote, when electing an officer, the meeting ends. He stated if an agreement still does not happen, the Vice Chair would rise up automatically.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to add in the Council Rules that the Chairman and Vice Chairman be on the agenda conference calls, to add in Rule 2.1 that you can only run for Chairman twice (4 years total), and if there is a vacancy during the Chairman's term, the Vice Chairman will automatically become Chairman to finish the term. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).

3. **Section 3.5: Council to Act Collectively**

- Councilman Saitta pointed out Section C, and quoted: "Members shall not participate, or attempt to influence, day-to-day operational activities of the County, nor should Members communicate with County employees (other than the Administrator, an employee designated by the Administrator for a specific, limited purpose, or the Clerk to Council) on matters reserved to the Administrator under the provisions of the Home Rule Act and/or other provisions of state law."

Council had limited discussion that included, but was not limited to:

- State law and Home Rule Act
- Councilman Saitta quoted the Home Rule Act regarding Council Members having conversations with employees
- Administrator 2.2 (E) – Councilman Saitta referenced this section in Council Rules, stating he would like to remove Section 3.5 (C) and keep Section 2.2 (E)
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to remove part C in Section 3.5 and add to Section 2.2 (E) a reference to Home Rule Act. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta.
 - Chairman Bowers stated his concern with removing part C in Section 3.5 is you are literally taking the burden off of Council, and just addressing it under the Administrator's section. He asked if it would be easier to remove the word "communicate" and add the word "action."
- After much more discussion, Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion stating he would like to table this discussion until our next meeting in April, and ask our Attorney to look into the changes made this evening on Council Rules to make sure it is accurate. Motion was seconded by Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).
- ❖ Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion stating he would like to table this discussion until our next meeting in April, and ask our Attorney to look into the changes made this evening on Council Rules to make sure it is accurate. Motion was seconded by Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council Action on Log No. 161: Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to add in the Council Rules that the Chairman and Vice Chairman be on the agenda conference calls, to add in Rule 2.1 that you can only run for Chairman consecutively (4 years total), and if there is a vacancy during the Chairman's term, the Vice Chairman will automatically become Chairman to finish the term. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).

Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion stating he would like to table this discussion until our next meeting in April, and ask our Attorney to look into the changes made this evening on Council Rules to make sure it is accurate. Motion was seconded by Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Chris Bowers stated no second is required of this motion as it comes from a recommendation from the Committee. Seeing no discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0). Meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Chris Bowers announced the following:

- Council will hold a Budget Work Session on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Administration Building.
- Chairman Bowers stated he has a correspondence from the Pickens County Behavioral Health Services. He read:

“The upcoming National Pill Take Back Day allows Pickens County residents to get rid of unwanted and expired prescription pills – without leaving the comfort of their vehicles. The spring Pill Take Back Day will be held from 10am – 2pm Saturday, April 24. In Pickens County, pills can be dropped off at AnMed Health Cannon Hospital, Prisma Health Baptist Easley and the Clemson Free Clinic. Residents dropping off medications during Pill Take Back Day April 24 may be randomly selected to win a gift card. There will be 3 random winners at each location.”

Chairman Bowers called for other council correspondence.

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

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Chris Bowers opened the floor for motion period and new business.

- Vice Chairman Costner made a motion to add “Discussion on Litter Program” to the agenda this evening. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).

Seeing no discussion, Chairman Bowers closed the floor.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION NO. 2021-06 RECOGNIZING APRIL 2021 AS NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH IN PICKENS COUNTY.

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to consider Resolution 2021-06.

- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, and seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner. Seeing no discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION NO. 2021-07 DESIGNATING APRIL 2021 AS FAIR HOUSING AWARENESS MONTH IN PICKENS COUNTY.

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to consider Resolution 2021-07.

- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, and seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. Seeing no discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION 2021-08 RECOGNIZING APRIL 11th THROUGH 17th, 2021 AS NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK.

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to consider Resolution 2021-08.

- Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, and seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner. Seeing no discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

ANNUAL UPDATE FROM UPSTATE ALLIANCE

Mr. Roper stated that Mr. Lumus had travel complications that prevented him from being at this evening's meeting. He stated Mr. Lumus asked if he could give that report to Council in May.

2021-2022 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Mr. Roper stated Mr. Guarino could not be with us this evening due to a family vacation. He stated he will be presenting to Council the overview he usually does at the first Budget Work Session next week.

Mr. Roper stated in compliance with the law, he has presented Council with the operating budget for Fiscal Year 2022. Mr. Roper read a letter to Council, from himself, that is in the front of the budget notebook:

“Attached please find the staff proposed Operating and Capital Budget for FY2022 (the “Budget”). The Budget (along with this transmittal letter) is provided to you in compliance with Section 4-9-640 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, which provides:

The county administrator shall prepare the proposed operating and capital budgets and submit them to the council at such time as the council determines. At the time of submitting the proposed budget, the county administrator shall submit to the council a statement describing the important features of the proposed budgets including all sources of anticipated revenue of the county government and the amount of tax revenue required to meet the financial requirements of the county.

Previous action of Council set April 5, 2021 as the date for First Reading (of a required three readings) by County Council of an Ordinance enacting the Budget. Traditionally this First Reading is in title only, with second and third readings following after as many budget work sessions as Council deems to be necessary. Note that proposed capital purchases will be discussed during a separate and more focused discussion in the fall.

When staff began the Budget formation process, we were informed and guided by County Council's stated Goals for 2021. These goals are 1) Provide Efficient Essential Services, 2) Protect and Enhance our Unique Nature, 3) Promote a Culture of Public Service, 4) Deliver Prompt and effective Emergency Response, 5) Strengthen Our Resilient Local Economy. All County departments were instructed to submit their various budget requests on or before January 29, 2021. This year, due to the ongoing high incidence of COVID-19 in our County, budget meetings were held with departments virtually or by phone, where either myself and/or finance staff reviewed requests on a budget-line-by-budget-line basis with the requesting departments.

*Much of budgeting, whether personal or public, involves projections – projections for both planned expenses and for anticipated revenues. With the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and the uncertainty in the economy, both in South Carolina and nationally, finance staff and I agreed that conservative projections were in order. We recognize that revenues are uncertain and should be projected strictly, and that expenses will no doubt be increasing. We also recognize that this uncertainty is felt by our citizens as well, and accordingly, we are pleased to present a Budget **with no tax increase**.*

The proposed Budget consolidates ten of the county's thirteen fire district as required by Ordinance #590, which was enacted by County Council last fall and is effective July 1, 2021. The fee schedule for this newly consolidated fire district was developed based on discussions with Council during committee work sessions, and then adapted in consultation with the County's Emergency Services Board. A 3% Cost of Living Adjustment for all employees is built in to the Budget in recognition of increased labor market forces and aimed at the long-term recruitment and retention of our public workforce. No new employee positions were approved in the Budget with the exception of a new full-time equipment operator at Solid Waste related to the new Class II Transfer Station, and the upgrade of two part-time positions to full in the Probate and Coroner's Office, where there was demonstrated need.

I would like to thank Ralph Guarino and Jodi Laws of our Finance Department for their dedication, and professionalism during the budget process. I also want to commend the various department heads and elected officials for their cooperative attitudes and openness to dialogue as we developed the FY2022 Budget."

FIRST READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE NO. TO PROVIDE FOR ADOPTION OF A BUDGET AMENDMENT CONTAINING ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE CHANGES FOR PICKENS COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021.

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to constitute first reading in title only of this Ordinance.

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

FIRST READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE NO. TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES IN PICKENS COUNTY FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2022, AND TO DIRECT EXPENDITURE THEREOF.

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to constitute first reading in title only of this Ordinance.

- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson, and carried unanimously (6-0).

DISCUSSION ON LITTER PROGRAM *(as added during Motion Period and New Business)*

Vice Chairman Costner stated one of the pillars that we talked about is being to protect and enhance our unique nature of Pickens County and we have had a real litter problem for a while. He stated that Council talked about people tend to throw trash on trash, how there is a higher crime rate because of litter and problems that we have, and he knows that we have 700 county roads. He stated he would like to propose an idea for a litter program that we can implement right away that will have significant impact, not only for the look of Pickens County but give an opportunity for some other organizations to earn something. He stated he would like to propose that this Council consider a program that we could put into place that would offer an opportunity for civic organizations, youth groups, any 501-C3's, any boards that are looking for opportunities to raise money. Vice Chairman Costner stated the program would be first come-first served, apply for however many miles, and create a program that offers a \$500 reward for cleaning up that mile by Memorial Day. He stated this would have to be supervised by staff and would have to see before/after photos to prove that it was clean, consider the safety components, etc. Vice Chairman Costner shared multiple ideas of the program he has in mind.

Council and staff had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:

- Another short-term alternative since Litter Inmates cannot work right now

- Ensure safety is provided when picking up the litter (adults, etc.)
 - Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department would oversee this program
 - Discussion on compensation per mile of litter picked up
 - Marketing on this litter program
- After more discussion between Council and staff, Vice Chairman Costner made a motion to allocate funding up to \$125,000 to create a litter program and instruct staff to create the program to bring back to Council, with a goal to get 25% of our roads clean by Memorial Day. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion.
 - Councilman Wilson stated he feels we should give the civic organizations longer to clean the roads and proposed moving the goal to Labor Day in September.
 - Vice Chairman Costner moved to amend his motion, stating he would like to set a goal to have 25% of our roads clean by Labor Day, instead of Memorial Day. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).
 - Councilman Alex Saitta stated that is a lot of money to clean up the roads and he feels we will not spend near as much as that to do this.
 - Councilman Henry Wilson stated he would recommend not putting a money figure in the motion now, to wait to see what staff comes up with and allocate funding at a later date.
 - Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to pull out the money amount from the original motion, and wait for staff to bring proposal back to Council. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).
 - Seeing no other discussion, the original motion, as amended, carried unanimously (6-0). Council asked that staff bring this proposal back to Council at the meeting next week.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Budget Work Session – *Committee of the Whole*
 - Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

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

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

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

Economic Development – Section 30-4-70 (a) (5)

- Project Arnold

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

- Public Service Commission

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the Public Session back to Order and advised the following:

Economic Development – Section 30-4-70 (a) (5)

- **Project Arnold – Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to constitute 1st reading in title only of an ordinance authorizing the execution of a lease for property at the Pickens County Airport. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).**

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

- **Public Service Commission- Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to appoint the following to the Public Service Commission:**
 - *Appoint Cameron Farrish to the Public Service Commission, District 2 seat*
 - *Appoint James Ratner to the Public Service Commission, District 6 seat*
 - *Appoint Eric Rodgers to the Public Service Commission, At-Large seat*
 - *Move Tom Hunter from At-large seat to district 1 seat*
- **Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).**

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council