

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

October 1, 2018

6:30 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 September 24, 2018.

Council Members in Attendance:

Roy Costner, Chairman

Chris Bowers, Vice Chairman

Wes Hendricks, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Trey Whitehurst

Ensley Feemster

Carl Hudson

Staff in Attendance:

Gerald Wilson, County Administrator

Ken Roper, County Attorney

Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Roy Costner called the meeting of October 1, 2018 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Vice Chairman Chris Bowers led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

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 the following speakers:

1. Joe Beckham: Mr. Beckham stated that he sent the Clerk to Council pictures of his neighbor's yard in the Rolling Greens Estate Subdivision in Easley, SC. He explained the issue is that his neighbor is a hoarder, bringing trash from evicted apartments or homes. He further stated there are refrigerators, washing machines, mattresses, and all sorts of furniture in the yard. He added that he contacted Code Enforcement, who went out to talk to him. He reported the neighbor is burning trash beneath power lines. Mr. Beckham stated that DHEC has tried to contact the neighbor twice; Duke Energy has tried to contact the neighbor once; and Code Enforcement has tried at least six times. He declared that he understands Code Enforcement has given the neighbor a 10-day notice to clean up the property. Mr. Beckham observed that the neighbor started to clean up the day after the notice was received, but that was it. He asserted this is usually what his neighbor does. Mr. Beckham expressed that this is a horrible situation in a neighborhood where residents have pride and keep their yards and lots cleaned. He stated the residents would like Enforcement stop this neighbor from continuing this behavior.
2. Randy Bowers: Mr. Bowers began by saying that in his 30 years of living in Pickens County, he has spoken in Public Forum twice; the last time using similar words of what he was going to discuss at this evenings council meeting, but in a different context. He announced that he is in Emergency Services in the private sector. He explained that South Carolina authorizes DHEC to regulate and control the State of Emergency Services Plan; using the terms "public, private, paying, volunteered, without a hindrance of competition". Mr. Bowers shared that he was approached in Church this past Sunday by a Pickens County citizen (who owns property on the coast) relating how he stopped counting the Pickens County trucks when he got to 25. Mr.

Bowers stated this is one time that he is proud to be a Pickens County resident because he knows that folks from Pickens County were responsible for traveling over 100,000 miles, and serving Horry County and surrounding areas with Swift Water Rescue, Fires Services and EMS Services. He stated these Pickens County employees really stepped up. Mr. Bowers expressed his gratitude and thanked the staff for letting the county employees go; the volunteer firemen and swift water team, even the people who went down to serve coffee. He recalled how other counties came to assist us when we had the fire on the mountains a couple of years ago. He stated that this was a good time to repay the favor. Mr. Bowers thanked Council for their time and for the opportunity to speak.

3. Johnnelle Raines: Ms. Raines declared that the members of Conservatives of the Upstate are shocked with the recent hiring of the Chairman's son for Tourism Director. She stated the excuse that Pickens County's spokesperson gave on Facebook was that Chairman Costner's son was the most qualified for the position; Chairman Costner recused himself from the voting; and the lawyer checked with the S.C. Ethics Commission and it was within the realm of being legal; is not good enough. Ms. Raines offered that perception is everything; that this nepotism has already created morale problems for other employees; and this can diminish the overall effectiveness of county government. She declared this opens the door to family corruption in government. The COTU understands that Chairman Costner's son's fiancé was also hired in the Finance Department, and our new County Clerk is that employee's best friend. Ms. Raines commented that while Conservatives of the Upstate has no ill-will towards any of these people, as she is sure they are qualified. However, she stated that this just does not look proper. She asserted that Conservatives of the Upstate have been contacted by several employees who are very uncomfortable with this nepotism. The employees wish to remain anonymous for fear of retribution of loss of job, yet asked COTU to bring this issue to light. She informed that there are more claims of nepotism, cronyism, and favoritism that COTU has not yet vetted for truth, but they are trying to find out the details. She added that COTU created a six day poll on Facebook about perception of nepotism and whether our County Council should be okay with allowing this. She recalled that the results in less than 30 hours and after 190 responses, 90% said no. She continued that most states recognize that nepotism is not the best practice. She then remarked it is widely confirmed that it is best to avoid the hire of a family member, even if it means losing out on a more qualified person. She advised that integrity is all about doing the right thing even when there is a personal cost. She declared that multiple family members making a living off the taxpayer dime really looks bad and smells worse. Ms. Raines remarked that public elected officials should avoid even an appearance of impropriety; the council members, lawyer and administrator should be ashamed of themselves for allowing nepotism to take place. She continued that those mentioned above are losing taxpayer's trust and during this particular time in our nation, when taxpayers are seeing news reports of corruption daily in government, is an awful time to be engaging with nepotism. She stated if they don't think there will be huge influence from the Chairman over his son as Tourism Director, and they will possibly be meeting behind closed doors discussing county business, they are in living in "La La Land."

<*3 minute warning bell starts*>

Ms. Raines stated as Gomer Pyle would say: shame, shame, shame. She stated all of Council and Staff needs to be ashamed. She stated you are all united with Neal Collins. United all right, united in doing the wrong thing for a conservative county's reputation by aiding and abetting nepotism. Vice Chairman Chris Bowers thanked Ms. Raines.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

The County Administrator, Gerald Wilson, provided the following report:

Mr. Wilson expressed that, as the Administrator of Pickens County, his job is to hire the most qualified person for any position they have open, and will continue to do so.

Mr. Wilson stated he would like to take a moment to recognize a few of Pickens County's First Responders. He further stated that Pickens County had 21 employees who deployed last month after Hurricane Florence. Mr. Wilson asked Denise Kwiatek, Emergency Management Director, to step up to the podium to recognize these employees.

- Ms. Denise Kwiatek showed a brief presentation of photos regarding the Pickens County First Responders. She stated these Pickens County First Responders went to the coast to assist after Hurricane Florence devastated several areas. Ms. Kwiatek reported that the swift water team deployed before Hurricane Florence impacted the coast, which allowed them to be ready once the storm hit. She shared that a fact that many didn't know, is that the team was told to go and then told not to go. She expressed that was like telling the team they cannot drink water, so it was very important that they were able to go when they did. Ms. Denise Kwiatek shared the following quote: "Volunteers are not paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless." Ms. Kwiatek requested Mr. William McMillian, Mayor of the City of Mullins, to step to the podium to give a small presentation.
- Mr. McMillian announced that he was very happy he was able to come to the Council meeting. He stated there should be no surprise that he decided to come to the meeting because any public official, worth his/ her salt, would jump at the chance to come and honor these gentlemen, who became friends over the period of several days. He asserted that wind and fire are powerful forces; however, if you see first-hand the destruction that takes place behind a wall of fast moving water, it will scare you. He reported that these gentlemen went out in the dead of night and moved approximately 150 of the citizens of Mullins out of their homes. He related that this territory was unfamiliar to the rescuers and the conditions were uncertain. He declared only God could have given such bravery to them. Mr. McMillian expressed he is enormously proud to come to Pickens County and thank these gentlemen for their efforts, on behalf of the citizens of Mullins. He commented that not only did the rescue team come this year, but two years ago as well. He stated there is not enough he could do or say to let these gentlemen know how much the citizens of Mullins appreciate their efforts. He shared these men have touched a lot of lives and hearts. Mr. McMillian remarked that it should be the city of Mullins inviting Pickens County to their council chambers. He reported that the city of Mullins has a barbeque festival every year, and regrets that these gentlemen missed it. He extended an invitation for next year's festival. Mr. McMillian shared that he signed a proclamation, in his official duties as the Mayor, stating that the 1st day of October, 2018 is "Pickens County Swift Water Rescue Heroes Day." He thanked the Pickens County Employees and expressed they will never know how their bravery impacted him and the citizens of Mullins. He offered that they can call him a friend anytime.
- Pierce Womack, Deputy Director for Pickens County Emergency Management, stepped to the podium and thanked Mr. McMillian. He stated he would like to give a brief overview of what the rescuers have done. He reported that for 18 days, September 12 through September 29, twenty-one employees worked 3,672 man hours; a lot of these guys were working around the clock. Mr. Womack reported that the rescuers worked several days in a row with very little sleep. They slept

on cots; there was no heat or air, and no hot water a lot of the time. He requested those facts be thought about as these gentlemen are recognized tonight. He stated the Pickens County Swift Water Rescue Team was initially sent to Sumter, but ended up in Mullins. He further stated that over 150 people were rescued; four of the individuals were rescued from a vehicle that was swept off the roadway by flood waters. He asserted that we hear the number of these rescues, but we don't know every scenario. He thanked the Fire Engine Crew, Chief Elrod, and Chief Reynolds for all they did. He reported that the City of Central and City of Pickens teamed up and sent a fire engine with a crew; they were able to bed themselves in Horry County, just as the EMS Unit did. The EMS Unit bedded in Horry County and ran calls. Mr. Womack shared that he was deployed in certain parts of the coast and heard nothing but good things about Pickens County. He added that they remembered Pickens County from past experiences and past training. They have been training with the Hart Team and a lot of lessons have been learned. Rescuers were able to work with the National Guard, and use the equipment that was purchased after lessons learned from the Pinnacle Mountain fire. Mr. Womack requested that Ken Roper, County Attorney, call these gentlemen out one by one and also that members of Council and the Administrator to please step down to shake their hands.

- County Attorney, Ken Roper, thanked Mr. Womack and stated it is his honor to read these names aloud; then asked the following Pickens County Employees to step forward:
 - Jason Melton
 - Justin Thompson
 - Jeremy Arment
 - Clint Belcher
 - Shannon Dales
 - Kevin Fincannon
 - Robert Porter
 - Tim Rowland
 - Mike Staton
 - Eddie Talley
 - Pierce Womack
 - Matthew Littleton
 - Andy Childs
 - Alex Bowers
 - Ron Stout
 - Brandon Looper
 - Andrew Wilson

- Chairman Costner stated the Pinnacle Award was created to celebrate those people in Pickens County who do something extraordinary, and these gentlemen have done that. He thanked Mr. McMillian, Mayor of Mullins, for honoring these gentlemen so well. Chairman Costner expressed his gratitude to everyone for all they done.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

- September 10, 2018
- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously approve the above referenced minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORT: Committee of the Whole – September 17, 2018

Chairman Roy Costner provided the following report for the Committee of the Whole meeting:

The Committee of the Whole met in the Main Conference Room, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. All members of the committee were in attendance with Chairman Roy Costner presiding.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Chairman Roy Costner stated the first item for discussion is Log No. 104, Green Crescent Trail.

Green Crescent Trail – Log No. 104

- Gerald Wilson introduced Heidi Williams, Secretary of Green Crescent Trail and Chad Carson, Founding President of Green Crescent Trail.
- Heidi Williams stated that she serves on the board for the Green Crescent Trail. She further stated that Green Crescent Trail was founded around 4 years ago and is a 501-C3 non-profit organization. She explained that the goal was to create a multi-use network of pedestrian and cyclist pathways in and around the greater Clemson area. She stated that her organization would like to give Council a framework of what the goal would look like. She thanked Council for funding the feasibility study for the Green Crescent Trail. She reported they were able have that study executed due to receiving the recreation funding and having support from the City of Clemson and Town of Central. She reported that this project sets forth around 40 miles worth of trails that are designed to connect the many assets that are in and around the Clemson area, such as parks, lakes, beaches, a great public University. These assets would not be accessible without getting in a car. She introduced Chad Carson and informed Council that they are available for questions in the future.
- Chad Carson launched a presentation. He stated that Green Crescent Trail is an organization made of citizens of Pickens County, mostly from the Central/Clemson area which is where they first started. Green Crescent Trail sees their mission as making our community a better place to live, learn, work and play. He further stated that they are believers in this kind of public infrastructure and other positive efforts that affect economically, tourism, quality of life, etc. He shared that the vision of Green Crescent Trail is to connect all the places that are already here. He asserted that our county is amazing, but one of the deficiencies that they've identified is that a person can live in a house with a park only a ¼ mile away, yet getting to that park is not safe for most people. He declared that they want to make those small connections safer for citizens. He stated the vision they have for that is not only specific kind of trails, but also greenways and streets with a bike lane or sidewalk in some areas. Another vision would be connecting the public transits, such as commuting. He stated that the feasibility study was completed in 2016, with the majority of funding having been contributed by Pickens County, Town of Central, City of Clemson and Southern Wesleyan. He shared that they tried to get feedback from local town meetings about what community assets the citizens think are important. He related that it came down to parks, downtown areas, universities and schools, historical and cultural attractions, local libraries, forests, natural areas and

residential areas. He stated that the bulk of the \$55,000 feasibility study was funded by the Pickens County Recreation funding. The feasibility study is the planning document and the vision for what they hope to eventually bring to reality for Pickens County. He further stated that the feasibility study broke the entire area down into road segments. Mr. Carson presented pictures for a brief visual of their vision for Hwy 93 (Central to SWU), Downtown Central, Hwy 93 (Central to Clemson), Berkeley Drive, and Pendleton Road. He explained that they are a small volunteer team and have three main goals that they think will help the implement of the vision. The three goals are Political Advocacy, Promotion and Communications, and Resource Development.

- After much more discussion, Councilman Wes Hendricks asked Mr. Carson where Green Crescent Trails was at as far as getting the fiscal items completed.
- Mr. Carson stated that this fall, the Hwy 93 route is their number one priority. He shared that the Town of Central applied for a grant last year that they did not get. He explained that getting that grant would have helped them get the Hwy 93 segment done. He informed that the other project in Central that they would like to complete this fall is a section where there are already some sewer easements the Town of Central has near the Central-Clemson Recreation center. They could put gravel down or have trails there. He stated that in Clemson, they would like to have restriping done on Hwy 93 and Berkeley Drive. He stated that they asked the City Planner in Clemson and it seems to be a project of approximately \$300,000-\$400,000 between both roads. He stated that the DOT does not have any plans to restripe, so it will have to be a local project.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if they have reached out to their local delegation on the restriping.
- Mr. Carson stated yes, they met recently.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst announced that is who they need to push on.
- Chairman Roy Costner asked if they are applying for the grants, or are they primarily using it through the city.
- Ms. Williams stated they met with ACOG.
- Councilman Carl Hudson asked if they will be applying for a grant this year.
- Ms. Williams stated yes. She further stated that some grants were previously awarded to Clemson so they try to collaborate in such a way that one year Clemson will apply, and the next Central.
- Chairman Roy Costner commented that he is wondering what we heard on a Federal level. He stated he wasn't sure if the senator or a congressman can help with the funding.
- Ms. Williams explained that the restrictions on applying for federal funding are so cumbersome in terms of who can actually perform the work. She stated it makes it more expensive than if you were to find private funding dollars. She further stated they have been encouraged to look for funding locally.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst added that another thing to consider is they have ACOG, which is urban funds and GPATS is rural funds. They are two separate entities with two separate grants. He stated both of those are funding sources they should look into because they have certain demographics to qualify for each one.
- After much more discussion, Ms. Williams stated she will be sending an email to Council with their contact information for any additional questions. Ms. Williams and Mr. Carson thanked Council for having them.

❖ No action taken by committee.

Council Action on Log No. 104:

- No action taken

Tour of New Jail – Log No. 103

- Chairman Costner stated due to Hurricane Florence's weather last week and it being muddy at the new jail, we will be moving the Tour of the New Jail to the next Committee of the Whole meeting on October 15, 2018.

Council Action on Log No. 103:

- No action taken

Executive Session

- 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), to discuss Boards and Commissions.
 - Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously, to convene in executive session for the stated purpose.

2018 Accommodations of Tax Recommendations – Log No. 102

- Chairman Roy Costner called the Committee of the Whole meeting back to order. He stated the final item to discuss this evening is the 2018 Accommodations of Tax Recommendations, Log No. 102.
- Administrator Gerald Wilson stated that County Attorney Ken Roper has been working with the ATAX Committee on this report and will be speaking in regards to this report.
- Attorney Ken Roper explained these recommendations were brought to council because the statute requires the committee to review the applications and make recommendations. He reported that one issue the committee dealt with is they knew that they had around \$105,000 to work with; they made several decisions based on this number. Since the time that the committee made their recommendations, it was learned from Finance that there is actually \$143,000 available in the account. He stated that based on the recommendations, the committee can move forward and decide whether or not to keep some of that money in the reserve, or use it on some of the applications that were not fully funded and/or funded at all. He shared that he has the written applications that were received with him tonight.
- Chairman Roy Costner announced he would like council to consider they are getting back more information from ATAX Committee than they ever have, but it still is not complete.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated last year, they asked the ATAX Committee specifically to please come back to council and show how this increased “heads in beds” in Pickens County hotels.
- Ken Roper stated that based on the input from June 2017 meeting, the ATAX Committee added that information to the application. He shared that some of that data is there, while acknowledging that there is always room for improvement. He further stated that information is not in the draft summary of the report. The draft summary gives an overview of each event/project.
- Chairman Roy Costner commented that this is similar to the same thing Council does when approving recreation funding. He explained that when someone sends in an application for recreation funding; they have to give a detailed summary of why they need the money and what they are going to spend it on.
- Mr. Roper remarked that it is asked if they have received accommodations tax funding in years prior on the application. He expressed that a lot of the applicants are not giving enough on the application, even though they know it will be a good use of money.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated we should be able to get data from hotels.
 - After more discussion, Councilman Wes Hendricks made a motion to consider giving some accommodation tax funding for the Holly Springs Center. Chairman Roy Costner seconded the motion, but stated he is not ready for council to vote since they need to see more information first.
- Chairman Roy Costner declared that he wanted to draw Council’s attention to the purpose of the Accommodations Tax. In the Accommodations Tax Committee Report, it states:

The purpose of the Accommodations Tax is to attract or provide for tourism, which is defined by state law as “action and activities of people taking trips outside their home communities for any purpose, except daily commuting to and from work.” The SC

Department of Parks, Recreation, & Tourism use a “50 Mile Rule” of thumb for a distance traveled by a tourist under this definition. As further clarification of the definition of a tourist, Pickens County Council directed that all applications for ATAX funding should include an estimate, based on solid analysis, projecting hotel room nights generated by each applicant.

- After more discussion, Mr. Costner asserted that in looking at the core of what the ATAX Committee is supposed to be recommending, he believes this opens the door for Council to look at the recommendations and make some adjustments.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst agreed. He stated we, as a council, have a responsibility for these ATAX funds to be utilized in the manner as Mr. Costner read above. He further stated, outside of all political things, it is all about returning the money back to where it came from. He declared this should be the focus.
 - After more discussion, Councilman Carl Hudson observed that it sounds like applicants are not turning in specific information. He stated that if they want the money, then they should adhere to the rules and be specific when applying.
 - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked Mr. Roper if the money has to be to a non-profitable organization.
 - Mr. Roper stated there is nothing in the statute that says it has to be non-profit. He further stated that 30% of the money has to go towards tourism promotion.
 - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers commented that Easley Gymnastics is a business looking on put on an event. He stated that the business is going to host a sanctioned regional tournament and anticipates that 80% participation will be tourists. He further stated that this means 80% of participants will need a place to stay, which means they will most likely use hotels.
 - Councilman Wes Hendricks added that the same can be said about Senior League World Series, Clemson Rowing Competition, etc.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst inquired that if one business is funded, will it open the door to other businesses to apply for funding for events.
 - Attorney Ken Roper stated the committee’s approach was that these businesses are for-profit businesses, not non-profit. He informed that the law in this section states that it has to be for promotion of arts and culture, construction maintenance of facilities, public facilities, shuttle services, etc. He continued that it does not say a for-profit business is disqualified. However, the committee stated that is not what the ATAX funding is for.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if we could reach out to other counties about their ATAX Funding, like Myrtle Beach and Charleston, to see how they handle these situations.
 - After much more discussion, Councilman Wes Hendricks made a motion to withdraw his first motion mentioned above. Councilman Hendricks made a new motion for 2018 Accommodations of Tax Recommendations to remain in Committee; that whether or not to contribute to the Holly Springs Center and/or some of the other organizations would be based on obtaining further data. Councilman Ensley Feemster seconded and motion carried 6-0.
- ❖ Committee recommends moving this discussion to the next council meeting on October 1, 2018. Motion was made by Chairman Roy Costner, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and motion carried 6-0.

Council Action on Log No. 102:

- Committee recommended moving this discussion to the next Council Meeting on October 1, 2018.

Chairman Costner called for a motion to discuss the approval of the ATAX applications submitted by the ATAX Committee.

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

After much discussion, County Council approved the following allocations from the state accommodations tax fund:

Purpose of Funds	Amount
Christmas Festival	\$10,000.00
Central Railroad Festival	\$3,000.00
Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail	\$4,150.00
Salugado Native America Celebration	\$6,000.00
Senior League World Series Baseball	\$25,000.00
Winter Bluegrass Jubilee	\$4,000.00
Southeastern Gymnastics Meet	\$5,000.00
Ride to the Rock	\$750.00
School of Mountain Arts (SOMA)	\$4,000.00
Clemson Music Festival	\$2,500.00
Advertisement in Magazines	\$15,000.00
Pickens Azalea Festival	\$8,000.00
African American Museum	\$5,000.00
Dacusville Farm Days	\$2,500.00
Total :	\$94,900.00

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 Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously. The Committee of the Whole stood adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

<<END OF COMMITTEE REPORT>>

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Roy Costner announced the following:

- The Committee of the Whole will meet on Monday, October 15th at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Facility.
- The next Council Meeting will be Monday, November 5th at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Administration Facility.
- The Sesquicentennial 150th Celebration will be October 5-6. On October 5th, the time capsule will be opened at 2:00 p.m. at the Pickens County Courthouse. On October 6th, the Blue Ribbon Birthday Bash will be at J.B. Red Owens Complex in Easley, SC at 9:00 a.m. That event will kick-off with the United Christian’s Ministry Feet for Heat 5K run, the opening ceremony will be at 11:00 am, followed by musicians, performances, carnival rides, bake-offs, barbeque cook-off, beard contest, time capsule presentation, and Pickens County’s Got Talent competition starting at 5:30 pm. The celebration will conclude with a firework show.

- We had over 350 employees participate in the 2nd annual Litter Blitz on September 21, as well as several municipalities. We picked up 22,640 pounds of trash, which is less than what we did at the Litter Blitz in March, which means we have citizens who are taking part of the “Five on Friday” and continuing to clean up our county. Mr. Costner thanked Pickens County employees and Lisa Bryant, Human Resources Director, for all their hard work.
- First Responders Appreciation Day will be at Pope Field Park on October 19th from 5:00pm – 7:00pm. There will be barbeque, a kickball tournament, slides, etc. Please RSVP by October 12. For more details, please visit the county website.

Chairman Roy Costner called for other council correspondence. Seeing none, Chairman Costner announced moving to Motion Period and New Business.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Roy Costner opened the floor for any new business.

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

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF DISTRICT 4 RECREATION FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$41,148.00.

Chairman Roy Costner stated this is the amount that was originally approved by our Council in spring. He reported that there have been several meetings with the Recreation Committee and the City of Liberty. He advised that they are working on a proposal to help offset the cost for additional funding. Chairman Costner asked for any other discussion.

- Hearing no other discussion, Chairman Costner made a motion to approve disbursement of District 4 Recreation Funds in the amount of \$41,148.00. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously.

AN ORDINANCE (1) AUTHORIZING THE BENEFITS OF A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO PROJECT PRINT, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE SUBSIDIARIES, AFFILIATES, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, LESSORS, OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS, AND TO THAT END, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY AND OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE INCLUSION OF PROJECT PRINT WITHIN SUCH PARK; (2) SPECIFYING THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEE IN LIEU OF TAX REVENUE GENERATED FROM WITHIN SUCH PARK TO TAXING ENTITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY; (3) AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE CREDIT AND REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND PROJECT PRINT; AND (4) PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Chairman Roy Costner stated that he was informed by Staff that the attorneys have not concluded their work that is needed for the second reading. Chairman Costner asked council for unanimous consent that this item be deferred until a later date. He requested that all those in favor please raise their hand. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF A ONE TIME GRANT TO THE PICKENS COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY PER THE AUTHORITY'S REQUEST TO STUDY PRESENT AND FUTURE WATER ISSUES WITHIN PICKENS COUNTY.

Chairman Costner asked for a motion and a second to approve the resolution.

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

Chairman Costner asked for any discussion.

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst explained that this is a grant to perform a water study with Lake Keowee for Pickens County to look at the possibility of getting water. He stated right now, there is a pipe that comes out of Lake Keowee and goes to Greenville; we then purchase water back from Greenville. He recalled the county went through a very big debate with Duke Energy when they were re-upping their FERC application; that this right was attempted to be taken from us several times. He asserted the county has that right and kept that right. He stated engaging is the first step. He assumes there is a lot of pushback from Greenville Water on this because they are making money off of Pickens County's water. Mr. Whitehurst stated this resolution is for securing our water rights much further down the road.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers remarked that Council has discussed this in great detail; that this involves almost all of the water companies. He added that the Water Authority is its own entity, so it does not answer to Council. He stated the only hesitation he has is that the county is funding other entities' projects. He further stated that in looking at the importance of the project, it has been expressed that while they are not our group, it is in the best interest of the county.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks added that this benefits every citizen in the county in one way or another.
- Councilman Ensley Feemster reported that Pickens County is growing, Clemson University is growing and traffic is increasing. He expressed that he is sure we will need that water sooner or later.
 - Hearing no other discussion, Chairman Costner asked for all those in favor to please signify by raising their hand. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) Library System – Committee of the Whole
- b) Hagood Mill Bylaws – Committee of the Whole
- c) Fort Prince George – Committee of the Whole

- Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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 Roy Costner further stated that each issue would be discussed as the Law provides.

- Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously, to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a five minute recess.

Contractual Issues – Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)

- Courthouse

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

- Project Pine
- Project Third

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

- Board and Commission Vacancies (76):
 - a) Accommodations Tax (ATAX)
 - b) Alcohol and Drug/Behavioral Health
 - c) Appalachian Council of Gov. (ACOG)
 - d) Assessment and Appeals
 - e) Beautification Committee
 - f) Cultural Commission
 - g) Economic Development Alliance
 - h) Easley Central Water Board
 - i) Emergency Services Advisory Board
 - j) Fire District Board - Central
 - k) Fire District Board - Crosswell
 - l) Fire District Board - Dacusville
 - m) Fire District Board - Easley
 - n) Fire District Board - Liberty
 - o) Fire District Board - Pickens
 - p) Fire District Board - Pumpkintown
 - q) Fire District Board - Rocky Bottom
 - r) Fire District Board - Shady Grove
 - s) Fire District Board - Six Mile
 - t) Pickens County Grievance Committee
 - u) Pickens, Oconee, Anderson Mental Health
 - v) Planning Commission
 - w) Public Service Commission
 - x) Tourism Board
 - y) Worklink
 - z) Zoning and Appeals
 - aa) *Hagood Mill Non-Profit Corporation Board
 - bb) *Performing Arts Center Non-Profit Corporation Board
 - cc) *Pickens County Museum Non-Profit Corporation Board

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

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

Contractual Issues – Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)

- Courthouse – **Action as follows:**
 - Chairman Costner requested a motion on the contractual agreement with regards to the Courthouse for \$211,558. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously.

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

- Project Pine – **Action as follows:**

- Chairman Costner asked for a motion and a second to move forward with Economic Development on Project Pine. Motion made by Councilman Ensley Feemster and seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers. Chairman Costner asked if there was any discussion.
 - Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he will be voting no against this for the reasons he discussed in executive session.
- Motion carried 5-1, with Councilman Wes Hendricks opposing.
- Project Third – **No Action**
- Boards and Commissions – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)
 - Board and Commission Vacancies (76):
 - a) Accommodations Tax (ATAX) – **No Action**
 - b) Alcohol and Drug/Behavioral Health – **No Action**
 - c) Appalachian Council of Gov. (ACOG) – **No Action**
 - d) Assessment and Appeals – **Moved to appoint Catherine Cassell to Assessment and Appeals Board**
 - e) Beautification Committee – **No Action**
 - f) Cultural Commission – **No Action**
 - g) Easley Central Water Board – **Moved to appoint Kristie James to Easley Central Water Board**
 - h) Economic Development Alliance – **No Action**
 - i) Emergency Services Advisory Board – **Moved to appoint J.B. Kelley, Randy Bowers and Ronald Freeman to Emergency Services Board**
 - j) Fire District Board – Central – **No Action**
 - k) Fire District Board – Crosswell – **No Action**
 - l) Fire District Board – Dacusville – **No Action**
 - m) Fire District Board – Easley – **No Action**
 - n) Fire District Board – Liberty – **No Action**
 - o) Fire District Board – Pickens – **No Action**
 - p) Fire District Board – Pumpkintown – **No Action**
 - q) Fire District Board – Rocky Bottom – **No Action**
 - r) Fire District Board – Shady Grove – **No Action**
 - s) Fire District Board – Six Mile – **No Action**
 - t) Pickens County Grievance Committee – **No Action**
 - u) Pickens, Oconee, Anderson Mental Health – **No Action**
 - v) Planning Commission – **Moved to reappoint Robert Ballentine, Charles Watson and William Cato to Planning Commission Board**
 - w) Public Service Commission – **No Action**
 - x) Tourism Board – **No Action**
 - y) Worklink – **No Action**
 - z) Zoning and Appeals – **No Action**
 - aa) *Hagood Mill Non-Profit Corporation Board – **Moved to appoint David Hosea, Larry Wagoner and Louise Earle Peden to Hagood Mill Non-Profit Corporation Board**
 - bb) *Performing Arts Center Non-Profit Corporation Board – **No Action**
 - cc) *Pickens County Museum Non-Profit Corporation Board – **Moved to appoint Diane Mitchell to Pickens County Museum Non-Profit Corporation Board**

Chairman Costner asked for a motion to appoint the following people to these boards.

- Motion made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Councilman Hudson and motion carried 5-1, with Chris Bowers abstaining.

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. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

Roy B. Costner, III, Chairman of County Council