

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

Council Members:

Roy Costner, Chairman
Chris Bowers, Vice Chairman
Trey Whitehurst
Carl Hudson
Ensley Feemster
Wes Hendricks, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem (absent)

Staff in Attendance:

Gerald Wilson, County Administrator
Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council
Michael Hayes, Risk Manager
Jamie Burns, Community Relations Manager
Tasha Todd, E911 Director
Denise Kwiatek, Emergency Manager Director
Rick Clark, Sheriff

Guests in Attendance:

Wayne Kelley, Historical Society
Ken Nabors, Historical Society

The Committee of the Whole met in the Main Conference Room, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 6:15 p.m. All members of the committee were in attendance with the exception of Councilman Wes Hendricks; with Chairman Roy Costner presiding.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Roy Costner called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order immediately after the Special-Called Council Meeting.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Chairman Roy Costner stated the first item for discussion is Log No. 103, Tour of New Jail.

Tour of New Jail – Log No. 103

- Administrator Gerald Wilson remarked that there is a bus outside to transport everyone to the new jail.
- Sheriff Rick Clark gave Council, staff and guests a tour of the new jail.

- ❖ No action taken by committee.

Fort Prince George – Log No. 109

- Administrator Gerald Wilson stated Wayne Kelley with the Historical Society will be giving a brief presentation to County Council on Fort Prince George.
- Wayne Kelley commented the presentation is meant to promote the project, and hopes it is helpful to Council and people all over the county.
- After the video presentation, Mr. Kelley asserted that they cannot proceed with fundraising until they have a memorandum of understanding with Pickens County. He asked if Council had any comments or questions.

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- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked what the memorandum of understanding is.
 - Mr. Kelley stated they are not legally allowed to move forward to raise money for a project they do not own.
 - After some discussion, Chairman Roy Costner asked if they had an idea of costs for Fort Prince George.
 - Mr. Kelley stated if the county does nothing, it will cost around \$1,500,000-\$2,000,000.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if they were looking into putting accommodations at the site.
 - Mr. Kelley answered that there isn't much room for accommodations.
 - Administrator Gerald Wilson stated Pickens County does not own the property at Mile Creek Park, it belongs to Duke Energy. We have a lease with Duke Energy.
 - Risk Manager Michael Hayes reported Duke Energy has an issue with this project being on Mile Creek Park's site. He continued that Duke Energy said if it was already on the site, or an "historical" site, they would be fine with it. The permit states that site is water recreational use only. Mr. Hayes remarked that Duke Energy would have to re-permit through FERC to even put Fort Prince George there. He stated since it is designated as a recreational site only, the footprint of the \$1,000,000 operation would be on there. If there was a need for more water recreation, then that would be a problem.
 - Administrator Gerald Wilson announced that staff needs to get with Duke Energy to see if this can even be done. If this is something council is considering, then fundraising will be considered. Mr. Wilson stated Duke Energy will need to be on board before we can do anything.
 - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked Mr. Kelley if the Historical Society has looked into any alternative sites.
 - Mr. Kelley asserted that they have looked for alternative sites. Mr. Kelley stated he has been working on this project for over ten years; middle management's job in this area is to tell you why this cannot happen. He further stated that if Council agrees with wanting to pursue Fort Prince George, the members of the Historical Society will go to Charlotte, NC. The board will determine in Charlotte what will take place. He announced that FERC has no say-so and that he was misled early on by a different administration. Mr. Kelley stated FERC only has control along the waterline.
 - Mr. Wilson reported staff has talked with Duke Energy out of Charlotte. According to the map from Duke Energy, the entire Mile Creek Park is inside the FERC property line.
- ❖ After much more discussion, Councilman Chris Bowers made a motion to direct staff to work with the Historical Society to explore the logistics of the location. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (5-0). Staff will gather more information and report back.

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E911 – Log No. 105

- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated he wanted to discuss this in committee due to complaints he had received. He further stated when you look at E911 as a whole, it starts with dispatch. Vice Chairman Bowers remarked that currently, dispatch is set up at the sheriff's office and they do great with everything they have. He reported that the number of calls that come through is unreal. Mr. Bowers offered as we look forward with emergency services, this is one of the subjects that they wanted to discuss. Mr. Bowers stated after meeting with Tasha Todd, E911 Director, and Sheriff Rick Clark this morning, they will look at the possibilities of revamping and changing dispatch. He informed that ultimately they want to see what is best for every agency in the county; such as Fire Depts., EMS, Rescue, Law Enforcement, Coroner's Office, etc. Ms. Todd and the Sheriff will work together to look at some options. Mr. Bowers stated the ultimate goal is greater efficiency. Mr. Bowers asked council if they will allow Ms. Todd and Mr. Clark until next month to work together on options to make dispatch more efficient.
 - Sherriff Rick Clark stated he wants to make sure they are doing the best job for Pickens County.
 - Councilman Ensley Feemster asked how is this will affect the relationship between cities and towns.
 - Sherriff Clark answered that he sees no difference. He continued that as part of daily operations, you shouldn't be able to tell a difference.
 - Administrator Wilson stated the biggest thing is making sure the costs are the same or lower; how to become more efficient with what we have.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked when the last time we did a software upgrade with E911 dispatch was.
 - Sheriff Rick Clark reported that they are in the middle of upgrading now.
 - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated not only are they talking about software upgrade, but the physical structure of E911.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst added that one of the things they can bring back to Council after a month is what they are doing, and how they can make it better. He further added that he has been in the dispatch room and has seen what goes on, but would like to know step by step what really goes on when a phone call comes in.
 - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated that if we want to talk about the spirit of efficiency and everything else with emergency services, it starts with the call.
- ❖ After much more discussion, Committee recommends staff gather more information and bring the information back to council at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting.

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 Carl Hudson and carried unanimously. The Committee of the Whole stood adjourned at 7:59 p.m.