

## COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

### Council Members:

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  
Crystal A. Alexander, Clerk to Council  
Michael Hayes, Risk Manager  
Mike Gillespie, Chief Magistrate  
Brian O'Kelley, Public Service Commission  
Allison Anderson, Pickens County Library System

### Guests in Attendance:

Tracy and Sunshine Gantt, Gantt Ministries  
Jim Abbott, The Salvation Army - Pickens County

The Committee of the Whole met in the Council Auditorium on Tuesday, January 16, 2017 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 and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Roy Costner further led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:**

#### **Building for Second Chance Homeless Shelter (Request from Tracy and Sunshine Gantt Ministries) – Log No. 82**

- Tracy and Sunshine Gantt, of Gantt Ministries, discussed their continuous efforts to form a second chance homeless shelter in Pickens County. Mrs. Gantt provided the members of the committee additional information, to include a petition of over 3,000 signatures in support of a shelter.
  - Jim Abbott, from the Salvation Army, discussed an assessment of the current community model in Pickens County, which was performed to determine how the Salvation Army could increase the assistance that they can provide and develop the services that are necessary. Mr. Abbott further [presented information](#) from that assessment. He advised that the Salvation Army is in the process of opening up a “warming center”. He clarified that this is not a shelter, but would provide a warm place for people to sleep. Mr. Abbott stated that the model is volunteer-centric.
  - Chairman Roy Costner stated that he liked Mr. Abbott’s the approach of community leadership and having the key organizations come together.
  - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated that his opinion is the community model is the correct and only way to address this issue. He stated that while he is not certain how the County would fit in this model, other than being part of the community; he agrees that starting conversations with other organizations to formulate a plan is the right direction.
  - Councilman Ensley Feemster asked Mr. and Mrs. Gantt if they are planning to model their shelter after the Haven of Rest.  
-Mr. Gantt responded that their goal is to turn no one away from the shelter.
  - After much more discussion, the Committee directed staff to facilitate a meeting with key organizations in the County to include Mr. and Mrs. Gantt.
  - Gerald Wilson, the County Administrator, advised that the Director of Emergency Management, Denise Kwiatek, would reach out to Gantt Ministries and the Salvation Army and report back to Council in 30 days.
- ❖ No Action Taken by Committee

### **USPCA Update – Log No. 85**

- Ken Roper, the County Attorney, provided an [update on USPCA](#) (Upstate Saving Pickens County Animals).
  - Mr. Roper’s update included, but was not limited to: a mobile adoption trailer, approved in the previous budget, is scheduled to be delivered on January 17, 2018; Request for Proposals (RFP) for veterinarian services at the county facility have been sent and are due on or before February 3, 2018; staff, along with volunteers, are proposing that a name change from “Upstate SPCA” to “Pickens County Animal Shelter” be approved by the Administrator, as council action is not required; and provided a copy of a draft logo that reflects the new proposed name.
  - Mr. Roper provided a copy of the [Pickens County Upstate SPCA Policy and Procedure Manual](#) draft to the members of the committee. He clarified that while council action is not required; he wanted Council to have time to review the draft policy manual before its implemented.
  - Councilman Wes Hendricks commended staff on the number of returned and adopted animals outlined in the PowerPoint.
  - After more discussion, Mr. Roper stated that another update on the Animal Shelter would be provided during the budget cycle.
- ❖ No Action Taken by Committee

### **Quail Haven Sewer – Log No. 78**

- Chairman Roy Costner deferred the Magistrate Compensation discussion to later in the meeting and called on Brian O’Kelley, from the Public Service Commission.
  - Mr. O’Kelley stated that he has researched a request from Senator Rex Rice as it relates to Quail Haven Sewer. He provided a [fact sheet](#) to the members of the committee that outlines his research. Mr. O’Kelley recommends adhering to the current county policy that requires an agreement in order for a transfer of ownership to occur.
  - Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked for clarification of the situation.
    - Mr. O’Kelley clarified that he does not know the details of the proposal between two private parties; however, he is aware that the customer base is dissatisfied with the service and the current owner has expressed the inability to perform.
  - Chairman Roy Costner asked Gerald Wilson to further clarify.
    - Mr. Wilson responded that Senator Rex Rice approached Brian O’Kelley, Chairman Roy Costner and himself about this matter. He clarified that the current owner of the system is the Threatt sisters, as the original owner passed away and the sisters inherited the system. Mr. Wilson stated that Condor is contracted with the Threatt sisters to run the system. He advised that the system is dilapidated, that there are several issues to include line issues, cement caving in the roadways, etc. Mr. Wilson clarified the issue is the current ordinance has a provision in place, that if two parties want to sell a system, a surety bond must be in place to protect the customer base of that system. He further clarified that if the owner doesn’t meet the service requirements, there would be funds in an escrow account to protect the customer. Mr. Wilson advised that the request is to waive that requirement in the current ordinance to allow the Threatt sisters to sell the system to Condor, with an estimated cost to repair the system of \$1 million. He further advised that the referenced language in the ordinance also pertains to other privately owned systems within Pickens County. Mr. Wilson stated that if an exception is made for one, you may set precedence for all.
  - Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked the County Attorney, Ken Roper, for guidance for those residents that are impacted by this matter.
    - Ken Roper responded that he does not want the referenced individuals to leave this meeting with any change in position based on what Council and/or staff say or do not say. He stated that this matter is between the individuals and the service provider. Mr. Roper stated that he would advise either party to talk to an attorney to determine if they have legal remedies through the court, if they are dissatisfied.
  - After much discussion, Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated that the referenced recommendation in the ordinance protects the residents of the referenced subdivision.
  - Gerald Wilson stated that he would reach out to ACOG to determine what may be available for private systems. He stated that Mr. O’Kelley would reach out to the state to determine what can or cannot be done. Mr. Wilson stated that they would explain to Mr. Rice why this is not in the best interest at this point in time for the County or the referenced residents. He also recommended the residents to reach out to Mr. O’Kelley.
- ❖ No Action Taken by Committee

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

- Motion was made by Chairman Roy Costner, seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously to convene in executive session for a personnel matter related to magistrate compensation.

**Magistrate Compensation – Log No. 84**

- Committee directed staff to research this matter further and brief council during executive session at the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- ❖ No Action Taken by Committee

**Funding Request for Four Pickens County Athletes Participating in the National Special Olympics (PCBDSN) – Log No. 86**

- Chairman Roy Costner advised that he was contacted by Leo Hayes regarding the four Pickens County athletes that will participate in the National Special Olympics. Chairman Costner stated that Mr. Hayes asked council for assistance with the expense of the trip, which is approximately a total of \$12,000.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked what fundraising efforts have been made.
  - Chairman Roy Costner responded that he is not certain, but he knows that they have reached out to several different entities, organizations and parents. He clarified that he wanted to bring this before Council to determine their opinion.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked if this could qualify for recreation funding.
  - Councilman Trey Whitehurst responded that this would not qualify in his opinion.
- After more discussion, Gerald Wilson advised that he would have Sharon Johnson publicize the accomplishment of the four athletes and reach out to Mr. Hayes to invite the four athletes to the next council meeting in February.
- ❖ No Action Taken by Committee

**Proposed Schedule Change for the Sarlin Community Library – Log No. 83**

- Gerald Wilson advised that Allison Anderson is going to discuss the proposed hour changes at the Liberty branch, as the council previously changed the ordinance that all hour changes require prior consent of council.
- Allison Anderson, from the Pickens County Library System, stated that the hours were changed at the Liberty branch in June of 2016 in attempt to drive more traffic to the branch. She advised that the board is recommending reverting back to the previous hours at this branch, as this change did not increase attendance as anticipated. She also advised that the branch has received complaints about opening at 11:00 instead of 10:00. Ms. Anderson also provided a request from the Library Board of Trustees that the language in Ordinance 515 be changed in Sec. 26-1.b(1) to allow the Library Board to change branch hours without prior written consent of County Council.
  - After discussion, Councilman Wes Hendricks moved to recommend approving the change of hours at the Liberty branch as requested. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously.
- ❖ Committee recommends approving the change of hours at the Liberty branch as requested by the Library Board.

**ADJOURN:**

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously. The Committee of the Whole stood adjourned at 8:49 p.m.