

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
Brian O'Kelley
Chris Brink
Creed Hashe
Denise Kwiatek
Michael Hayes
Ralph Guarino
Ray Farley
Rick Clark

Guest:

David Cheatwood–*First Tryon Advisors*
Gary Pope, Jr.–*Pope Flynn, LLC*
Keith Brockington–*Greenville County & GPATS*
Senator Rex Rice

The Committee of the Whole met in the Main Conference Room on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. All members of the committee were in attendance with Chairman Roy Costner presiding.

County Finances – Log No. 54

- Ralph Guarino and David Cheatwood presented the Committee with an overview of the County's finances to include, but not limited to: an overview of existing debt as of 06/30/2016; debt service millage; and various funding options the County has available to pay for the jail project.
- During much discussion, with the Committee agreed the funding position for Tri-County Technical College needed to be determined before making a decision on which funding option the County should select to pay for the jail project.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers moved to pull from committee the earmarking of the jail and other financial issues related thereto and to send to the full council at the next regular called meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and unanimously passed, by the Committee, as a recommendation to full council.

Hwy. 153 Extension Proposal – Log No. 56

- Chairman Roy Costner provided an overview of the proposed Hwy. 153 extension proposal and further introduced Keith Brockington to discuss the project in more detail.
- During much discussion between the Committee and Mr. Brockington, Mr. Brockington clarified the deadline to submit the application is February 28, 2016. However, the application can be submitted with the resolution in pending status.
- The Committee asked for confirmation that the application is not an obligation, of any kind, to the County. Mr. Brockington stated an application is not an obligation.
- Chairman Roy Costner moved to approve [Resolution No. 2017-04](#), with an amendment to strike '*WHEREAS, Pickens County has determined to allocate sufficient funding in order to provide a local match, as needed, to enable the construction of this much needed infrastructure*'. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and unanimously passed, by the Committee, as a recommendation to full council.

Liberty Civic Auditorium Branding and 501c3 – Log No. 50

- Chairman Roy Costner announced the Compensation Study (Elected Officials), Log No. 46, would be discussed towards the end of the meeting in Executive Session.
- Chairman Roy Costner clarified there would be second reading on creating the 501c3 organizations for the Liberty Civic Auditorium, Pickens County Museum and the Hagood Mill.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he had questions, but he prefers to discuss at another time.

- No Action Taken by Committee

Pickens County Museum 501c3 – Log No. 51

- No Action Taken by Committee

Hagood Mill 501c3 and Grant for Pole Shed – Log No. 52

- No Action Taken by Committee

Jail Project – Log No. 47

- Michael Hayes provided the Committee with the rendering and the plans for the new jail. Mr. Hayes further stated the pre-qualified bids would open in June with the project starting in July 2017.

- No Action Taken by Committee

Develop Emergency Procedures (to include the proposed Ordinance No. 526) – Log No. 45

- Denise Kwiatek provided the Committee with an overview of the proposed emergency procedures that were mirrored after the Dorchester County plan.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers requested the new Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement be placed on the next regular meeting agenda.

CONSIDERATION FOR SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 526 ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY WITHIN PICKENS COUNTY AND FOR THE OPERATION OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT SUBSEQUENT THERETO.

- Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and unanimously passed, by the Committee, to recommend second reading of [Ordinance No. 526](#), as presented, out of committee.

Outdoor Special Events Ordinance No. 524 – Log No. 57

- No Action Taken by Committee

CONSIDERATION FOR THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 524 FOR THE COUNTY OF PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA ESTABLISHING STANDARDS AND PERMITTING PROCEDURES FOR CERTAIN OUTDOOR SPECIAL EVENTS BEING HELD ON PUBLIC ROADWAYS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY.

- No Action Taken by Committee

Review of Fire Board and Districts (countywide) – Log No. 55

- No Action Taken by Committee

Proposed Sewer Plan and Availability Fee – Log No. 43

- No Action Taken by Committee

Building Codes – Log No. 44

- No Action Taken by Committee

Jail Fees with Municipalities – Log No. 48

- Sheriff Rick Clark presented a Detention Center Expense Report to the Committee that reflected a calculation of \$32.00 per day to house a prisoner per the Sheriff's Office; whereas, the stated calculation from Ralph

Guarino was \$44.00 per day. The Sheriff did not provide a recommendation; he stated that was up to the full council.

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked the Administrator if all of the municipalities were paying the current rate of \$65.00.
- Gerald Wilson responded all but one; Easley was paying \$28.00 per prisoner, per day. He further stated there was a 3% under collection fee imposed by the council in 2016.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst and Chairman Roy Costner both agreed the City of Easley should pay the amount they owe to the County.
- After much discussion, the Committee requested the Administrator to proceed as follows: provide the council with a deficit report, since the \$65.00 fee implementation, for the City of Easley; and to meet with municipalities to begin a discussion regarding jail fees.

- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster to set the jail fee at \$35.00, based on the information provided and anticipated cost increases in the future. Motion was seconded Councilman Wes Hendricks.
>During discussion, Ken Roper clarified the motion would be to recommend, to the full council, to include the \$35.00 fee in the budget document this coming year. Mr. Roper stated this is where the jail fee was set and would take three readings of the budget ordinance.
- Motion was amended by Councilman Trey Whitehurst to state the \$35.00 fee is the recommendation for the Administrator to use in negotiations with the municipalities. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and unanimously passed.
- Motion carried unanimously, by the Committee, as a recommendation to full council to set the jail fee negotiation amount at \$35.00 for the Administrator to use during discussion with the municipalities.

Upstate Alliance – Log No. 53

- Ray Farley provided an overview of Upstate Alliance with the Committee. Mr. Farley advised the Committee that the fees at the present time would be \$58,500; and he thinks it is based on a per capita basis at \$0.50 per capita. He stated the City of Easley is currently a member of Upstate Alliance and they may have a desire to partner with Pickens County. Mr. Farley stated if the City of Easley did want to partner with the County to join Upstate Alliance, they would contribute to the fee in the approximate amount of \$10,000.00 and allow the County to take the seat at the table.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he is concerned, based on his past experience, with the ROI as a member of Upstate Alliance. He also stated that he would not vote in favor of joining Upstate Alliance.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he was in favor of joining Upstate Alliance and giving them a chance to deliver.
- Chairman Roy Costner stated this alliance is similar to marketing, in that all advertising will generate a ROI, if done correctly.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated joining Upstate Alliance is a buy-in, much more than financial. He also stated if the businesses at the industrial park feel like the County needs to be ‘bought in’; then they owe it to them, as the wonderful businesses they are, to look at it, evaluate it and consider it.
- Councilman Carl Hudson stated he recommends an annual review if the council decides to join the Alliance.
- Ray Farley, when asked for his opinion of joining Upstate Alliance by the Committee, stated he would recommend the County rejoin, but that the council should manage their expectations and understand why it is that they want to become a member. Mr. Farley further stated they should realize the best marketing they can do is to have a product that is a fully utility served site that is pad-ready and ready to be built on and the trained, technically competent people.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated that Pickens County would pay the same per capita fee that Greenville County pays and Greenville County is our competitor.

- After much discussion, the Committee recommends adding a resolution, for council’s consideration at the next regular meeting, to join Upstate Alliance that includes a requirement of an annual review to measure their performance.

- 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) after a five minute recess. Chairman Roy Costner further stated the purpose is to discuss the compensation study for elected officials and he recognized himself for the motion. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and unanimously passed.

Action as Needed After Executive Session:

Compensation Study (Elected Officials) – Log No. 46

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers to approve the staff's recommendation of the elected official's compensation study, as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and unanimously passed, by the Committee, as a recommendation to full council.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Roy Costner moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded Councilman Wes Hendricks and unanimously passed. The Committee of the Whole stood adjourned at 9:19 p.m.