

## **Regular Pickens County Council Meeting**

April 2, 2018

6:15 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium, 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 March 27, 2018.

### Council Members in Attendance:

Roy Costner, Chairman

Chris Bowers, Vice Chairman

Wes Hendricks, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Ensley Feemster

Carl Hudson

Trey Whitehurst (Absent)

### Staff in Attendance:

Gerald Wilson, County Administrator

Ken Roper, County Attorney

Crystal A. Alexander, Clerk to Council

### **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Roy Costner called the meeting of April 2, 2018 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Costner advised that Council had two items to briefly discuss in executive session.

### **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 Ensley Feemster, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (5-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.

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

- Legal Update – Recreation Funds Investigation
- Legal Briefing – County Policy Related to FOIA and Public Meetings

Chairman Roy Costner called the Public Session back to Order. Vice Chairman Chris Bowers further led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:**

Chairman Roy Costner advised of the following:

Chairman Roy Costner stated, “We entered executive session for two legal updates. The first was on the Recreation Funds Investigation. As you may have noticed, at last month’s committee of the whole meeting, we considered recommendations from the new Recreation Committee for the allocation of county funding for the coming year. Those recommendations will be voted on again tonight as a part of our new, transparent process.”

“This new process is the result of reforms put in place by this council last year as one of its first actions. Those reforms were made necessary because the old way of allocating rec funds created the potential for abuse.”

“One example of this was the subject of our legal briefing moments ago.” Chairman Roy Costner called on the County Attorney, Ken Roper to provide an overview of the briefing.

Mr. Roper stated, “We have learned that the State Ethics Commission has ruled that probable cause exists on a complaint filed against former Councilmember Neil Smith. The complaint alleges that Neil Smith directed \$25,000.00 of taxpayer funds to BMI, a private company where Mr. Smith sits on the board of directors. The complaint also alleges that Mr. Smith attempted to send an additional \$65,000.00 of taxpayer dollars to BMI, but county staff refused to do so until the end of his term. We are advised that this investigation is ongoing, and that further information will come from the State Ethics Commission when and if they deem appropriate.”

Chairman Roy Costner stated, “I am glad to see our new process is working, and hope we never return to the good old boy system of spending taxpayer money that existed for years. I look forward to voting on the committee’s recommendations tonight.”

Chairman Roy Costner further stated, “The second issue we discussed was a Legal Briefing on the County Policy Related to FOIA and Public Meetings. Based on the advice that we received, we need to amend our Organizational Rules of Council. I would ask for a motion to pull Council Rules from Committee, to amend Section 4.4(E) to add the following line “in the chair’s discretion, individuals from county staff or council may be directed to address any questions raised from the public forum.” And also, as a part of this motion, the Rules will be returned to committee for further study at the appropriate time.”

- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers moved to pull Council Rules from the Committee of the Whole, amend Section 4.4 (E) to add the following “in the chair’s discretion, individuals from county staff or council may be directed to address any questions raised during the public forum”; and refer the Rules to the Committee of the Whole for further study at a later date. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (5-0).

#### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

Chairman Roy Costner opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to call upon the citizens who signed up to speak. The Clerk to Council announced that there were no speakers; and therefore, the Chairman closed the Public Forum.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

- March 5, 2018
- March 10, 2018-Planning Retreat
- March 13, 2018-Special Called Meeting (Alliance Pickens)
- March 13, 2018-Special Called Meeting (Airport)
- Motion was made by Councilman Carl Hudson, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (5-0) to approve the referenced minutes.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

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

Opioid Lawsuit: Mr. Wilson advised that per Council’s request last month, Pickens County has retained Harrison White Law Firm out of Spartanburg for the opioid epidemic. He stated that the law firm will investigate the impact of the national opioid epidemic on Pickens County, and whether it merits a lawsuit

against the pharmaceutical companies. Mr. Wilson advised that the county should receive the results and the status of the potential lawsuit within the next month or so.

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Team Up Clean-Up Pickens County: Mr. Wilson stated that county staff, citizens, municipalities and businesses teamed up to form a litter blitz in Pickens County during the weekend of March 23<sup>rd</sup>. He clarified that this was an effort to clean-up the roadways and neighborhoods in anticipation of visitors coming to town for the Sesquicentennial activities. Mr. Wilson advised that a total of 17.31 tons of trash was picked up during this event. He stated that the event was also a kick-off to the Five on Friday campaign; further stating that, if every citizen in Pickens County picks up five pieces of trash on Fridays, that would equate to a half million pieces of waste cleaned up each week. Mr. Wilson lastly stated, "As Abraham Lincoln said, I'd like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives; I'd like to see a man live so that his place is proud of him. Pickens County employees, municipalities, citizens and businesses showed their hometown pride during the Team Up and Clean-Up event. We can certainly be proud of everyone involved."

Chairman Roy Costner stated that he was blown away by the response, from not only the county staff to take their time to participate; but also the Sheriff's Office personnel, fire fighters, all members of County Council, the state delegation, SCDOT, etc. He stated that the county is receiving phone calls from other counties wanting to know how the event was so successful. Chairman Costner recognized the effort that it took to plan the event and thanked everyone involved.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated that he thought this event was a great experience; his daughter was very excited and participated in efforts to pick trash up around her school. He stated that several businesses participated in picking up trash as well. Vice Chairman Bowers clarified that Five on Fridays is how to maintain the cleaner roadways and neighborhoods.

Update on Homeless Shelter: Mr. Wilson introduced Denise Kwiatek, with the Emergency Management Department, to provide an update on the homeless shelter activities.

Ms. Kwiatek stated that she has met twice with the Salvation Army, Tracy and Sunshine Gantt, churches and other organizations to form an advisory task force to determine what the needs are in Pickens County. She stated that the group is trying to determine what shelter model is needed; a warming shelter or a day shelter. She clarified that at this point it appears that a warming shelter is needed; and therefore, they plan to start that shelter in the fall. Ms. Kwiatek stated that the demographic setback is that you can only house certain people (i.e., single mothers with children, men, families). She clarified that there is still work to be done to determine the demographics and design, etc. She stated that there are nine community partners or organizations that are willing to serve on the advisory task force to start the process. Ms. Kwiatek advised that the Salvation Army has been successful in similar efforts in Greenville County for ten years and the process works. She stated that the goal is to get churches throughout the county involved in this effort. Ms. Kwiatek advised that the sustainability would be donations from community partners. She clarified that the Salvation Army's timeline to open a warming shelter in Easley is October 28; they will continue to develop a network of churches throughout Pickens County that will provide locations for additional warming shelters. Ms. Kwiatek further stated additional plans for these ongoing efforts.

Councilman Wes Hendricks asked for clarification that the churches would provide the actual facilities. He also asked if the costs would be absorbed by the churches that participate.

-Ms. Kwiatek responded yes, that Salvation Army has been working with a lot of community churches to determine if they're willing to open their doors for a warming shelter this fall. She also responded that the costs would be paid by the participating churches and through community donations.

Councilman Ensley Feemster stated that when you have churches housing the people in need, it saves a lot of costs; where otherwise, you would have a separate building that would not be utilized all year long.

Chairman Roy Costner asked if Behavioral Health partners were involved.

- Ms. Kwiatek responded yes, that representatives from Behavioral Health are on the task force.

After more discussion, Chairman Costner thanked Denise Kwiatek for her participation in these efforts.

**COMMITTEE REPORT:** Committee of the Whole – March 19, 2018

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

The Committee of the Whole met at the Performing Arts Center on Monday, March 19, 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 and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Carl Hudson led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:**

**Discuss Past, Present and Future of Pickens County from Historical Perspective (Request from Allan Quinn) – Log No. 93**

- Mr. Allan Quinn appeared to discuss the history of Pickens County and share his vision for the County. He passed around a book to the members of the committee titled, "A Brief History of Easley" by R. Chad Stewart. Mr. Quinn asked that the council not consider approving any new economic developments that only offer low paying jobs. He asked that the council consider adopting his slogan, "Make Pickens County Great Again".
  
- ❖ No action taken by Committee

**Pumpkintown Fire Department Property Purchase – Log No. 92**

- Chief Billy Gibson advised the Committee of an opportunity to acquire an acre of property for \$20,000, near the intersection of Highway 11 and Talley Bridge Rd., which includes Highway 11 frontage. He stated that there were several homes in the referenced area that are outside of the five mile range of the Pumpkintown Headquarters Station. He further advised that this acquisition has been recommended by the Pumpkintown Fire District Board for potential future plans of a fire substation or satellite station.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks stated that the Fire District has the funds secured to acquire this property.
- The Committee discussed the opportunity and related topics to include, but no limited to: the impact this acquisition would have on economic development and future development; ISO ratings; mutual aid across county lines; opportunities to contract fire services; if an acre of land would be sufficient for a possible future substation/satellite station; possibility to approach Clemson University regarding their property near the referenced area; and volunteers in the referenced area.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks moved to recommend moving forward with the project. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster.  
>During discussion, Councilman Carl Hudson stated that he recommends that the County perform due diligence, to include adequate coverage, when making assessments of where to place fire stations.
  
- Chairman Roy Costner asked Chief Gibson that based of Councilman Hudson's statement, would the proposed request provide adequate coverage of the area.  
- Chief Gibson responded, yes in this area.
- After more discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

- ❖ Committee recommends approving the Pumpkintown Fire District to move forward with acquiring the acre of land near the intersection of Highway 11 and Talley Bridge Rd. for \$20,000, to be expended from the Fire District’s funds.

**Council Action on Log No. 92:**

- Motion carried unanimously (5-0) to approve the request from the Pumpkintown Fire District to acquire the acre of land, near the intersection of Highway 11 and Talley Bridge Rd. for \$20,000, to be expended from the Fire District’s funds.

**Recreation Funding Recommendations – Log No. 88**

- The Committee reviewed the recommendations for recreation funding provided by the Recreation Funding Advisory Board. Dale Holloway, of the Advisory Board, was present to answer any questions.
- Councilman Ensley Feemster moved to recommend approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund account for District 1. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously.  
 >During discussion, Chairman Roy Costner questioned if the recipient of funding would have to provide proof that the monies went to the referenced project.  
 -Gerald Wilson, the County Administrator, stated the recipient would have to provide proof of how the funding was spent, as a part of the application process.

Council District	Ref No.	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations
1	1	City of Clemson Parks & Recreation Department	\$ 157,349.00*	*To be for future projects as defined
1	2	Clemson Elementary PTA	\$ -	
1	3	Clemson University, Dept. of Parks, Rec & Tourism	\$ 2,000.00*	*Up to \$2,000 - \$20 per participate, up to 100 participates
1	4	Visit Clemson	\$ -	
1	5	Visit Clemson (2 <sup>nd</sup> request)	\$ 7,500.00	
1	6.1	The Children Are Our Future DBA Upstate Fort	\$ 3,000.00	
<b>DISTRICT 1 TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$ 169,849.00</b>	

**Council Action on Log No. 88 (a):**

- Motion carried unanimously (5-0) to approve the above referenced funding from the recreation fund account for District 1.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst moved to recommend approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund account for District 2. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously.

Council District	Ref No.	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations
2	6.2	The Children Are Our Future DBA Upstate Fort	\$ -	
2	7	Town of Central Parks & Rec	\$ 15,000.00	
2	8.2	Town of Central Parks & Rec (2 <sup>nd</sup> Request)	\$ -	
2	8.1	Town of Central Parks & Rec (2 <sup>nd</sup> Request)	\$ 5,000.00	
2	9	Greater Clemson Mountain Bikers Club	\$ 600.00	
2	10	Town of Norris	\$ 12,000.00*	*Up to \$12,000.00 contingent on County assisting with grading

					to reduce costs
2	11	Town of Six Mile	\$	1,250.00	
2	12	Town of Six Mile (2 <sup>nd</sup> Request)	\$	<del>10,000.00</del> * 13,500.00 (Amended by Council)	*Up to <del>\$10,000.00</del> \$13,500.00 contingent on the possibility of utilizing a tractor cutter currently County surplus (Amount amended by Council)
<b>DISTRICT 2 TOTAL:</b>			\$	<del>43,850.00</del> <b>\$47,350.00</b>	

**Council Action on Log No. 88 (b):**

- Chairman Roy Costner moved to amend the recommendation from the Committee for District 2, on behalf of Councilman Trey Whitehurst, for the Town of Six Mile. The motion amended the amount of referenced no. 12 from \$10,000.00 to \$13,500.00. Motion carried unanimously (5-0) to approve the above referenced funding from the recreation fund account for District 2.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks moved to recommend approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund for District 3. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously.

Council District	Ref No.	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations
3	13	City of Pickens	\$ 49,500.00	
3	14	Hagood Mill Historic Site & Folklife Center	\$ 9,000.00*	*County to assist with grading , etc.
3	15.1	YMCA (Pickens)	\$ 2,500.00	
<b>DISTRICT 3 TOTAL:</b>			\$ <b>61,000.00</b>	

**Council Action on Log No. 88 (c):**

>During discussion, Councilman Wes Hendricks stated that he is pleased to say that as a part of the county, they are contributing to the Doodle Trail, which helps more than just the city residents. He stated that the Doodle Trail draws people from outside of the county and state. He said the City of Easley and the City of Pickens did a great job. Councilman Hendricks stated that he thinks the bike path is one of the best in the upstate, if not the state.

- Motion carried unanimously (5-0) to approve the above referenced funding from the recreation fund account for District 3.
- Chairman Roy Costner moved to recommend approving the following disbursement from the recreation fund for District 4. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously.

Council District	Ref No.	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations
4	16	City of Liberty	\$ <del>41,148.00</del>	
<b>DISTRICT 4 TOTAL:</b>			\$ <del>41,148.00</del>	Amended by Council

**Council Action on Log No. 88 (d):**

- Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to amend the recommendation and pull the item for review and more discussion by the Recreation Funding Advisory Board, before any final action is taken. Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (5-0).

- Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously to recommend approving the disbursement from the recreation fund for District 5 (reference no. 15.2)
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers moved to recommend approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund for District 5 (reference no. 17 and 18). Motion was seconded by Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously.

>During discussion, Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated for the record, that he was against the request from the City of Easley Parks & Rec after speaking with Stephen Steese and the Mayor. He clarified that since that time, he has attended several rec football and baseball games and saw that Easley was playing other teams throughout the County. He stated that this equipment would benefit children throughout the County.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked if there was any plan to address the remaining balance for District 5 that would carry forward.

-Dale Holloway responded that they would be glad to review and recommend funding, up to the remaining balance, for any future request that is qualified.

Council District	Ref No.	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations
5	15.2	YMCA (Easley)	\$ 2,500.00	
5	17	City of Easley Parks & Rec	\$ 65,000.00	
5	18	Cptn Kimberly Hampton Mem. Park (Operation Dragonfly)	\$ -	
<b>DISTRICT 5 TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$ 67,500.00</b>	

**Council Action on Log No. 88 (e):**

- Motion carried unanimously (5-0) to approve the above referenced funding from the recreation fund account for District 5.
- Councilman Carl Hudson moved to recommend approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund for District 6. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously.

Council District	Ref No.	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations
6	19	Dacusville Recreation Association	\$ 18,111.67	
6	20	Dacusville Community Club	\$ 24,000.00	
<b>DISTRICT 6 TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$ 42,111.67</b>	

**Council Action on Log No. 88 (f):**

>During discussion, Councilman Carl Hudson stated that the \$18,111.67 is for operating costs for the Dacusville Recreation Association; the \$24,000.00 is for the completion of the pavilion for the Dacusville Community Club.

- Motion carried unanimously (5-0) to approve the above referenced funding from the recreation fund account for District 6.
- ❖ Committee recommends approving the above referenced recreation funding totaling \$425,458.67, with referenced contingencies.
- Motion to adjourn for a short recess was made by Chairman Roy Costner, seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously. Committee stood adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Chairman Roy Costner called the session back to order at 7:58 p.m.

**Update on Twin County Partnership with the District of Karlsruhe – Log No. 91**

- County Attorney, Ken Roper, and the members of the Committee thoroughly discussed the proposed twin county partnership with the District of Karlsruhe and the recent trip to Germany.

❖ No Action Taken by Committee

**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 Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously. The Committee of the Whole stood adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

<<END OF COMMITTEE REPORT>>

**COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

Chairman Roy Costner announced the following:

- April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. It is symbolized by blue pinwheels often seen throughout the country during the month of April. The “Pinwheels of Prevention” represent the happiness that every child deserves. As a part of our continuing Sesquicentennial celebration, and to bring awareness to child abuse, the County will place 150 pinwheels in front of the administration facility.
- Council will hold a budget work session on Monday, April 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of this facility.
- The Committee of the Whole will meet on Monday, April 16th at 6:00 p.m. with a budget work session to follow. Those meetings will also be held in the Main Conference Room of this facility.
- Council may have a budget work session on Monday, April 23rd at 6:00 p.m., if more discussion is needed for the proposed budget.

**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.

**ANNUAL UPDATE FROM UPSTATE SC ALLIANCE:**

Chairman Roy Costner introduced John Lummus, the President and CEO of Upstate SC Alliance, to provide an annual update. Mr. Lummus provided the following report:

Mr. Lummus thanked the council for the opportunity to present the report on behalf of Upstate SC Alliance. He also thanked the council for their support in being a member of the Alliance for approximately the last year. He also thanked Ray Farley; stating that he works very closely with Mr. Farley on a daily or weekly basis related to economic development matters.

Mr. Lummus provided data related to the evolution of economic development, economic development market trends and projections, opportunities and marketing strategy, etc.

Councilman Carl Hudson asked Mr. Lummus if he has recently worked on any projects with Ray Farley. -Mr. Lummus responded that there have been ongoing efforts to market the Upstate of South Carolina. He stated that there have not been specific projects that landed in Pickens County, as a result of a lead provided by Upstate SC Alliance, since the County rejoined the Alliance. He clarified that the Alliance is constantly working with the ten counties.

Chairman Roy Costner asked if being a member of Upstate Alliance offered opportunities for those existing companies that are expanding or are there opportunities for businesses because the county is a member of the Alliance.

-Mr. Lummus responded that there are investors throughout Pickens County that invests in the Alliance Pickens organization. He stated that he thinks that they are able to take advantage of that. He further stated that Clemson University is one of their board members; the City of Easley has been involved with what Upstate SC Alliance does; Baptist Easley Hospital has been a member in the past, etc. Mr. Lummus clarified that the Alliance does not get involved with existing industries; that is handled by the county.

Chairman Roy Costner asked if Pickens County rejoining Upstate SC Alliance has strengthened the ability of Upstate Alliance to engage more expanded opportunities the way that the trends are going.

-Mr. Lummus responded that it certainly has; they are a stronger region with everyone in it. He reiterated that the Alliance needs Pickens County to be able to market regionally.

After much discussion, Chairman Roy Costner thanked Mr. Lummus for his report.

### **CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PROJECTS AS PRESENTED BY THE CITY OF EASLEY:**

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster.
  - >During discussion, Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked for clarification that this request legally complies with the guidelines that were set by council with the recent amendment of the IGA with the City of Easley.
  - The County Administrator, Gerald Wilson, responded, yes. He further stated that the agreement was to extend the TIF, with the City of Easley, to \$76,000.00 per year for ten years. Mr. Wilson clarified that any amount collected about the \$76,000.00 per year would revert back to the county.

Chairman Roy Costner read the list of TIF projects as follows:

- Renovation of Old Market Square
- Farmers Market
- Downtown Refresh
- West End Hall Renovations
- Downtown Railroad Safety Improvements
- Downtown Parking – Main Street/North A Street

Councilman Wes Hendricks questioned where the City would obtain the remainder of the funds for the referenced projects.

-Mr. Wilson responded that the remainder of the funds would be the School District and the City of Easley's portions of the TIF.

- Motion to approve the tax increment financing projects as presented by the City of Easley carried unanimously (5-0).

### **CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE BID FOR THE NEW HANGAR DEVELOPMENT AT THE PICKENS COUNTY AIRPORT:**

- Councilman Ensley Feemster moved to approve the bid for the new hangar development as presented, to include expending \$71,270.00 from fund balance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (5-0).

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION HONORING COLE MURPHY OF LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE 2018 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN WRESTLING:**

- Chairman Roy Costner moved to postpone consideration of the proposed resolution to a time when Cole Murphy and his family can attend. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2018-05 DESIGNATING APRIL 2018 AS FAIR HOUSING AWARENESS MONTH IN PICKENS COUNTY:**

- Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously to approve Resolution 2018-05, as presented.

**CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION NO. 2018-06 DECLARING THE WEEK OF APRIL 8-14, 2018 TO BE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK IN PICKENS COUNTY:**

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously to approve Proclamation 2018-06 as presented.

Chairman Roy Costner recognized Tasha Todd, Pickens County E911 Coordinator, to share why 2018 is a special year for 911.

Ms. Todd thanked Council for the opportunity to commend 911 tonight, most importantly to commend 911 in Pickens County. She provided the following statement:

“As previously stated, this year is very special to us in the 911 community. This February marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first 911 call ever placed. In 1967, it was recommended by the government that a single number be established nationwide for reporting emergency situations. Before 1967, if a caller needed help, they would need to know the direct number for a police department or a fire department. With the encouragement of multiple government agencies and AT&T, the 911 number was established. The digits 911 were chosen in 1968, as the nation’s emergency number because they were easy to remember; easy to dial on a rotary phone; and it was not already in use for an area code, office code or service code. The nation’s first 911 call was not made from New York City, Los Angeles or Philadelphia; it was made from Haleyville, Alabama on February 16, 1968. The town still celebrates 911 every June with an annual festival. 911 is getting older, but we are getting much, much better; from rotary phones to wireless phone to cell phones; and not too far in the future, 911 calls being submitted through pacemakers or other medical devices to let us know someone is in trouble, a lot of times before they know themselves. What seemed as impossible now seems probable. I’ve been in 911 for twenty-two years, ten of those years in Pickens County. My office and staff have the privilege of serving Clemson University, Easley Police Department and Pickens County Sheriff’s Office. We make sure they stay running, but they do the hard work. While most of public safety is divided into single disciplines and jurisdictions, those of us in 911 have a unique opportunity to be multi-disciplined and serve in every aspect of our public safety family. It is not a job for everyone; it’s a difficult, but very rewarding job. Over the lifetime of their career, E911 telecommunicators can hear someone take their very first breath and hear someone breathe their very last. Everyone that sits behind a headset is the first, first responder; before a wheel can roll in a patrol car, fire truck or an ambulance, someone has to answer that call. Thank you for taking the time and honoring these men and women that are often the unsung heroes of public safety.”

Chairman Roy Costner called the following individuals to come forward to represent their respective areas as a whole:

- Tasha Todd, Pickens County E911 Coordinator
- Twana Wright, Clemson University PD

- Larry Waters, Easley PD
- Lisa Cassell, Pickens County Sheriff's Office

Chairman Roy Costner read the Proclamation in its entirety. All members of council thanked and honored the representatives in attendance, as well as all of telecommunicators throughout the county that could not attend.

**FIRST READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 36-176 OF THE PICKENS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES SO AS TO FURTHER DEFINE THE ALLOWABLE TIME LIMIT FOR SPECIAL TAX ASSESSMENTS FOR REHABILITATED HISTORIC PROPERTIES, AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO:**

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson. >During discussion, Councilman Wes Hendricks stated, as a point of clarification, that the council voted 5-1 at the last council meeting to approve saying that the Easley Cotton Mill was of historic proportion, qualified for this particular situation. He further stated that the action this council has taken is the same action a previous council had taken. He continued to state that in August of 2012, this request for the Easley Cotton Mill was referred to the committee, where the recommendation for first reading in title only passed unanimously. Councilman Hendricks stated that in September of 2012, the first reading in title only of the ordinance passed unanimously. He clarified that the members of council that unanimously passed the first reading in title only were as follows, in last name only: Willis; Smith; Ponder; Martin; Whitehurst; and Wyche. He stated that on March 18, 2013, the Committee recommended second reading of the referenced ordinance; and on April 1, 2013, that recommendation carried unanimously to constitute second reading. Councilman Hendricks stated that on June 10, 2013, a public hearing was held with no comments, and the motion to constitute third reading passed unanimously. He stated that this process was not created by this council; that the previous council in 2012 and 2013 unanimously passed the referenced ordinance. Councilman Hendricks stated that the only difference between the application presented to a previous council in 2015 and the one presented to this council is the name of the applicant and the dollar value referenced in the amount to be invested. He clarified that the amount was \$12 million then and \$24 million now. Councilman Hendricks stated that the approval of the preliminary certification in 2015 passed unanimously (6-0). He clarified that the county does not give tax breaks; the state does. He further stated that the county only deems the property as historic.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated that after the last council meeting, it appeared that the twenty year mark concerned a lot of people. He clarified that you cannot open an ordinance in the middle of reviewing an application, because you do not like the language or do not know the history. He stated that this proposed ordinance would amend the previous ordinance to include the two words “up to” before the current language of “twenty years”. Vice Chairman Bowers reiterated that the referenced ordinance was not up for discussion at the last meeting; the Easley Cotton Mill project was listed on the agenda.

- After more discussion, the motion to constitute first reading in title only carried unanimously (5-0).

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 552 TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES IN PICKENS COUNTY FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2018, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2019, AND TO DIRECT EXPENDITURE THEREOF:**

- Motion to constitute first reading of Ordinance 552 was made by Councilman Carl Hudson, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (5-0).

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 553 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, 2017 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2018:**

- Motion to constitute first reading in title only of Ordinance 553 was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (5-0).

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 554 AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IN CENTRAL, PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, KNOWN AS THE SENIOR CENTER BUILDING, TO THE TOWN OF CENTRAL; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO:**

- Motion was made by Councilman Carl Hudson and seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster. >During discussion, Councilman Carl Hudson stated that he thinks that this is a good project; he knew that Councilman Trey Whitehurst was in favor as well.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked for clarification on the grant application.

- The County Administrator, Gerald Wilson, stated that they had made the application for the grant; however, the grant will not be awarded until Council approves the transfer of property to the Town of Central. He clarified that the building would be used for Meals on Wheels and the Town of Central Recreation Department.

Councilman Carl Hudson stated that his understanding was that the property would revert back to the county, if the property was not used for the specified purpose.

-Mr. Wilson responded yes, that the property would revert back to Pickens County if the use changes.

- Motion to constitute second reading of Ordinance 554 carried unanimously (5-0).

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a) Implementation for New Federal Guidelines for Purchasing Relative to Grants – *Committee of the Whole*
- b) Request to Accept Roads in the Minimum Maintenance System – *Committee of the Whole*

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson 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 Ensley Feemster, seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (5-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a five minute recess.

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

- ARC Grant – Twelve Mile Project

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

- Project Sequoyah
- Project Golden

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

- Board and Commission Vacancies (80):
  - a) Accommodations Tax (ATAX)
  - b) Appalachian Council of Gov. (ACOG)
  - c) Assessment and Appeals
  - d) Beautification Committee
  - e) Cultural Commission
  - f) Economic Development Alliance
  - g) Emergency Services Advisory Board
  - h) Fire District Board - Central
  - i) Fire District Board - Crosswell
  - j) Fire District Board - Dacusville
  - k) Fire District Board - Easley
  - l) Fire District Board - Liberty
  - m) Fire District Board - Pickens
  - n) Fire District Board - Pumpkintown
  - o) Fire District Board - Rocky Bottom
  - p) Fire District Board - Shady Grove
  - q) Fire District Board - Six Mile
  - r) Pickens County Grievance Committee
  - s) Pickens, Oconee, Anderson Mental Health
  - t) Planning Commission
  - u) Public Service Commission
  - v) Tourism Board
  - w) Zoning and Appeals
  - x) \*Hagood Mill Non-Profit Corporation Board
  - y) \*Performing Arts Center Non-Profit Corporation Board
  - z) \*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)

- ARC Grant – Twelve Mile Project – **Action as follows:**
  - Chairman Roy Costner moved to instruct the Administrator to halt the Madden Bridge Park Project until funding is secured and the location is deemed still viable. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (5-0).

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

- Project Sequoyah – **No Action**
- Project Golden – **No Action**

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

- Board and Commission Vacancies (80):
  - a) Accommodations Tax (ATAX) – **No Action**
  - b) Appalachian Council of Gov. (ACOG) – **No Action**
  - c) Assessment and Appeals – **No Action**
  - d) Beautification Committee – **No Action**
  - e) Cultural Commission – **No Action**
  - f) Economic Development Alliance – **No Action**
  - g) Emergency Services Advisory Board – **No Action**

- h) Fire District Board – Central – **No Action**
- i) Fire District Board – Crosswell – **No Action**
- j) Fire District Board – Dacusville – **No Action**
- k) Fire District Board – Easley – **No Action**
- l) Fire District Board – Liberty – **No Action**
- m) Fire District Board – Pickens – **No Action**
- n) Fire District Board – Pumpkintown – **No Action**
- o) Fire District Board – Rocky Bottom – **No Action**
- p) Fire District Board – Shady Grove – **No Action**
- q) Fire District Board – Six Mile – **No Action**
- r) Pickens County Grievance Committee – **No Action**
- s) Pickens, Oconee, Anderson Mental Health – **No Action**
- t) Planning Commission – **No Action**
- u) Public Service Commission – **No Action**
- v) Tourism Board – **No Action**
- w) Zoning and Appeals – **No Action**
- x) \*Hagood Mill Non-Profit Corporation Board – **No Action**
- y) \*Performing Arts Center Non-Profit Corporation Board – **Action as follows:**
  - Councilman Wes Hendricks moved to appoint Andrew Mullinax to the Performing Arts Center Non-Profit Corporation Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (5-0).
- z) \*Pickens County Museum Non-Profit Corporation Board – **No Action**

**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 Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (5-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Crystal A. Alexander, Clerk to Council

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Roy B. Costner, III, Chairman of County Council