

## **Regular Pickens County Council Meeting**

August 12, 2019

6:32 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 August 7, 2019.

### 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:

Ken Roper, County Acting Administrator

Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

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

Chairman Roy Costner called the meeting of August 12, 2019 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Trey Whitehurst led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. The University Singers from Southern Wesleyan University sang the National Anthem.

### **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 on the following speaker:

1. Cassie Thomas: Cassie Thomas stated she is the Assistant Director with the Pickens County Library System. Ms. Thomas stated she wanted to let Council know about some opportunities coming up in September for National Recovery Month. She stated everyone knows there is an Opioid Crisis in this Country, and Pickens County is no exception to that. She stated to help educate the public to the Opioid Crisis; they started looking around at different organizations that could come to the Library to host different public forums and educational sessions. Ms. Thomas advised Behavioral Health was also looking to host some of these forums. She stated the Library System and Behavioral Health formed a partnership to host a series in September called "Unmasked: The Truth behind the Opioid Crisis in Pickens County". Ms. Thomas stated she was going to let Ms. Angie Farmer explain this series.
2. Angie Farmer: Angie Farmer, Executive Director at Behavioral Health Services in Pickens County, thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. She stated there will be four town hall meetings in the month of September at the County Library branches. She stated the first meeting will be held on September 9<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at the CPT. Kimberly Hampton Memorial Library in Easley, SC. The second meeting will be on September 16<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., at the Sarlin Library in Liberty, SC. The third meeting will be on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Village Branch Library in Pickens, SC. Lastly, the fourth meeting will be on September 30<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Central-Clemson Library in Central, SC. She stated there will be a panel of experts who will be able to answer any questions from the public regarding the Opioid Crisis.

3. Travis Garner: Mr. Garner stated with more calls from Congress, including Senator Lindsey Graham and President Donald Trump, for the infringements upon our Second Amendment specifically relating to, but not limited to, 'Extreme Risk Protection Orders,' more commonly referred to as 'Red Flag' laws; it is imperative that citizens take a stand, inform and educate their state and local governments surrounding the dangers of such legislation. Mr. Garner stated last week, he emailed the County Administrator and Sheriff Clark regarding a model resolution entitled 'Declaring Pickens County South Carolina, A Gun Sanctuary County'. He stated he stands before council requesting recognition of this natural right, specifically referring to the right to keep and bear arms, for all citizens of Pickens County, as stated in the second amendment in the Bill of Rights, and as prescribed in this model resolution he has presented. Mr. Garner quoted Thomas Jefferson, stating "Laws that Forbid the carrying of Arms...disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes...Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man." He stated Red Flag laws are based upon pre crime assertions, or a "guilty until proven innocent" concept. He stated this is not how due process works, and it is not how the second amendment works either. Mr. Garner stated the Second Amendment states, "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." He stated "Shall not be infringed" at all... period. Mr. Garner advised the second amendment is a reminder to government, of a person's natural right to self-defense and it shall not be infringed upon. He stated from an online article called "ThoughtCo," entitled 'See a Timeline of Gun Control in The United States,' Gun Control laws have been attempted since at least 1837, yet criminals continue to ignore these laws. Mr. Garner stated more gun control laws will not make society any safer, but it will continue to enslave society itself. Mr. Garner ended by quoting Thomas Jefferson, stating "The issue today is the same as it has been throughout all history, whether man shall be allowed to govern himself or be ruled by a small elite."
4. Alex Saitta: Mr. Saitta stated after the Election debacle for Dacusville and Pickens, he warned Council if they did not take action then nothing would change or improve. He stated he gave Council a list of actions to take to force change. He stated Council did nothing with this list, whined a lot, and complained it was everyone else's fault. Mr. Saitta stated this was the ultimate failure, the County had to redo an election and nothing changed. He stated in the end, Council just ended up paying for it all. He stated when Council pays for the Election Department and to run the Elections, they have an oversight responsibility to make sure the money is spent efficiently and spent right. He stated none of Council wanted to lean on anyone to force the changes necessary to enforce this would not happen again. He stated the buddy system prevailed down the line, from the Elections Director, to the Elections Board, to the Delegation, and to the Council. Mr. Saitta stated this is what Pickens United means in practice, meaning when your friends screw up, everyone else just looks the other way. He advised the \$30 million dollar jail is complete and ready for occupancy, but staff has not been hired to man the jail, so the facility is just sitting there empty. He stated this was an embarrassment, due to poor planning. He stated it is not due to a lack of money. He stated in the past five years, the Sheriff's operational budget has rising from \$9.8 million, to \$14.6 million, with about 10% a year. He stated there is plenty of money there to fund the new jail. He stated the problems now with hiring should have been addressed and solved months ago. Mr. Saitta stated Pickens County has had two years to prepare for the jail opening. He stated Council paid for the jail, and for the funds to run the Sheriff's Office. He stated Council has a responsibility to make sure allocated money is spent efficiently, spent right and spent on time. Mr. Saitta addressed Councilman Hendricks, stating the Election debacle, Hagood Mill and now the jail situation has happened in his district. He stated each Councilman has an oversight responsibility for what goes on in their district when Council is paying for it. He stated he discussed with Councilman Hendricks months ago that he can't expect others to jump in and

clean up an election travesty in his district when citizens are paying for it. He stated he should not have to wait until Davey Hiott fixes situations like Hagood Mill. He stated Councilman Hendricks had the responsibility to answer tough questions on the jail's new opening and that should have been done months ago. After more discussion, he stated this is what leadership is and Council cannot take a step back and wait on others to step up.

Chairman Roy Costner stated per Council Rules, Council can answer any Public Forum questions/comments.

Councilman Carl Hudson stated he and Alex Saitta had personal conversation and he does not approve of anything he just said. He stated Mr. Saitta talked about the Election and Councilman Hudson advised Council does not control the Election. Councilman Hudson stated Mr. Saitta does not know what Council has done behind the scenes. He stated Mr. Saitta comes to meetings and spites information that is not true. Councilman Hudson stated he looks like a big guy to people that follow him, but he is not a big guy to him. Councilman Hudson stated the jail is not ready yet. He stated there is still a checklist going on to get things up and running. He stated there are certain things that have to be done and the jail is not ready for move in yet. He stated Mr. Saitta has no idea what he is talking about. He stated if he cared enough to come to Council to ask about it, maybe they could help him some. Councilman Carl Hudson stated Mr. Saitta is in campaign mode. He stated he will not be running for reelection, but he will say what he has to say whether it is in a council meeting or in public.

5. Allan Quinn: Mr. Quinn stated he is from Easley, SC. He stated Economic Development is and has been terrible in Pickens County and we are near the bottom in SC. He advised he has been sounding the alarm of Economic Development for 4 years. He stated most of Council was newly elected then, and he has tried to work with Council individually to help and have been assured all this time that good things were coming. Mr. Quinn stated after Council helped a company from Greenville bring 350 new jobs to Pickens County, most of which pays \$8.50 an hour, he decided that a different approach needed to be taken. He stated he has been compiling information for 4 years now and will be coming back to each council meeting to use the 3 minutes allowed until it is all shared. He stated he did a root cause analysis with all information and he will be giving the results of that analysis to Council tonight. Mr. Quinn advised the problem with Economic Development in Pickens County is the Executive Director of Economic Development at the Commerce Park. He stated he is a one man show who has sent proposals to the County Administration and County Council for the last sixteen years. He state all have been rubber stamped because he has not been held accountable to Pickens County and the taxpayers. Mr. Quinn stated he is the highest paid county employee, except for the Administrator, and produces essentially nothing of value to Pickens County. He stated Pickens County has less manufacturing jobs now than we did when he became the Executive Director. He stated the new ones are mediocre at best. Mr. Quinn advised since the County Administrator is retiring, Council is at a cross road where this problem can be fixed. He stated when searching for a new Administrator, Council can find someone who has a vision for Pickens County and will make Economic Development a number one priority. He stated part of their resume should be to explain their vision, and how they would implement it. He stated next, to replace the Executive Director of Economic Development with someone that has a proven background, education, and a record of getting the job done. He stated if you are a County Councilman now, and do not have this vision and commitment to make this happen, let someone else that does run for your seat and support them in the next election. Mr. Quinn ended stating these things can change the direction of Economic Development in Pickens County, and if it is not changed as fast as the county is

growing, then it will be game over for good jobs and opportunities for our current and future residents of Pickens County.

6. Tom Ponder: Mr. Ponder stated it has been three years since he served the County. He stated he is here tonight to talk about history. He stated Mr. Quinn mentioned the Administrator position, and that is what he is there to talk about. He stated he started working at the County in 1986 and he had the opportunity to work for every administrator in Pickens County. He stated the next year or so, Council will have an important decision on who will be the new Administrator to serve Pickens County and he advises Council to take a look at the history of the Administrators in Pickens County who have worked in that position. Mr. Ponder stated Mr. Day was a very thoughtful, patient man who served Pickens County for 33 years. He stated Mr. Day was the Administrator when Pickens County went from the Council-Supervisor to Council-Administrator Form of Government. He stated he had a lot of history in Pickens County and did a great job, but he realized when it was his time to go. After more discussion on past Administrators, Mr. Ponder stated they went through a nationwide search on County Administrators that was unsuccessful; they brought Tom Hendricks back as an interim administrator until they hired Gerald Wilson. He stated he knew Gerald Wilson back from the 1980's and he watched him grow throughout the County. He stated the thing about Gerald Wilson was that he knew Pickens County, he knew the job, and he knew how to work with Council. Mr. Ponder stated it is a lot better hiring someone you know and someone who knows the system. He stated Pickens County has benefited tremendously with someone who knows the system, rather than someone hired from outside the County/State. After more discussion, Mr. Ponder stated some people have no idea what Council has to put up with when it comes to Economic Development, Election situation, etc. He stated Pickens County has had more Economic Development announcements in the past 8 years than they ever had before. He stated it is easy to sit back and talk about things you don't know about. Mr. Ponder stated he appreciates all Council does.

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

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

- June 17, 2019
- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Chairman Costner stated he would like to recognize Gerald Wilson for his years of service to Pickens County. He stated he cannot express what Mr. Wilson has meant to this organization and all the time he has put into being the Administrator. Chairman Costner stated Mr. Wilson is the type of person who looks for the best and brightest to hire, and he's the person who has always tried to solve the problem based on what Council wants to do. He stated Mr. Wilson told him earlier on that he does not work for Roy Costner, he works for County Council, and Chairman Costner stated he personally appreciates his hard work and efforts. He stated he always puts the will of the constituents first, and he appreciates all he has done.

Councilman Wes Hendricks thanked Mr. Wilson for all he has done, stating he will be missed and he appreciates all Mr. Wilson did for this County and for Council.

Councilman Carl Hudson stated he thanks Mr. Wilson for all he has done, and it is evident he put up with himself for the past 3 years.

Councilman Ensley Feemster stated himself and Gerald communicate with each other about different things and every once in a while, he makes him think he came up with the big ideas.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers thanked Mr. Wilson for his willingness to reach out, communicate, and build relationships. He stated it is easy to think of our own communities, but we are a county, and what's good for Easley is good for Clemson, is good for Six Mile, etc. as long as we all are succeeding. He stated that only happens when we have someone like you in place to make sure those relationships happen.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he is impressed with all Gerald Wilson has done. He stated he watched Mr. Wilson up the ranks, and he thanked him for his service.

Gerald Wilson stated he appreciates all members of Council and thanked them for the opportunity. Mr. Wilson thanked Tom Ponder, he stated he is the reason he was standing there today. He stated he hired him in the early 90's and he appreciated him giving him the opportunity. He stated it has been a great career. He stated the things they accomplished in the last three years is not something "Gerald Wilson" did, it was a team effort from Pickens County. Mr. Wilson stated he is looking forward to retiring. Mr. Wilson stated he would like to address Mr. Quinn, telling him that U.S. Waffle will be hiring special-need children to fill the positions, and he is proud as a Liberty resident to have a business like that in his town.

County Council presented Mr. Wilson with a plaque, thanking him for his years of service to Pickens County.

County Acting Administrator, Ken Roper, stated he would like to start off with what he has shared with Department Heads and Employees these past few weeks. He stated he wanted to talk about three things: commitment, communication, and trust. He stated there is a lot of emotion in the council meeting this evening. He stated one thing he thinks everyone will agree on is that we all share a commitment for what is best for this county. He stated whenever we have negative feelings towards one another, even Department Heads in the work day; we need to remind ourselves that we are here for a reason. He advised that reason is that we all share a commitment to the best that Pickens County can be. Mr. Roper stated once we all have that commitment, we need to communicate effectively. He stated he has talked to his employees about communicating effectively. He advised he will communicate effectively with Council, and we all should communicate effectively with the public. He stated once we have that commitment, and communicate effectively, we will build trust. Mr. Roper stated we will get where Council trusts him, he trusts his staff, and the public trusts the Council. He stated the idea here is called a "righteous cycle."

County Acting Administrator stated he would like to show Council and the public some examples of communication that has happened over the past month. He stated they are trying to communicate better with the public through social media. Through the Pickens County Facebook page, and Mr. Roper's personal Facebook page, they have used this platform to better communicate what the County is doing, what Council members are doing, and what different departments in the County are doing. He stated they are trying to educate the public on the mechanism they choose to use, which is social media. Mr. Roper stated he made the commitment to write to the editor quarterly, stating he will be putting things in the newspaper he sees is important to Pickens County. He stated he would like to use this mechanism for people who may not use or enjoy social media. Mr. Roper stated in addition, he is also communicating once a month to all employees. He stated there are a lot of employees he does not see most of the time, even though he tries to go out and meet some. He stated he will be writing employees a letter on what he seems important for that coming month. In addition to the letter to employees, in the next week or so, Mr. Roper stated Pickens County will begin releasing a monthly online newsletter at the end of August as

another way to keep the public informed. He stated this will act as an actual magazine and be filled with information such as when council meetings are, when boards and commissions meetings are, public events, Q&A with the County Administrator, staff changes, etc.

Mr. Roper stated every Administrator is assigned a County vehicle. He stated it is a perk that is in their contract. Mr. Roper introduced his vehicle, 1352. It is a 2009 Chevy Impala. He stated Mr. Wilson was nice enough to allow him to use this vehicle since he was putting a lot of miles on his personal vehicle. Mr. Roper stated 1352 has 96,000 miles on it, and there is nothing wrong with this vehicle. He stated he will continue using this vehicle. He stated this will allow the vehicle that was assigned to the previous Administrator to be used for the Emergency Services Department. He presented a letter from Scott Smith, which stated he would like to use the Ford Explorer as the EMS Director's vehicle, and take the previous EMS Director's vehicle to be used as a supervisor's vehicle. He stated he would like to use the Supervisor's vehicle as a backup vehicle. He stated this will help them meet their needs. The current vehicle that the supervisor uses has 231,300 miles on it out of daily use. Mr. Roper stated this will also allow the Emergency Services Department to return the 2013 Ford Escape with 62,057 miles on it to be used in another division within the county. Mr. Roper stated the reason he brings this up this evening, is to demonstrate that he will be coming to Council every meeting with a different way that he has come up with to save the taxpayer's money.

Lastly, Mr. Roper stated he would like for Council to consider adding 3 items to the agenda during Motion Period and New Business.

1. Add Pickens County Sheriff's Office Update regarding the new Detention Center.
2. Add Personnel Item to Executive Session regarding Tourism Dept.
3. Add Economic Development to Executive Session regarding Project KB.

Mr. Roper stated he would like to answer any questions Council may have. Seeing none, Chairman Costner moved forward with the agenda.

### **COMMITTEE REPORT:**

### **COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

Chairman Roy Costner announced the following:

- Chairman Roy Costner stated the August Committee of the Whole meeting will be next Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:00 PM in the main conference room of the Administration Facility.
- Chairman Roy Costner stated the September Council Meeting will be on Monday, September 9 2019 at 6:30 PM in this auditorium of the Administration Facility.

Chairman Roy Costner called for other council correspondence.

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he and Councilman Feemster met this past month with the Chamber of Clemson regarding ATAX. He stated they had a great idea, and would like to present the idea to Council by having a workshop. Councilman Whitehurst stated they will put this workshop on by inviting the ATAX Committee, and members of Council. He stated they will explain ATAX laws, etc. He stated he would like to propose staff to get in contact with the Chamber to set up a forum/workshop.

Seeing no other correspondence, Chairman Roy Costner announced moving to Motion Period and New Business.

**MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Roy Costner opened the floor for motion period.

- o Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to add Opportunity Zones to Consent Agenda on this evening’s agenda. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
- o Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to add an update from the Pickens County Sheriff’s Office on this evening’s agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (6-0).
- o Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to add Personnel Item-Tourism Department to Executive Session on this evening’s agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).
- o Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to add an Economic Development Update for Project KB to Executive Session on this evening’s agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously (6-0).
- o Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to add a Contractual Issue to Executive Session for a discussion on the Prison Chapel. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

Hearing no other items for Motion Period, Chairman Roy Costner closed the floor. Chairman Roy Costner opened the floor for new business. Hearing no items for new business, Chairman Roy Costner closed the floor.

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION 2019-17 CONGRATULATING TOM TURNER FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO PICKENS COUNTY AND ITS CITIZENS**

Chairman Roy Costner asked for motion to approve Resolution 2019-17.

- o Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster, and approved unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Roy Costner asked Mr. Tom Turner to please step forward, and read the resolution as follows:

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING TOM TURNER FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO PICKENS COUNTY AND ITS CITIZENS.

WHEREAS, Tom Turner is a lifelong resident of the Dacusville Community; and

WHEREAS, his professional career includes 35 years of service at the Singer Plant in Pickens, during which time he rose to the position of Division Plant Manager in 2004, and during which time he never missed a day due to illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the establishment and development of the Dacusville Fire Department, where he served as a fireman from 1980 to 2007, was named “Fireman of the Year” in 1994 and served as Chief during this time of service; and

WHEREAS, he rejoined the Dacusville Fire Department as a Board member in 2012, was later elected Chairman of the Board, and was instrumental in the securing of land for, design and construction of, and staffing of a second fire station for the community; and

WHEREAS, he served as a volunteer Reserve Deputy Sheriff from 1984 to 1986, was named “Citizen of the Year” by the Dacusville Community Club in 2014, and served as Honorary Mayor in 2017; and

WHEREAS, he most recently served on the Pickens County Emergency Service Board from 2017 to 2019; and

WHEREAS, he and his wife, Jackie have hosted the Dacusville Farm Show sponsored by the Dacusville Heritage Association and attended by approximately 5,000 people from across the South East for the past 6 years; and

WHEREAS, Pickens County recognizes the dedication Tom Turner has exemplified in his nearly 40 years of service to the Dacusville Community and the County of Pickens as a whole;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Pickens County Council does hereby recognize and congratulate Tom Turner for his years of outstanding service to Pickens County and its citizens.

**UPDATE FROM PICKENS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT ON NEW DETENTION FACILITY** *(as added during Motion Period and New Business)*

Chairman Costner asked Sheriff Rick Clark to please step forward to the podium for an update on the new detention Facility.

Sheriff Clark stated the new detention facility is looking very good from the outside and inside. He stated we all need to remember what type of building this will be. It will not be a normal building like the Administration Building; this is a facility to house people there against their will. He stated when we talk about this, a lot of regulations regarding the building changes. He stated just because it is not occupied by the Sheriff's Department yet, does not mean there is anything wrong with it. He stated they are still on track and doing the punch job they need to do to make sure it is safe for Pickens County, safe for Employees and safe for the inmates. Sheriff Clark stated opening the new detention facility is a lot different than opening a new library because people's lives are endangered if they do anything wrong. He stated they are going to take their time and do it right. Sheriff Clark stated they are currently trying to employ more people before opening the new jail. He stated that he started off as a detention officer in 1995 and worked his way up to being Pickens County Sheriff. He stated this is the type of people they need to make Pickens County the best ever. He advised to put down the gossip, and if anyone has any questions/concerns to please call him. He stated it is going to be a great building. Sheriff Clark stated these are the types of things they should have been addressing 20 years ago. He stated to please give them a few days to make sure they are doing all right, rather than fussing about being behind time. After more discussion, he stated the Department of Corrections has to tell them when they can occupy the jail. He stated they have employees who have stuck with them through working at the current detention center now, and those are the types of employees they need. He stated to please give them a few days/weeks to get everything ready, and everyone will be proud of what they have. He thanked Council for their support.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked for clarification purposes, if the jail was not ready to occupy today.

Sheriff Rick Clark stated that is correct.

Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if he was not responsible for the jail not being open right now, despite the rumors.

Sheriff Rick Clark stated he did not know that.

Chairman Roy Costner stated he has also seen in neighboring counties where they are having trouble hiring. He stated they are even having trouble hiring at the state level.

Sheriff Clark stated for example, Richland County and Charleston County need to hire 40-60 employees at their Sheriff's Office. He stated Pickens County is doing well, and they are interviewing 8 people this coming week. He stated they are working on this and are going to do more advertising for the jobs.

Chairman Roy Costner asked if we came in under budget for the new jail.

Mr. Gerald Wilson stated we did come in under budget; the total cost for new jail was around \$29 million. He stated when it is all said and done, we will have come under budget \$1.5 million.

Councilman Whitehurst asked if Sheriff Clark had a Certificate of Occupancy for the new prison.

Sheriff Clark stated they have a temporary occupancy. He stated this tells that the fire systems are working and it gives them a chance to get in and do the inspection. He stated they have been testing the video systems, etc.

Councilman Whitehurst asked when the state will be in to do their inspection.

Sheriff Clark stated it will be in 3-4 weeks or so.

Councilman Whitehurst asked if the furniture has been moved in and when the Sheriff anticipates the jail will be opened.

Sheriff Clark advised the furniture is all in and he hopes to open sometime next month.

Councilman Whitehurst stated he was wondering because he knows he has to hire more people, and he thought he would have already been in that process.

Sheriff Clark stated they have been in the process the best they can, but they need some help from the Council to complete that.

Councilman Whitehurst asked what help they need.

Sheriff Clark stated they need help with paying more money on Salaries to help recruit more people.

Councilman Whitehurst stated the Sheriff just submitted a budget to Council that they passed.

Sheriff Clark stated markets changed when Anderson, Greenville and Oconee County Detention Officer's salaries went up several thousand dollars. He stated these salaries in other counties changed after the budget was approved.

Councilman Whitehurst asked if Sheriff Clark could have hired the people in June after the budget was submitted.

Sheriff Clark stated no, not with the salaries we have now. He stated when other counties go up in salaries within a 2-3 month period, it makes it competitive.

Councilman Whitehurst stated the Sheriff has an approved budget from Council for hiring, he stated he is going to have a hard time coming back to give the Sheriff money after he was campaigning some particular employees he needed and got. He stated this issue was never brought up to Council.

Sheriff Clark stated this issue has come up in the past few months where neighboring counties have raised their salaries and we have Pickens County employees leaving to go work at other counties, due to the pay.

After more discussion, Vice Chairman asked for the record, we could not open the jail up today if we wanted too.

Sheriff Clark stated that is correct.

Chairman Costner asked if the Sheriff is presenting the budget item he is asking for this evening.

Sheriff Clark stated yes, he has a couple things to bring to council this evening at a later time.

Councilman Whitehurst stated if it is talking about the budget, it needs to be addressed in public.

Sheriff Clark stated it is Personnel issue.

Councilman Whitehurst stated if it is a hiring issue, then that is a personnel issue. He stated if it is talking about money, then that is budget and is a public issue.

Administrator Roper stated he believes as long as we are staying broad, he believes it is okay as long as we are not talking about certain individuals.

Sheriff Clark stated what they would like to match some counties around them and be competitive in the market. He stated for Greenville County starting Detention Officer Pay, it is around \$40,000. For Oconee County, it is starting around \$37,000. He stated they have a couple of different plans that could take place during a work session if needed.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked how much more they would be asking for in their budget.

Administrator Roper stated there are a couple of different proposals that have been discussed. He stated around \$339,000 would be needed to meet one of the proposals. He stated they have an alternative to consider if Council would like to fund that. He stated that is one consideration on the table. Administrator Roper stated the second proposal would cost around \$500,000. He stated we are talking that much annually to get the employees to a pay point that you may want to get them too. He stated they will come to council with a proposal on how to pay for this, regardless of whatever decision Council makes.

Chairman Roy Costner asked when we can receive the proposals.

Administrator Roper stated the mechanism he and the Sherriff came up with was to slow some of the capital purchases that are already set aside. He stated Council set aside \$1 million dollars in the capital budget for this year, after not setting aside any in the previous years. He stated they propose to try and delay purchase of capital items in order for us to meet these obligations.

Councilman Carl Hudson stated when you raise your detention Officers to \$40,000; the starting road is \$38,000. He stated this is not going to work down the line and go over well.

Sheriff Clark stated he has talked with the road officers and they are supportive for whatever needed to be done for the detention officers.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked if money is enough to fix the problem. He asked what the long term goal is.

Sheriff Clark stated one of the big differences in other counties is that we have the newest detention center. He stated the detention centers around us do not compare to our new jail. He stated they need to start making sure they can get the right people they can.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked how they recruit that position.

Sheriff Clark stated over the years, they did not have to do as much recruiting. He stated they are doing a video, and advertising it on Facebook and Social Media.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked how many people they need to hire to make this work.

Sheriff Clark stated around 24 people.

After much more discussion, Administrator Roper stated the Sheriff has been coming to the HR department and the Finance department for a couple weeks now and when they were looking at it, he felt he needed to come to Council with a tax neutral option. He stated whatever the price point is, within reason, we can reach it without slowing or delaying capital purchases and not impact the tax bill.

Chairman Costner thanked the Sheriff for all he has done. He asked the Sheriff to bring back the information and proposals to Council.

### **REQUEST FROM HAGOOD MILL FOUNDATION REGARDING HAGOOD MILL PAVILION**

Michael Sherriff, Board Member on Hagood Mill Foundation Board, stated they are there to present potential plans to finish the Hagood Mill Heritage Pavilion. He stated they are in the process of developing the Hagood Mill Foundation Heritage Pavilion. Mr. Sherriff stated they now have a slab, with columns and a roof. He stated they hope to complete this in two phases. He stated the intentions for Phase One is to build the stage, and the green room area which consists of two dressing rooms, a concessions and storage area. In Phase Two, they would like to complete the exterior walls and build the permanent toilets. He stated in the transition from phases, they plan to bring in portable toilets. He stated their purpose this evening bringing this to you as part of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Councilman Ensley Feemster stated he was looking at the restrooms on the floor plan and noticed the men's restroom is only 2 stalls, but the women's have 5 stalls.

Mr. Sheriff stated the International Building Code requires more facilities for women than men.

Mr. Sherriff stated he maximum occupancy is 648 persons, and there are 420 seats shown on the plan. He stated the maximum number is there because based on the International Building Code requirement that is the maximum number they are allowed to have in that building.

Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if that was permanent seating.

Mr. Sheriff stated they are using portable seating because they would like to keep it a multi-purpose facility to be able to have Christmas exhibits, Christmas shows, and other events that do not require seating.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if they have a timeline for the budget in each Phase.

Mr. Sherriff advised they hope to start phase one soon. He stated Robert Sams is going to address the funding this evening, but they have some private donations and funds that are set aside to do Phase one.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked about the bathrooms being in the back of the building, rather than the front of the building.

Mr. Sheriff stated that question has been brought up and they are going to look into that. He stated they received that comment from one of their board members. He stated this is not the permanent plan, as they may do some tweaks on a couple of things.

Administrator Ken Roper stated the Memorandum of Understanding between Pickens County and Hagood Mill Foundation specifies that any changes to the structures or site plan requires approval by County Council and has to be approached reasonably.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he would like to see the numbers on how much this is going to cost to do, and also numbers on what the Hagood Mill Foundation board has come up with for their budget. He stated he would also like to see a time frame on completion. Councilman Whitehurst stated it is Council's responsibility to make sure they have funding to complete the project.

Mr. Sheriff stated this will not cost the county anything. He stated they are completing the building in phases since they do not have the funds to complete it all at once.

Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he would like to see final plans once completed.

Mr. Sheriff stated he came before Council this evening to seek approval of the concept of these plans. He stated they will present the final plans once completed.

Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he would also like to see funds available before starting the project.

Mr. Sheriff stated Mr. David Hosea, has offered \$100,000 towards this project which will take care of the greenroom and the exterior. He stated they are also going to look at fire suppression. He stated Hagood Mill hopes to have a fundraiser in October to raise funds.

- After more discussion, Chairman Costner made a motion to approve the preliminary concept with the understanding that Hagood Mill will come back to Council with final plans and budget. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers.
  - Chairman Costner asked if there was any other discussion.
    - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked in Phase 1, if you enclose the building, do you have to have fire suppression.
    - Mr. Sheriff stated yes.
    - Vice Chairman Bowers asked if the funds were available for the green room and enclosure for the fire suppression.
    - Mr. Sheriff stated it is either dry fire suppression, or wet fire suppression. He stated if the building is not heated or cool, they can use a dry fire system and he wants to go ask people at Reliable if they will donate the materials.
    - Councilman Ensley Feemster stated he also believes the bathrooms will be better towards the front of the building, rather than the back.
    - Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if the construction will not begin until the final plans have been approved by council.
  - Seeing no other discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION 2019-16 AUTHORIZING THE REIMBURSEMENT TO PICKENS COUNTY OF EXPENSES RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF MULTI-COUNTY PARKS FROM THE FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES THAT ARE GENERATED WITHIN SUCH MULTI-COUNTY PARKS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.**

Chairman Costner asked for a motion to consider this resolution.

- Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, and seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers.

Chairman Costner asked if there was any discussion.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated we passed this resolution originally back in 2012. He asked Mr. Roper if we disperse funds out, then this gets people to come here. Councilman Whitehurst stated the money we take

in fee, verses in lieu of taxes, goes to the County first. He stated once paid off, that money is to go back into a fund that is dedicated to business development. Councilman Whitehurst asked why we need a resolution.

Mr. Roper stated the way Ordinance 452 is set up is that each time there is another qualifying property; we keep up with them by project. He stated then, Council has to pass a resolution stating it happened. He stated it requires us to come back each time. He stated you will notice on Exhibit A that the tax balance is zero.

Councilman Whitehurst stated in the resolution, it states “Any amounts in the Park Expense Fund shall be made available and used by the County in its sole discretion.” He stated he thought the original ordinance stated it would be used towards Economic Development.

Mr. Roper stated the Resolution just states that it goes back under Ordinance 452.

Councilman Whitehurst stated this concerns him that the resolution states “in its sole discretion,” because he does not want it to go in General Funds.

Mr. Roper stated C.D. Rhodes, Pope Flynn Firm, will step to the podium to further discuss.

Mr. Rhodes stated he believes the intent is that it will go towards Economic Development, since that is the intent of Ordinance 452. He stated it is not a matter of state law that it goes to Economic Development.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated his concerns is the wording of the resolution, where it says “sole discretion.” He stated he would like the wording to say it goes into fund dedicated for Economic Development. He stated he does not want to mix the funds that we have set aside because the idea of the concept is that as we get money, we do a project without having to take money out. He stated this is an ongoing fund that funds itself. He asked if it was more appropriate for it to say it goes to a true bank account.

Mr. Rhodes stated when he drafts these resolutions; his base line is to maintain as much flexibility as he possibly can. He stated that is where that language likely came from.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated that is what the original ordinance passed designated it for. He stated the Ordinance is written that it goes into a specific fund. He stated the resolution ought to confirm that.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked if there were any rules around the park expense fund, in which was discussed this evening. He referenced Section 4 in the Resolution, stating “Any amounts in the Park Expense Fund shall be made available and used by the County in its sole discretion.” He stated the question is there rules around the parks.

Administrator Roper stated only those set forth in Ordinance 452. Administrator Roper referenced Ordinance 452 stating, “Upon receipt of the Resolution, the County Treasurer shall set up a designated account (the “Park Expense Fund”) into which to transfer the reimbursements which the County Council has authorized to be taken from the gross FILOT payments received from the specified industries, and he shall periodically notify the County Finance Director and County Administrator of the amounts accumulated in this account, and the source of the funds.” He stated it is told in the Ordinance specifically that it has to go into a dedicated fund.

- After more discussion, Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to amend Resolution 2019-16 in Section 4 to include at the end of the last sentence “in sole discretion in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance 452.” Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously (6-0).

- Seeing no other discussion, motion to approve the Resolution 2019-16 with the amendment carried unanimously (6-0).

#### **UPDATE ON RESOLUTION 2017-04 STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BANK**

Administrator Ken Roper stated Council passed Resolution 2017-04 back in 2017, which authorized the Administrator to execute any and all applications necessary to apply for funding from the State Infrastructure Bank. He stated when filing that application, they ask that the state grant us \$1.4 million dollars with a local match, in order to widen Highway 183 to four lanes in Pickens County and to add an extension to Highway 153. He stated there was litigation that was brought about by other parties that delayed the State Infrastructure Bank process. Mr. Roper stated because of this, they have had no awards in the past 3 years. He stated the litigation has been resolved and they are eligible to disperse money. He stated they have asked us to renew our application. He stated the rules have changed in this application, where the local match now has to be 25%. He stated the feeling he feels from the delegation is that the 25% local match would just be too much of a burden. He stated the thought process is that they would like to renew the application, but to renew it only for widening of SC Hwy 183. Mr. Roper stated the resolution as it exists; he believes to instruct himself to sign the application, but he wanted direction from Council before doing so.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked for clarification purposes, does it bind us just by submitting the application.

Mr. Roper stated his understanding is they are going to approve the application based on certain commitments made from the CTC fund, which is state funded money. He stated the county has been more guarded in how they want to do it, but we would have several options if awarded the money. He stated our options would be fund balance, money already set aside through road user fees, look into a bond or other mechanisms for funding. He stated that decision would be made once granted the award.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked if we are awarded, are we required to take the award.

Mr. Roper stated we are not required to take the award.

Chairman Costner stated from his understanding, this is based on a point system.

Mr. Roper stated for example, if you use state funds to accumulate a local match up to 25%, you get 5 points. He stated if you use county funds, which are what we would propose, you get 10 points. He stated this is a 50 points scoring system.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked what Mr. Roper's recommendation is.

Mr. Roper stated his recommendation is for Council to have an opportunity to weigh in, to hold votes and make motions/seconds as Council deems appropriate. He stated until that time comes, he is going to keep doing what Council told him to do in 2017.

After much more discussion, Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated if this resolution commits us, then he feels we must take action but if the resolution keeps the conversation going but does not commit us, then he has no problem with the Resolution.

Mr. Roper stated it keeps the process moving.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated his only concern is we are going to walk down a road we aren't prepared for. He stated if we are going to do a project like this, the Council needs to figure out if they are going to be all in.

Chairman Roy Costner stated the road we are talking about trying to fix is one of the most fatal roads in the state. He stated even though it is not in his district, he gets calls about it all the time.

Councilman Wes Hendricks stated for the safety of our citizens, they should take a look at it just to see what it is about.

After much more discussion, Mr. Roper stated the application is due September 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Roper stated if Council has any concerns or questions to please let him know before the application is due.

**FIRST READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE No. 575 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT EXCEEDING ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,350,000) GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND, SERIES 2019 OF PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS SHALL BE EXPENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.**

Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to constitute first reading in title only.

- Motion was made by Councilman Whitehurst, seconded by Vice Chairman Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Boards and Commissions Communication
2. Opportunity Zones (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*)
  - Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

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

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (6-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a five minute recess.

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- Planning Commission Advisory Board
- Planning Commission Members
- Compensation Adjustment for Certain Appointed Officials
- Acting Administrator Monthly Report
- Tourism Dept. (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*)
- Prison Chapel (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*)

Contractual – Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)

- Economic Development: Milliken # Company Pendleton Plant
- Economic Development: Project KB (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*)

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

- Board and Commission Vacancies (57):
  - a) Alcohol and Drug/Behavioral Health
  - b) Assessment and Appeals
  - c) Beautification Committee

- d) Construction Board of Appeals
- e) Easley Central Water
- f) Emergency Services Advisory Board
- g) Library Board of Directors
- h) Pickens County Grievance Committee
- i) Pickens, Oconee, Anderson Mental Health
- j) Planning Commission
- k) Public Service Commission
- l) Water Authority
- m) WORKLINK
- n) Zoning and Appeals
- o) \*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:

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- Planning Commission Advisory Board – **No Action**
- Planning Commission Members – **No Action**
- Compensation Adjustment for Certain Appointed Officials
  - Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to update the Magistrate Office Salaries per the 2018 vote for the 2% raise for regular staff on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Acting Administrator Monthly Report – **No Action**
- Tourism Dept. (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*) – **No Action**
- Prison Chapel (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*) – **No Action**

Contractual – Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)

- Economic Development: Milliken # Company Pendleton Plant
  - Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to constitute first reading in title only for Milliken and Co. FILOT 1 extension.
    - Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
  - Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to constitute first reading in title only for Milliken and Co. FILOT 2 extension.
    - Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Vice Chairman Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
  - Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to constitute first reading in title only for Milliken and Co. FILOT for new term for Milliken in excess to \$2.5 million.
    - Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Vice Chairman Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

- Economic Development: Project KB (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*) – **No Action**

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

- Board and Commission Vacancies (57): **No Action**
  - p) Alcohol and Drug/Behavioral Health
  - q) Assessment and Appeals
  - r) Beautification Committee
  - s) Construction Board of Appeals
  - t) Easley Central Water
  - u) Emergency Services Advisory Board
  - v) Library Board of Directors
  - w) Pickens County Grievance Committee
  - x) Pickens, Oconee, Anderson Mental Health
  - y) Planning Commission
  - z) Public Service Commission
  - aa) Water Authority
  - bb) WORKLINK
  - cc) Zoning and Appeals
  - dd) \*Pickens County Museum Non-Profit Corporation Board

**ADJOURN:**

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

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Roy Costner, Chairman of County Council