

## **Regular Pickens County Council Meeting**

August 20, 2018

6:30 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 Tuesday, August 14.

### 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:

Gerald Wilson, County Administrator

Ken Roper, County Attorney

Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

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

Chairman Roy Costner called the meeting of August 20, 2018 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Trey Whitehurst led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

### **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 called the following speakers:

1. Pat Mulkey: Mr. Mulkey appeared to discuss that people are asking questions about what is the reasoning that the 150<sup>th</sup> Sesquicentennial is being moved to Easley when the time capsule, County Museum, and County Courthouse is in Pickens. He stated that there is a proven track record that Pickens can hold great events that hold 25,000-30,000 people. Mr. Mulkey said that many years ago it was a disaster when they moved the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event from Downtown Easley to J.B. Red Owen's Complex. He stated that he has experience and has been doing events for 35 years. Mr. Mulkey stated that he just wanted to offer his guidance because he thinks this is a big mistake and there is opportunity to straighten it out. He stated he did not understand moving the time capsule from its original place, the courthouse. Mr. Mulkey stated a lot of people are asking the same questions so he wanted to give council his opinion.
2. Walt Wilkins: Mr. Wilkins thanked Council for giving him the opportunity to come speak this evening. He stated that he is the solicitor of Greenville and Pickens County. Mr. Wilkins came to give a quick update on the Solicitors office. He stated that he wanted to thank Council for the support that they have given the Solicitors office. The Solicitors office has grown to 10 Lawyers and 26 Employees. With that support, Mr. Wilkins stated they are seeing significant reduction in crimes and also seeing a reduction in how they are moving their cases. He stated that 85% of the cases that the Sheriff brings to them are resolved in less than one year. He stated that it has been a struggle to keep the wheels of justice moving, as well as maintaining the jail at a low population. Mr. Wilkins stated they have done a great job and that he is very proud of the work they have been doing. He stated that with the lawyers and staff the flow of justice is moving very swiftly. He expressed that the Solicitors office is in the best shape he has seen it in since he started in 2011. They have been working well with the Sherriff's office and all Law Enforcement Agencies

in Pickens County in resolving the cases and managing them efficiently and effectively. He stated that the staff is at full capacity. They have the computer systems, infrastructure; everything they need to do their jobs. Mr. Wilkins expressed that he appreciates the support and hopes that the people of Pickens County feel the good business that is going on in the Solicitors office and the Sherriff's office. He stated that when he became the Solicitor, there were complaints in the previous administration that Pickens was being left out because Greenville is a much bigger county. It is his priority and campaign promise to not let that happen, so they have not let that happen. Mr. Wilkins expressed that he wanted to thank Council for everything. He communicated that he is available to be of any assistance to anyone.

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

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

- June 4, 2018
- July 9, 2018 – Special Called
- July 19, 2018- Special Called
- Motion was made by Councilman Carl Hudson, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and the motion was carried to approve the referenced minutes, with Councilman Trey Whitehurst abstaining (5-0).

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

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

County Administrator Gerald Wilson asked Brian Morrison to step up to the podium. Mr. Morrison was recently hired as the new Library Director for Pickens County. He stated that Mr. Morrison wanted to briefly introduce himself to council.

- Brian Morrison thanked council and Mr. Wilson for the opportunity to introduce himself. He stated that he considers it a privilege to have been selected by the Board of Trustees, and the county to serve as the new Library Director in Pickens County. He stated that he is originally from Westminster, but currently lives in Greenville County with his wife and two children. Mr. Morrison has a Bachelor's Degree from Clemson University and a Master's Degree from University of South Carolina. He expressed that while he enjoyed getting his Master's from USC, he is a Clemson Tiger at heart. He comes to Pickens County most recently from the Greenville County Library System, where he served for nine years in various roles. Before starting his present role as Library Director, he was the Discovery Services Manager for Greenville County managing several departments at the Hughes Main Library in Downtown Greenville that delivers a variety of services to adults. He stated that during his time in that position, he had the opportunity to lead implementation for several new services and projects, including a grant funded program that combined all online learning with support from local technology industries to provide free computer program and training to adults. Prior to this, Mr. Morrison held a number of Branch Manager Roles in Anderson and Greenville County. He stated that so far in his career, he has been very fortunate to see first-hand how public libraries are anchor institutions in the communities they serve and how they leverage many difference assets including staff, facilities, technology, collections and partnerships with the community to support literacy, lifelong learning and recreation. He declared that libraries construct enlightening experiences for community members, address various community challenges, and connect residents to needed resources. Mr. Morrison expressed that as he thinks about the future of the Library System in Pickens County, he is looking forward to working with Council, Pickens County Administration, the Library Board of Trustees, Library staff, and the community at large to provide excellence library service that will hopefully make positive impact on the community in Pickens County.

Construction Projects Update: Mr. Wilson provided the following update on construction projects:

- Norris Highway Recreational Park: Mr. Wilson advised that the Recreational Park is complete. He will be reaching out to council to set up a ribbon cutting event for the park.
- Mile Creek Cabins: Mr. Wilson stated he wanted to let council know that the cabins at Mile Creek Park are moving along nicely. He stated that there are 6 cabins are on the ground right now. Due to the unusual amount of rain this summer, we are two weeks behind schedule so it will probably be mid-September before the project is complete.
- Jail Project: Mr. Wilson stated that the Jail Project is on schedule and presently, we are \$350,000 ahead of schedule as far as budget wise.
- Madden Bridge Project: Mr. Wilson anticipates he will be receiving a copy of the revised plans for the Madden Bridge Road Park sometime in the next week. Once the plans come in, he will forward them to council. He stated providing that everyone is good with the plans, the goal will be to complete the second part of this project by the end of September.

County Administrator Gerald Wilson asked Denise Kwiatek, Pickens County Emergency Management Director to step up to the podium.

- Ms. Kwiatek stated that she wants to give council a quick synopsis of Pinnacle Mountain. She stated that they have finally met with FEMA and the State so they should be getting reimbursements in regards to the Pinnacle Mountain fire. Ms. Kwiatek stated that all payments regarding Hurricane Irma, which hit in October 2017, have been received. It was not certain that payments would be received. However due to the Governor declaring a State of Emergency a week before, Emergency Management was able to claim the emergency labor that went out to remove trees and debris. The Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted by Council and approved by FEMA and the State. It will be in effect until June 26, 2023. Due to it being a multi-jurisdictional plan, Ms. Kwiatek has sent fact sheets and letters to all the jurisdictions within the county to adopt it. She stated that so far, Six Mile and Norris have adopted the plan. She is waiting on the other jurisdictions to respond as well. Ms. Kwiatek stated that in regards to the dams, where the county gave \$150,000 to the Soil and Water Conservation; four dams have been completed, leaving three. An application was sent to DHEC; still waiting for that to be done. The work on the dam at the Country Club will resume in the fall, with the two other dams to follow. She stated on August 14<sup>th</sup>, they had the FEMA graded nuclear exercise where they were graded on how well they protect the citizens in nuclear emergency. FEMA was very impressed with Pickens County EOC Staff knowledge of roles and responsibilities. She mentioned that everything went great. Ms. Kwiatek stated as much as she loves to talk about Emergency Management, that was all she had for this evening.

**COMMITTEE REPORT:** Committee of the Whole – August 13, 2018

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

**The Committee of the Whole met in the Main Conference Room, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, August 13, 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, immediately following the Special Called Council meeting.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:**

Chairman Roy Costner stated the first item for discussion is Log No. 55, Review of Fire Board and Districts (countywide)

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

- Gerald Wilson introduced Al Willimon, Chairman of the Emergency Services Board. Mr. Willimon stated that the handout he has provided is a recommendation from the Emergency Services Board. He stated that they have looked at Emergency Services as a whole, to include services beyond fire; in an attempt to increase coverage of EMS as well as Rescue in the county. All districts would stay intact and keep their ISO rating with a unified funding and management structure. This plan would put Pickens County in a better position to receive federal grant funding and improve ISO ratings in some areas of the county. No fire district would see a decrease of services. Every fire district would receive a benefit.
- Al Willimon introduced Sam Brockington, the Florence County Fire Coordinator. Florence County has had a unified fire district for several years. The county faced many of the dilemmas similar to other counties in the state; special purpose districts, some with no fire protection and widely varied millages. Some fire departments were very well equipped while others didn't meet state or federal standards. Florence County first hired an outside firm to perform a study at a price of 90,000 dollars. Mr. Brockington has provided a copy of the study to Pickens County. Florence County's initial goal was to obtain physical control. The fire districts had not been submitting annual budgets, nor producing audits, nor following any set financial procedures. Some fire districts did not have adequate funding, while two districts had never required OSHA physicals. Some other goals of Florence County were that taxpayers pay the same tax countywide, that all property has a fire station within five road traveled miles, and that the county complied with all federal laws. Mr. Brockington stated that the seven different fire districts were abolished and one taxing district was created based on funding needs. Two Advisory Committees were formed. During much more discussion, Mr. Brockington presented a Power Point demonstrating the Florence County Fire Protection Plan. Electronic copies of his power point will be provided to council.
  - The Emergency Services Board recommends that council expand the ES Board from 7 people to 12 people; dissolve the local fire boards; and start the process of moving forward with a plan for a unified fire district.
  - ❖ Chairman Roy Costner recommends that this action be moved to the next Committee of the Whole meeting for further discussion.

### **Implementation for New Federal Guidelines for Purchasing Relative to Grants – Log No. 94**

- Ralph Guarino presented documentation and stated that the US Government implemented new guidelines for federal grants. Pickens County must meet these regulations in order to receive federal grants in the future.
- ❖ Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers to send Log No. 94 to Council for approval as presented. Motion was seconded by Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously.

### **150<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration Timeline & Events – Log No. 96**

- Jay Pitts handed out a projected budget for the Sesquicentennial events. Chairman Roy Costner inquired as to whether sponsorships have been sought. A lengthy discussion regarding the events and funding for the events followed. Gerald Wilson suggested scaling back, starting off small and building the events year by the year. Mr. Pitts agreed that some of the events could be removed or scaled back and then see what events are successful. Councilman Ensley Feemster offered to donate several items that could be used during the celebrations. Councilman Trey Whitehurst joined the discussion stating that Council's purpose should be about protecting the public (as presented earlier in the meeting in regards to fire and EMS), not to entertain. Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated

that while the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pickens County should be celebrated, the county should not get into the festival business; that the goal should be to bring in tourists from outside of the county to generate tax dollars with accommodations taxes. Vice Chairman Chris Bowers voiced his agreement that the county should celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary but not at the expense of the taxpayers; that corporate sponsorships and creative thinking need to be incorporated.

After much more discussion, it was suggested that Council decide on a set amount of money to be spent on the events and then Jay Pitts seek sponsorships to cover any additional costs.

- ❖ Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to send the recommendation of 62,000 dollars for the budget for the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration to full Council for a vote. Councilman Ensley Feemster made the motion. Vice Chairman Chris Bowers seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **ADJOURN:**

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously. The Committee of the Whole stood adjourned at 8:38p.m.

**<<END OF COMMITTEE REPORT>>**

Chairman Roy Costner opened the discussion of the 150<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration Timeline & Events-Log No. 96. Mr. Wilson asked Jay Pitts to step to the podium.

- Mr. Pitts thanked the Chairman and advised he has a couple of things he would like to address this evening based on some of the conversations at the last Committee of the Whole meeting, mainly pertaining to the budget for the celebration. He stated that his team took the \$62,000 that council had allocated in Committee of the Whole and began to work on the sesquicentennial celebration with that amount of money. Mr. Pitts expressed that he feels they have come up with a successful plan of action that would not lose much based on a couple of larger items that they took out of the budget. Mr. Pitts stated as they continue to work on this event, they met with the Administrator Gerald Wilson, Attorney Ken Roper and Risk Manager Mike Hayes to look into the resources that they may have available outside of the County funds. He stated that what they have come up with is a reduction from \$62,000 to \$38,000. He feels that we can do the same type of event by taking a few things out and shortening the day a bit so they can reduce cost. He stated that there may be a couple of things that hinge on that. First, some of the marketing expenses can be used from the ATAX funds. He is going to request \$5,000 from the ATAX Funding to take care of the marketing of the event. He stated that they are at \$43,000, but if they can get the ATAX funding of \$5,000 then they will be at \$38,000. Another thing planned is to go after outside funding. Mr. Pitts is in the process of negotiating an additional \$15,000 from an outside funding source to help reduce the \$38,000 even more, which would bring it down to \$23,000. Mr. Pitts advised that in cutting the budget down, they are unable to do the drum show and have asked for support to put on a firework show. He stated that they feel they will be able to get funding from an outside source to sponsor the firework show, with an additional \$15,000 of funding. He expressed that with Council support of \$38,000, they will put on a good show.
- Mr. Wilson advised they have a corporate sponsorship on the stage, as well as sponsorship on the fireworks. He stated they have more possible outside funding sources and should have a commitment this week

- Chairman Costner moved to amend the original request of \$62,000 down to \$38,000 with the caveat of asking Mr. Pitts to keep council informed as he continues reducing the \$38,000. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers.
- Chairman Costner asked for any further discussion.
- Councilman Carl Hudson asked if he understood correctly that there is a possibility of other funding sources that may even reduce the \$38,000. He stated that if we could reduce this down to \$0 for taxpayers it would make him happy. He expressed that he does not want to get into reducing it to \$38,000 then come up with more funding from private sources and go even bigger with the event.
- Chairman Costner stated Mr. Pitts is not to go over \$38,000, only to continue to reduce the cost.
- Mr. Pitts advised that they are at \$38,000 today if the ATAX funding is approved. He stated if there is additional funding, it will reduce the \$38,000 with the goal is to come all the way down to \$0. He stated he wanted to make clear that he was not there yet.
- Councilman Carl Hudson stated Pickens County has good leads who could give more funding.
- Administrator Gerald Wilson agreed with Councilman Hudson, stating we have two excellent leads and should have an answer by Friday. He stated as quickly as those are secured, he would send out information.
- Councilman Carl Hudson stated that if a Special-Called Meeting was necessary to approve the funding, he would be willing to do that to save the taxpayers money.
- Mr. Pitts stated if we get to the \$0 balance, we could then add items if we get additional support. He explained that, at this moment, he is asking for \$38,000 for the event with the understanding that he is going to try and reduce it down to \$0.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if council was satisfied with the location at J.B. Red Owens Complex in Easley, SC.
- Administrator Gerald Wilson stated that he thinks we are too far down the road to change the location at this point in time.
- Mr. Pitts advised that to the Administrator's point, we have had multiple discussions on the location. We have partnered with United Christian Ministries who decided to move their event to October 6<sup>th</sup>, usually at J.B. Red Owen's Complex. They moved it for the 150<sup>th</sup> Event. We still have a partnership with them for the 5K Run Feet for Heat. He stated that Easley has bent over backwards to help out with the event and the location.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if it would free up more parking by having the event at J.B. Red Owen's Complex.
- Mr. Pitts stated that he has solutions in the works for parking. He explained that if we reduce the size of the event, it frees up parking on site. He stated we also have buses and golf carts that will cost nothing to help transport people.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if the shuttle service will run all day long. Administrator Gerald Wilson answered yes.
- Chairman Roy Costner asked Mr. Pitts if they have a plan on the time capsule and the logistics of it.
- Mr. Pitts stated they have a committee of people who will meet each Thursday to determine the factors of opening the time capsule. He explained that they are planning to take the time capsule out of the ground ahead of time to make sure they can get it out safely. On Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> the capsule will be opened at the courthouse. He stated that according to the Historical Society, the 5<sup>th</sup> is actually when it should be done. Invitations will be sent to the citizens of Pickens County. A video documentary of opening the time capsule will be recorded. The video will be replayed on October 6<sup>th</sup> at J.B. Red Owen's field, along with having the items found in the time capsule on display.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if it will be in coordination with high school football.

- Jay Pitts stated yes, they will be doing the time capsule in the afternoon, before high school football.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if there was anything else planned on Main Street in Pickens around that time.
- Jay Pitts stated no other plans were made around that time. They will just be opening the capsule on Friday afternoon.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if Mr. Pitts could explain more on why they chose the location in Easley and better explain it for Mr. Mulkey, who spoke during the Public Forum.
- Mr. Pitts stated that this came from the direction of our chairman, who felt like we do festivals and events across the county and he felt that it is best to have an event in Easley. He stated that the Azalea Festival is in Pickens, Dacusville has their festival coming up, the Railroad festival is in Central, so it was to share some of the festivities.
- Chairman Roy Costner stated that it lets everyone celebrate sharing the communities and also having a place big enough to host a few thousand people. He stated that this is a central location for everyone and it made the most sense. He stated it was also not a “city center” since each city has their own events and their festivals there.
- Chairman Roy Costner asked if there was any further discussion. Seeing that there was no other discussion, Chairman Roy Costner called for a vote to move forward.
  - Chairman Costner moved to amend the original request of \$62,000 down to \$38,000 with the caveat of asking Mr. Pitts to keep council informed as he continues reducing the \$38,000. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

Chairman Roy Costner announced the following:

- The Committee of the Whole will meet on Monday, August 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Facility.
- The Chairman asked Administrator Wilson an employee meeting is still being planned for August 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Wilson stated no, they are going to move it closer to the Litter Blitz on September 21.
- The Litter Blitz will take place on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Chairman Roy Costner stated that it was a huge success when they did the first Litter Blitz back in March. County employees and citizens want to continue this process. We collected 17 tons of trash this spring. He stated that this event has received a lot of notoriety of national attention, won a national award and was presented at the SCAC Conference.

Chairman Roy Costner called for other council correspondence.

**MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Roy Costner opened the floor for any new business.

- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers moved to add a discussion about E911 to the Consent Agenda to be referred to the Committee of the Whole. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst moved to add a discussion about the Prison Ministry to the Consent Agenda to be referred to the Committee of the Whole. Motion was seconded by Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously.

Hearing no further items for Motion Period, Chairman Roy Costner closed the floor.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2018-13 AUTHORIZING THE REIMBURSEMENT TO PICKENS COUNTY 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 Roy Costner stated that this is just like many other times we have done in the past where we have an opportunity to work with another county on a multi-county park.

- County Attorney Ken Roper asked to make a clarification that this a resolution that is empowered by the county ordinance that allows us to reimburse ourselves for expenses in the multi-county parks.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst advised he thought we already have something that automatically does that.
- County Attorney Ken Roper stated that there is an ordinance in place, but it requires an annual resolution to list the expenses.
  - Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously to approve the resolution as presented.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED PURCHASE OF A TRANSPORT VAN FOR VETERAN AFFAIRS SHARED 50/50 WITH MCPC WITH THE COST NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000.**

County Administrator Gerald Wilson stated that he received more information tonight from the Veteran Affairs Office. He stated we need to postpone this and make a motion to add this to the Consent Agenda if possible.

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if we should postpone it to the next meeting.
- Administrator Gerald Wilson stated we probably want to talk about it in the next Committee of the Whole Meeting. He apologized for the late notice, but they found this out around 6pm this evening.
  - Motion was made by Councilman Carl Hudson, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously to add this item to the Consent Agenda.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM DACUSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE A USED FIRE TRUCK FROM THE TOWN OF CENTRAL WITH THE COST NOT TO EXCEED \$14,000.**

Chairman Roy Costner stated as he understands, this is for Dacusville Fire Department to use the money they have in place to buy this fire truck.

- Administrator Gerald Wilson agreed with Chairman Costner, stating that Tim Hendricks, Chief McJunkin, Carl Hudson and Tom Turner all went to look at the truck last week. He stated that one of the things Mr. Hendricks mentioned in this year's Fiscal Budget was to budget to buy a pickup truck. Instead of buying the pick-up truck, they would like to request to buy the fire truck.
- Councilman Carl Hudson stated that this fire truck is in great shape and from what he understood, if you bought this truck brand new it would be around \$400,000. He stated that is probably has enough equipment on it to cover the costs. He stated that this is a very good deal and it should put Dacusville Fire Department in very good shape as far as their equipment on trucks.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked what year is the fire truck.
- Administrator Gerald Wilson stated that it is a 1999 fire truck. The Town of Central just spent \$11,000 having all the pumps rebuilt on the truck. Mr. Wilson stated that the truck is in great shape. He stated that usually a fire truck this nice sells between \$40,000-\$50,000.
- Councilman Carl Hudson stated that the Town of Central is giving Dacusville Fire Department a really good deal on this fire truck.

- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if the Dacusville Fire Department already has the funds and they are not going to get a bond.
- Administrator Gerald Wilson stated that in this year's Fiscal Operational Budget that they had recommended purchasing a crew-cab pick-up truck for the chief. They do feel like the chief's truck can hold up for a few more years. He stated that they actually budgeted \$28,000 - \$30,000 for the pick-up truck, but would only spend \$14,000 on the fire truck. He stated that they will be saving money.
- Councilman Carl Hudson stated that this is a great deal for Pickens County because if the Town of Central sold this fire truck to another county then that piece of equipment leaves our system and then eventually, Dacusville Fire Department will have to buy a truck. He stated that this is a win for both sides.
- Administrator Gerald Wilson stated a member of the Emergency Services Board actually sanctioned the purchase as well.
- Chairman Costner asked for any other discussion. Seeing that there was no other discussion, Chairman Costner called for a motion:
  - Motion was made by Councilman Carl Hudson, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of this fire truck from the Town of Central to the Dacusville Fire Department with the cost not to exceed \$14,000.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE ACCOMMODATIONS TAX FUNDING AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ATAX COMMITTEE.**

Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to discuss:

- Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, and seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers.

Chairman Costner called on Attorney Ken Roper to discuss:

- Attorney Ken Roper stated that he has filled in as the staff liaison for this committee for this funding cycle. He stated that the committee met and discussed all the applications to come up with the draft report. The committee is basically operating under the premise that we had, approximately \$100,000 in funding available. He stated that he stressed to the committee that the Council gave very specific feedback last year when Council heard the ATAX report last year. Mr. Roper stated that last year there was a spreadsheet and that was the data that Council had. He stated that the committee this year worked a little more diligently on that aspect of it, trying to give Council a product that they could digest easily. They have given Council a summary of each of the programs that they have recommended for funding, as well as a spreadsheet to let you know the "shorthand" version. He expressed that the committee operated well and brings these recommendations to Council. He stated that you can see the logo's of the projects throughout the county; the Senior League World Series, Hagood Mill Annual Celebration, Andrew Pickens Gravesite, Central Railroad Festival, Clemson African American Museum, Winter Blue Grass Jubilee, Dacusville Farm Days, Ride to the Rock, Pickens Azalea Festival. He stated that the committee felt that this provides a good, cohesive county wide use of the ATAX Funds. Mr. Roper stated again that this comes to Council as a recommendation and he will do his best to answer any questions that Council may have.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he has two questions. He asked if someone could give a background of the Pickens County Performing Arts Foundation for this price tag of Andrew Pickens Gravesite; is that not funding the whole \$42,000?
- Mr. Roper said to answer Councilman Hendricks question, yes it is funding the whole thing.
- Councilman Hendricks asked do they not have any other money anywhere else.
- Attorney Ken Roper stated no, they do not have any other money somewhere else that they are aware of. He stated that the committee thought in other years that we may look at this a little

differently but since this year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and it is such a prominent, historical marker that this a good one time use of this fund.

- Councilman Wes Hendricks stated that he noticed Holly Springs Center is not getting the money they requested. They requested \$7,000. The reasoning listed was “good program, but no demonstration of attracting over-night tourism.” He asked if this was backed by data showing that it does not attract over-night tourism.
- Mr. Roper answered that this is just a recommendation being brought to council. The committee felt like there was no demonstration that it would be used to attract tourists. Mr. Roper said the application expressed that the Center would be used by people camping or used for day trips by schools. He stated that the committee wants to wait a year or two and see if a track record of attracting tourists could be established. He stated it was a situation where the committee was applying a definition of tourism strictly to that application.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks stated that personally he is taking a class there and people have come from out of town to take classes.
- Mr. Roper stated that it may be that Mr. Hendricks has data that the committee does not have. He stated to keep in mind that this is just a recommendation. There is more money from ATAX collection that has come in. Mr. Roper stated that if Councilman Hendricks feels he needs to make an amending motion that is certainly fine.
- Councilman Hendricks asked if there was more available than what was listed in the report.
- Attorney Ken Roper stated that yes, there is.
- Administrator Wilson added that there is an addition of roughly \$40,000.
- Councilman Hendricks asked if there is roughly a \$40,000 difference.
- Mr. Roper said that is correct.
- Councilman Hendricks asked if this has been carried over from year to year in the past.
- Mr. Roper stated that part of the money that is available this year did carry over from last year. He stated that this is normal.
- Councilman Hendricks asked if it is possible that they agree to give Holly Springs something.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated that one of the things Council requested last year was that the committee go to these festivals and find out what funds are generated at hotels. He expressed that ATAX funding is designed to bring people from 50+ miles out into this county. Councilman Whitehurst stated that what Council had asked for was data to back up all these festivals that we pay for every year. He expressed that he would like to make a motion to send this report back to committee with a list of all the applications. He stated that when the committee says that they have a recommendation, what Council wants to see is the data that shows the use of Pickens County hotels.
- Mr. Roper stated that Mr. Whitehurst’s motion is in order but what he wants to point out is every application for what is recommended and not recommended was provided to Council. He apologizes that it might have been confusing with the Drop Box Link, but it was such a volume of information that they could not email it.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if Mr. Roper could get that out so Council will have it for committee.
- Mr. Roper stated yes.
  - Chairman Costner stated that there is a motion on the table to move this to Committee of the Whole for further discussion with more specific data. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks. Chairman Roy Costner asked for any other discussion.
- Councilman Carl Hudson stated that some of these festivals happen during the summer and some of these funds get allocated after the festival has taken place. He stated that if the committee needs money to advertise the festival, the festival is already over before the money gets there. He expressed that he does not know if this process could be earlier in the year. Dacusville Farm Days

will take place in two weeks. It looks like what funds they get, they are going to have hold until next year.

- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if the money carries over for them for the following year.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated that the committee needs to plan a year in advance. He stated this funding should be for next year's festivals because we have to collect the money before we give it out.
- Councilman Carl Hudson asked when the funds come in.
- County Attorney Ken Roper expressed he would defer to the Finance Director for this question, but he believes it comes in throughout the year.
- Finance Director Ralph Guarino stated that the funds come in quarterly; the last check is always received in July. He stated that in years past, these recommendations were brought to council in May and checks were cut in June. However, to his understanding, there has been a delay. He stated that this is why they always carry funding forward so Council can make the recommendation and approval in May/June. The final check from the State is not received until July, so the amount is estimated. Whatever amount is not spent, is carried over to the following year.
  - Chairman Roy Costner asked for any other discussion. He asked for all in favor for the motion on the table to send this to Committee of the Whole for more details to raise their hand. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **ALLOCATION TO SEND 30% ATAX COMMITTEE**

County Attorney Ken Roper stated that Part B is the allocation of the 30% money. Mr. Roper stated that the guidance that we have here in State Law is that this 30% refers to 30% of the overall ATAX collection after the General Fund monies have been subtracted. The 30% money needs to be used for tourism or promotion and it needs to be allocated by council to outside entities or other entities that might have an outgoing tourism program.

- Administrator Gerald Wilson stated that one of the things the staff recommended to Council was that the first \$5,000 be used for the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration; asking that the remaining amount be split between the Hagood Mill Foundation and the Museum Foundation. He stated that this is "seed" money to start these non-profit foundations.
  - Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion on the table to allocate the 30% ATAX money with \$5,000 going towards the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration and the remainder to be split between Hagood Mill Foundation and Museum Foundation. Seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst for discussion.
- Chairman Costner asked if there was any discussion.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if we did this last year with Hagood Mill.
- Administrator Wilson stated that last year we gave this to the Performing Arts Center.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated last year we did this for the curtains and asked how much money we are talking about doing.
- Ralph Guarino, Finance Director, stated \$47,799.26.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if there is anything particular done with this money.
- Mr. Wilson stated that this year, the money will be "seed" money to start the foundations off as far as tourism. He stated that this money has to go to a non-profit.
- Attorney Ken Roper stated it has to go specifically for tourism promotion and to advertise promotion.
- Chairman Costner asked if it was the same principles as the 50+ mile radius as discussed earlier.
- Mr. Roper agreed.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked what was the other non-profit board is.
- Mr. Wilson stated it is the Hagood Mill Foundation and the Museum Foundation.

- Chairman Roy Costner stated we used the Performing Arts Center last time and asked for any other discussion.
  - Chairman Costner asked all those in favor signify in moving the \$5,000 to the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration and the remainder to be split between the Hagood Mill Foundation and Museum Foundation by raising your hand. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A REQUEST TO CARRY FORWARD THE REMAINING FUNDS FOR PENDING SPECIAL PROJECTS FROM FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018.**

Chairman Roy Costner stated that this is what we have done in the past. He stated there is a listing in the agenda packet of those items.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster. The Chairman asked for any discussion.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if this is budgeting.
- Administrator Wilson stated that this is projects that were allocated for and are still in process to be completed.
  - Chairman Costner asked for any other discussion and for all those in favor to signify by raising their hand. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a) Minimum Maintenance Roads & Traffic Devices – Committee of the Whole
- b) E911 – Committee of the Whole (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*)
- c) Prison Ministry – Committee of the Whole (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*)
- d) Veteran Affairs Van – 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 Wes Hendricks, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously, to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a five minute recess.

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- Personnel Issue - Library
- Personnel Issue – Tourism

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

- Georges Creek/Crayton Creek Sewer Update
- Water Authority Request

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

- Project Overlook
- Project Space

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

- Planning Commission
  - Board and Commission Vacancies (78):
    - a) Accommodations Tax (ATAX)
    - b) Alcohol and Drug/Behavioral Health
    - c) Appalachian Council of Gov. (ACOG)
    - d) Assessment and Appeals
    - e) Beautification Committee
    - f) Cultural Commission
    - g) Economic Development Alliance
    - h) Emergency Services Advisory Board
    - i) Fire District Board - Central
    - j) Fire District Board - Crosswell
    - k) Fire District Board - Dacusville
    - l) Fire District Board - Easley
    - m) Fire District Board - Liberty
    - n) Fire District Board - Pickens
    - o) Fire District Board - Pumpkintown
    - p) Fire District Board - Rocky Bottom
    - q) Fire District Board - Shady Grove
    - r) Fire District Board - Six Mile
    - s) Pickens County Grievance Committee
    - t) Pickens, Oconee, Anderson Mental Health
    - u) Planning Commission
    - v) Public Service Commission
    - w) Tourism Board
    - x) Worklink
    - y) Zoning and Appeals
    - z) \*Hagood Mill Non-Profit Corporation Board
    - aa) \*Performing Arts Center Non-Profit Corporation Board
    - bb) \*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)

- Personnel Issue – Library
- Personnel Issue – Tourism

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

- Georges Creek/Crayton Creek Sewer Update – **Action as follows:**
  - Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to have a resolution authorizing the County Administrator to execute asset purchase agreement with Easley Combined Utilities for capacity and interest in Georges Creek line. Seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and motion carried unanimously.
- Water Authority Request

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

- **Project Overlook – Action as follows:**
  - Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to commit Project Overlook to the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and motion carried unanimously.
- **Project Space**

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

- **Planning Commission**
  - **Board and Commission Vacancies (78):**
    - a) **Accommodations Tax (ATAX) – No Action**
    - b) **Alcohol and Drug/Behavioral Health – No Action**
    - c) **Appalachian Council of Gov. (ACOG) – Action as follows:**
      - Councilman Ensley Feemster moved to reappoint Margaret Thompson to the Appalachian Council of Gov. Board. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously.
    - d) **Assessment and Appeals – No Action**
    - e) **Beautification Committee – No Action**
    - f) **Cultural Commission – No Action**
    - g) **Economic Development Alliance – No Action**
    - h) **Emergency Services Advisory Board – No Action**
    - i) **Fire District Board – Central – No Action**
    - j) **Fire District Board – Crosswell – No Action**
    - k) **Fire District Board – Dacusville – No Action**
    - l) **Fire District Board – Easley – No Action**
    - m) **Fire District Board – Liberty – No Action**
    - n) **Fire District Board – Pickens – No Action**
    - o) **Fire District Board – Pumpkintown – No Action**
    - p) **Fire District Board – Rocky Bottom – No Action**
    - q) **Fire District Board – Shady Grove – No Action**
    - r) **Fire District Board – Six Mile – No Action**
    - s) **Pickens County Grievance Committee – No Action**
    - t) **Pickens, Oconee, Anderson Mental Health – No Action**
    - u) **Planning Commission – No Action**
    - v) **Public Service Commission – No Action**
    - w) **Tourism Board – No Action**
    - x) **Worklink – No Action**
    - y) **Zoning and Appeals – Action as follows:**
      - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers moved to appoint Samuel Britt Gillespie to the Zoning and Appeals Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously.
    - z) **\*Hagood Mill Non-Profit Corporation Board – Action as follows:**
      - Councilman Wes Hendricks moved to appoint Louise Pence Hope to the Hagood Mill Non-Profit Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously.
    - aa) **\*Performing Arts Center Non-Profit Corporation Board – No Action**
    - bb) **\*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 Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

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Roy B. Costner, III, Chairman of County Council