

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

September 10, 2018

6:30 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 31, 2018.

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
Rick Clark, Sheriff

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Roy Costner called the meeting of September 10, 2018 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Carl Hudson 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 signed up to speak. The Clerk called the following speakers:

1. Franklin Reynolds: Mr. Reynolds stated he opposes any millage increase; that the county needs to do better with managing money. He also stated he opposes the Sister City. He expressed that he feels the county needs to focus more on the fire departments. He stated that more uniformity is needed across the county in our fire departments. Mr. Reynolds declared that he would also like to focus on Central operating a fire district of its own and cancelling the contract with the City of Central.
2. Steve Haynie: Mr. Haynie stated that Council discussed the Sister City with another county at the last Committee of the Whole meeting. He expressed that this has been discussed the past and that he feels Pickens County does not need a Sister City to make deals with German companies. He stated that the Sister City program is just another way to spend money and take vacations. Mr. Haynie feels that Council should take it out of the budget.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

- August 13, 2018 – Special Called
- August 20, 2018
- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried 5-0 to approve the referenced minutes. Councilman Wes Hendricks was not yet present at the time of this vote.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

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

Litter Blitz: Mr. Wilson announced that he wanted to remind Council about the Litter Blitz on Friday, September 21st. He stated that that clean-up will begin at 8:00 a.m. and that the public is invited to attend. Mr. Wilson advised that anyone who would like to participate could come by the Administration office to coordinate a location where they could help.

Mr. Wilson expressed that he would like Council to consider adding an Economic Development Contractual issue to Executive Session this evening. The Economic Development is Project Print.

County Administrator Gerald Wilson asked Denise Kwiatek, Emergency Management Director, to step up to the podium. Mr. Wilson announced that Ms. Kwiatek would like to update council on a few issues in Pickens County.

- West Nile Virus: Denise Kwiatek shared that Pickens County had been notified by DHEC on Friday, September 7th that the first human infection of the West Nile virus had been discovered in the City of Easley. DHEC advised spraying the infected area due to this being infection in a human. She stated that Mr. Wilson immediately contacted the City of Easley and the collaboration began. She reported that Clemson University was also advised and the University notified all of the Bee Keepers in the area to cover/remove bees ahead of the planned spraying of insecticide. Mrs. Kwiatek stated that a press conference was held with local media to alert the public. She expressed that she would like to thank Jamie Burns (Pickens County PIO), Megan Wallace (City of Easley PIO) and Tasha Todd (Pickens County E-911) for their due-diligence and collaboration in sharing the same cohesive message to everyone on Facebook and Twitter.
- Hurricane Florence: Mrs. Kwiatek announced that per the National Weather Service, Pickens County is to be impacted Thursday afternoon with 30 mph winds and 1-2 inches of rain. She stated that this is what they are predicting right now due to the hurricane going east and toward North Carolina. She shared that a request was received from the South Carolina Firefighter Association for a Type 2 Swift Water Flood Response Team. Pickens County will be deploying ten Swift Water Response Team Members to Columbia tomorrow, to stay for a length of seven days. She stated that the equipment being deployed will be four trucks, a communications trailer, one trailer with two inflatable swift water boats (one motorized, one non-motorized), and one flat bottom boat. She stated that a logistics trailer equipped with cots, fans, coolers, food and lights will be utilized so that the responders will be sustained for seven days. Ms. Kwiatek added that Pickens County is coordinating and sharing resources with Greenville County.

Gerald Wilson asked if there are any questions for Ms. Kwiatek.

- Chairman Roy Costner asked for clarification as to when the spraying for the West Nile Virus occurred.
- Ms. Kwiatek answered that the spraying took place on Saturday, September 8th at 6:00 p.m. and continued for approximately two hours.

COMMITTEE REPORT: Committee of the Whole – August 27, 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 27, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. All members of the committee were in attendance, with the exception of Councilman Ensley Feemster; Chairman Roy Costner presiding.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Roy Costner called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order. Councilman Trey Whitehurst led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:**Prison Ministry – Log No. 101**

- Gerald Wilson introduced Chaplain Moss, the Prison Ministry Chaplain.
- Mr. Moss thanked Council for having him and stated that he would like to introduce Bo Anthony, Tyler Smith and Stephen Patterson who are pastors at three different local churches in the area. All three men talked about their experiences preaching at the Prison. Mr. Moss stated his goal is to move the chapel with the prison if there is any way possible. He stated that lives are being changed.
- After more discussion, Risk Manager Michael Hayes stated that he has contacted two moving companies. One company is in Georgia and has moved a similar chapel like the prison chapel. Michael stated the cost would be around \$18,000 just to move it 100 yards. That amount is just in utility bills due to power lines.
- County Attorney Ken Roper stated his concern is that someone could make an equal protection argument, freedom of religion argument and/or first amendment argument. He stated he could go into more detail and examples, but he would suggest not discussing those in a public setting. If Council would like to move forward to discuss this, he would suggest adding this to executive session.
- After much discussion, Chairman Roy Costner stated he understands the significance of the building, but he feels a building does not make the church. He asked the sheriff how they make the use of the facility that they have now.
- Sheriff Rick Clark stated that what he has been working on since the day he became Sheriff is our mental health, behavioral health, and religion. He stated that one thing he designed about the new prison is each pod is going to have rooms coming off of it. He stated there is also a room 20x30 feet, where he feels they can have services.
- Councilman Chris Bowers stated that he understands volunteers moved the chapel. He asked if the county would approve moving the chapel if someone was willing to move it with no expense to the county.
- Gerald Wilson stated that it is county property and council would have to make that decision.
- After much more discussion, Gerald Wilson advised that staff would gather more information about costs to move the chapel and would report back to Council.

Council Action on Log No. 101:

- No action taken

Public Transportation Survey – Log No. 98

- Gerald Wilson introduced Chris Brink, Pickens County Community Development Director and Keith Brockington, Transportation Planning Manager for GPATS.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked for clarification from Vice Chairman Bowers as to what he is looking for.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated that to a degree, public transportation does not exist in Pickens. He stated he simply just wanted to start the conversation.
- Keith Brockington shared a PowerPoint presentation with the committee. He stated Pickens County, being interested in elderly and disabled transit service, would need to determine what level of transit service we wish to have. FIA Section 5310 Funding is specifically designed for providing services to elderly and disabled persons. GPATS can assist with interested and eligible applicants. Mr. Brockington stated that around \$1.1 million is available this year, with around \$300,000 becoming available each year after. These services are on-call and can serve within the Greenville Urbanized Area that GPATS covers in southern Pickens County (essentially, south of SC-183). A local match of 20% is required for capital purchases, and 50% for operating expenses. Additionally, 55% of the application must be capital purchases and 10% of the application may be used for administration, and

does not require a local match. Mr. Brockington advised that if Pickens County is interested in exploring fixed-route services (such as GTA/Greenlink or CATbus runs), he recommends broaching the topic with one of those transit agencies, as it would be easier to extend one of their services into Pickens County rather than to start a new service.

- After much more discussion, Gerald Wilson advised that staff would gather more information and report back.

Council Action on Log No. 98:

- No action taken

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

- Chairman Roy Costner asked Council where everyone was after having time to review.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he would feel more comfortable with the plan if it is more developed.
- Chairman Roy Costner stated four things that the committee had in place to move forward;
 1. ISO's stayed the same or got better
 2. The people stayed the same (no one lost their job)
 3. Service was the same
 4. Costs were manageable and down.

He stated that when this Council ran for election, he heard citizens talking about fire fees at every meeting. He stated that Mr. Willimon and his team have spent a lot of time on this plan. He expressed that he feels the committee needs to move forward with this plan or stop discussing it.

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked for clarification from Chairman Roy Costner what he means when he says "move forward".
- Chairman Roy Costner stated he means to move forward with the idea of creating one Emergency Services Board. That board would start working on the budgets, working with the Fire Chiefs and working within each fire district to make sure they have what they need to begin this process.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated another part of the plan was to increase the number of board members on the Emergency Services Board.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst inquired what will change; what will be different tomorrow than today when we move forward.
- Chairman Roy Costner answered that Council will empower and seek an Emergency Services Board made up of 12 people. That board will begin the process of helping educate on how this plan is going to work. He stated that the fire fees will go away and the millage rate will go into place.
- Al Willimon, Chairman of the Emergency Services Advisory Board, stated that they cannot go any further until they have a way to go forward. They know the path they are going down. He stated that as a board that is made up of twelve members of people throughout the county, they would solicit the fire departments and fire chiefs. Committees would have to be formed. For example, a committee is needed that studies the personnel, the hierarchy and the needs within the fire services. Another committee would be needed for truck and equipment assessments. He stated all of these committees would formulate a plan, instead of outsourcing for someone to build a plan.
- After more discussion, Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to make a recommendation to empower the board to begin structure and report back to Council. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously.

Council Action on Log No. 55:

- No action taken

Discuss Employee Engagement Survey – Log No. 100

- Lisa Bryant, Human Resources Director, stated that she follows a lot of Human Resource Newsletters and Blogs. One of the things that she read on Employee Engagement is that engagement is an incredibly difficult thing to measure. It is difficult because it is a very important feeling and it affects

our bottom line. She stated that she wants to make sure everyone is on the same page in understanding what the difference is between engagement and motivation.

- Chairman Roy Costner stated that he has been a part of a lot of employee engagements. He stated that the last one was a start, stop and continues engagement; meaning what did the employees want management to start doing, stop doing and continue doing. He stated that start doing and stop doing could have a negative effect, so we have to be careful on how we word it.
- Mrs. Bryant stated that she would send the committee her PowerPoint presentation because it is not working in the meeting. The presentation has sample questions she would like to use. She stated there are important things about an engagement survey. The presentation illustrates that there is a difference between intrinsic motivation and external motivation. She stated that they would like to measure both.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked Lisa Bryant how long she has been working in Human Resources.
- Mrs. Bryant answered that she has been in Human Resources for 21 years.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he had never put together an employee engagement survey and that he feels that he is not qualified to determine what questions should be included on the survey. He feels that Mrs. Bryant should put together the survey for employees.
- Chairman Roy Costner states he wants to make sure we are continuing to improve and get the best possible employees that want to work for Pickens County.
- Mrs. Bryant stated three things they need to focus on; making sure employees know this survey is anonymous, making the survey short, and the county needing to be ready to act. She stated that is where she is looking for guidance from the committee. She an article stating that 27% of the managers in companies that administered engagement surveys never saw the results. The additional 52% reviewed the results but did not take any action. She stated that if we ask the questions, we have to be ready to give feedback.
- After more discussion, it was suggested that Lisa Bryant move forward to begin formulating the Employee Engagement Survey and report back to Council for review.

Council Action on Log No. 100:

- No action taken

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

- Chairman Roy Costner stated that the District of Karlsruhe has reached out and wants to visit Pickens County to meet with the council.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated that he thinks there are great benefits to partnerships and learning from or working with others. He stated that he feels it will bring a great benefit to the county.
- Chairman Roy Costner stated they want to visit, so we will show them how our government works. He stated they have 90+ councilmen, where we have 6. They have no unincorporated areas, where we have a lot of unincorporated areas. He expressed that he would like to take them to our museum as well. The only expense to the county would be if we took them to dinner. He stated that he wanted Council's opinion before he did anything.
- Councilman Carl Hudson stated South Carolina does a lot of business with Germany. He stated that he heard there are 180 German companies in South Carolina.
- After much more discussion, it was suggested that Council move forward on extending an invitation to the District of Karlsruhe to come visit Pickens County.

Council Action on Log No. 91:

- No action taken

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously. The Committee of the Whole stood adjourned at 8:39p.m.

<<END OF COMMITTEE REPORT>>

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Roy Costner announced the following:

- The Committee of the Whole will meet on Monday, September 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Facility.
- The next Council Meeting will be Monday, October 1st at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Administration Facility.
- The Litter Blitz will take place on Friday, September 21st.
- The Sesquicentennial 150th Celebration will be October 5-6. On October 5th, the time capsule will be opened at 2:00 p.m. at the Pickens County Courthouse. On October 6th, the celebration will kick-off at J.B. Red Owens Complex in Easley, SC at 9:00 a.m. The opening ceremony for the festival (main opening, vendors, etc.) will be at 11:00 a.m. and the fireworks finale is schedule around 8:00 p.m.

Chairman Roy Costner called for other council correspondence. Seeing none, Chairman Costner announced moving to Motion Period and New Business.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Roy Costner opened the floor for any new business.

- Chairman Roy Costner stated that the county operated under Ordinance 526, which is an ordinance establishing conditions and procedures for the declaration of a state of emergency within Pickens County. Mr. Costner expressed that he would like to commend our staff, the Administrator Gerald Wilson, and the Emergency Services Department. Mr. Costner continued that Council would like to put forth a Resolution confirming the emergency response of Pickens County to the report of a human West Nile Virus infection incident in Easley, SC.
- Mr. Costner read Resolution 2018-14 below:

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE OF PICKENS COUNTY TO THE REPORT OF AN INFECTION INCIDENT IN EASLEY, SOUTH CAROLINA.

WHEREAS, Pickens County, South Carolina is a political subdivision of the State of South Carolina, and as such has all powers granted to counties by the Constitution and the general laws of the State of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to S.C Code Sections 30-4-80 and 4-9-130, as well as Pickens County Ordinance No. 526, the County is authorized to take immediate action on a matter arising as an emergency and/or involving exigent circumstances; and

WHEREAS, on Friday September 7, 2018, the County was notified by SCDHEC of a confirmed instance of West Nile Virus in the municipal limits of Easley; and

WHEREAS, Officials of the City of Easley, County of Pickens, and State of South Carolina concurred that the best course of action was to immediately notify the public so as to provide for spraying of an insecticide as a preventative measure to protect the life and safety of the residents in the immediate surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the County Administrator, acting prudently and diligently in all respects, did authorize the expenditure of county resources to accomplish this recommendation and thereby meet the demands of the situation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Pickens, South Carolina that the infectious incident that was identified on Friday, September 7, 2018 was a public health emergency, and that the

expenditure of County resources was an appropriate response to said emergency and is hereby fully validated and authorized under the provisions of applicable state and county legal authority.

- Chairman Costner made a motion to add Resolution 2018-14 to the agenda. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and motion carried 5-0. Councilman Wes Hendricks was not yet present at the time of this vote.
- Chairman Costner asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2018-14 as presented. Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers. Chairman Roy Costner asked for any discussion.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated that this was a very quick situation and staff did a great job handling this. Councilman Whitehurst asked County Attorney Ken Roper everything was handled correctly.
 - County Attorney Ken Roper answered yes. Mr. Roper continued that this was an instance where Council planned ahead and passed an ordinance that offers a clear procedure. He reported that the procedure was followed and that the county is prepared for the next incident.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst expressed that he thought everything was very well handled and appreciated the staff keeping Council informed.
 - Administrator Gerald Wilson added that he appreciates everything that the Emergency Management staff has done.
- Chairman Roy Costner asked for any other discussion. Seeing none, the Chairman asked for a show of hands from all those in favor for approving the Resolution. Motion carried 5-0. Councilman Wes Hendricks was not yet present at the time of this vote.
- Chairman Roy Costner stated he would like to add Project Print to Executive Session under Economic Development. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and motion carried 5-0. Councilman Wes Hendricks was not yet present at the time of this vote.

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

PUBLIC HEARING AND ESTABLISHMENT OF MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018/2019.

Chairman Costner opened the public hearing for comments regarding establishment of the millage rate for fiscal year 2018/2019. He stated the County Operations would go up by 0.5 and the bonded indebtedness goes down by 0.5, so there is no increase felt by the taxpayer. Mr. Costner informed that there is a 2.9 difference on the Vineyards Fire District. He then asked Finance Director Ralph Guarino for explanation.

- Ralph Guarino stated that the 2.9 difference for the Vineyards Fire District is a general increase in operations. He shared that he has been asked if this increase is due to purchasing fire trucks. Mr. Guarino stated that is not the case; the Vineyards F.D. has one more payment on the existing fire trucks that are 15 years old. He informed that this action was mainly due to the compensation study and general increases that the value of a mill did not cover. Mr. Guarino stated that he has an email of correspondence with this request from the Vineyards Fire Board.

Hearing no other speakers, Chairman Roy Costner declared the public hearing closed.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers to establish the millage rate for the fiscal year 2018/2019. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried 5-0. Councilman Wes Hendricks was not yet present at the time of this vote.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT WITH PICKENS COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE FOR OPERATION OF THE COUNTY PRISON UNTIL SUCH TIME AS NEW DETENTION FACILITY IS OPERATIONAL.

Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to discuss this Resolution. Motion was made by Councilman Carl Hudson, and seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers to discuss the resolution. Chairman Roy Costner asked if there was any discussion.

- Councilman Ensley Feemster stated he does not understand the need for this resolution.
- Chairman Costner asked Sheriff Rick Clark to discuss the need for incorporating the Prison and the Sheriff's Office.
 - Sheriff Clark stated that there is a specific attachment to the codes related to moving an agency like the Law Enforcement Center. He explained that the main reason to incorporate the two departments now is to train the prison staff on the Sheriff Office's policies and procedures. Sheriff Clark asserted that all of the staff should be familiar with the policies and procedures before moving into the new jail. He concluded with the fact that incorporating the two departments will save money. The Sheriff then suggested that County Attorney Ken Roper could explain this issue from a legal standpoint.
- Attorney Ken Roper advised that the other aspect of this agreement is to put a predictable timeline in place. He remarked that this also establishes a clear understanding among all parties as to when the Sheriff has custody of a county facility, when the new jail actually turns over to the Sheriff's custody/control, and at what time does the prison grounds/buildings come back under the county's control. Mr. Roper stated that he knows the Sheriff and the Administrator understand the timeline, but planning ahead is necessary. He illustrated his point by stating that in the case of Sheriff Clark having an untimely successor, that person would understand what the agreement is. He reiterated that the reason for this resolution is the timeline. He stated that he recommended having a document in place from a legal standpoint.
- Chairman Roy Costner inquired as to when the new detention facility is scheduled to open.
 - Sheriff Rick Clark stated the official date is April 2019. However, he added that the training of staff is going very well and staff may be ready by March 2019, ahead of schedule.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated that he means no disrespect, but that he had asked this same question in the Committee meeting and Sheriff Clark answered with the exact same reason of training officers. He inquired as to what training officers had to do with this issue as they are not training officers at the stockade; they are training them at the jail. He asked why the jail should be turned over to the Sheriff to run/control at this point, when the Sheriff has enough responsibility right now with training people at the LEC. Councilman Trey Whitehurst expressed that he does not understand the concept of why this is needed. He asserted that one of the biggest issues weighing on his heart is the issue of the church at the stockade. He commented that, to his understanding, Council was not going to relinquish control of the prison before the issue of the Prison Ministry was resolved. Councilman Trey Whitehurst argued that once Council gives the prison to the Sheriff, Council will lose all control or have any effect on what happens there. He stated that he has not found a reason as to why the sheriff should take over the prison right now. He reiterated that the Sheriff conducts the training at the LEC, not the jail. He declared that his concern is the church that is hopefully going to be built and that he will not be voting in favor.
 - Sheriff Rick Clark asserted that anyone who takes over needs to have a plan and control of their officers. He stated that the officers from the prison will join the Sheriff's Office while they have the ability to train them. He stated that he does not want to have to train the day before the jail opens, but months ahead. This action is to assure that all of the officers are under control and trained effectively with the system. He informed Council that officers are currently switching between the jail and prison so that everyone can learn

and understand both methods at the same time. He stated that this course of action will create a seamless transition as the new jail is opened. He explained that the jail and the stockade are a world apart and different on a day to day basis; this is why training now is needed.

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated that he still does not understand what training has to do with running the stockade.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked the Sheriff if his policies and procedures for his officers at the LEC are the same policies and procedures as the stockade.
 - Sheriff Rick Clark answered that they are not. He stated that they have to learn the stockade’s policies and procedures, while the stockade has to learn the LEC’s policies and procedures. Sheriff Clark continued that the best thing about this is that they are learning from each other and thinks this will make a successful transition; it cannot happen just days before opening the new jail.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers inquired if this is more of a physical, hands-on training in a new facility; big picture, structure, everything.
 - Sheriff Clark agreed, and stated that this is more about life safety. He declared that if staff is not trained properly, someone will get hurt.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst remarked that he understands the need for training. He stated that his question is why the Sheriff needs control of the stockade for training. Councilman Trey Whitehurst observed that since Drew Sisco runs the stockade and the Sheriff runs the LEC, it seems that they could coordinate training between the two facilities without problem.
 - Sheriff Rick Clark advised that when something goes wrong at the LEC, it is reported to the Sheriff. When something goes wrong at the stockade, it is reported to Drew Sisco. He stated that he needs to take control before April because it is a long term process.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he understands the training process, he just does not understand the control process.
 - Sheriff Rick Clark asked Councilman Trey Whitehurst to suggest a date of transfer.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst replied that he can answer that when there is a resolution as to what is going to happen with the chapel.
- Chairman Roy Costner joined the conversation stating that, in his mind, this is two issues. The first issue being the prison chapel; second is taking over control of the prison. He stated that he understands the “heart” issue, being a pastor himself. Chairman Roy Costner related that he reached out to four different pastors among the community to ask for their counsel on the prison chapel. He expressed that his viewpoint is that when Jesus met with Peter and laid the foundation for the church, walls were not built; Church was about the body of Christ as the people. Chairman Roy Costner offered that where those walls are does not matter; the new detention center will provide a space big enough for worship. He stated that he feels we are opening up a “new can of worms” by discussing the chapel right now and getting off topic. He advised that the issue for today is not a resolution of the chapel, but whether the Sheriff takes over the new detention center now. Chairman Roy Costner stated that this isn’t a topic on how Law Enforcement works. He added that this is why counts on Councilman Carl Hudson and the Sheriff to offer their expertise on this topic.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers added that something we have to remember is that the Sheriff’s employees answer to the Sheriff. He stated the Sheriff is an elected official and Council has no say on how he handles his employees or their operational guidelines. He continued by stating that Drew Sisco is currently over the stockade and works for the Administrator, who answers to Council. Vice Chairman Chris Bowers acknowledged that there cannot be two agencies working together to blend something when one individual is an elected official and the other individual works under the County Administrator. Council has no say over an elected official, besides budgetary issues. Vice Chairman Bowers expressed that the true point of this action is putting everyone under this one wheel house. He commented that Sheriff Clark has been great to work

with. He assumes that everything will continue going great between now and the time when Council turns over the keys to the new facility. Vice Chairman Bowers stated that, as Attorney Ken Roper has warned, it could all change very easily if anything happened and there is no documentation in place. He declared now is the time to start preparing and that is the point of the resolution. Mr. Bowers commented that Denise Kwaitek did a great job with the West Nile Virus emergency and Hurricane Florence preparations. He stated that Ms. Kwaitek did not wake up on Friday morning and start researching how to handle the West Nile virus, nor did she wake up and start researching what to do about Hurricane Florence. Her position is a position where she constantly trains. He expressed that he feels that the Sheriff is correct that it will become a life safety issue if training does not start ahead of the transition. He stated that life safety is one of the reasons why the new detention facility is being built, because the current one has a life safety issues. He added that he feels the purpose of this resolution is to put a timeline in place.

- Sheriff Clark stated not only is this issue a changing of departments, but this is a new facility that the officers will need proper training on. He stated that this new detention center designed solely to keep individuals charged with a crime inside. He explained that there is a duty to Pickens County and the surrounding neighbors to keep these inmates inside of the jail. He declared that the danger of having a facility outside like the chapel is too much of a risk for the County. He stated that he was asked by the County to take on the stockade. He remarked that this is not something he wanted to do, but he was willing because it is in the best interest of Pickens County. He stated that we cannot continue on if the stockade is not integrated with their system. He acknowledged that he is responsible for the security and what happens at the stockade. He advised that the chapel is too much of a security problem. He stated that if an inmate escapes, fingers will point at the Sheriff, but he would point back to council because of the chapel being a security concern on their facility. He shared that Councilman Feemster sent him a letter from an inmate that found God while incarcerated at the prison. Sheriff Clark announced that there will be a successful rate of inmates finding God at the new facility; that this can be done inside of the training room of the facility. He stated that he is not anti-church, but he is pro-safety. He declared that his duty is to keep his officers safe.
- Councilman Carl Hudson asked for clarification as to if the Sheriff is saying that even if the chapel is moved to the new jail, it would be up to the Sheriff as to whether he would move the prisoners in and out of the facility for the church service.
 - Sheriff Rick Clark answered that the chapel will not be used if it is moved out to the new detention center. He gave assurance that lives can be saved from inside the jail.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked for clarification on the Sheriff's comment regarding he did not want to take the stockade over, but that the County had asked him to do so. He asked the Sheriff who in the County asked him to take over the prison.
- Administrator Gerald Wilson stated that the budget process encouraged finding a different way of coordinating things.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated that he understands, but this is the Sheriff's timeframe.
- Mr. Wilson advised that he and the Sheriff started working on the budget back in July when the budget was passed by council. He stated that he assumed the budget started the process after last week, but he needs direction from Council before anything can be done.
 - Sheriff Rick Clark added that this came about because the sewer pump was out at the stockade. The choices were to either spend half a million to fix the sewer pump, or to integrate prison staff with the new system.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst acknowledged that he does not have a problem with that direction.
- Chairman Roy Costner asked for any other discussion.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks stated that, at one time, sentenced state inmates could be sent back to Columbia. He asked for the status on this topic.

- Sheriff Rick Clark clarified that the stockade houses sentenced inmates up to 90 days. The inmates either serve that sentence well and get out on time, or continue on probation. The decision is left to the judge. The Sheriff stated that if the inmate becomes a problem, the inmate will be sent to the state.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers added that Council has previously discussed not accepting so many inmates from the State, for capacity’s sake.
 - Sheriff Rick Clark answered that the State inmate system is becoming harder to work with, and that the workers have not been as good. He stated that is what is generally being seen across the state. The County has reduced the number of inmate workers, which will result in a reduction in capacity. Sheriff Clark believes there will be a stable work force. Over the past few years, he has discovered that it is better to use a small, concise group of hard working state inmates that can be managed easier.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if the Sheriff would still be in charge of inmate labor.
 - Sheriff Rick Clark stated yes he will still be in charge. He reported that he and Drew Sisco have looked at installing a door off to left of the cell where the inmates can be strip searched after coming back from work.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks questioned if the refurbished bicycle project (using inmate labor to repair bicycles left at the recycle stations) will still be done for the Country Santa program. He also asked for clarification that inmates will have a place to worship inside the new detention center since the cost of moving the chapel was too high.
 - Sheriff Rick Clark reiterated that the inmates will have a place to worship. He stated that some of the money saved from not moving the chapel can be used for purchasing instruments or bibles to be used during the services.
- Councilman Ensley Feemster asked the Sheriff if he has considered starting a fund to buy equipment and instruments.
 - Sheriff Rick Clark expressed that he feels citizens will be happy to donate bibles, etc. and does not expect any problem with that at all.
- Chairman Roy Costner asked for any other discussion.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated that to his understanding, there will not be any separate building at the new facility for chapel services; that once the facility is turned over to the sheriff, Council not have any say in the chapel.
 - Sheriff Rick Clark announced that there will not be another building at the facility. He stated that Council will see what he is doing; that if council asks something of him, he will attempt to accommodate.
- Chairman Roy Costner declared that even if the chapel was moved to the new facility, the Sheriff is an elected official; it will be his say once he takes over.
- The Chairman asked for any other discussion.
 - Motion was made by Councilman Carl Hudson, seconded by Vice Chairman Bowers. Motion carried 5-1, with Councilman Trey Whitehurst opposing, to approve the Resolution.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) Tour of New Jail – Committee of the Whole
- b) Green Crescent Trail – 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 Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously, to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a five minute recess.

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

- Madden Bridge

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

- Legal Update – MRR Pickens

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

- Project Pine
- Project Third
- Project Print

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

- Board and Commission Vacancies (76):
 - 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:

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to commit the Boards and Commissions discussion to the Committee of the Whole Meeting on Monday, September 17. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Bowers and carried unanimously.

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

- Madden Bridge – **No Action**

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

- Legal Update – MRR Pickens – **No Action**

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

- Project Pine – **No Action**
- Project Third – **No Action**
- Project Print – Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to the first reading in title only for the multi-county park agreement, special source revenue credit and further \$10,000 economic development incentive for Project Print. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously.

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

- Board and Commission Vacancies (76):
 - a) Accommodations Tax (ATAX) – **No Action**
 - b) Alcohol and Drug/Behavioral Health – **No Action**
 - c) Appalachian Council of Gov. (ACOG) – **No Action**
 - 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 – **No Action**
 - z) *Hagood Mill Non-Profit Corporation Board – **No Action**
 - 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 9:16 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

Roy B. Costner, III, Chairman of County Council