Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
June 3, 2024
6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium of the County Administration Facility, with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding. Final agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to members of council and local news media on May 30, 2024.

<u>Council Members in Attendance:</u>
Chris Bowers, Chairman
Roy Costner, Vice Chairman
Alex Saitta, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem
Chris Lollis
Henry Wilson
C. Claiborne Linvill

<u>Staff in Attendance:</u>
Ken Roper, County Administrator
Les Hendricks, Contract Attorney
Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the meeting of June 3, 2024, to order and welcome those in attendance. Councilman Chris Lollis led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Chris Bowers opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to call upon the citizens signed up to speak.

1. <u>Kris Filkins</u>: Ms. Filkins addressed Council regarding her nonprofit company named CASA Upstate SC, Inc.

2. <u>Nan Jones:</u> Ms. Jones addressed Council regarding the lack of ambulances in City of Clemson.

3. <u>Tom Geistler:</u> Mr. Geistler addressed Council regarding Library.

4. <u>Kara Forward:</u> Ms. Forward addressed Council regarding the Library.

5. <u>Luke Campbell:</u> Mr. Campbell addressed Council regarding the Budget and Elections.

Seeing no other public forum speakers, the Chairman closed the floor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to approve the following minutes as presented:

- May 6, 2024 Council Meeting
- May 28, 2024 Committee of the Whole

- Motion was made by Councilman Alex Saitta and seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis to approve the amended minutes. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Roper addressed Council on the following:

- Request to add a contractual matter regarding Project Lyft to Executive Session
- Update regarding Museum Closure Update for renovations
- Updated regarding 72" Crossline Replacement on Pace Valley Rd.
- Recognition of Appalachian Council of Government Management and Supervision Course Graduates
- Update regarding Evergreen Solutions Compensation Study Update

Council asked Mr. Roper questions that included, but was not limited to:

- Question regarding CASA Upstate, Inc. and non-profits (*public forum speaker)*
- Question regarding brown goods at the recycling station, grinder and mulch, etc.
- Question regarding ambulances in City of Clemson (*public forum speaker)*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

FY 24-25 Budget Work Session – Log No. 233

a) Presentation from Evergreen Solutions regarding Compensation Study

- Allie Crumpler, with Evergreen Solutions, attended the Council meeting to present the Evergreen Solutions Classification and Compensation Study to Council. The presentation included:
  - Purpose of Compensation Study
  - Study Goals and Initiation
  - Assessment of Current Conditions
  - Information on Employee Outreach
  - Information on the Job Assessment Tool (JAT)
  - Market Salary Survey
  - Benefits Survey
  - Salary Plan Considerations
  - Proposed Play Plan for General Employees, Fire/EMS and Police
  - Implementation Cost Explanations and Options
  - Recommendations
  - Next Steps

- Council had detailed discussion that included:
  - Discussion on Police Pay Plan
  - Discussion on implementing a Performance Based Pay
  - Council would like to revisit this Compensation Study in the next year.
  - Total Implementation Cost for Class Year Parity: $3,356,017.30

❖ Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to approve the Class Year Parity Implementation and revisit the Compensation Study in one year. The motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council Action on Log No. 233 regarding Presentation from Evergreen Solutions regarding Compensation Study:
Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to approve the Class Year Parity Implementation and revisit the Compensation Study in one year. The motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Bowers stated no second is required as this comes as a recommendation from the Committee. He asked for all those in favor to signify by raising their hands. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

b) Presentation/Discussion from Elected Officials
- There were no Elected Officials present at the meeting.

❖ No Action Taken by the Committee.

Council Action on Log No. 233 regarding Presentation/Discussion from Elected Officials:
No Action Taken by the Committee.

c) Presentation/Discussion on the Library Budget
- Stephanie Howard, the Library Director, and the Library Board of Directors were present to discuss the Library Budget with the Council. The Presentation included:
  - Review of Pickens County Library System Overview
  - Pickens County Library System Overview Library Staff
  - Improvements to Community Experience
  - Statistics and Trends
  - Library Board Action Items and Vision for the Future
  - Budget Request FY25

- Council and Staff had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
  - Discussion on Library Board Plan and Procedures in the future
  - Discussion on Library Millage
  - Discussion on books at the Library
  - Discussion on State Aid Funding for Library
  - Discussion on Library Renovations

- After more discussion between Council, Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill moved to approve the Library Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. Discussion included:
  - Councilman Henry Wilson tabled the motion, stating he would like to table this vote until the Council and the Library Board know how much State Aid Funding the Library will be receiving. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis.
  - Vice Chairman Roy Costner tabled the motion to include an estimate on the state aid amount. The motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers.
    - After more discussion, Vice Chairman Roy Costner and Councilman Henry Wilson withdrew their motions.
  - Councilman Henry Wilson made an amended motion to approve the Library Budget as presented, which is $4,216,886, which includes the estimated $328,000 the Library will be receiving in State Aid Funding. The motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers.
    - After much more discussion on the Library Budget, Councilman Henry Wilson moved to table his motion to revisit the Library Budget before the end-of-the-year budget discussion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council Action on Log No. 233 regarding Presentation/Discussion on the Library Budget:
Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill moved to approve the Library Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. Discussion included:

- Councilman Henry Wilson tabled the motion, stating he would like to table this vote until the Council and the Library Board know how much State Aid Funding the Library will be receiving. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis.
- Vice Chairman Roy Costner tabled the motion to include an estimate on the state aid amount. The motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers.
    - After more discussion, Vice Chairman Roy Costner and Councilman Henry Wilson withdrew their motions.
- Councilman Henry Wilson made an amended motion to approve the Library Budget as presented, which is $4,216,886, which includes the estimated $328,000 the Library will be receiving in State Aid Funding. The motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers.
    - After much more discussion on the Library Budget, Councilman Henry Wilson moved to table his motion to revisit the Library Budget before the end-of-the-year budget discussion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Bowers stated no second is required as this comes as a recommendation from the Committee. Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to ensure this agenda item will be on the next Committee of the Whole meeting agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).

Seeing no other discussion, Chairman Bowers asked for all those in favor to signify by raising their hands. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

ADJOURN:
Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill, and carried unanimously (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:
Chairman Chris Bowers announced the following:

- Non-Essential County Offices will be closed on Monday, July 4, 2024, in observance of the Independence Day Holiday.
- A Special-Called Meeting and Committee of the Whole meeting will take place on Monday, June 17, 2024, at 6pm in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, July 8, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Administration Building.

Chairman Bowers called for other council correspondence.
Seeing no other correspondence, Chairman Bowers announced moving to Motion Period and New Business.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:
Chairman Chris Bowers opened the floor for motion period and new business.

Chairman Bowers made a motion to add Project Lyft to Executive Session. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

Councilman Chris Lollis made a motion to add Airport Hangers and Aircraft Discussion to the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

Seeing no discussion, Chairman Bowers closed the floor.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING AND/OR RESOLUTIONS:

- CONSIDERATION OF AN INDUCEMENT RESOLUTION IDENTIFYING A PROJECT TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF TITLE 12, CHAPTER 44 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE, SO AS TO ALLOW INVESTMENT EXPENDITURES INCURRED BY COMPANIES KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AS PROJECT HYDRO RE AND PROJECT HYDRO ME, THEIR SPONSOR AFFILIATES, AFFILIATES, AND RELATED ENTITIES TO QUALIFY AS EXPENDITURES ELIGIBLE FOR A FEE-IN-LIEU OF *AD VALOREM* TAXES ARRANGEMENT WITH PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; PROVIDING FOR ANY OTHER NECESSARY AGREEMENTS WITH THE COMPANY TO EFFECT THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.
    - **Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to approve consideration of this Inducement Resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0).**

- CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND CONSENTING TO THE AMENDMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN PACESETTER INC. AND PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.
    - **Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to approve this Resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).**

- CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 2024 AS THE JOY OF FATHERHOOD MONTH IN PICKENS COUNTY.
    - **Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to approve first reading in title only of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).**

- FIRST READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 642 TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 4- 1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH OCONEE COUNTY TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXATION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO (PROJECT TURN).

- **Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to approve first reading in title only of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0).**

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

- SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 643 AUTHORIZING (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ONE OR MORE FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AND INCENTIVE AGREEMENTS BY AND BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY AND A COMPANY OR COMPANIES KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AT THIS TIME AS PROJECT HYDRO, ACTING FOR ITSELF OR ONE OR MORE PROJECT SPONSORS, PURSUANT TO WHICH THE COUNTY WILL COVENANT TO ACCEPT CERTAIN NEGOTIATED PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN FACILITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY; (2) THE APPROVAL OF CERTAIN REIMBURSEMENTS OF THE COSTS OF SUCH PROJECT; (3) THE BENEFITS OF A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL OR BUSINESS PARK TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMPANY AND THE PROJECT; AND (4) OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.
  - Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to approve second reading of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING

- PUBLIC HEARING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 640 TO PROVIDE FOR ADOPTION OF A BUDGET AMENDMENT CONTAINING ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE CHANGES FOR PICKENS COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024.
  - Chairman Bowers gaveled into Public Hearing and asked if anyone would like to address Council regarding this Ordinance.
    Seeing no public speakers, the Chairman declared Public Hearing closed.

- PUBLIC HEARING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 641 TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES IN PICKENS COUNTY FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, AND TO DIRECT EXPENDITURE THEREOF.
  - Chairman Bowers gaveled into Public Hearing and asked if anyone would like to address Council regarding this Ordinance.
    - The following speakers addressed Council:
      1. Paulie Keller
      2. Alex Currin
      3. Nora Costeller

OTHER REQUEST AGENDA ITEMS
None

CONSENT AGENDA

- Airport Hangers and Tax Rate Update – *Committee of the Whole*
- Library to be on the Agenda at the next Committee of the Whole

Chairman Chris Bowers asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. A motion was made by Councilman Alex Saitta, seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis, and carried unanimously (6-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a):
Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to convene into Executive Session as defined by S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a). Chairman Bowers further stated that each issue would be discussed as the Law provides.

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)
- Employee Performance Review

Boards and Commissions – Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)
- WORKLINK Board Appointment

Contractual Matter – Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)
- Project Lyft Update (*added during Motion Period and New Business)*

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

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:
Chairman Chris Bowers called the Public Session back to Order and advised the following:

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)
- Employee Performance Review – **No Action Taken**

Boards and Commissions – Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)
- WORKLINK Board Appointment – **Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to appoint Ashley Teal to serve on the WorkLink Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).**

Contractual Matter – Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)
- Project Lyft Update (*added during Motion Period and New Business)* – **Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to constitute first reading in title only of Project Lyft. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).**

ADJOURN:
Hearing no further Council business, Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectively Submitted: Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council