

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

September 9, 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 September 5, 2024.

Council Members in Attendance:

Chris Bowers, Chairman
Roy Costner, Vice Chairman
Alex Saitta, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem
Chris Lollis
Henry Wilson
C. Claiborne Linnell

Staff in Attendance:

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 September 9, 2024, to order and welcome those in attendance. Chairman Chris Bowers led the invocation and Veteran William Thad Farmer led 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. Mary Morton: Ms. Morton addressed Council regarding cat rescues.
2. Tom Hendricks: Mr. Hendricks addressed Council regarding Hwy 11, MRR, County roads, Council Organizational Rules and naming bridges in honor of Pickens County veterans who died for our country.

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:

- August 5, 2024 Council Meeting
- August 19, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting
- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta to approve the minutes. The motion was carried unanimously (6-0).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Roper addressed Council on the following:

- Update on "The Wall that Heals" with Veteran Affairs
- Update on changes to glass recycling
- Update on publicizing information throughout the County
- Update from Alliance Pickens regarding Elringklinger property
- Update on temporary runway closure at Pickens County Airport LQK
- Update on 42nd Annual Juried Arts Competition at Museum
- Update on Emergency Services Projects
- Request to add two items to Executive Session:
 - Contractual- Project Pigeon Update
 - City of Liberty Request

Questions from Council:

- Update on Brush Grinder
- Update on new building bought by the County in Downtown Pickens
- Request to reach out to City of Pickens to get an itemized receipt list on anything spent at JC Park
- Update on MRR
- Update on Feral Cat Program/Pilot Program

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Committee of the Whole met in the Council Chambers, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, August 19, 2024. Vice Chairman Roy Costner led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairman Roy Costner called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Pickens County Regional Joint Water System – Log No. 242

Tom Ponder, Chairman of Pickens Regional Joint Water System, briefly addressed Council on the progress of Pickens Regional Joint Water System. Discussion included the following:

- Progress regarding preliminary work, etc.
- Amount of total project
- Discussion on the contract with the City of Pickens and PC Regional Joint Water System

❖ No Action Taken by the Committee.

Council Action on Log No. 242: No Action Taken by the Committee.

SDPC School Resource Officers – Log No. 241

Josh Young, Associate Superintendent of Administration with the School District of Pickens County, addressed Council on the School Resources Officers in Pickens County. Discussion between Council and staff included:

- Discussion of turnover on School Resource Officers in Pickens County
- Request is to add SRO Positions (up to 3 positions within City of Liberty boundaries) and 1 additional member to serve as second SRO for Daniel High School (DHS has <1000 students)

- Discussion on the Flex SRO that is stationed at the Admin office, in case an SRO Officer is out
- ❖ Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion approve the recommended four new School Resource Officer positions for the next budget cycle and ask staff to work on memorandum language. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council Action on Log No. 241: Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion approve the recommended four new School Resource Officer positions for the next budget cycle and ask staff to work on memorandum language. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).

The Chairman stated no second is required as this comes as a recommendation from the Committee. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

UDSO – Log No. 141

Discussion included:

i. Discussion on Multi-Family Residential

- Discussion on multi-family residential in the Appalachian Heritage Area, Agricultural Heritage Area, Natural Heritage Area, Community Center Area, and Gateway Area
- Discussion on annexation
- Discussion on urban growth boundary
- Discussion on progress with a Joint Planning Commission
- Discussion on Mirror Ordinance for Community Center Area and Gateway Area to ensure we are not exceeding what the local municipality is allowing
- **Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to ask Staff to work on language for these multi-family residential areas. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).**

ii. Discussion on RV's

- Discussion on definition of RV vs. Tiny homes
- Discussion on RV parks
- Discussion on citizens living in RVs as a permanent or temporary residence
- ❖ **Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to table remainder of the conversation and ask staff to research definitions and neighboring counties to bring back recommendations on RV's and Tiny homes. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).**

iii. Discussion on Stormwater

- a. Will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

iv. Recommendation from Planning Commission

- a. Will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Council Action on Log No. 141: Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to ask Staff to work on language for these multi-family residential areas. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Chris Bowers stated no second is required as this comes as a recommendation from the Committee. The motion carried (6-0).

Council Action on Log No. 141: Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to table remainder of the conversation and ask staff to research definitions and neighboring counties to bring back recommendations on RV's and Tiny homes. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Chris Bowers stated no second is required as this comes as a recommendation from the Committee. The motion carried (6-0).

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis, and carried unanimously (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Chris Bowers announced the following:

- The Committee of the Whole meeting will take place on Monday, September 30, 2024, at 6pm in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, October 7, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Administration Building.
- An informational table is set up in the Lobby this evening with more information about current vacancies and upcoming openings on Pickens County Board and Commissions. If you are interested in serving on a board, please stop by the table or please see the Clerk to Council, Meagan Nations, for more information.

Chairman Chris Bowers called for other council correspondence.

- Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill congratulated Meagan Nations on receiving her state-certified Clerk to Council certification.

Seeing no other correspondence, Chairman Chris 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 Chris Bowers made a motion to add Project Pigeon Update and Request from City of Liberty to Executive Session on tonight's agenda. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

Seeing no discussion, Chairman Chris Bowers closed the floor.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING AND/OR RESOLUTIONS:

- **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 2024 AS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH IN PICKENS COUNTY.**
 - Chairman Bowers made a motion to consider this Resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).
- **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE GUARD AND TO COMMEND THEIR ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE WHO ARE BOOTS ON THE GROUND DURING TIMES OF DISASTER, WHO SHARE A PASSION FOR SERVICE AND A STRONG COMMITMENT TO THEIR FELLOW SOUTH CAROLINIANS, AND WHO EMBODY THE SPIRIT OF NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH, AND TO DECLARE SEPTEMBER AS “SOUTH CAROLINA STATE GUARD MONTH” IN PICKENS COUNTY.**
 - Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to consider this Resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0).
- **CONSIDERATION OF AN UPDATED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC STUDY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR MORE SAFE AND EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE PICKENS COUNTY DETENTION CENTER, ALONG WITH SOURCE OF FUNDS AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.**
 - Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to consider this updated Resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0).
- **CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SITE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING FOR POTENTIAL COUNTY OPERATION OF WARPATH LANDING ON BEHALF OF DUKE ENERGY, ALONG WITH SOURCE OF FUNDS AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.**
 - Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to consider this Resolution. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

None

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING

- **PUBLIC HEARING TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL MILLAGE RATE TO MEET THE BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025.**

Chairman Bowers gaveled into Public Hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak regarding this topic.

Seeing no speakers, Chairman Bowers declared the public hearing closed.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:

- a) **UPDATE FROM JOHN LUMMUS, PRESIDENT & CEO OF UPSTATE ALLIANCE**
 - John Lummus, President and CEO of Upstate Alliance addressed Council to give an update on Upstate Alliance.

b) UPDATE FROM STAFF REGARDING BRIDGE AND CULVERT REPLACEMENT ON ROCKY BOTTOM RD.

- Administrator Roper gave an update from staff regarding bridge and culver replacement on Rocky Bottom Rd. He stated the bridge is wood piling sitting on rocks, and staff does not feel good about EMS vehicles and citizens crossing it. He presented Council with an Engineering report from HDR and stated we have a Road Reserve Fund for situations like this. Mr. Roper stated we would put this project out to bid, and it will be a year process. The bridge is being used now, but it is problematic.
- **Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to move forward with the design build as requested by staff. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0).**

c) CONSIDERATION OF CIVIC PLUS AGENDA MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE FOR COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

- Clerk to Council, Meagan Nations, gave a brief overview of the Agenda Management Software requested to purchase for Council and Administration Offices. She stated she currently uses Microsoft Word and Adobe PDF to send out agendas and do minutes. This gains efficiency, helps citizens finding information in minutes and with transparency.
- **Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to approve purchasing the Civic Plus Agenda Management Software. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0).**

CONSENT AGENDA

- Consideration to update Capitalization Policy as it relates group purchases under GASB Guideline 2021-1 – *Committee of the Whole*
- Consideration to implement an enhanced anti-fraud policy for County operations – *Committee of the Whole*

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, 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). Vice Chairman Costner further stated that each issue would be discussed as the Law provides.

Contractual– Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)

- Proposed contractual matter regarding potential tax incentives related to future economic development and the Speedway Business and Technology Park
- Project Pigeon Update
- Request from City of Liberty

- Motion was made by Councilman Chris Lollis and seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill. 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:

Contractual– Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)

- Proposed contractual matter regarding potential tax incentives related to future economic development and the Speedway Business and Technology Park – **Chairman Bowers made a motion to ask the Administrator to move forward with the development agreement with Speedway Business and Technology Park. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).**
- Project Pigeon Update – Chairman Bowers made a motion to **move forward with ARC Funding request to authorize Pickens County pursue an ARC Grant for the Speedway Industrial Site. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).**

Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to move forward with first reading in title only of an ordinance to convey certain real property to a project known at this time as Project Pigeon and other incentives related to. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

- Request from City of Liberty – **No Action Taken**

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council