

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

December 2, 2024

6:31 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 November 27, 2024.

Council Members in Attendance:

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

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 December 2, 2024, to order and welcome those in attendance. Vice Chairman Roy Costner led the invocation and Veteran Jerome Edward Welborn 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. Johnnelle Raines: Ms. Raines addressed Council regarding the Library.
2. Juliet Penna: Ms. Penna addressed Council regarding the Library.
3. Allison Ranson: Ms. Ranson addressed Council regarding the Library.
4. Reba Kruse: Ms. Kruse addressed Council regarding the Library.

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:

- November 4, 2024 Council Meeting
- November 11, 2024 Special-Called Meeting
- November 11, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting
- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis to approve the minutes. The motion was carried unanimously (6-0).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Roper addressed Council on the following:

- Review of Council Achievements
 - Chairman Bowers and Mr. Roper presented Dr. Henry Wilson, and Vice Chairman Roy Costner with a plaque, thanking them for their years of service to Pickens County Council.

Questions from Council:

- Feral Cats Programs
- Update on offset debt program

COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Committee of the Whole met in the Council Chambers, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, November 11, 2024. Councilman Alex Saitta led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

CONSIDERATION TO IMPLEMENT AN ENHANCED ANTI-FRAUD POLICY FOR COUNTY OPERATIONS – Log No. 244

Mr. Roper briefed the Council stating that he believes when this was on the Consent agenda, technically Council passed the policy by the motion and second stated. He wanted to bring it before Council to make sure they were aware and if any changes were needed.

Discussion included, but was not limited to:

- The procedure of the policy
- Policy also applies to Elected Officials
- Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to approve the Anti-Fraud Policy for County Operations. Motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council Action on Log No. 244: Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to approve the Anti-Fraud Policy for County Operations. Motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (5-0).

No second is required as this comes as a recommendation from the Committee. Chairman Bowers asked all those in favor to signify by raising your hand. Motion carried (6-0).

SOUTH CAROLINA OPIOID RECOVERY FUND EXISTING PROGRAMS AND FUTURE PROCESSES – Log No. 245

Jessica Varney, Collaboration Manager for Pickens County, serves on the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund board. Ms. Varney presented to Council on the following:

- Guaranteed Political Subdivision sub fund
- Discretionary sub fund
- Core strategies of the Opioid Recovery Fund uses
- Approved uses of the Opioid Recovery Fund
- Different types of treatment
- Prevention measures
- Other strategies
- Approved Pickens County projects

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- GPS Project requests
- Next steps

Council and Staff Discussion included, but was not limited to:

- Political Sub fund Monies
- What neighboring counties are doing
- Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion for the Administrator/Staff to collect the applications and make recommendations to bring back to Council. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried (5-0).

Council Action on Log No. 245: Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion for the Administrator/Staff to collect the applications and make recommendations to bring back to Council. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried (5-0).

No second is required as this comes as a recommendation from the Committee. Chairman Bowers asked all those in favor to signify by raising your hand. Motion carried (6-0).

COUNTY ROAD UPDATE AND ORDINANCES – Log No. 229

Rodney Robinson, Public Works Director, presented Council on a County Road update.

Council and Staff Discussion included, but was not limited to:

- Discussion of Ordinance
- Minimum maintenance of roads
- Official list of County roads
- Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to move this Ordinance out for second reading. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council Action on Log No. 229: Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to move this Ordinance out for second reading. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0).

SECOND READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 634 OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PICKENS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATED TO THE EFFICIENT, SAFE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

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

GATEWAY SIGNAGE – Log No. 227

Allison Fowler, Assistant Administrator, stated that PRT is requesting funds to install seven (7) new gateway signs around Pickens County. These funds would come from the Local Accommodations Fee fund collections. The cost per sign is \$17,700, and there is approximately \$600,000 remaining in the Local Accommodations Fee fund from previous years that can be spent on this project.

Council and Staff Discussion included, but was not limited to:

- PRT reached out to multiple companies and received quotes
- The signs are made from Styrofoam, and sand blasted
- The signs are around 6ft tall
- Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to approve the purchase of seven new gateway signs to be put around Pickens County, using the Local Accommodations Fee Fund Collection. Chairman

Chris Bowers seconded the motion and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council Action on Log No. 227: Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to approve the purchase of seven new gateway signs to be put around Pickens County, using the Local Accommodations Fee Fund Collection. Chairman Chris Bowers seconded the motion and carried unanimously (5-0).

No second is required as this comes as a recommendation from the Committee. Chairman Bowers asked all those in favor to signify by raising your hand. Motion carried (6-0).

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill, seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis, and carried unanimously (5-0). The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Chris Bowers announced the following:

- There will not be a Committee of the Whole meeting during the month of December.
- The swearing-in ceremony and organizational meeting of County Council will take place on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Administration Building.

Chairman Chris Bowers called for other council correspondence.

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.

Seeing no discussion, Chairman Chris Bowers closed the floor.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING AND/OR RESOLUTIONS:

None

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

None

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING

- PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE No. 655 TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH GREENVILLE COUNTY PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS 1976, SECTION 4-1-170 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE, AT THE TIME OF ITS INITIAL DEVELOPMENT, GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN PICKENS COUNTY AND TO INCLUDE CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 123 AND HIGHWAY 124; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH GREENVILLE COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAX; AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.
 - Chairman Bowers gaveled into Public Hearing and asked if there were any speakers who would like to address Council regarding this Ordinance.

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- Seeing none, the Chairman declared the Public Hearing closed.
 - Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to constitute third reading of this Ordinance. Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).
- **PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE No. 656 AUTHORIZING (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ONE OR MORE FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AND INCENTIVE AGREEMENTS BY AND BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY, CAROLINA HANDLING, LLC, AND SC SPEEDWAY 124, LLC, EACH 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 BENEFITS OF A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL OR BUSINESS PARK TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMPANY AND THE PROJECT; AND (3) OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.**
 - Chairman Bowers gavelled into Public Hearing and asked if there were any speakers who would like to address Council regarding this Ordinance.
 - Seeing none, the Chairman declared the Public Hearing closed.
 - Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to constitute third reading of this Ordinance. Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:

a) REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE LOG

- Council reviewed the Committee Log. Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to keep the following log items on the Committee Log. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).
 - Log No. 109 – Fort Prince George
 - Log No. 123 – Ordinance 572 – Litter Ordinance
 - Log No. 141 – UDSO
 - Log No. 182 – Unified Dispatch Plan from Staff
 - Log No. 214 – Sewer Capacity
 - Log No. 217 – Childcare Workforce Task Force
 - Log No. 219 – Administration Roof Replacement
 - Log No. 224 – Library Renovations/Construction Methods
 - Log No. 230 – 2024 Recreation Funding Applications
 - Log No. 237 – A Resolution authorizing a pedestrian traffic study in order to provide for more safe and efficient operation of the Pickens County Detention Center, along with sources of funds and matters related thereto.
 - Log No. 238 – Pickens County Conservation Fund Rules and Procedures
 - Log No. 240 – Consolidation of County Facilities
 - Log No. 242 – Magistrates and Municipal Courts

b) UPDATE ON PICKENS COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

- Mr. Roper provided an update on the Pickens County Public Safety Building. The architecture company, McMillan, Pazdan, Smith, were present at the meeting and

presented Council with the draft rendering and site plan, floor plans and elevation, additional renderings, and the summary of costs. Mr. Roper stated the ask tonight is for Council to allow Staff to use the remaining balance of ARPA funds to apply towards this project, which is \$7,651,783. He stated it would leave \$4,412,685 that we would need to supplement from the General Fund.

- Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to use the remaining balance of ARPA Funding, which is \$7,651,783, and use \$4,412,685 in General Fund, towards the Emergency Services Public Safety Building. Motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers. Discussion included:
 - Questions regarding if the building is too big
 - Questions regarding the original ARPA List of requested funding
 - Questions regarding the other county buildings currently being used for Emergency Services
 - Question regarding current balance in the general fund
- Seeing no other discussion, the motion carried unanimously (6-0).

c) **DISCUSSION ON CITY OF CLEMSON TIF PROPOSAL**

- Chairman Bowers asked Councilor Linvill if there was anything further since the last Committee Meeting Discussion.
- Councilor Linvill went into discussion on the Intergovernmental Agreement from the City of Clemson. Council had a very detailed discussion on the IGA and TIF.
- After much more discussion between Council and Staff, Councilor Linvill made a motion to opt into the City of Clemson TIF. Seeing no second, the motion died.

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.

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

- Boards and Commissions Applications
 - Motion was made by Councilman Chris Lollis and seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta. 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:

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

- Boards and Commissions Applications:
 - Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to appoint the following citizens to the following boards. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0).

Name	Board	Seat
Trent Acker	Economic Development	Non-govern
Bryan Yoshimura	Economic Development	District 2
Kevin Bishop	Economic Development	Non-govern
Tory Ervin	AOP Mental Health	n/a
Tamara Houston	AOP Mental Health	n/a
Elizabeth Brown	Assessment and Appeals	n/a
Steven Anderson	Assessment and Appeals	n/a
Val Hubber	Assessment and Appeals	n/a
Zachary Hinton	Assessment and Appeals	n/a
Lisa Turnick	ATAX Committee	At Large
Katie Rampey	ATAX Committee	Lodging
Kimberly Clevenger	ATAX Committee	Culture
Jackie Soladay	ATAX Committee	Restaurant
Louise Hope	ATAX Committee	Restaurant
Tobais Vogel	Behavioral Health	n/a
Pam Winters	Behavioral Health	n/a
Randy Lesly	Bethlehem Roanoke	n/a
Taylor Belt	Board of Appeals	District 2
Troy Burton	Emergency Services	District 2
Lauren Smith	Grievance Committee	n/a
Renee Gray	Grievance Committee	n/a
Jennifer DeWild	Planning Commission	District 2
Tripp Brooks	Planning Commission	District 1
Dan Brazinski	Planning Commission	At Large
Jason Dennis	Public Service Commission	District 6
Cameron Farish	Public Service Commission	District 2
Walter Saitta	Public Service Commission	At Large
Susan Ralston	Recreation Funding	District 3
Josh Morgan	Water Authority	n/a
Tommy King	Southside Water	n/a
Mark Albertson	Southside Water	n/a
Donnie Mullikin	Southside Water	n/a
Andrew Finley	Southside Water	n/a
Steven Henderson	Southside Water	n/a

- Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to appoint Philip Healy to the Assessment and Appeals Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta. The motion failed (1-5), with Councilman Alex Saitta in favor.
- Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to appoint Ernie Dandenaue to the Behavioral Health Board. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried (4-2), with Councilman Alex Saitta and Councilman Chris Lollis opposed.
- Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to appoint Dr. Henry Wilson to the Library Board in the District 5 seat. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner. Councilman Henry Wilson stated he would like to recuse himself from voting. The motion carried (4-1-1), with Councilman Alex Saitta opposed, and Councilman Henry Wilson abstained.

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ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill and carried (5-0-1), with Vice Chairman Roy Costner abstained. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council