

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

Council Members:

Roy Costner, Vice Chairman

C. Claiborne Linvill

Chris Lollis

Alex Saitta

Henry Wilson

Chris Bowers, Chairman (absent)

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Les Hendricks, Attorney

The Committee of the Whole met in the Council Chambers, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, July 22, 2024. Councilman Alex Saitta led the Invocation and Veteran Paul Smith led the 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:

Childcare Workforce Task Force – Log No. 217

Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill presented to Council a presentation of the Childcare Workforce Task Force that included:

- Members/Organizations in the Childcare Workforce Task Force
- Importance of Quality Childcare
- Key Problems with Childcare in Pickens County
- 50% of Pickens County census tracts are Childcare deserts
- Childcare availability in Pickens County
- Recommendations at the County level
- Task Force Long-Term Goals/Recommendations
- Task Force Short-Term Recommendations
- Task Force Immediate Recommendations

Discussion between Council/Staff included:

- Current total of unallocated ARPA Funding
- Estimated cost of 911 EMS Call Center
- After more discussion, Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to directly fund the YMCA of Easley an amount of \$500,000, using ARPA funding, for renovations for the old building to be used as a childcare facility. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. Discussion included:
 - Councilman Alex Saitta made a substitute motion to allocate \$500,000, using ARPA funding, towards building the Medic 1 EMS Station in Pickens. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis. Motion failed (1-3-1), with Councilman Henry Wilson, Vice Chairman Roy Costner and Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill opposed, and Councilman Chris Lollis abstained.

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- Back to the original motion, Discussion included:
 - Councilman Saitta went into discussion on why he feels this funding should be used towards medic 1.
- Vice Chairman Roy Costner called for the motion. The motion carried (3-2), with Councilman Alex Saitta and Councilman Chris Lollis opposed.
- **Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to directly fund the YMCA of Easley an amount of \$500,000, using ARPA funding, for renovations for the old building to be used as a childcare facility. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. The motion carried (3-2), with Councilman Alex Saitta and Councilman Chris Lollis opposed.**

2024 Recreation Funding Applications – Log No. 230

Council and Staff reviewed and discussed the 2024 Recreation Funding Applications.

- Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill reviewed District 1 applications and made a motion to approve the following request. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
1	City of Clemson Arts Center	\$ 5,000.00
1	City of Clemson Parks and Rec	\$ 10,000.00
1	Clemson Aquatic Team	\$ 7,500.00
1	Town of Central	\$ 1,116.59
DISTRICT 1 TOTAL:		\$ 23,616.59

- Councilman Chris Lollis reviewed the District 2 applications and made a motion to approve the following request. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
2	Town of Central Parks & Recreation	\$ 31,083.41
2	Town of Six Mile	\$ 18,916.59
DISTRICT 2 TOTAL:		\$ 50,000.00

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- Councilman Alex Saitta reviewed the District 3 applications and made a motion to approve the following requests below, and change the recommendation for Hagood Mill to \$17,200. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	
3	Carolina Climbers Coalition	\$	21,075.00
3	Hagood Mill	\$	17,200.00
3	PC Soil and Water	\$	23,794.97
3	Pickens County YMCA	\$	3,333.34
DISTRICT 3 TOTAL:		\$	65,403.31

- Vice Chairman Roy Costner reviewed District 4 applications and made a motion to approve the following request. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	
4	City of Liberty Recreation	\$	42,589.06
DISTRICT 4 TOTAL:		\$	42,589.06

- *Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to put Recreation Funding Applications on the next meeting agenda to review District 5 applications. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried (5-0).*
- Councilman Henry Wilson reviewed the District 6 applications and made a motion to approve the following request. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	
6	Dacusville Community Club	\$	57,000.00
6	Pickens County YMCA	\$	3,333.33
6	Dacusville Recreation	\$	46,194.98
DISTRICT 6 TOTAL:		\$	106,528.31

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2024 Accommodations Tax Funding Applications – Log No. 231

Council and Staff reviewed and discussed the 2024 Accommodations Tax Funding Applications.

Allison Fowler, Director of Community Tourism and Development, serves as the staff liaison for this committee and presented a proposal for a new process for ATAX Funding.

- Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to support the new proposal for a new ATAX Funding process. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0).

Council discussed the 30% ATAX funding applications.

- After much discussion, Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to reach back out to these organizations to get specific details on what they will be marketing. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried (4-1), with Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill opposed.

Council discussed the 65% ATAX funding applications.

- After much discussion, Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to approve the Committee's recommendations for the Accommodations Tax Funding. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried (5-0).

Council stated they are very impressed with the work the Committee has done and appreciated the feedback for the Recommendations.

Ref No.	Name of Organization	Name of Project	Recommended Amount
1	Pickens County Historical Society	Museum House & Judge's Office	\$ 15,000
2	Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail	Expansion & Promotion of the Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail	\$ 1,791
3	Senior League Baseball World Series	Senior League Baseball World Series	\$ 25,000
4	Preserving our Southern Appalachian Music	2025 Winter Bluegrass Jubilee	\$ 2,000
5	Holly Springs Center	Website Redesign; Rebranding; Social Media	\$ 5,000

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6	Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce	Visitor Center Upgrades	\$ 19,830
7	Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce	Pickens Appalachian Folk Fest	\$ 7,650
8	Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce	Independence Day Event	\$ 600
9	Clemson Aquatic Team (CAT)	Timing Equipment	\$ 15,818
10	City of Easley Parks and Recreation Department	Doodle Trail crosswalk striping	\$ 21,902
11	Brooks Center	Advertising 2024-25 Events	\$ 20,000
12	Dacusville Heritage Association	Dacusville Farm Show	\$ 5,000
13	Hagood Mill Foundation	Selugadu – Native American Celebration	\$ 3,150
14	PC250	Liberty Trees	\$ 1,500
15	South Carolina Botanical Garden	Sustainability Fair	\$ 10,250
16	American Legion	Veterans Day Celebration	\$ 7,500
17	Town of Six Mile	Issaqueena Festival	\$ 2,000
18	Pickens Azalea Festival	Marketing & Entertainment for Festival	\$ 11,700
TOTAL			\$ 175,691

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Vice Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Councilman Chris Lollis, seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson, and carried unanimously (5-0). The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.