

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

September 12, 2022

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 8, 2022

Council Members in Attendance:

Chris Bowers, Chairman

Roy Costner, Vice Chairman

Trey Whitehurst, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Alex Saitta

Ensley Feemster

Henry Wilson

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 12, 2022 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Vice Chairman Roy Costner led the Invocation and Veteran Kenneth Keith led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Bowers presented Veteran Keith with a Certification of Honor and thanked him for his service.

PUBLIC FORUM:

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

1. Rick Noyce: Mr. Noyce addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.
2. Kimberley Kelley: Ms. Kelley addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.
3. Barry Meyers: Mr. Meyers addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.
4. Daniel DeWitt: Ms. DeWitt addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.
5. Tom Baer: Mr. Baer addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.
6. Richard McWay: Mr. McWay addressed Council regarding COVID-19.
7. Stephen Smith: Mr. Smith addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.
8. Rick Synakowski: Mr. Synakowski addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.

9. Allan Quinn: Mr. Quinn addressed Council regarding tax notices.
10. Bryan Grant: Mr. Grant addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

- August 8, 2022 Regular-Called Council Meeting
- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, and seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. Seeing no other discussion, the motion carried unanimously (6-0).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Roper addressed Council on the following:

- Fixing County Roads Website (*public forum comment*)
- Suicide Prevention Month – Awareness Ribbons in the Lobby
- United Way 2022 Corporate Citizenship Award
- Hiring Heroes
- Wayfinding Signage Process
- Recycling Center Signage
- Recycling Brochure Discussion

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

- Health Insurance Update
- Litter Control Officers & County Constables
- Highway 11

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Committee of the Whole:

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., and Councilman Alex Saitta led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS AND LIMITATIONS ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ON THE SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 11 SCENIC BYWAY AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO– Log No. 205

- The Committee had very detailed discussion on this Ordinance. Discussion was included but was not limited to:
 - Setback Discussion from Ordinance
 - Ned Nicholson, Attorney, addressed Council on the Ordinance.
 - Limitations to rights when owning private property
 - Discussion on other similar court cases
 - Discussion on Section 1: Definitions
 - Code Enforcement
 - Appalachian Council of Government Highway 11 Corridor Study
 - Personal Property Rights
 - Agritourism
 - Discussion and Presentation of Highway 11 Corridor Map Unprotected Lands (1,000 Feet on each side of Highway 11)
- After much discussion between Council & Staff, this log item will stay in Committee for further discussion at the next

Minutes for September 12, 2022 Pickens County Council Meeting

Committee of the Whole meeting

❖ **No Action Taken by the Committee.**

COUNCIL ACTION ON LOG NO. 205 – No Action Taken by the Committee.

2022 RECREATION FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS – Log No. 197

- The Committee reviewed the 2022 Recreation Funding Recommendations provided by the Recreation Funding Advisory Board and had detailed discussion. Council had detailed discussion on the definition of recreation and how they have spent money in the past years.
- The Committee reviewed the available Recreation Funding Budget with each district for this Fiscal Year up until June 30, 2022. There will be another \$50,000 deposited to each District on July 1st, 2022, if Council decides to leave the budget the same.
- After detailed discussion between District 1's applications and recommendations, Councilman Ensley Feemster recommends approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund account for District 1.

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations/Comments
1	Clemson Adaptive	\$ 6,503.00	
1	Issaquena Composite	\$ 12,000.00	
DISTRICT 1 TOTAL:		\$ 18,503.00	

- After detailed discussion between District 2's application and recommendations, Councilman Trey Whitehurst he would like to approve the following disbursements from the recreation fund account for District 2.

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations/Comments
2	Issaqueena Composite	\$ 7,000.00	
2	Town of Central Parks & Recreation	\$ 37,931.00	
2	Town of Six Mile	\$ 2,900.00	
DISTRICT 2 TOTAL:		\$ 47,831.00	

- After detailed discussion between District 3's applications and recommendations, Councilman Alex Saitta would like to approve the following disbursements from the recreation fund account for District 3.

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations/Comments
3	Pickens County YMCA	\$ 2,500.00	
DISTRICT 3 TOTAL:		\$ 2,500.00	

- After detailed discussion between District 4's applications and recommendations, Vice Chairman Roy Costner recommends approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund account for District 4. Vice Chairman Costner would like to save the remaining of District 4's balance to be reserved.

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations/Comments
4	City of Liberty Recreation	\$ 37,160.25	*netting
DISTRICT 4 TOTAL:		\$ 37,160.25	

- After detailed discussion between District 5's applications and recommendations, Chairman Chris Bowers recommends approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund for District 5.

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations/Comments
5	Pickens County YMCA	\$ 2,500.00	
5	City of Easley Parks & Rec	\$ 43,189.78	
DISTRICT 5 TOTAL:		\$ 45,689.78	

- After detailed discussion between District 6's applications and recommendations, Councilman Henry Wilson recommends approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund for District 6.

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations
6	Dacusville Recreation	\$ 54,000.00	*Option 2 Playground (Purchase and Install)
DISTRICT 6 TOTAL:		\$ 54,000.00	

- ❖ Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to adopt the following recommendations as amended, and to roll the remaining balances over in the recreation funding account. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

COUNCIL ACTION ON LOG NO. 197 – Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to adopt the following recommendations as amended, and to roll the remaining balances over in the recreation funding accounts. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

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

2022 ACCOMMODATIONS TAX FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS – Log No. 198

- Mrs. Allison Fowler, PRT Director, attend the meeting this evening to answer any questions that Council may have. She stated the ATAX money that Council will be discussing this evening is the 60% money that we are required to hand out to outside Organizations or Accommodations Tax.
- Council & Staff had detailed discussion on these Accommodations Tax Applications that included:
 - Definition of what Accommodations Tax funding can be spent on
 - ATAX Application Format
 - Cruz Outdoors – Clemson Paddle Jam Information
 - The Sanctuary/Jason Griffin Racing Information
 - Table Rock Tea Company Information
- After much more discussion between Council, Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to allocate Accommodations Tax Funding to the following organizations. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0):

Ref No.	Name of Organization	Name of Project	Recommended Amount	Comments
1	Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail	Promotion of Pickens County through the Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail	\$ 4,602.00	
2	Six Mile Issaqueena Festival	Six Mile Issaqueena Festival	\$ 5,000.00	
3	Cruz Outdoors	Clemson Paddle Jam	\$ 0	*Requested June 2022

				Event Data/Info
4	The Sanctuary/Jason Griffin Racing	The Sanctuary	\$ 0	*Requested more information
5	Central Main Street	Central Main Street Farmers Market Improvements	\$ 0	
6	Hagood Mill Foundation	Blacksmithing/Woodworking	\$ 0	
7	Hagood Mill Foundation	Selugada – Native American Celebration	\$ 10,000.00	
8	Saluda Saunter	Saluda Saunter	\$ 0	
9	Table Rock Tea Company	Visitor Center Restroom Facilities	\$ 0	
10	Pickens County Veteran Affairs	The Wall that Heals	\$ 23,000.00	
11	Pickens County PRT	Host Compliance	\$ 17,000.00	
12	Clemson Aquatic Team	Clemson Aquatic Team Meets	\$ 13,690.00	
13	Central Parks & Rec Department	HUK Disc Golf Tournament	\$ 4,000.00	
14	Senior League World Series	Senior League Baseball World Series Tournament	\$ 30,000.00	
TOTAL			\$ 107,292.00	

COUNCIL ACTION ON LOG NO. 198 – Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to allocate Accommodations Tax Funding to the following organizations above. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

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

SOLID WASTE DISCUSSION – Log No. 206

- Mr. Steve Raines, Solid Waste Director, briefed Council on a Solid Waste Progress Report.
- Council and staff had discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - Timeline of Landfill
 - Shredding to Create Commodities
 - Tire Vendors are short of drivers
 - Purchase of Shredder has helped to be able to shred some of these tires to allow us the options to either transfer, place it in our landfill or sell the shredded tires
 - Shred and bale white waste for a premium price
 - Discussion on Landfill Expansion (Piggy Backing)
 - Discussion on Recycling – Baler
 - Discussion on Recycling Education
 - Discussion on requested needs for Solid Waste
 - Second C&D Shredder to allow for shredding of tires and white waste
 - Landfill Expansion, to include a landfill compactor and GPS equipment
 - Tipping Fee charges
 - Suspending acceptance of glass due to cost and lack of vendor support
 - Recycling Funding
- Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion that the Solid Waste Adhoc Committee meet to discuss the requested needs for Solid Waste. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).
- ❖ **Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion that the Solid Waste Adhoc Committee meet to discuss the requested needs for Solid Waste. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).**

COUNCIL ACTION ON LOG NO. 206 – Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion that the Solid Waste Adhoc Committee meet to discuss the requested needs for Solid Waste. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).

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

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0). Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Solid Waste Adhoc Committee:

Chairman Bowers recognized the Chairman of the Solid Waste Adhoc Committee, Councilman Wilson, to give his report of the meetings from August 24th and September 9th.

Chairman Wilson stated the Committee recommended to bring to full Council to consider a motion to purchase a Tana 440DT Shredder for \$990,577 and a Carlson GPS Grading and Survey Package for \$149,195 to help to account for the actual capacity of the landfill and better manage the placement spacing compaction, etc. of the landfill. He stated the Committee would like to have a discussion on the long term operations activities and have the Solid Waste Department brief full Council at a later date. Chairman Wilson discussed tipping fees and would also like for Council to discuss at a later date.

Chairman Bowers stated this is a recommendation from the Committee and it does not require a second. He asked for all those in favor to please signify by raising your hands. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Chris Bowers announced the following:

- The Committee of the Whole meeting will take place next Monday, September 19, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Administration Facility.
- The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, October 3, 2022 at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers of the Administration Building.
- Boards and Commissions: 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 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. Seeing no discussion, Chairman Bowers closed the floor.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION 2022-23 SUPPORTING OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to consider Resolution 2022-23:

- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0), to approve Resolution 2022-23.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION 2022-24 RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 16TH AS CHARLES HEYWARD BARKER DAY

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to consider Resolution 2022-24:

- Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0), to approve Resolution 2022-24.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION 2022-25 TO DESIGNATE ARIAL MILL AS A HISTORIC PROPERTY ACCORDING TO ORDINANCE 457 SECTION 2(B)(2)

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to consider Resolution 2022-25:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, and seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion.

Council, Staff and a Developer had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:

- Project will be converted to 203 Apartments
 - Not asking for an incentive this evening, but only to designate it as a historic property
- After much more discussion, the motion carried (5-1), with Councilman Alex Saitta opposed.

REQUEST FROM STAFF TO REALLOCATE SAVINGS FROM ROADS & BRIDGES FY23 CIP TRAILER PURCHASE (PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY COUNCIL) TO COVER SHORTFALL FOR FY23 SCHEDULED AMBULANCE PURCHASES

Mr. Roper stated he would like to ask that Council postpone this for 30 days, that he is not comfortable with the due diligence that staff has done for me to come and advocate for this. He would like to come back to Council with better information.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to table and postpone this agenda item for 30 days. Motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE THAT PROVIDES FOR STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES FOR DEVOLVING SURPLUS COUNTY REAL PROPERTY RELATED TO THE MORE ACCURATE AND EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM.

Chairman Bowers opened the public hearing for comments regarding this Ordinance. Seeing none, Chairman Bowers declared the public hearing closed.

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to constitute second reading of this Ordinance.

- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster and seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion.

Council and Staff had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:

- Ordinance includes county roads only, not cities
 - Abandoned roads
 - Quit Claim Deeds vs. Warranty Deeds
 - The number of roads that are in dispute currently
 - Protocol for Disputes
-
- After much more discussion, Chairman Bowers made a motion to amend the ordinance, stating in Section 4, he would like to add, “The County Administrator, **after reporting the proposed action to Council**, executes the Quit Claim Deed, and causes same to be recorded with the Register of Deeds, and provides a recorded copy to the Clerk to Council.” Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. The amended motion carried (5-1), with Councilman Alex Saitta opposed.
 - After more discussion, the original motion carried (5-1), with Councilman Alex Saitta opposed.

PUBLIC HEARING TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL MILLAGE RATE TO MEET THE BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.

Chairman Bowers opened the public hearing for comments regarding this Ordinance. Seeing none, Chairman Bowers declared the public hearing closed.

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) (1)

- HR Personnel
- Compensation Adjustments Utilizing Funds (1%) Allocated by Council in FY 2023 Budget

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

- Project Smaller Dog
-
- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and 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) (1)

- HR Personnel – **No Action Taken**
- Compensation Adjustments Utilizing Funds (1%) Allocated by Council in FY 2023 Budget – **Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to approve the compensation adjustments utilizing funds allocated by Council in FY 2023 Budget as presented. Councilman Wilson seconded the motion and carried unanimously (6-0).**

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

- Project Smaller Dog – **Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to move forward with Project Smaller Dog as presented this evening. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried (5-1), with Councilman Alex Saitta opposed.**

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Alex Saitta, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council