Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
February 1, 2021
6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium of the County Administration Facility, with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to members of council and local news media on January 29, 2021.

<u>Council Members in Attendance:</u>
Chris Bowers, Chairman
Roy Costner, Vice Chairman
Trey Whitehurst, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem
Alex Saitta
Ensley Feemster
Henry Wilson

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

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the meeting of February 1, 2021 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Trey Whitehurst led the Invocation, and Councilman Henry Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council presented a Certificate in Honor to Veteran Henry Wilson, thanking 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, and who left a voicemail through the County phone in Council Chambers.

1. <u>Allan Quinn</u>: Mr. Quinn stated he has been coming to Council meetings for over a year to talk with Council on the lack of Economic Development in Pickens County. He stated this evening, he would like to welcome the new Council. He stated most of the council members were on the previous council, except for Alex Saitta and Henry Wilson. He stated overall, he feels the previous council did a good job and accomplished many things. Mr. Quinn discussed the many accomplishments from the previous council. He stated good things have been done, and hopefully they will make Council's job easier and things will continue to improve. Mr. Quinn stated nothing positive has been done in Economic Development. He stated in his opinion, this is the most important thing on Council's plate. He stated we need many good paying jobs for working age people and more especially for kids, who are now in school and will need good jobs in Pickens County when they graduate. He stated we have lost more jobs than gained in the past few years. He stated he hopes Council will put Economic Development at the top of their list and convince County Administration and Alliance Pickens the importance of this to Pickens County. Mr. Quinn stated he feels he has been giving the reputation of complaining on a lot of things but the only thing he has complained about is Economic Development in Pickens County. He stated he will continue to come before Council each month regarding Economic Development.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

- January 19, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

COVID-19 Response Briefing

Mr. Roper updated Council on COVID-19 cases in Pickens County. Mr. Roper stated there are currently 1,247 active cases reported in Pickens County, within the last 14 days. He stated there have been two hundred twenty-four (224) deaths in Pickens County due to COVID-19. He advised a total of 14,767 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Pickens County since March 20th, 2020. Mr. Roper stated there are 48,121 cases reported in SC, within the last 14 days. The total number of confirmed cases in SC is 445,916. He stated this brings the number of confirmed deaths to 7,283.

Mr. Roper presented to Council a graph of Pickens County Active COVID-19 Cases and Deaths, November 1st before the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year Holidays.

Council's 2021 Goals

Mr. Roper thanked Council for the great discussions at the workshop on Saturday, January 30th. He stated himself & staff will synthesize the information provided at the Council workshop into a list of goals for the year. He stated specific steps for achieving goals will be provided and staff will develop measurable to give Council a way to quantify progress on these goals.

Employee Engagement Survey

Mr. Roper stated Pickens County employees have been asked to complete an online survey by our Human Resources Department. He stated staff hopes to use the information collected to make Pickens County an even better place to work.

Mr. Roper stated the survey is quick and easy – you can take it from any computer and it takes 5-7 minutes of your time. He stated the survey is completely confidential. He stated the only personal data tracked is the information about the job role and years of service. The deadline for completion is Friday, February 19th. Mr. Roper stated as of this morning, 104 employees have already completed the survey.

Stonewall Creek Subdivision

Mr. Roper discussed with Council the Stonewall Creek Subdivision Culvert Replacement on Stonewall Drive. He stated someone in Stonewall Creek called in a complaint because there was a sinkhole developing in the middle of the county road. He stated in November, staff went to look at the sink hole and did some temporary work until they could fix it permanently. He stated 22 homes stood to be completely cut off if this road failed. Mr. Roper stated Roads and Bridges department assembled a team that included: Emergency Management, Public Works, the City of Easley Fire Department, the Powdersville Water Authority, Blue Ridge Electric Coop., Fort Hill Natural Gas, Charter Spectrum, and AT&T. He stated they worked collaboratively with all those different governments and with the community. Mr. Roper stated it was a 72-inch metal culvert that had completely rusted and collapsed. He stated it was not going to survive for long. Mr. Roper stated they did a hydrology study to determine the correct size of the pipe. Mr. Roper stated at that point, they really could have contracted this work out and that would have been a normal thing to do, but our Roads and Bridges Department felt like they could take it on. Mr. Roper stated they did a utility relocation and canopy trimming, created a pedestrian safe zone, had pedestrian assistance vehicles, pre-staged equipment and supplies, and had great community response. Mr. Roper read an email from the HOA thanking Pickens County for their service.

Mr. Roper asked if any council members had any questions for him at this time.

Councilman Alex Saitta stated last month, Mr. Roper talked about the information regarding the TIP booth out in the front of the Administration Building where citizens can do transactions to pay taxes rather than coming inside. He asked why they did not use the drive-through window instead.

Mr. Roper stated the tax office used this drive through for many years, and then there came a period of time where it wasn't used so often. He stated when COVID hit, it was used this past Spring when our building was closed to the public, and this drive through was used more last Spring than used in its entire life before then. He stated the drive through window broke, the mechanism broke and it was able to be fixed temporarily. Mr. Roper stated we have received quotes to replace this and we intend to replace it in the next budget cycle.

Councilman Alex Saitta stated whenever he would like to learn something that happened in the past, the first thing he does is goes to look at the previous minutes. He stated when he went to look at the Boards and Commissions minutes, it was lacking. He stated the Clerk was telling him about a plan to actually get that up to compliance with the law.

Mr. Roper stated to Councilman Saitta that he has identified an issue that staff has been working on the past year. He explained the old process of appointing boards and commissions, and explained that now Council meets once per year to appoint board members where possible. Mr. Roper stated he assigned a staff person that's responsible to that board, specifically for the reason to be able to follow up with the Chairman of the boards to make sure they are doing what they are supposed to be doing in term of posting agendas/minutes. He stated we are hoping to see some improvement there.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Committee of the Whole met in Main Conference Room, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, January 25, 2021. All members of the committee were in attendance, with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding. Councilman Ensley Feemster 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:

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion that we begin with Log No. 162 – *AN ORDINANCE No. 592 OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, ABANDONING AND RELINQUISHING MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES TO CLEMSON UNIVERSITY FOR OLD ROUTE 28 ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED WITHIN THE COUNTY, APPROXIMATELY 50 FEET WIDE, ADJACENT TO AND IS SURROUNDED BY THE REAL PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 105 OLD GREENVILLE HIGHWAY, CLEMSON, TAX MAP PARCEL NUMBER 4044-18-41-6810; REAL PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 201 SUNSET AVENUE, CLEMSON, TAX MAP PARCEL NUMBER 4044-18-41-395; A PORTION OF THE CLEMSON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, TAX MAP PARCEL NUMBER 4053-00-30-0529; AND A DIKE FOR LAKE HARTWELL MAINTAINED BY THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS.* He stated he has a citizen who has come out of town, and if possible, would like to discuss this log item first. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).

AN ORDINANCE No. 592 OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, ABANDONING AND RELINQUISHING MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES TO CLEMSON UNIVERSITY FOR OLD ROUTE 28 ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED WITHIN THE COUNTY, APPROXIMATELY 50 FEET WIDE, ADJACENT TO AND IS SURROUNDED BY THE REAL PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 105 OLD GREENVILLE HIGHWAY, CLEMSON, TAX MAP PARCEL NUMBER 4044-18-41-6810; REAL PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 201 SUNSET AVENUE, CLEMSON, TAX MAP PARCEL NUMBER 4044-18-41-395; A PORTION OF THE CLEMSON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, TAX MAP PARCEL NUMBER 4053-00-30-0529; AND A DIKE FOR LAKE HARTWELL MAINTAINED BY THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – *Log No. 162*

- Mr. Roper stated that Council decided not to have second reading before the Holidays, and instead referred it to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion. He stated Clemson reached out in the past few weeks inquiring about it, and provided the information that Council has in front of them. Mr. Roper stated they were wanting to do some improvements on this property and they applied to the state for some type of bond issuance and this came up as a title defect. He stated they have express their willingness to pay us $5,000 for the right a way.
- Vice Chairman Costner stated according to this letter, we took over the maintenance responsibilities on the road. He stated we own the right of way of the road.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated he finds it very interested that Clemson is making statements worried about security and maintenance, and even in the ordinance. He asked Mr. Roper if we wrote the ordinance.
- Mr. Roper stated no the county did not write the ordinance, Clemson's lawyers wrote the ordinance.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated there are some questions on who owns this property. He stated our policy as a county is if we abandoned a road, we give it to the adjacent landowner. He stated there is a question on whether we own this road or not. He stated there are a lot of legal questions we need to be addressed. He introduced Harry Bodiford, whom he had been in contact with. Mr. Bodiford owns the property behind.
- Mr. Bodiford stated his family has lived at this residence since back in the 1930's. He stated the Dike was built in 1959, and that extinguished the right away of Hwy 28,76 and 123. He stated since that time, Clemson has never expressed many interest in that right away or maintained it. He stated he has maintained it. He stated he has ownership interest in the entire right away. He stated he does have a problem with Clemson University taking over. Mr. Bodiford went into detailed discussion on this property.
- After more discussion between Mr. Bodiford and Council/Staff, Vice Chairman Costner stated if there is ongoing dispute we cannot even settle anything.

- Vice Chairman Costner made a motion to table this until the disputes resolve, pending further inquiry. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion.
  - Vice Chairman Costner stated he would like to give director to Mr. Roper to find out specifics on this, before we move forward.
  - Councilman Whitehurst stated he agrees, then we can move forward in the right director.
  - Councilman Saitta stated one red flag is that no one knows who owns the property. He stated secondly, whenever dealing with something like this, we should always talk to the surrounding property owners because they are constituent. He stated you do not want to give an advantage to an institution rather than a citizen. He stated the citizen needs to speak with Clemson on who owns the property, then come back to Council. He stated it is out of Council's hands.
  - After much more discussion, Vice Chairman Costner withdrew his motion.

❖ **No Action taken by the Committee; the Committee asks that this Log item stays until further information is brought back.**

Action Item on Log No. 162: No Action Taken by the Committee.

AN ORDINANCE No. 596 TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEASE OF THE PICKENS COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER TO JWPR HOLDINGS, LLC, A SOUTH CAROLINA LIMITED LIABILITY CORPORATION, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE SAID FACILITY, AND FOR MATTERS RELATED THERETO – Log No. 165

- Mr. Roper stated this Ordinance has passed first reading in title only, and Council asked for this Ordinance to be committed for further study. He stated we have struggled with programming the Performing Arts Center for several years now, and we put this out for bid out and requested proposals to see who might be interested in running the Performing Arts Center. Mr. Roper stated we had several inquiries brought back to us, but only one qualified group actually submitted a proposal. He stated one of the owners was on the PCPAC Foundation Board so we knew they were familiar with the facility and have a lot of experience. Mr. Roper stated we entered into a temporary agreement with them, and the document is in front of Council. Mr. Roper introduced Justin Ray Williams and Dendy Brooks, and stated they will be giving Council a presentation on their company and plan for the Performing Arts Center.
- Mr. Justin Williams stated they are not only a Holdings Company, they are citizens in the community who work and have a passion for the arts and entertainment. He stated he was voted on the SC Entertainment Music Hall of Fame, which was established in 1989 under Dr. David Godbold. He stated as of today, we have around 64 entertainers who have been inducted in the Hall of Fame. Mr. Williams stated two years ago, he dedicated his life to go around and help local theaters, events and festivals.
- Mr. William's presentation and discussion included, but was not limited to the following:
  - Information on JWPR Holdings, LLC
  - Organizations he is involved in (SC Entertainment Hall of Fame, Wounded Warrior Program, Pearl Street Records and CMA Member)
  - In talks with Entertainment Production, due to COVID-19 pandemic. Partnered with Amazon FireTV, ROKU, Apple TV, Google Chrome and AndroidTV) and channels currently in production
  - Discussion on some of the festivals they have done before the pandemic hit
  - Pickens County Performing Arts Center shows they have been involved in
  - Upcoming PCPAC Shows/Events they have scheduled
  - Personal References
- Mr. Dendy Brook's presentation and discussion included the financial side of how they plan to run the Performing Arts Center. He presented to Council a 12-month cash flow forecast template and discussed the template with them.
- Council, Mr. Williams and Mr. Brook's had detailed discussion that included, but not limited to the following:
  - Relationship with Meals on Wheels
  - Fixed Costs & Variable Costs on PCPAC Building
  - PCPAC Foundation Board

- After much more detailed discussion, Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion approve the lease & move out of Committee for Second Reading. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Costner. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion:
    - Councilman Saitta asked if the PCPAC Foundation Board would still be active, and what authority the board would have.
    - Vice Chairman Roy Costner stated the board was originally created to be the fundraising arm of the Performing Arts Center.
    - Councilman Saitta stated the reason we need a board is because their job is to set the vision. He stated the board does not look like they have any authority under the contract. Councilman Saitta asked who has been bringing in the shows the last year.
    - Vice Chairman Costner stated the board's job is not to set the vision, that is Council's job and that is how the bylaws were written several years ago.
    - After more discussion, Councilman Whitehurst stated Mr. Williams has been helping with the PCPAC for the past two and a half years. He stated that Mr. Williams just finished saying that we have struggled in the past having this Performing Arts Center booked out. Councilman Whitehurst stated he would like to see what Mr. William's track record is the past two years.
    - Councilman Saitta stated he has heard great things about Mr. Williams, but his issue is the framework of how it will be operating and the PCPAC Foundation Board.
    - After much more discussion, Councilman Whitehurst asked why hasn't it worked so far.
    - Mr. Williams stated because he was not in charge of it.
    - Councilman Whitehurst stated he has "scared feet". He stated we have been burned before and we have a bid document, that Council has never seen, and only one person qualified.
    - Mr. Roper stated we only had one responsive group, it wasn't that we eliminated anyone.
    - Councilman Whitehurst stated he would like to see a track record of what they have done so far.
    - Councilman Wilson stated how do they get a track record when they have already been doing the work and haven't had an opportunity or support from us to do it. Councilman Henry Wilson called a vote.
- Councilman Henry Wilson called a vote, recommending this to come out of Committee for second reading. Councilman Roy Costner seconded the motion. The motion carried (4-2), with Councilman Saitta and Councilman Whitehurst opposed.

- ❖ **Councilman Henry Wilson called a vote, recommending this Log item to come out of Committee for Second Reading and Councilman Roy Costner seconded the motion. The motion carried (4-2), with Councilman Saitta and Councilman Whitehurst opposed.**

Action Item on Log No. 165: Councilman Henry Wilson called a vote, recommending this Log item to come out of Committee for Second Reading and Councilman Roy Costner seconded the motion. The motion carried (4-2), with Councilman Saitta and Councilman Whitehurst opposed.

SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE No. 596 TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEASE OF THE PICKENS COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER TO JWPR HOLDINGS, LLC, A SOUTH CAROLINA LIMITED LIABILITY CORPORATION, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE SAID FACILITY, AND FOR MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

No second is required of second reading of Ordinance 596 because this comes as a recommendation from the committee. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion.

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he would like to make an amendment to send this Ordinance back to the Committee for further discussion, without doing second reading this evening. Councilman Alex Saitta seconded the motion. Motion failed (2-4), with Councilman Ensley Feemster, Vice Chairman Roy Costner, Chairman Chris Bowers and Councilman Henry Wilson opposed.
- Chairman Chris Bowers stated back on the table is the motion for second reading on Ordinance 596. He asked for a motion to approve second reading of Ordinance 596.
    - Chairman Roy Costner amended the motion, stating he would like to send this Ordinance back to the Committee for further discussion after second reading. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion:
        - Councilman Alex Saitta stated his concerns are that he believes there are two key essential elements missing before signing the contract. He stated first, the PAC board has to be strengthened to be able to handle its responsibilities and partner in this process. He stated we need to add some additional board members with the skill sets and experience to oversee this arrangement. After more discussion, Councilman Saitta stated the tax return for the

Performing Arts Center was due on September 30 and it has not filed yet. He stated the PAC was incorporated with the state of South Carolina Secretary of State, but the incorporation has expired. He also went into discussion on how the PAC by-laws need revisions. He stated the PAC needs to update paperwork, needs a functioning board, a Chairman who can actually sign checks from their account because he heard from Justin Williams that when shows come in, he will only be paying for half of them and the PAC will pay for the rest. He stated until these two things are updated/fixed, he will not be voting in favor for any second degree.

- Vice Chairman Costner stated he agrees with Councilman Saitta regarding a functioning board. He stated he has not seen the bylaws, only ordinances. Vice Chairman Costner stated the ordinances that were created were for the board specifically for fundraising purposes. He stated we need to have specific guidelines that need to be related to the bylaws, and we need to get a copy of the bylaws before we can move forward on the agreement.
- Mr. Roper stated it's important to note that he does not have any authority over the 501C3; he stated that board is responsible for their filings, for their paperwork, etc.
- Councilman Saitta quoted the bylaws, stating," Section *1. General Powers. The affairs of the corporation shall be managed by the Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of applicable law, the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws."* He stated they are managers.
- After more discussion, Councilman Henry Wilson stated his understanding is we had an individual employee in this organization for the county that was the sole purpose of doing the day to day management of activities and coordinating maintenance, etc. who represented the county and the county's interests in the facility for the long term. He stated the board that was established was set up solely for the purpose of raising money for the continued investment in that community asset without the County Council being responsible for those efforts over the long term. After more discussion, he stated in some organizations he has been a part of, it has taken years and years to get the right people for the right job. Councilman Wilson stated let's look at the opportunity to mirror some of the best practices that we can see around some very excellent facilities around the community and around the southeast and start moving forward. He stated we can keep coming up with questions but we have some folks willing to do it, we have some folks that have been invested in doing it and some folks willing to put their own money and time at risk to help make it a long-term facility that's operating sustainably. He stated dragging our feet so that we get perfection seems like a fine example of poor government action. He stated he will be voting to move this along.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated he understands that we want to move forward and make things happen but the contract that we are doing a second reading on is contradictory to what the gentleman who is signing the contract on their behalf is understanding of the contract because he is understanding that he is getting half of his money from the PAC, who apparently is just fundraising and is not performing or managing shows. He stated there is a lot of confusion on whose role is what in this whole deal. He stated he does not want to rush into anything until all parties understand their doing in the contract.

- Mr. Roper stated under the procurement code, he's allowed to negotiate if there's only one successful bidder. He stated he did negotiate from us having to pay them $125,000. He stated so now, we would not be paying them under this proposal, in year 2, they would start paying us a percentage. Mr. Roper stated we put out the proposal after talking to a couple of council members and had talked about it as a staff. He stated we used to have majority of our tourism staff based in the facility because that was just were they had offices. He stated after the retirement of the director and hiring of new director, their office was here and they still staffed the facility but they were not physically located there. He stated we put council on notice that we were going to issue a request for proposals for an operator. He stated we had lots of inquiries but ultimately we only had one proposal that was filed.
- After much more discussion, Chairman Bowers called for a vote, asking for all those in favor of accepting this amendment to please signify by raising their hands. Motion carried (4-2), with Councilman Saitta and Councilman Whitehurst opposed.

- Seeing no other discussion, Chairman Bowers asked for all those in favor for accepting this recommendation, as amended, to please signify by raising your hands. Motion carried (4-2), with Councilman Trey Whitehurst and Councilman Alex Saitta opposed.

Mental Health – Log No. 134

- Mr. Roper gave a quick update on Mental Health in Pickens County. He stated Pickens County leads the state in South Carolina, per capita, in counties with highest suicide death rates. He stated we formed an adhoc committee a little over a year ago. He stated our Veteran Affairs office, Sherry Harris, invited the state Veteran Affairs Secretary to Pickens County. He stated he showed him around the Administration Building and was able to talk to General Grimsley about specific things in Pickens County. He stated that one of the things he talked about was our high suicide rate. Mr. Roper stated we talked a few times after that, and Sherry Harris applied for a process through General Grimsley that would bring us some assistance. He stated this is a federal program that Pickens County has been approved to participate in for Veteran's and the family of Veteran's. He stated it will look at what we have, what we provide to our Veteran's and their families, and what we should provide. Mr. Roper stated it will look at us as a county wide and determine what our current system is, and what the current system would be. He stated this will allow us to have the data and due diligence to begin applying for grants. Mr. Roper stated that Pickens County has been accepted as one of 10 sites from around the United States to participate in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Crisis Intercept Mapping for SMVF Suicide Prevention. Mr. Roper stated this process will take several months and we will bring the product back to Council.

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

Action Item on Log No. 134: No Action Taken by the Committee.

SHRED TRUCK OPTIONS – Log No. 164

- Mr. Roper stated he wanted to talk to Council about the larger policy. He stated this is a policy level decision. He stated our Shred Truck needs extensive repairs. He stated we got an estimate that it would be around $36,000 to completely rebuild the machine. He stated for years, we have done the shredding for ourselves, some of the municipalities, the school district, or anyone who would bring their shredding to the main landfill. He stated we think we could actually rent a shred truck for our needs. Mr. Roper advised it is an inexpensive thing to have shredding done. He stated we looked into our neighboring counties (Greenville, Anderson & Oconee County) and this is not a service they all provide. He stated none of the counties own a shred truck, and they do not shred due to liability of sensitive material. Mr. Roper gave a budget comparison for similar counties, population within 100,000-200,000. He presented the counties, their population, their general fund budget, their payroll and how many full time employees they have. He stated we are an extremely lean governmental entity. He stated as a county staff, we have very limited resources compared to our similar sized counties. After more discussion, he stated our recommendation is to not repair the shred truck, to contract out our own shred needs and let the private industry handle the shredding.
- Councilman Feemster asked how much a brand new shred truck would be compared to fixing the old shred truck.
- Mr. Roper stated they have not priced that out, but it would be a lot more to buy a new truck.
- Councilman Wilson asked what is the thinking behind doing it ourselves versus hiring a private industry to do it for us.
- Mr. Roper stated he believes this was a program that we started through grant funding. He stated there was a larger demand then. He stated there is a significant cost here and he felt Council needed to have a say.
- After much more discussion, Councilman Wilson made a motion to accept the staff recommendation to discontinue the shredding services, and to communicate it widely throughout the community. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

- ❖ **Councilman Wilson made a motion to accept the staff recommendation to discontinue the shredding services, and to communicate it widely throughout the community. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).**

Action Item on Log No. 164: Councilman Wilson made a motion to accept the staff recommendation to discontinue the shredding services, and to communicate it widely throughout the community. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

No second is required because this comes as a recommendation from the committee. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion. Seeing none, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

E911 – Log No. 105

- Mr. Billy Gibson, Director of Emergency Services, gave a presentation to Council on the EMD Status Report from July 2020 – December 2020. The presentation included, but was not limited to:
    - EMD Certification Status
        - 17 of the 22 Communication Specialists are currently EMD certified and of the remaining 5, two are registered for an upcoming class and three others are in early stages of training and not yet ready to begin on the EMS position.
        - Mr. Gibson presented the EMD Scores from July to December. He stated the average was a score of 97. He stated while grading the EMD call, we noticed a trend that the calls scoring "100" seem to average 4-6 minutes in length, and sometimes more.
        - Mr. Gibson presented the number of 911 calls received per month, from July to December. He stated the averaged around 138 calls per day.
        - 911 Call answer times:
            - 55% were 5 seconds or less
            - 42% were 5-10 seconds
            - 2% were 10-15 seconds
            - 1% were 15-30 seconds
            - 0% were 30 seconds or more
        - Mr. Gibson stated NENE 911 Call Processing Standards, 90% of all 911 calls arriving at the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) shall be answered within 15 seconds. He stated 95% of all 911 calls should be answered within twenty seconds.
        - There are 4 employees per shift:
            - ➢ EMS/911
            - ➢ Sheriff Channel
            - ➢ Fire Channels
            - ➢ Phones/Narcotics
        - All employees work together as a team to accomplish tasks, meet the needs of first responders, and provide efficient service to all. It is common to receive multiple 911 calls at one time and the 3 other positions always assist in answering those calls.
        - Mr. Gibson stated every dispatcher goes through the following training:
            - ➢ Approximately 5-6 months of in house training to become efficient on all positions
            - ➢ Must learns the ins and outs of call tracking and dispatching for EMS, Fire, Law and Rescue
            - ➢ One week of required 911 School through SCCJA
            - ➢ SLED/CJIS NCIC Certification
            - ➢ CPR Certification (pre-requisite for EMD)
            - ➢ EMD Certification

- Chairman Bowers asked if we have been able to see a better utilization of our resources. He stated he would like to see the number of incidents vs. the number of 911 calls.
- Mr. Gibson stated he can't speak to this, but he does know the questions are being asked. He stated the communications folks are asking the questions when they get the calls. He stated they are getting further information once the call has started and he feels they are seeing a better utilization. Mr. Gibson explained the process of what happens at the first initial call.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated it seems that there was an issue we had with all the administrative lines from the Sheriff's office was going to the 911 line.
- Mr. Gibson stated yes, that line still goes to the 911 line.
- Mr. Roper stated keep in mind that some of these employees who work at the dispatch office are sheriff office employees.
- After more discussion, Mr. Gibson invited members of Council to tour the dispatch center whenever they would like.

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

Action Item on Log No. 105: No Action Taken by the Committee.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Chris Bowers announced the following:

- Non-Essential County Offices will be closed on Monday, February 15, 2021 in observance of the President's Day Holiday.
- The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, March 1, 2021 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.

Seeing no discussion, Chairman Bowers closed the floor.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION 2021-03 RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2021 AS AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to consider Resolution 2021-03.

- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, and seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner. Seeing no discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION 2021-04 SUPPORT OF RENAMING THE UNITED STATES POST OFFICE IN THE CITY OF PICKENS IN HONOR OF SPECIALIST FOURTH CLASS CHARLES JOHNSON JR.

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to consider Resolution 2021-04.

- Motion was made by Councilman Alex Saitta, and seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. Seeing no discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

CONSIDERATION OF A RECREATION FUND REQUEST FOR DISTRICT 4

Chairman Bowers stated Council should have information in their packet on this request.

Vice Chairman Roy Costner stated the City of Liberty went through the proper bidding, and you can see from the pictures what they are trying to accomplish.

- Vice Chairman Costner stated he would like to make a motion for $40,000 of District 4 Recreation Funds to the City of Liberty, and reserve the rest for when we hear back from the Recreation

Committee on the ADA compliant playground at the Pickens County Airport. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion:

- Councilman Alex Saitta asked if only the application goes through the Rec Board.
- Chairman Bowers stated unless there is an emergency situation, they typically do.
- Councilman Saitta asked if Council see's all the applications.
- Chairman Bowers stated yes.
- Councilman Saitta asked if the recreation board makes a recommendation, does the Council have to approve it.
- Chairman Bowers stated no.
- Councilman Saitta asked if there is an application that they do not recommend, can Council still approve it.
- Chairman Bowers stated if there is enough desire out of the Council, then yes. He stated Council holds authority of making these recommendations.

o Seeing no other discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 595 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU-OF-TAX AND INCENTIVE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE SUBSIDIARIES, AFFILIATES, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, LESSORS OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS, PURSUANT TO WHICH THE COUNTY SHALL COVENANT TO ACCEPT CERTAIN NEGOTIATED PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Chairman Bowers gaveled the Public Hearing for Ordinance 595 into order and called for comment. Seeing none, Chairman Bowers closed the Public Hearing.

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to constitute third reading of Ordinance 595.

o Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectively Submitted: Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council	Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council