

## **Special Called County Council Meeting**

April 27, 2020

6:32 PM

County Council met in special session at the County Administration Building, with Chairman Roy Costner presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to members of council and local news media on April 22, 2020

### Council Members in Attendance:

Roy Costner, Chairman

Chris Bowers, Vice Chairman

Wes Hendricks, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Ensley Feemster

Carl Hudson

Trey Whitehurst

### Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, Acting County Administrator

Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

Ralph Guarino, Finance Director

Scott Smith, Emergency Services Director

### **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Roy Costner called the special-called meeting of April 27, 2020 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Vice Chairman Chris Bowers led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

Mr. Roper presented a presentation regarding Kickstart Pickens County. The discussion of Kickstart Pickens County included, but was not limited to the following:

### Phases of Reopening

#### Phase 1 – May 4<sup>th</sup>

- Beginning to make minimal changes in process, procedures and staffing. Some plan to bring all staff back working in the office at the same time to prepare for moving towards full public operations – other departments plan to continue current office rotations for a few more weeks. Staff should continue to limit interactions between departments and other employees. Buildings will remain closed to the public, but we may begin to see some minimal foot traffic by appointment only:
  - For example: Manager may schedule an interview, or meeting with a group of 3 or less; HR may conduct an in-person new hire orientation; VA may need to meet with a veteran in person, by appointment.

#### Phase 2 – May 18<sup>th</sup>

- Mid-point of our process, bringing more things online to prepare for full reopen. Continue the above. Continue any physical office changes that need to be made to protect our staff and allow for social distancing of both staff and the public when we open back up. Make sure you have requested (from Mike Hayes) any needed supplies such as masks, hand sanitizer, etc. He will coordinate distribution from EOC. Staff should continue to limit interactions between departments and other employees. We may do a “soft opening” (unpublicized) after May 18th (unlock doors but keep CLOSED signs up). Of course, all departments would be informed of that prior to its occurrence.

Phase 3 – June 1<sup>st</sup>

- Target date to be FULLY OPEN to the public.
- Continue with best practices for social distancing, cleaning, and minimizing personal contact for the foreseeable future.
- Encouraging people to use online resources.

**Individual Department Reopening Plans**

Examples of three-phase plans customized by Department Heads and Elected Officials to meet the specific needs of their departments.

***Parks, Recreation and Tourism***

- We are in the process of creating additional content and building tourism-specific social media channels to push our message out across multiple markets. We are creating an expanded inventory of marketing tools and equipment to assist with creation of content.
- We plan to take a much broader approach to Tourism for Pickens County than I believe has been done in the past. We want to focus not only on our county-owned and operated facilities, but also our municipalities, our outlying locations, our industries, our local businesses – the list is endless and allows us to market all aspects of Pickens County for the optimal tourism approach.
- The Parks, Recreation and Tourism department currently has two positions open that we hope to have filled by the end of May. These positions are Park Ranger – Enforcement and PRT Specialist – Community Engagement. PRT is creating a Kickstart Pickens County video series that will go live once opening dates are set across the county.

***Mile Creek Park***

Phase 1 – May 4<sup>th</sup>

- Open Mile Creek Park for existing reservations only
- Playground remains closed
- Picnic Shelters remains closed
- Boat ramp remains open
- Open bathroom facilities
- Day use area remains closed
- Park Office remains closed
- Other county parks remain closed

Phase 2 – May 15<sup>th</sup>

- Existing reservations only
- Playground remains closed
- Picnic shelters remain closed
- Boat ramp remains open
- Bathroom facilities remain open
- Open day use area – limit to 65% of parking lot capacity
- Park Office remains closed
- Open other County Parks

Phase 3 – June 1<sup>st</sup>

- Allow new reservations
- Open playground
- Open picnic shelters

- Boat ramp remains open
- Bathroom facilities remain open
- Open day use area 100%
- Open park office
- All County Parks open

***Pickens County Museum of Art & History***

Phase 1 – May 5<sup>th</sup>

- Open with regular 9-5 visitation hours while maintaining social distancing
- No tours
- No homeschool lessons
- No art classes or workshops
- No facility rentals
- No artifact donations accepted
- Gift shop remains closed
- Museum office closed to visitors
- Continued engagement via social media – This Day in History, informational & Interactive videos, narrated virtual tours & presentations
- Virtual board meetings

Phase 2 – June 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Open with regular 9-5 visitation hours, while maintaining social distancing
- Resume tours
- Resume homeschool lessons
- Resume art classes / workshops
- Resume facility rentals
- Accept artifact donations
- Open gift shop
- Open museum office
- Continued engagement via social media - This Day in History, informational & Interactive videos, narrated virtual tours & presentations
- Continue virtual board meetings thru the summer

***Pickens County Performing Arts Center***

We have been hard at work rescheduling shows that were set for March and April, and are now moving into rescheduling May shoes. Until and once we are allowed to reopen per the Governor’s reversal of Executive Order 2020-17, we will implement the following activities and measures

- Continue to schedule virtual concerts
- Encourage patrons to print tickets at home
- Encourage payment via credit cards and online portal
- Introduce additional hand sanitizer stations throughout the center
- Increase marketing efforts for rescheduled/upcoming shows

***Airport***

Phase 1 – May 4<sup>th</sup>

- Resume AVGAS
- Full service operations

Phase 2 – May 18<sup>th</sup>

- Resume normal manning/restricted terminal access

Phase 3 – June 1<sup>st</sup>

- Open to the public – normal operations

***Aid Agency Interface***

Phase 1 – May 4<sup>th</sup>

- Continue current operations

Phase 2 – May 15<sup>th</sup>

- Last day of Aid

***Community Development***

Phase 1 – May 1<sup>st</sup>

- Current operations, limitations, and staffing kept in place
- Inspectors not reporting to office
- No inspections in occupied structures
- Office manned by three (3) staff persons at a time – continue working from home
- Applications and permits “by appointment only” – one applicant per hour scheduled and must be escorted to office by staff – applicant only permitted
- One (1) counter lane open
- Restrict citizen’s cross traffic between other admin building offices
- Limited access to interior office space
- No individual meetings permitted with staff
- Board and Commission meetings restored with limitations on citizen/applicant access

Phase 2 – May 15<sup>th</sup>

- Inspectors not reporting to office
- Inspections permitted in occupied structures with appropriate social distancing and PPE’s
- Fully staffed
- Lobby access limited to one (1) counter lane with proper social distance – applicant only permitted in lobby
- Restrict citizen’s cross traffic between other admin building offices
- Limited access to interior office space
- Meetings with staff permitted with number of individuals limited in meeting to no more than 3
- Board and Commission meetings restored with limitations on citizen/applicant access

Phase 3 – June 1<sup>st</sup>

- Inspectors report to office
- Inspection restrictions lifted
- Fully staffed
- No lobby access limit and all windows open
- Citizen access restored throughout building
- Office access restriction lifted
- Staff meetings restrictions lifted
- Board and commission meeting restrictions lifted

### ***Public Service Commission***

#### Phase 1 – May 4<sup>th</sup>

- Main Office doors will be open to the public and a notice on the door will restrict entrance to the building to the front reception area only. Non-essential personnel will be classified as essential and will return to work. Lab manager will be allowed to work from home to mitigate child care concerns when necessary. Daily wellness checks by supervisors will continue for staff. Continue to practice social distancing and work place sanitation.

#### Phase 2 – May 18<sup>th</sup>

- Entrance to the building will remain restricted to front reception desk. Daily wellness checks by supervisors will continue for staff. Social distancing and work place sanitation will continue. Meetings will be tentatively scheduled for June.

#### Phase 3 – June 1<sup>st</sup>

- Office will be fully opened. Continue to practice social distancing and work place sanitation. Daily wellness checks by supervisors will continue.

### ***Probate Court***

#### Phase 1 – May 4<sup>th</sup>

- Increase from half-staff, but not yet to full staff, as we transition toward full opening of the county.
- Appointments for emergency matters only.
- Continue mail system for marriage licenses.
- No in-person court hearings.

#### Phase 2 – May 18<sup>th</sup>

- Continue rotating positions of staff to limit number of people in office at once.
- Appointments only, but we may be able to increase the numbers and types of appointments.
- Continue mail system for marriage licenses.
- Consider uncontested hearings with social distancing if all parties agree.

#### Phase 3 – June 1<sup>st</sup>

- Full staff.
- Lobby may remain closed with a monitoring system in hall or at courtroom door for walk-in traffic.
- Will decide closer to this date if we will have regular hearings, marriage ceremonies, etc.

### ***Auditors Office***

#### Phase 1 – May 4<sup>th</sup>

- Staff continues rotation of working from home and in the office for the next couple of weeks. Also, for the next couple of weeks we will continue to try to have our taxpayers do everything online and over the phone.

#### Phase 2 – May 18<sup>th</sup>

- We will be ready to begin assisting taxpayers at our temporary set-up should a soft opening of the admin building occur after May 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### Phase 3 – June 1<sup>st</sup>

- Fully open.

**DRAFT**

Pickens County Library System  
**Pandemic Reopening Plan**



**PHASE 1: TEMPORARY CLOSURE**

**Service Adjustments**

- a. Library buildings are closed to the public
- b. Expand digital resources & ease of access, develop virtual programming
- c. Register new library accounts online & temp card registration services
- d. Suspend all room reservations
- e. Suspend all volunteer service hours
- f. Suspend outreach services such as House Calls service
- g. Suspend all in-house library programming
- h. Suspend library item holds and all ILL activities
- i. Waive fines and extend due dates \*book drops remain open
- j. Monitor book drops, sanitize returned items and quarantine for 5 days
- k. Deep clean and sanitize all library facilities

**Work Adjustments**

- a. Staff work remotely with plan provided by supervisor - Management staff report to buildings as needed
- b. Under designation of County State of Emergency staff may report to other County departments
- c. Acquire PPE for employees
- d. Acquire additional equipment for working remotely
- e. Acquire additional equipment for developing virtual programming
- f. Conduct regular department and manager's meetings via Zoom
- g. Acquire website chat services and forward phone to staff via Google

**Communication to Public**

- a. Communicate library service updates to the public via website and social media
- b. Answer questions and service requests via phone, website chat, email, & Facebook
- c. Post virtual programming on Social Media (Facebook, Youtube)

# DRAFT

Pickens County Library System

## Pandemic Reopening Plan



### PHASE 2: MODIFIED SERVICE

#### Service Adjustments

- a. Library buildings are closed to the public—Drive thru services OPEN
- b. Expand digital resources & ease of access, develop virtual programming
- c. Register new library accounts online & temp card registration services
- d. Suspend all room reservations
- e. Suspend all volunteer service hours
- f. Suspend outreach services such as House Calls service
- g. Suspend all in-house library programming
- h. Fulfill holds requests and transfer items between branches via courier
- i. Waive fines and extend due dates \*book drops remain open
- j. Monitor book drops, sanitize returned items and quarantine for 5 days
- k. Deep clean and sanitize all library facilities
- l. limited faxing and printing services available at Clemson branch
- m. Suspend fine and fee payment until buildings are opened.

#### Work Adjustments

- a. Employees report to work on modified schedule (M-F 9-5, Sat. 10-2)
- b. Staff at Pickens/Liberty may be used to assist with Services at Drive-thrus
- c. Employees work spaces modified to adhere to social distancing requirements
- d. In preparation for opening buildings, rearrange and remove/store library furniture and public access computers to allow for social distancing
- e. Conduct regular department and manager's meetings via Zoom

#### Communication to Public

- a. Communicate library service updates to the public via website and social media
- b. Answer questions and service requests via phone, website chat, email, & Facebook
- c. Post virtual programming on Social Media (Facebook, Youtube)

# DRAFT

Pickens County Library System

## Pandemic Reopening Plan



### PHASE 3: ESSENTIAL SERVICES

#### Service Adjustments

- a. Libraries are open to the public on a limited basis:
  - i. Restrict number of patrons allowed in facilities pursuant to state/local recommendations
  - ii. Patrons may check out materials, pick up holds, use copier/scan/fax and use public computers (rearranged for social distancing) for limited amounts of time—up to 30 minutes per patron.
- b. Suspend all room reservations, keep all meeting rooms and study rooms closed
- c. Suspend all volunteer service hours
- d. Suspend outreach services such as House Calls service
- e. Suspend all in-house library programming
- f. Fulfill holds requests and transfer items between branches via courier
- g. Reinstate item due dates, card expiration dates and library notifications
- h. Monitor book drops, sanitize returned items and quarantine for 5 days
  - i. Deep clean and sanitize all library facilities
  - j. Coordinate with libraries to restart ILL services

#### Work Adjustments

- a. Library staff resume normal working hours at their branch
- b. Resume all regular ordering/cataloging/processing duties
- c. Conduct regular department and manager's meetings via Zoom

#### Communication to Public

- a. Communicate library service updates to the public via website and social media
- b. Answer questions and service requests via phone, website chat, email, & Facebook
- c. Post virtual programming on Social Media (Facebook, Youtube)





**DRAFT**

Pickens County Library System

**Pandemic Reopening Plan**



**PHASE 4: NORMAL OPERATIONS**

**Service Adjustments**

- a. Libraries are open to the public with no limitations
- b. Accept room reservations
- c. Resume volunteer service hours
- d. Resume outreach services and House Calls services
- e. Resume in-house library programming
- f. Move library furniture back to original positions

**Communication to Public**

- a. Communicate library service updates to the public via website and social media
- b. Answer questions and service requests via phone, website chat, email, & Facebook
- c. Post virtual programming on Social Media (Facebook, Youtube)\* in addition to in-house library programming



***AccelerateSC***

From Governor Henry McMaster: Organized this day, April 20, 2020, accelerateSC serves as the coordinated COVID-19 advisory team to consider and recommend economic revitalization plans for South Carolina.

The economic revitalization plan consists of five components of analysis and effort: Response, Protection, Governance, Resources, and Information. These components will employ maximum communication,

collaboration and cooperation among themselves and those assisting to effectively identify issues, solutions, and assets necessary for a phased revitalization path for South Carolina's economy, guided by healthcare and medical data. The governor will designate a state agency to coordinate each of the revitalization components; other identified state agencies will assist. The accelerateSC participants will make immediate, intermediate and long-term recommendations to the governor for revitalizing and expanding South Carolina's economy while protecting the health of South Carolina citizens.

Mr. Roper went into further detail discussing the economic revitalization plan of AccelerateSC:

1. Response
2. Protection
3. Governance
4. Resources
5. Information

He stated County staff will be coordinating with the state agencies and local organizations to integrate the Governor's accelerateSC program with our Kickstart Pickens County initiative.

### **Response**

- State Coordinating Agency:
  - ❖ Department of Commerce
- County Counterpart:
  - ❖ Alliance Pickens – Ray Farley
- Assisting Local Agencies:
  - ❖ SC Works Worklink
  - ❖ Chambers of Commerce

### **Protection**

- State Coordinating Agency:
  - ❖ Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)
- County Counterpart:
  - ❖ Emergency Management – Denise Kwiatek
  - ❖ Risk Management – Mike Hayes
  - ❖ Human Resources – Lisa Bryant
- Assisting Local Agencies:
  - ❖ Pickens County Health Department
  - ❖ DSS
  - ❖ Nonprofits: United Way, Meals on Wheels, etc.

### **Governance**

- State Coordinating Agency:
  - ❖ S.C. Executive Office of the Governor
- County Counterpart:
  - ❖ Administration – Ken Roper
  - ❖ Emergency Services – Scott Smith
  - ❖ Human Resources – Lisa Bryant
- Assisting Local Agencies:
  - ❖ School District of Pickens County

### **Resources**

- State Coordinating Agency:
  - ❖ Department of Administration, Executive Budget Office (EBO)

- County Counterpart:
  - ❖ Finance - Ralph Guarino
  - ❖ EOC – Pierce Womack
  - ❖ Airport – Carlos Salinas
- Assisting Local Agencies:
  - ❖ SC Works Worklink
  - ❖ Chambers of Commerce

**Information**

- State Coordinating Agency:
  - ❖ Department of Administration
- County Counterpart:
  - ❖ Public Relations – Jamie Burns
  - ❖ PRT & Marketing – Allison Fowler & Miranda Mixon
  - ❖ EOC PIO – Katie Corbin
  - ❖ COVID-19 Hotline – Kendyl Black
- Assisting Local Agencies:
  - ❖ Pickens County Library System

**Kickstart Pickens County**

**COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan**

- Local Business Preferred Purchasing Policy
- CARES Act Stimulus at Airport
- Tri-County Technical College Consortium Approach
- Supporting and Promoting Pickens County Small Businesses
- Road Improvement Incentive
- Small Business Incentive Fund
- Workforce Development
- Accelerate Schedule of Branding and Marketing Plan

**PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 582 TO PROVIDE FOR ADOPTION OF A BUDGET AMENDMENT CONTAINING ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE CHANGES FOR PICKENS COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2019 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2020.**

Chairman Roy Costner opened the public hearing for comments regarding Ordinance 582. Seeing none, Chairman Costner declared the public hearing closed.

Chairman Costner asked for a motion to constitute second reading of Ordinance No. 582.

- Seeing no other discussion, motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (6-0).

**PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 583 TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES IN PICKENS COUNTY FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021, AND TO DIRECT EXPENDITURE THEREOF.**

Chairman Roy Costner opened the public hearing for comments regarding Ordinance 583.

The Clerk to Council stated there was one public hearing comment for Ordinance 583. Ms. Nations played the voicemail from the citizen to Council:

1. Johnnelle Raines- Ms. Raines stated she would like for Council to know that she is very pleased that there is no tax increase included in the budget at this time. She stated she hopes this will be the case for the next time as well and move any discussions of any tax raises in the future off the agenda. Ms. Raines stated she is with Conservatives of the Upstate and thanked Council.

The discussion of budgetary items included, but not limited to the following:

- **Discussion on keeping the budget flat for this fiscal year due to COVID-19 pandemic**
- **Questions on current tax collections**
- **Capital requests priorities**
- **Vineyards Fire Truck request**
  - Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he visited with the Vineyards Fire Department last Friday. He stated they had requested two new fire trucks this year – and one was recommended by staff, while the other was not. He asked Mr. Guarino what the recommended funding was for the service truck.
  - Mr. Guarino stated a GO Bond.
  - Councilman Hendricks asked if it would replace the one they are paying on now.
  - Mr. Guarino stated we did not put anything in the budget because we are looking at consolidating all the revenues from the fire districts. Mr. Guarino stated the Vineyards came back, when they had a board, and stated they wanted to go ahead and buy the truck, and they would pay it off within 3 years. Mr. Guarino stated we have two more years to pay on this truck. He stated this service truck would be issued with another GO Bond, and by the time we issue that bond and get the trucks in, the first payment would not be due until 2022. He stated this would be in the 2022 budget as far as the debt service payment.
  - Councilman Hendricks stated the Vineyards residents also want to get another fire engine replaced, in a 2003 fire truck. He stated this would be proactive on the front end and save money on the back end with ISO ratings. He asked what would be the recommending funding mechanism for this and what would it cost the citizens in the Vineyards Fire District.
  - Mr. Guarino stated it would be a GO Bond and he did not look at calculating this because at the time, Scott Smith did not recommend this and stated it was not needed at the time.
  - After more discussion between Council and staff, Councilman Hendricks stated there is no other fire department close to Jocassee Lake, near the Vineyards. He stated the citizens are very adamant about protecting their ISO.
    - Councilman Hendricks stated he would like to make a budget amendment to include this fire truck in the budget, #3-5-21, for fire engine 1100. Motion failed due to lack of a second vote.
  - Councilman Hendricks asked Mr. Smith to elaborate on his reasoning for the Vineyards not to receive the fire truck.
  - Mr. Smith stated his recommendation was to put that request off for another year, so that there would not be an overlap of the GO Bond funding. He stated the new truck they have not received yet was a three year bond and they have a bond that will roll off April of 2023.
  - Councilman Hendricks stated he hopes Council can consider this for next year's budget for the Vineyards community.

Chairman Costner, Council & Staff discussed the following questions that Council sent in regarding the budget for staff to answer. The discussion of budgetary items included, but was not limited to the following:

- **Emergency Services Advisory Board budget proposal**
- **Economic Development Plan & Strategy based on funding and information**
- **Current structure and strategic plan for Marketing, including how much money is allocated**
  - Mr. Roper went into detail on how the FY 2021 Marketing strategic plan will depend largely on the results of the Branding & Marketing study currently in progress. He stated the next steps are getting Council's input through a survey that the Clerk emailed out, and they anticipate it to be complete by June.
- **Current structure and strategic plan for Tourism, including how much money is allocated**
  - Chairman Costner stated he would like to propose something to Council. He stated we have money allocated specifically for the Museum, Hagood Mill, Mile Creek, but the Performing Arts Center in Liberty is under Tourism.
  - Chairman Costner stated he would like to make a motion that we make the Performing Arts Center it's on line item, just like the Museum, Hagood Mill and Mile Creek. He stated we need to treat them all the same, since they are all 501-C3 organizations that were created with the hopes and opportunity that they would eventually become self-sustaining. He stated Hagood Mill went down that road faster than anyone else. Chairman Costner stated he asked they question why the Performing Arts Center wasn't separate like the rest, and was told it has always been done that way and was created by the previous Council.
  - Mr. Roper stated it was created through the recreation funds and was not set up as a County Department.
    - Chairman Costner made a motion to make an amendment to second reading stating he would like to see the Performing Arts Center have it's on department, just like the other 501-C3's. Chairman Costner asked if there was any discussion.
      - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked if it will become it's on department, or simply a line item in the budget for the PCPAC.
      - Chairman Costner stated he is suggesting it be treated the same as the Museum. He asked Mr. Guarino if it will be a separate line item.
      - Mr. Guarino stated the only thing they are paying for at the PAC right now is the utility bills. He stated if you want to create a separate department, it will say PAC and we would put the utility bills under it. Mr. Guarino stated the Museum, Hagood Mill & Mile Creek is treated as a department. He stated we can make the Performing Arts Center a department, and take all the utility costs that is out of building maintenance and put in that department.
      - Councilman Whitehurst asked if there was any cost to this, or expansion of government.
      - Chairman Costner stated his intent is not to create more government, he stated his intent is to create more accountability so we know where we are putting our money, and what our return on investment is.
      - After more discussion between Council, Councilman Whitehurst stated the PAC would just have a separate department with the Tourism Director ahead of that Department. He stated it sounds like the board is doing their own thing but it does allow them more of structure.
      - Mr. Roper stated it is only going to show money going out, since there is no money going in.

- Chairman Costner stated he would like to make his point clear that he does not want to add any money to the PAC. He stated his motion is specific to creating that department.
  - Mr. Roper stated Ms. Fowler's duties will still be overarching and that tourism needed to be comprehensive in scope. Ms. Fowler will serve as the Department Head but will not be dedicated to just that department.
  - Councilman Hudson stated he is fine with this as long as we are all on board that we are pushing these 501-C3's to become self-sufficient.
    - After more discussion, Chairman Costner asked for all those in favor of the amendment to please signify by raising their hands. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).
- **Difference in pricing for SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus)**
    - Mr. Smith went into discussion on SCBA, stating they would make one purchase for the SCBAs, the price difference submitted was based on the needed for different options and supplies. He stated Crosswell already has a bank charger, extra rechargeable batteries and fill adapter. He stated Liberty was requesting extra masks, spare cylinders, charger and batteries.
  - **Tri-County Technical College request**
    - Mr. Roper stated we do not have an answer for this question yet, but will have more information at the next budget work session.
  - **Rationale behind providing Extrication tools for the Vineyards Fire, but not for Liberty Fire**
    - Mr. Smith went into discussion, stating the Vineyards requested to purchase a complete set of battery powered extrication tools out of the current budget with funds available. He stated it was decided to include this purchase in next year's budget since it was not approved for the current year. For Liberty Fire, Mr. Smith stated to purchase tools was going to be included with the new fire engine purchase and would require an increase in the fire fee.
  - **Sheriff's Office vehicles requested**
    - Mr. Roper stated vehicle maintenance/Sheriff's office went solely off mileage on the sheriff's office vehicles in their records, and all vehicles listed will be replacements. Mr. Roper stated we are going to require the Sheriff's office to surrender a vehicle, in order to get a vehicle. Mr. Roper stated the vehicle will be surplus or sold on Gov. deals, unless we can find a better use for it somewhere else in the county. Mr. Roper stated he has spoken with the Sheriff and Chief Deputy about this, and he is going to encourage them to do more than this.
    - Council went into discussion on GPS trackers on Sheriff's office vehicles and County vehicles.
  - **Capital requests requested / approved in FY 2019 vs. FY 2020**
    - Mr. Guarino provided council with both forms of capital requests requested and approved in FY 2019 and FY 2020.
  - **Discussion on budgeting for additional ambulances**
  - **3% COLA adjustment for employees**
    - Councilman Whitehurst asked Mr. Guarino how much the 3% pay increase would be.
    - Mr. Guarino answered approximately \$250,000 per 1%.
    - Mr. Roper stated part of this rationale is for us to keep up with the market. He stated we are having trouble filling positions in the County and for us to fall behind is something we are

concerned about as staff. He stated 3% is the minimum number that will keep us on track. He stated we invested in the compensation plan a few years back and it had some issues, and we implemented as best we could. Mr. Roper stated for us not to keep up with it, it will cause us problems down the road.

- Chairman Costner and Councilman Whitehurst asked if we could change the budget to where the 3% has to be implemented by approval of Council first.
- Mr. Roper stated if you feel more comfortable, you can make a resolution stating this is our desire or you could amend the budget stating that is Council's desire stating it has to come back for a vote before implementation.

▪ **Discussion on public-private partnership / planning for coming out of this crisis and testing isolation policy**

- Chairman Costner stated he would like to explore as a county how to create a “test, trace, isolate” policy as we go into the fall. He stated what this means is possibly partnering with a company such as Prisma Health or AnMed, etc. He stated for example, if you test positive for COVID-19, we have to have the manpower to trace who you have been around and ask those people to isolate.
- Vice Chairman Bowers stated he feels we should have already been having these conversations amongst. He stated he thinks this is something where the conversation needs to be taking place right now. Vice Chairman Bowers stated the structure should be in place before we come out of this state of emergency to do exactly what Chairman Costner is talking about.
- Chairman Costner asked if we have a policy in place, if so, what does it look like and will it require additional funding as a part of this budget.
- Mr. Roper stated it is conversations we have been having. He stated when he presented the Kickstart Pickens County presentation earlier; there was conversation on testing being a component. He stated in terms of what it would cost, that is some data we will have to get to Council. He stated we will have more information at the next meeting.

- Seeing no other discussion, Chairman Costner asked for a motion to constitute second reading of Ordinance No. 583.
  - Motion was made by Councilman Carl Hudson, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

**FURTHER FY-2021 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

**ADJOURN:**

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

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Roy B. Costner, III, Chairman of County Council