

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

June 17, 2019

6:38 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium of the County Administration Facility, with Vice Chairman Chris Bowers presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to members of council and local news media on June 10th, 2019.

Council Members in Attendance:

Roy Costner, Chairman

Chris Bowers, Vice Chairman

Wes Hendricks, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Trey Whitehurst

Ensley Feemster

Carl Hudson

Staff in Attendance:

Gerald Wilson, County Administrator

Ken Roper, County Attorney

Lisa Bryant, Acting Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Roy Costner called the meeting of June 17, 2019 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Wes Hendricks led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Costner stated the Clerk to Council, Meagan Bradford, is out of town this week and Lisa Bryant will be acting clerk for this meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Roy Costner opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to call upon the citizens signed up to speak. The Clerk called on the following speaker:

1. David Porter: Mr. Porter stated he would like to address Council regarding Pickens Rural Fire District. He stated they have two-three stations within the Pickens Fire District, and one of them is currently manned in the day time, but vacant at night. He stated there is a request for some fees to make this station manned 24 hours/7 days a week. Mr. Porter stated one reason he would like to see this is because he lives a mile and a half from this station. He stated the other station in Pickens is six and a half miles away. He stated time is the essence, and he has nothing against rural fire stations, but when you have to wait for a volunteer to get there, you could be looking at 4-5 minutes for them to get to your home. He stated this station is currently unoccupied at night, and he would like to see the county fund this station to get this manned 24 hours a day. He stated he feels the funding is necessary and to help the people in Pickens Rural Fire District.
2. Allan Quinn: Mr. Quinn stated he is from Easley, and he brought his daughter, Heather and son, Zach, with him this evening. He stated he would like to address Council regarding Economic Development in Pickens County. He stated he has been talking to Council about Economic Development for over four years. Mr. Quinn stated the last deal brought into the county was wrong, which was American Waffle. He stated this economic development deal is wrong for Pickens County and there is much more to offer companies than an empty building. Mr. Quinn stated educational facilities, such as Clemson University, Tri-County Tech, Greenville Tech, North Greenville, Southern Wesleyan, High School Career Center, etc. He stated Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson and Oconee counties are far surpassing Pickens County and we aren't

even in the same ballpark. He stated we educate our kids in Pickens County to go to work in faraway places. He asked Council if they care about our citizens, their kids, and on down the line? Mr. Quinn stated he has approached this slowly with the new council because they make the ultimate decision on who is coming to Pickens County. He stated he has attended a retreat, and meetings, and he was assured by Council that good things were coming, but then this happened. He asked who could live on \$8.50 an hour. He stated this is not even poverty level wage. He stated there is too much at stake because this area is growing too fast, and if we let Greenville and other counties ship these kinds of jobs here, then our citizens will pay with increased deaths due to drug abuse, high suicide rates, and increased crimes. He stated you may have to add on to the new jail. Mr. Quinn stated you must create opportunity here now before it is too late, and though Council has told him good things were coming, he does not think they have the vision necessary to make that happen. He stated he will be going to social media now. Mr. Quinn stated he has talked to Council and Council assured him the county is doing the right thing, but he does not see it. He stated his time is up, but this will be continued.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to approve the following minutes as presented:

- June 3, 2019
- Chairman Roy Costner and Councilman Trey Whitehurst recused themselves from voting, since they were absent at the June 3, 2019 meeting.
 - Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, and seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson. Motion carried (4-0).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Gerald Wilson stated Ms. Angie Farmer, with Pickens County Behavioral Health Center, would like to address Council this evening and called Ms. Farmer up to the podium.

Ms. Farmer introduced herself, stating she is the Executive Director at the Behavioral Health Services. She stated several individuals have asked the Behavioral Health Services to be more public on who we are, our services, and what we do for our agency and for our county. She stated the Behavioral Health Services is a private, non-profit organization. Ms. Farmer stated they have been deemed one of the thirty four county authorities on substance abuse in the state of South Carolina. She stated they have been serving their community for over 45 years. She stated the Behavioral Health Services was established in 1973, with only three employees and located in a small block building on Highway 8. Ms. Farmer advised they currently have over 39 full time employees, and 6 contract employees. She stated the Behavioral Health's purpose is to provide affordable and assessable prevention, intervention, and treatment services to the residents in Pickens County. She stated they are governed by a nine member board, appointed by the county and some have been service since 1980. Ms. Farmer stated in FY 2019, Behavioral Health Services served over 2500 citizens, 772 of which were under the age of 18. She stated they specialize in substance abuse treatment, and behavioral health care. 60% of their clients fall in behavioral health care, and 40% fall in substance abuse treatment program. She stated they treat things like trauma, depression, anxiety, domestic violence, and other behavioral health issues. Ms. Farmer stated they have a very highly skilled staff, and most of their clinical staff is licensed by the state of South Carolina. She stated just to ease some confusion; she had some people concerned about this. She stated they are not a state agency, and not a county agency. She stated they are a 501-C3 private, non-profit organization. She stated they receive very little funding from the state, and most of the money they do get is through state grant dollars and excise tax. Ms. Farmer stated this accounts for 30% less of their budgetary needs. She stated the bulk of their funding comes from other grants and services, such as self-pay and insurance. She stated they operate their client fees on a slide-in scale fee, which means they base their services off income and the number of people in their household. She stated they do this to encourage and support people of all

income levels to receive the treatment and services they need. Ms. Farmer stated they are dedicated to their community since we have been in services for over 45 years and they hope to help people through their journey to recovery. Ms. Farmer shared some statistics to let Council know the significant drug problem that is in Pickens County. She stated in 2018, Pickens County was third in the State in adolescence suicide, third in the state for the opioid overdose deaths, and fourth in the state in amphetamine abuse (which is methamphetamine, and other amphetamines). She stated in the past year, they identified a 33% increase in methamphetamine admissions and also identified a 37% increase in intervenes drug use. Ms. Farmer stated she talked with Ms. Kandy Kelley and they are both very concerned with the opioid abuse in Pickens County. Ms. Farmer stated Pickens County continues to be top ranked in domestic violence in the state, and Pickens County is ranked 12th in the state for child abuse cases. She stated she just wanted to share some hope and concern. Ms. Farmer advised that people who suffer from substance abuse do not want to become addicted, but because of the biochemical reaction in their brain, they continue to go down this path. She stated it requires a true medical model of treatment. After more discussion, Ms. Farmer stated they love and respect their clients, and they want to offer them a place to change, a place to develop hope, and become better citizens for our community.

Sheriff Rick Clark stated he cannot say enough good things about Behavioral Health and what Ms. Farmer does on a daily basis. He stated they share clients a good bit, and he is there this evening is to discuss the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) Grant. He stated they are completing the application this week and it is due next week. Sheriff Clark explained this grant, stating the first eight months they will be working on their standards, procedures, building a system, and learning how to run a good system of mental and behavioral health. He stated they will follow up with them after they are released from jail. After more discussion, he stated they have to change the way we think about this in Pickens County. Sheriff Clark advised we cannot continue what we are doing and expect a different result.

Mr. Wilson stated per Tyler Merck, the Mile Creek Park Director, Mile Creek Park has brought in \$48,676 off rentals on the cabins alone. He stated its projections are \$116,000 above cost this year. He stated they are very busy at Mile Creek Park right now with a lot of things going on.

- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked how the kayaks are coming along.
- Mr. Wilson stated they are working on a study right now. He stated the county's engineer was at Mile Creek Park this past Saturday studying the entire traffic flow of the operation and looking at different locations to possibly put the kayak location.

Mr. Wilson asked Scott McClain, Pickens Rural Fire Chief, to please step to the podium to discuss the Pickens Rural Fire District.

Mr. McClain thanked Council for letting him speak. He stated right now, the Fox Squirrel Road Fire station is manned 50 hours per week, which is just during the day with part time individuals. He stated for whatever reason if the part time employees cannot work and they can't get the positions covered, then that station sits empty. Mr. McClain stated majority of the time, it is empty. He stated this is a concern because 75% of the time looking at this area when receiving calls, this station was empty. He stated they have had calls in the area recently, with property two/three blocks from that station, and a truck from that station never responded because no one was there. He stated the Pickens City Fire Dept. was first on the scene because they were closer to the scene than the county fire station on Concord Church Rd. He stated there is a need to man this station 24/7 and he would appreciate Council's support in making this happen. He stated he has spoken with Finance Director Ralph Guarino and the fire fees would go from \$140, to \$175 per year in Pickens district.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Chairman Roy Costner stated the Committee of the Whole took place before this council meeting at 5:30 p.m. The report is below:

Recreation Funding Requests – Log No. 88

District 4

Council District	Ref No.	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations
4	10	City of Liberty Recreation	\$ 5,000.00	<i>(Approved at 5/20/19 Committee of the Whole Meeting)</i>
4	10	City of Liberty Recreation	\$ 21,898.00	Roofing and flooring for gymnasium
4	10	City of Liberty Recreation	\$ 2,500.00	Up to 100 scholarships for \$25.00 a piece, for students who live outside of City of Liberty
4	10	City of Liberty Recreation	\$ 1,680.00	Hiring of teenagers to weed eat slopes
4	10	City of Liberty Recreation 501-C3 Booster Club	\$ 10,000.00	501-C3 Booster Club funding equipment
1 & 2	3	Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce	\$ 7,120.00	(Making up the difference in \$14,120. Feels it will benefit citizens in the Liberty area as well)
DISTRICT 4 TOTAL:			\$ 48,198.00	

- Chairman Costner made a motion to approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund for District 4, and to take this out of Committee to Council. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

District 5

Council District	Ref No.	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations
5	9	Pickens County YMCA (Easley)	\$ 2,750.00	<i>(Approved at 5/20/19 Committee of the Whole Meeting)</i>
5	14	City of Easley Parks & Rec	\$ 45,000.00	Scoreboard
DISTRICT 5 TOTAL:			\$ 47,750.00	

- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund for District 4, and to take this out of Committee to Council. Motion was seconded by Councilman Whitehurst and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council Action on Log No. 88: Chairman Costner stated since this comes as a recommendation from the Committee, it does not require a second. He asked for all those in favor to please signify by raising their hands. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

ATAX Recommendations – Log No. 126

Gerald Wilson stated Mr. Jay Pitts, Tourism Director, is here to discuss the ATAX Recommendations this evening as he has been working with the Chairman of the ATAX Committee.

- Mr. Pitts stated the ATAX Committee met twice; the first meeting was to review the applications and the second meeting was to go through each application to make recommendations for Council. He stated in addition, they advertised on social media, newspapers, and on the website to find the application during this process. He stated council has the committee recommendations in front of

them and asked if they had any questions. Mr. Pitts thoroughly discussed the ATAX Recommendations Report in detail, and answered the questions that council had.

- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to approve the ATAX Recommendations Report. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst. Chairman Costner asked if there was any discussion:
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst moved to amend Ref No. 10 for the Interactive Children’s Museum “Doodleville”, stating this reference number will be pending further review by Council and Staff. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
 - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers moved to amend Ref No. 13 for the Clemson Greater Musical Festival, stating he would like to recommend funding this project for \$3,000 (total amount of request).
 - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers moved to amend Ref No. 16 for the Central Railroad Festival, stating he would like to recommend funding this project for \$3,000 (total amount of request).
 - Lastly, Vice Chairman Chris Bowers moved to amend Ref No. 17 for the Easley Gymnastics Meets, stating he would like to recommend funding this project for \$4,000.
 - Motion for all of the above was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (6-0).
 - Seeing no other discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to make all funds for all organizations contingent until they disclose on their websites where the money came from, and if it is coming from ATAX funding, it must include a Pickens County logo. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council Action on Log No. 126: Chairman Costner stated since this comes as a recommendation from the Committee, it does not require a second. He asked for all those in favor to please signify by raising their hands. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Roy Costner announced the following:

- Chairman Roy Costner stated Pickens County Council will be taking a recess during the month of July. There will be no county council meetings, as of right now, during the month of July. Should council deviate this schedule, the public will be notified timely.
- Chairman Roy Costner stated the August council meeting will be on Monday, August 12, 2019 at 6:30 PM in this auditorium of the Administration Facility.
- Chairman Roy Costner stated the August Committee of the Whole meeting will be on Monday, August 19th, 2019 at 6:00 PM in the main conference room of the Administration Facility.

Chairman Roy Costner called for other council correspondence. Seeing no other correspondence, Chairman Roy Costner announced moving to Motion Period and New Business.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Roy Costner opened the floor for motion period.

- Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to add Employee Retention to the Consent Agenda on this evening’s agenda. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

Hearing no other items for Motion Period, Chairman Roy Costner closed the floor.
Chairman Roy Costner opened the floor for new business. Hearing no items for new business,
Chairman Roy Costner closed the floor.

ATAX RECOMMENDATIONS

Chairman Roy Costner stated ATAX Recommendations has been covered under the Committee Report, and moved forward to the next item on the agenda, Recreation Funding Recommendations.

RECREATION FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Chairman Roy Costner stated Recreation Funding Recommendations has been covered under the Committee Report, and moved forward to the next item on the agenda.

THIRD READING AN ORDINANCE NO. 570 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, 2018 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2019.

Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to constitute third reading of Ordinance 570. Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 569 TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES IN PICKENS COUNTY FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2019, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2020, AND TO DIRECT EXPENDITURE THEREOF.

Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to constitute third reading of Ordinance 569. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster. Chairman Costner asked if there was any discussion. The following amendments were made:

- I. Councilman Wes Hendricks made a motion to fund three firefighters at Pickens Fire Department at \$159,717, to be housed at the Fox Squirrel Road Fire Department, and to increase fire fees to \$175.00 and commercial properties by 10%. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).**

- II. Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to amend the budget to fund Upstate Alliance for \$58,500. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks. Chairman Roy Costner asked if there was any discussion.**
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated his feelings are well known for funding this, and he will be voting against this amendment.
 - Councilman Ensley Feemster stated he sees the benefits that we could have in our county, and it is like being a part of a fraternity, meaning if you don't join the fraternity, you don't get invited to the dances.
 - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated he feels with funding this; we do need to continue to ensure we are utilizing the resources available through Upstate Alliance. He stated not only have a membership, but that the county is actually utilizing the membership and taking advantage of all benefits.
 - Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he feels Pickens County is on a roll with bringing businesses in. He stated they try to find employment for all citizens in Pickens County regardless of the level of education. He stated not everyone has a college degree, and we need to make sure they have employment opportunities as well.

- Seeing no other discussion, motion carried (4-2), with Councilman Trey Whitehurst and Councilman Carl Hudson opposed.

III. Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to amend the budget to increase funding for Pickens Soil and Water Conservation by \$20,000. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster. Chairman Roy Costner asked if there was any other discussion.

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked how we would take this out of reserves.
- Administrator Gerald Wilson stated according to the policy, if it is a one-time cost, it does qualify under reserve funding. He stated if this was a reoccurring funding, then it could not be taken out of reserves.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated we cannot help fund operational costs one year, then turn around and not fund the next year. It will be setting them up for failure.
- Chairman Costner stated he agrees, but he feels they are set up for failure right now. He stated if we do not start helping then they will have to find ways to operate. He stated right now, they cannot do all they need to do to operate the dams now.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked if there are any other opportunities such as grants, etc. to help them other than just giving them \$20,000 since we are not guaranteed to give it to them next year.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if there was any way they could help with some of the inspections the county has to do, such as storm water. He stated he understands their need, but the Council needs to understand this cannot be a one-time deal. Councilman Whitehurst asked if there was another way to look at this more in depth, and meet with the Pickens Soil and Water Conservation to discuss ideas.
- After more discussion between Council, Chairman Costner decided to take back his motion and asked staff to research more information regarding grants and funding Pickens Soil and Water.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to commit this budget amendment to the Committee of the Whole. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

IV. Councilman Carl Hudson made a motion to amend the budget to fund a Sex Offender position at the Sheriff's Office for \$42,861. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (6-0).

Administrator Gerald Wilson asked Ms. Kim Valentin, with Meals on Wheels, to please step to the podium to address Council on the Meals on Wheels request.

- Ms. Valentin stated addressed Council regarding Meals on Wheels. She stated they are in desperate need of funding for one route for Meals on Wheels. She stated the request is for \$15,000. Ms. Valentin stated they currently have a waiting list of 95 people who are waiting to have home delivered meals to them. She stated they are calling every day and it is very heartbreaking to see. She advised not only do they provide a hot meal to these people, but it is a safety check for them as well. She stated the Meals on Wheels delivery employees/volunteers stop in, talk to them, and give them a little socialization. She stated this need is very important to their organization. Ms. Valentin stated they are thankful for the support County Council has given them in the past.

Administrator Gerald Wilson asked Mr. Pat Welborn, Clerk of Court, to please step to the podium to address Council on the Clerk of Court's office request.

- Mr. Welborn thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. Mr. Welborn stated the current juror fees is \$12 per day, no mileage. He stated the magistrate jurors are paid more, since they do receive the mileage check. Mr. Welborn stated they have done some research on this, and the average mileage and pay for a juror per day is average \$23.00 per person. Mr. Welborn suggested going to a \$25 flat

fee, with no mileage, for the jurors. He stated this is something they have asked for quite a few years. Mr. Welborn advised council they are going through a change for state wide child support system and there are a lot of employees in training. He stated you may get some complaints of them not answering phone calls timely, but this is a very difficult summer for their office. He stated he appreciates Council's support.

- **After more discussion, Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to commit the Juror Fees for the Clerk of Court's Office to the Committee of the Whole log. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (6-0).**

Chairman Roy Costner stated he would like to discuss the amendment to fund Hagood Mill at \$134,000. Chairman Costner stated it is his understanding that the Memorandum of Understanding for Hagood Mill has been written and is in place.

- Attorney Ken Roper stated at the Council meeting on 6/3/19, Council instructed Mr. Roper to enter in negotiations with the Hagood Mill Foundation about what a contract would look like for them to take over the operations. Mr. Roper stated they have been through several rounds of revisions to that document, and he has the document with him this evening. He stated the total amount the county would give the Hagood Mill Foundation would be \$134,000. He stated under the agreement of the contract, the Hagood Mill Foundation would then be responsible for day to day operations of the facility, including employees, maintenance, utilities, etc. He stated they will also be responsible for raising other funds. Mr. Roper stated he spoke with Davey Hiott the other evening, and the Foundation has been successful with raising funds already. He stated the contract requires the Foundation to report to Council quarterly on their progress, or more often if the Council requests this in writing. He stated there will be an annual review process where they have to present audited records and Council will have to determine as part of the Budget recommendations each year if they are meeting their expectations.

V. Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to amend the budget to fund Hagood Mill at \$134,000. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster. Chairman Costner asked if there was any discussion.

- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked where the \$134,000 will be coming from.
- Administrator Gerald Wilson stated there is money for \$104,000 for Hagood Mill in the general fund, \$3,500 in the general fund for maintenance at Hagood Mill, \$6,000 in tourism funds and some money for the 30% money allocated to third Saturday events at the Mill. Mr. Wilson stated this is a good opportunity for the county and public. He stated he feels this benefits the community and meets the county's vision. He stated they have agreed they will continue the same operation, the same events plus more, and do it more cost effectively. He stated this is in the best interest of Pickens County, the public, and the Foundation.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers clarified we are not talking about a tax increase to fund the Mill; these are all things we have already accounted for.
- Administrator Gerald Wilson stated that is correct. He asked Council to keep in mind, if Council does not enter in this MOU, they have to come back to talk about additional funding that we would need to run the Mill.
- Chairman Costner stated the goal of the county is not to be in the tourism business and not to be in the IPSUM Technology business, but creating these private-public partnerships where we have people who are passionate and love what they do. He said this gives us an opportunity to maintain the integrity of the history, culture, etc.
- After more discussion, Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he would like to discuss this contract in executive session before making any decision.
 - Seeing no other discussion, the motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Roy Costner stated he would also like to discuss the amendment to fund \$100,000 to the Performing Arts Center for new auditorium seats.

- Administrator Gerald Wilson stated there are currently two options for new seating in the auditorium. The first option is to buy new seats, and the second option is to buy the seats Mr. David Hosea is offering to sell to the County.
- Tourism Director Jay Pitts stated they talked to Mr. Hosea this morning and asked him to send a letter regarding the seats. Mr. Pitts read the letter from Mr. Hosea as follows:
 - “As we have discussed, I have between 1800 and 2000 Cincinnati Symphony Seats that I removed three (3) summers ago... The symphony had these seats reworked and reinstalled. Soon afterwards, they received a grant to totally re-do the concert hall. My company was the demo crew and I removed them. My deal is as follows: You must come to Danville, Kentucky to inspect them, I will skid up all seats and deliver them to your location, and you will be responsible for the unloading of the seats. My price of \$42,000.00 does not include the installation. The seats you do not use can be resold for \$50-\$75 each. Please stay in touch; I will need a quick response as we do have other offers pending.”
- Mr. Pitts stated they have been consulting with a contractor to see what the cost would be to install new seats. He stated this is what the numbers would be:

Purchase of Seats from Mr. Hosea	\$42,000
Removal of Old Seats	\$12,894
Snap and patch floor anchors	\$4,605
Install refurbished seats	\$21,643
Repair floor	\$30,000
TOTAL	\$106,142

- Mr. Pitts stated the concerns are making the seats fit the room, the floor slope needs to be the same, the seats match up to the sight line of stage, finding parts for repairing seats, and the seats are not under warranty. After more discussion, Mr. Pitts stated the consultant they have been in touch with said they could get brand new seats for around \$125,000. He stated the Foundation Board would fund \$25,000 and they are looking for \$100,000.
- After more discussion, Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if we should put a seat tax on the ticket sales to help raise money.
- Chairman Roy Costner stated he thought about that, but he feels the Foundation Board should be able to make that decision.
- Mr. Pitts stated he feels this investment will help promote and have citizens come to the events offered at the PAC. He stated there have been many complaints on how uncomfortable the seats are now.

- VI. Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to amend the budget to fund \$100,000 to be used for seats at Pickens County Performing Arts Center, and the Foundation Board will raise any other additional monies needed. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).**

Chairman Roy Costner asked if there is any other discussion on the amendments for Council to consider for the FY 2020 budget year.

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

THIRD READING AN ORDINANCE NO. 571 AMENDING THE UNIFORM ORDINANCE FOR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS (AS PREVIOUSLY ENACTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 404, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 405) TO ABOLISH THE GOVERNING BOARDS FOR EACH OF THE FIRE SERVICE DISTRICTS AND TO PROVIDE THAT EACH OF THE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS SHALL BE OPERATED AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF PICKENS COUNTY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to constitute the third reading of Ordinance 571. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, and seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson.

- Chairman Roy Costner stated all this ordinance does is putting everything into one emergency services board. He stated this takes away all fire districts boards and putting it into one board. He stated at the last Committee of the Whole meeting, all fire chiefs were on board with this plan. He stated this does not affect the funding.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated the Emergency Services Advisory Board is made up members throughout all communities in this County.
 - Seeing no other discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a):

Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to convene into Executive Session as defined by S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a). Chairman Costner further stated that each issue would be discussed as the Law provides.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (6-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a five minute recess.

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- Organizational Structure

Contractual – Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)

- Memorandum of Understanding

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

- Board and Commission Vacancies (93):
 - a) Accommodations Tax (ATAX)
 - b) Alcohol and Drug/Behavioral Health
 - c) Assessment and Appeals
 - d) Beautification Committee
 - e) Construction Board of Appeals
 - f) Cultural Commission
 - g) Easley Central Water
 - h) Economic Development Alliance
 - i) Emergency Services Advisory Board
 - j) Library Board of Directors

- k) Pickens, Oconee, Anderson Mental Health
- l) Planning Commission
- m) Public Service Commission
- n) Sedgewood Tax District
- o) Six Mile Rural Water
- p) Southside Rural Water
- q) Water Authority
- r) WORKLINK
- s) Tourism Board
- t) Zoning and Appeals
- u) *Hagood Mill Non-Profit Corporation Board
- v) *Pickens County Museum Non-Profit Corporation Board
- w) *Pickens County Performing Arts Center Non-Profit Corporation Board

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

Chairman Roy Costner called the Public Session back to Order and advised the following:

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- **Organizational Structure – Action as follows:**
 - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to execute an employee contract with a third party review to appoint Ken Roper as Acting Administrator. Motion was seconded Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

Contractual – Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)

- **Memorandum of Understanding – Action as follows:**
 - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to accept the Memorandum of Understanding as presented for Hagood Mill. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (6-0).

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 (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

Roy Costner, Chairman of County Council