

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

June 3, 2019

6:30 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 May 28th, 2019.

Council Members in Attendance:

Chris Bowers, Vice Chairman

Wes Hendricks, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Ensley Feemster

Carl Hudson

Roy Costner, Chairman (absent)

Trey Whitehurst (absent)

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Attorney

Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers called the meeting of June 3, 2019 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Wes Hendricks led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Southern Wesleyan University Student Zach Wheeler sang the National Anthem.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers 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. Pam Threatt: Ms. Threatt stated she is speaking regarding Quail Haven subdivision. She stated an ordinance was passed by Pickens County Council on 06/21/2010, which is ordinance 435, section 38.91. She stated as the three survivors of the estate of Thomas C. Threatt, we are here today to hopefully resolve the ordinance passed that effects Quail Haven Lagoon. Ms. Threatt stated since all companies have been dissolved, they have put Quail Haven Lagoon in its own LLC Company, which is now known as QH Lagoon, LLC. She stated the residents of Quail Haven Subdivision received free sewer from 1972 until 2013. She stated they received help from Powdersville Water Company, who agreed to collect funds for them with a percentage going to them for handling fees. She stated the residents pay \$35.00 to the water company, and there are 137 residents living there. She stated if they do not pay within 30 or 60 days, their water will be cut off and the county will condemn their homes. Ms. Threatt stated all three survivors are getting on in age and need to get this resolved. She stated they cannot do anything with this ordinance until it is has been resolved.
2. Dan Trammel: Attorney Dan Trammel stated he would like to piggyback off of what Ms. Threatt stated. He stated due to corporate circumstances, the Threatt's inherited a waste water treatment system. He stated they are not qualified to operate it and they would like to transfer it to a knowledgeable company who is qualified, and is capable of doing it. Mr. Trammel stated Ordinance 435 makes this impracticable for them to do so. The ordinance requires them to put up 25% of the replacement costs of the entire system before they can transfer it. He stated the Threatt's are willing to update the system before it transfers. Mr. Trammel stated they are regulated with the Public Service Commission and all regulating utilities are controlled by the SC

Public Service Commission. After more discussion, he stated as part of the state regulations, all of these companies have to have a performance bond on file with the state. Mr. Trammel thanked Council for their time.

3. Allan Quinn: Mr. Quinn thanked Council for allowing him to speak. He stated he is from Easley, and he has been ringing the alarm bell about Economic Development in Pickens County for 4 years. Mr. Quinn stated he ran against Larry Martin in 2016 and Neal Collins in 2018, hoping to win a seat in Columbia so he could help the county from that end. He stated this has not been done in the past and are still not helping. 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 are 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 not come before county Council since most have been elected, except to address Council at the Committee of the Whole where they let him talk about their problem for 15 minutes. Mr. Quinn stated since then, he has attended council meetings, and a retreat, hoping to catch a glimpse of what they were doing for economic development. He stated he was assured by Council that good things were coming, but he was fooled. He stated the honeymoon is over. Mr. Quinn stated he has a vision for Pickens County and apparently Council does not have the same vision he does, so he is going to do what he can to inform the public on what is happening. 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 believes too much faith is put into one person that is responsible for Economic Development in Pickens County, and that needs to change dramatically. Mr. Quinn presented Council with a handout on American Waffle, and stated you can see that almost, if not all jobs, are going to be in the low range of \$8.23 - \$11.82 per hour. Mr. Quinn stated these jobs are a magnet for illegals and others. He stated this is not good for our kids and families.
4. Kade Herrick: Mr. Herrick presented council with a handout and stated he would like to update Council on the rowing season for this year. He stated they were shy of 1400 athletes and an estimated over 4,200 room nights rented in Clemson. He stated the estimated economic impact was over \$2.5 million dollars. The next thing Mr. Herrick updated Council on was the America's Youth Cup. He stated this is the second year they have done the event and had over 1800 athletes compete. He stated they were only in town for one night since this is a one day event. The estimated economic impact was just shy of \$600,000. On the last page of the handout, Mr. Herrick stated this is just showing the progress the tourism department has had from 2014 to 2019. He stated in 2014, the spring break rowing had 715 participants, and in 2019, they had close to 1400 participants. Mr. Herrick stated they worked with the City of Easley last week to co-host the National Christian College Athletic Association Baseball World Series. He stated there were 10 teams in town and most of the teams were in town throughout the week. He stated he does not have the economic impact numbers from that yet, but they are expecting that to be a half million dollars as well. Mr. Herrick stated they have the Clemson Fest coming up on July 3rd, and the Hells Angels will be coming to Clemson July 29th – August 2nd. He stated they are expecting 700-800 people and they have done their due diligence, as well as the Sheriff's office

and police department. After more discussion, Mr. Herrick stated they have been in touch with other towns who have hosted the Hells Angels and they left the town cleaner than how it was when they arrived. He stated they were respectful and that's the feedback they received from the other locations. He thanked Council for their support.

5. Butch Womack: Mr. Womack stated he is coming to Council from the City of Easley to thank Council. He stated Michael Clark has really helped out in the demolition of some homes around the Easley area and it has worked out good to where Easley is able to redevelop those areas to bring them back alive again. He stated this will hopefully bring in better tax money than before. He stated the partnership has been great and he wanted to publicly thank Council for this.
6. Steve Haynie: Mr. Haynie stated he would like to discuss American Waffle. He stated he does understand that whenever a company does a certain amount of business, they get to ask for a fee in lieu tax deal. He stated the amount of money the County gave American Waffle is not that much when talking about government, but it is still tax payers' dollars. He stated 75% of these jobs that they will provide are going to be low paying jobs. He stated this county is obligated to give Tri-County Technical College a certain amount of money, plus the new council when they took over gave them money that the county was not, by law, committed to giving them. He stated they overspent, and the county gave \$6,000,000. He stated there needs to be a return on this money. He stated if TCTC is there to train people to get high-paying jobs, then \$8.50-\$11 an hour jobs are not something they are getting trained for. He asked where the value is for the tax payer for the money the county has given TCTC, if we are bringing in jobs that don't require TCTC training. He stated this also goes for graduates from Clemson University and Southern Wesleyan, who is graduating with MBA's, etc. He stated there is not a big office park in Pickens County, where as towns near Atlanta, there are sky scraper buildings being built because the surrounding counties are picking up on the business. He stated Pickens County needs to do the same thing. Mr. Haynie advised if the county is going to give money to TCTC to train people, then the county should be bringing in jobs that require that kind of training. He stated otherwise, the money the county is spending is training people to get jobs outside the county. He stated the county and the school district are dependent upon growth projections. He stated you cannot build a house at \$8.50 an hour. Mr. Haynie closed stating the counties with higher paying jobs are benefiting, and what is Pickens County getting for its money.
7. Rick Spencer: Mr. Spencer stated the fire fees seem to range in this county from \$50.00 to \$1,000 for buildings. He stated he has watched fire fees double in some areas these past couple of years. Mr. Spencer stated they are seeing cities that used to take care of their fire service that no longer do and people are paying both the city taxes and fire fees. He stated there are properties sitting vacant that used to be commercial properties, and they have the commercial fire fee. He stated he is familiar with a building that has no a/c or heat, and the fire fee is \$300 a year, when the building down the street does not pay a fire fee and it's more likely to burn. He stated there does not seem to be any way to get those fire fees changed. He stated the way this is set up in this county is a mess. He stated he doesn't see how it has gotten this bad to where you have fire fees in range that much, especially with the commercial buildings. He stated just outside the City of Easley, fire fees are \$1,000 for a normal size business and it does not matter if the business is in operation or not. Mr. Spencer stated he would like to see this straightened out.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

- May 13, 2019
- May 20, 2019 Budget Work Session
- May 23, 2019 Special-Called Meeting (Alliance Pickens)

- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, and seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson. Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked if there was any discussion.
 - Councilman Ensley Feemster moved to amend the May 13, 2019 minutes, stating he would like to include his scripture and prayer during invocation in the minutes for this meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (4-0).
- Seeing no other discussion, motion carried unanimously (4-0).

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated Mr. Gerald Wilson is on vacation this week, and Mr. Ken Roper will be giving the Administrators Report this evening.

Mr. Ken Roper gave a presentation to Council on the new Pickens County Detention Center. Mr. Roper went on a tour in the new jail last Friday, and presented council with photos inside the new jail. Some of the main points Mr. Roper went over with the new jail is that is on time, within budget, and it is safer for inmates, staff and citizens.

Mr. Roper asked Randy Bowers to please step to the podium to give an update on the Community Paramedic (COPE) Program.

- Mr. Bowers thanked Council for letting him speak this evening. He stated when he asked to be included on the agenda this evening, he thought he was going to come before Council stating the COPE Program ran out of funding, however, they knew they had funding through April 30 and new funding starting in October. He stated they were worried about the summer. He stated DHEC extended the gap period. Mr. Bowers stated they have visited 35 people who have received narcans in the months of March and April. He stated they have received half of their referrals from Pickens County EMS and also have received referrals from Clemson University Police Department, City of Clemson Police Department, City of Easley Police Department, Pickens County Sheriff’s Department and Greenville County Sheriff’s Department. He stated they also did one visit in West Union, which is in Oconee County. Mr. Bowers advised while they call it the Pickens County COPE Program, if someone lives just outside Pickens County and was treated by Pickens County EMS, they still go to them. He stated they have had great success and Michael Crouch always texts him every Thursday asking what they have for tomorrow. He stated it is a great partnership and they are hoping to expand even more. He stated they are working on a project to help with the publicity and Channel 4 has reached out to Mr. Bowers asking for an update on the COPE Program. He thanked Council for everything and stated he appreciates the Pickens County Staff, EMS Director, and the paramedics for all they do.

Mr. Roper stated he would like to address the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 571, which is on the agenda for this evening. He stated he would like to reassure the public on some things with this ordinance. The Public Hearing will take place this evening, but the Third Reading will be taking place on Monday, June 17th at the council meeting. Mr. Roper advised the following:

- This approach was recommended by the Emergency Services Board.
- The primary change in the ordinance will be eliminating the individual district fire boards. He stated many of these boards do not have quorums and are not needed.

- This ordinance is drafted by Pope Flynn, law firm used in these circumstances. He stated the reason they chose Pope Flynn to draft this ordinance is because they wrote the original fire board ordinance several years ago. Mr. Roper stated there are bond attorneys that have to verify everything in the ordinance is legal when we look to issue bonds for future capital purchases.
- This ordinance maintains current district identities, current district lines, and current fees and/or millage structure.

Mr. Roper asked during the Motion Period if council would consider adding a Contractual Issue regarding Planning Department to Executive Session this evening.

Mr. Roper asked Council if they had any questions for him.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT:

The Committee of the Whole met in the Main Conference Room, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 6:00 PM. All members of the committee were in attendance, with Chairman Roy Costner presiding.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Roy Costner called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order. Councilman Ensley Feemster led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Chairman Roy Costner stated we will begin with *Log No. 121* – Reassessment Process.

Reassessment Process – Log No. 121

- Mr. David Day, Tax Assessor, presented to Council a presentation on the Reassessment Process. Please see link below to view the presentation:
 - <https://www.co.pickens.sc.us/fileUploads/agendas/2019ReassessmentProgram.pdf>
 - Mr. David Day had detailed discussion to include, but not limited to: Pickens County Reassessment History, the 2019 Assessment Notices, Key Reassessment dates, account types, real property-taxable assessed value increase by district from 2018 to 2019, the appraisal process, valuation approaches, Pickens County Reassessment Appeal History, statutory appeal timelines, the appeal method, discussion on 15% Cap Law, millage rate, property tax equation, rollback millage rate, County Board of Assessment and Appeals (CBOAA), etc.
 - Administrator Gerald Wilson stated if Council or the public had any questions regarding the Reassessment Process, to please let staff know and they will get with Mr. Day to get the questions answered and back to everyone in a timely matter.
- ❖ No action taken by Committee.

Council Action on Log No. 121 – No Action Taken By Committee

Speed Bump Ordinance – Log No. 117

- Mr. Wilson stated in years past, Council wanted to bring all speed bump requests back before council before installing any type of speed bumps. He stated our County Engineer, Clay Baldwin, and our Roads and Bridges Director, Michael Clark, are present this evening and have a proposed ordinance for speed bumps for council to look at and consider.
- Chairman Roy Costner asked if we currently only have a policy on speed bumps, and no ordinance.
- Administrator Wilson stated that's correct, staff was told in years past that if we install speed bumps in the county, we would have to come back Council and get guidance before installing.

- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if the county has ever installed roman strips.
 - Administrator Wilson stated yes, the county just installed the roman strips on Senora Drive a couple weeks ago.
 - After more discussion, Chairman Costner asked Councilman Trey Whitehurst if he knew what the reasoning was for Council not having an ordinance on speed bumps in the past.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated no, he feels this is a tricky subject you run into. He stated there are places where it has been appropriate for people to slow down but you have to be very careful about it. He stated different people come in to make the comments and you can figure out if it is just a dispute in the neighborhood or not.
 - Administrator Wilson stated staff is seeking guidance from council on how to move forward with this policy. He stated there are three neighborhoods requesting speed bumps.
 - Councilman Wes Hendricks asked who is liable if someone tears their car up on the speed bump the county installed.
 - Administrator Wilson stated we do have liability on situations that occur. He deferred to Michael Hayes, Risk Manager.
 - Mr. Hayes stated it goes in the same category as a pothole on the road. He stated the county gets so much time to be notified on a pothole before being liable. He stated we would know about the speed bump because we would install them, so we have no way of getting out of that. He stated if a highway patrolman instigates the accident and says they are speeding, we would have facts, but we are still liable for the road condition.
 - After much more discussion, Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked Mr. Baldwin to explain the question regarding #6 on the proposed ordinance, which was “No traffic study has been performed in the last 2 years.”
 - Mr. Baldwin stated if you go to section D on this proposed ordinance, it will state that if the minimum qualifications 1-8 are met, the engineering department will conduct a traffic study to determine if minimum qualification 9 is met. He stated this is just doing a process of going out to collect all traffic data to see if speed bumps are warranted.
 - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated this is saying if you don’t have a traffic study, and you meet all the qualifications, then we will do a traffic study for you.
 - Mr. Baldwin stated that is correct.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to take this out of Committee to constitute the 1st Reading of this Ordinance, then return to Committee for further review. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council Action on Log No. 117 – Vice Chairman Bowers title as followed:

FIRST READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR THE INSTALLATION AND OPERATIONS OF SPEED BUMPS WITHIN PICKENS COUNTY.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated no second is required because this comes a recommendation from the committee. He asked for all those in favor to please signify by raising your hands. Motion carried (4-0).

Recreation Funding Requests – Log No. 88

- The Committee reviewed the recommendations for recreation funding provided by the Recreation Funding Advisory Board. Robert Furr, of the Advisory Board, was present to answer any questions.
- Administrator Gerald Wilson reviewed the available Recreation Funding Budget with each district for this Fiscal Year up until June 30, 2019. He stated there will be another \$50,000 deposited to each District on July 1st, 2019, if Council decides to leave the budget the same.

Council District	Available Budget	
1	\$	50,000.00
2	\$	34,807.32

3	\$	119,415.24
4	\$	66,591.61
5	\$	54,087.00
6	\$	61,250.88

- Councilman Ensley Feemster recommends approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund account for District 1.

Council District	Ref No.	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations
1	1	City of Clemson Parks & Recreation Department	\$ 40,000.00	
1	2	Clemson Aquatic Team	\$ 3,000.00	
1	3	Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce	\$ 7,000.00	
DISTRICT 1 TOTAL:			\$ 50,000.00	

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst recommends approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund account for District 2.

Council District	Ref No.	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations
2	4	Town of Central Parks & Rec	\$ 17,640.00	
2	5	Town of Norris	\$ 3,000.00	
2	6	Town of Six Mile	\$ 21,941.00	
DISTRICT 2 TOTAL:			\$ 42,581.00	

- Councilman Wes Hendricks recommends approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund for District 3.

Council District	Ref No.	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations
3	7	City of Pickens	\$ 57,000.00	
3	8	Hagood Mill Historic Site & Folklife Center	\$ 7,200.00	
3	9	Pickens County YMCA (Pickens)	\$ 2,750.00	
DISTRICT 3 TOTAL:			\$ 66,950.00	

- Chairman Roy Costner requested more information from the City of Liberty Recreation Department before approving any other disbursements from the recreation fund for District 4.

Council District	Ref No.	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations
4	10	City of Liberty	\$ 5,000.00	
DISTRICT 4 TOTAL:			\$ 5,000.00	

- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers recommends approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund for District 5. He requested more information from the City of Easley Parks and Rec before approving any disbursement.

Council District	Ref No.	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations
5	9	Pickens County YMCA (Easley)	\$ 2,750.00	
5	14	City of Easley Parks & Rec	\$ 0	
DISTRICT 5 TOTAL:			\$ 2,750.00	

- Councilman Carl Hudson recommends approving the following disbursements from the recreation fund for District 6.

Council District	Ref No.	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations
6	11	Dacusville Recreation	\$ 23,006.85	
6	12	Dacusville Community Club	\$ 4,302.00	
6	13	Dacusville Recreation (2 nd Request)	\$ 4,118.00	
DISTRICT 6 TOTAL:			\$ 31,426.85	

- Vice Chairman made a motion to approve the recommended disbursements as identified. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council Action on Log No. 88- The committee recommended to approve the following disbursements as identified:

Council District	Disbursements
1	\$ 50,000.00
2	\$ 42,581.00
3	\$ 66,950.00
4	\$ 5,000.00
5	\$ 2,750.00
6	\$ 31,426.85

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated no second is required because this comes a recommendation from the committee. I would ask for all those in favor to please signify by raising your hands. Motion carried (4-0).

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated some council members are waiting on additional information before approving more funding. Recreation Funding Requests will be discussed at the next COW meeting on Monday, June 17th at 5:30 PM.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0). The Budget Work Session followed this meeting.

ADHOC INSURANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated an adhoc insurance committee was held on Tuesday, May 28th. The adhoc Insurance Committee report is as followed:

The Adhoc Insurance Committee met at 10:00 am on May 28, 2019 in the Administration Conference Room at the County Administration Building.

The committee met to review the proposals submitted to Pickens County for brokerage and consulting services from firms or brokers to act as the County's Broker of Record for its group health, dental, life and ancillary coverage, including property, liability, workers compensation and other risk management issues.

A discussion was held that we may need to continue with the broker we currently have for property, liability, and worker's compensation due to the time crunch. Annual renewal for those services is July 1, 2019.

The renewal date for our group health insurances (including dental, life, STD/LTD and other health/wellness insurances) is January 1, 2020. However, it was discussed that we need to make a decision on this by a targeted date of July 1, 2019, as the renewal preparations must be completed so that decisions can be made and materials printed in time for employee Open Enrolment meetings to occur in November 2019.

We continued the meeting by discussing the proposals received for the health insurances. We received proposals from Marsh & McLellan, NFP, McGriff Insurance Services, ECM Solutions, and Gallagher. An extensive discussion about becoming Self-Insured took place.

During the process of reviewing the RFPs and further discussions, the Committee determined that a self-insured option was more central to the County's needs and therefore likely in the County's best interest.

In reviewing the specifications of the RFP, it is clearly stated that "Pickens County reserves the right at any time and for any reason to cancel this Request for Proposals or any portion thereof, to reject any or all proposals or to accept an alternate proposal."

In light of the fact that the Request for Proposals was more directly related to a fully insured program, the committee determined that it may be in the County's best interest to cancel this RFP and move forward with a self-insured option.

It was determined that this would be presented to Council with the committee's recommendation. Committee meeting was adjourned.

Council Action – The Committee recommends it may be in the County's best interest to cancel this RFP and move forward with a self-insured option.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated no second is required because this comes a recommendation from the committee. Vice Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion.

- Councilman Hudson asked how many RFP's were submitted to the committee.
- Vice Chairman Bowers stated they received six RFP's total.
- Councilman Hudson asked how many were interviewed.
- Vice Chairman Bowers stated the committee did not interview any of those RFP's at the meeting on May 28th.
- Councilman Hudson asked if there was any evidence that those RFP's could meet those needs.

- Vice Chairman Bowers stated he feels he cannot answer that question since there was no interview done. He stated this was a very vague RFP that did not ask for a lot of specifics. He stated majority were resume style RFP's because we were not very clear on what we were looking for at the time, so he cannot answer that question.
 - Councilman Wes Hendricks made a motion to recommit this to be investigated further. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (4-0).

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers announced the following:

- Vice Chairman Bowers stated the next Committee of the Whole meeting will be on Monday, June 17th at 5:30 PM in the auditorium of the Administration Facility.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated immediately following the Committee of the Whole meeting, there will be a regular council meeting on Monday, June 17th at 6:30 PM in the auditorium of the Administration Facility.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers 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.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers called for other council correspondence. Seeing no other correspondence, Vice Chairman Chris Bowers announced moving to Motion Period and New Business.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers opened the floor for motion period.

- Vice Chairman Bowers made a motion to add Contractual – Planning Department to Executive Session on this evening's agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (4-0).

Hearing no other items for Motion Period, Vice Chairman Chris Bowers closed the floor.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers opened the floor for new business. Hearing no items for new business, Vice Chairman Chris Bowers closed the floor.

PUBLIC HEARING OF 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.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers opened the public hearing for comments regarding Ordinance No. 570. Seeing none, Vice Chairman Chris Bowers closed the public hearing.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated third reading will take place at the next council meeting on Monday, June 17th at 6:30 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING 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.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers opened the public hearing for comments regarding Ordinance No. 569. Seeing none, Vice Chairman Chris Bowers closed the public hearing.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated third reading will take place at the next council meeting on Monday, June 17th at 6:30 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING OF 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.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers opened the public hearing for comments regarding Ordinance No. 571. The Vice Chairman called on the following speakers to speak:

1. Harry Carson: Mr. Carson thanked Council for allowing him to speak. He stated he is against the county taking over the rural fire departments. He stated he found it interesting last month when they were talking to the finance director about which budgets are in the red, and which are in the black. He stated one of the departments ran by the county was in the red. He asked what happened to putting this decision on a ballot and letting the citizens decide what they wanted to do. He stated the reason the fire boards are in operative is because county council has not done their job and appointed members to the boards. He stated this is a sad day for all the people who are coming up on their last years who have worked hard to make these rural departments the good departments they are today.
2. Priscilla Wallace: Ms. Wallace stated she is in the Keowee Springs Fire District and serves as a member on that fire board, but she is not there to represent the board. She stated the board has written a letter to Councilman Whitehurst outlining the concerns they have with the ordinance. Ms. Wallace stated the main two points of concern she has are the lack of change in taxation rate (fire district fees vs. millage). She stated they are concerned given how high their millage rates are in general that they will not have adequate representation on this new combined board. She stated the second area of concern is the way the ordinance is written. She stated their impression of this was the county has the ability to remove assets determined on the needs. She stated they feel they should have some representation in that kind of decision. She stated they are alarmed the way the ordinance reads. She stated all the boards will be dissolved immediately and there is no transition period for a new body to take effect. Ms. Wallace stated they have not heard anything about the new structure, and when people will be appointed. She stated she wanted to address council as you can still consider how to go about the combination of fire districts.
3. Michael Williams: Mr. Williams stated he is in the Dacusville District. He asked if the county contributed towards the firehouse that was built in Dacusville. He stated if they did not contribute to it, and the people in the Dacusville community did, then he does not understand how they can just take it over. He stated he believes to not put politics into anything.

Seeing no other comment, Vice Chairman Chris Bowers closed the public hearing.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated third reading will take place at the next council meeting on Monday, June 17th at 6:30 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 568 TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS 1976, SECTION 4-1-170 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH OCONEE COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAX; AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers opened the public hearing for comments regarding Ordinance No. 568. Seeing none, Vice Chairman Bowers closed the Public Hearing.

- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked for a motion to constitute third reading of Ordinance 568. Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (4-0).

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) ATAX Committee Recommendations to June 17th Committee of the Whole Meeting–
Committee of the Whole
- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried (4-0) to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

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

- Motion was made by Councilman Carl Hudson, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (4-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a five minute recess.

Contractual Issues – Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)

- Memorandum of Understanding
- Emergency Management
- Economic Development
- Planning Department (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*)

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers called the Public Session back to Order and advised the following:

Contractual Issues – Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)

- Memorandum of Understanding – **No Action Taken**

- Emergency Management – Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked for a motion to allocate \$16,000.00 of existing funds to Emergency Management for a feasibility study. Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (4-0).
- Economic Development – **No Action Taken**
- Planning Department – Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked for a motion to allocate \$25,000.00 of existing funds on a contractual issue for the Planning Department. Motion was made by Councilman Carl Hudson, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (4-0).

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Vice Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (4-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

Chris Bowers, Vice Chairman of County Council