

- o Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and motion carried unanimously (6-0).

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Tornado’s from April 13, 2020

Mr. Roper presented Council with two maps, while one of them showed the track of the three tornados from April 13, 2020. Mr. Roper stated this is based on data given to the Emergency Management department, which was then given to Pickens County GIS mapping department to track the courses of these storms. The other map showed the status of all the Federal Disaster Declarations. He stated that Pickens County & Oconee County is indicated as green, which under the FEMA guidelines this means Individual Assistance, Public Assistance (all categories) and Small Business Assistance. He stated our impact was severe and has been recognized by the Federal Government. Mr. Roper advised that we will be posting on our social media about people in Pickens County who experienced storm damage on April 13, 2020 may be eligible for disaster assistance through FEMA. He stated those people can visit disasterassistance.gov or call 1-800-621-3362 to register and determine eligibility. Mr. Roper presented photos of the disaster in the Laurel & Hardy Lake Road area. He stated to date, we have hauled 70-75 loads of debris from Laurel & Hardy Lake Road community, which amounts to approximately 230 tons of debris.

Chairman Costner asked if Mr. Roper had the estimated number of damage from the tornados in Pickens County.

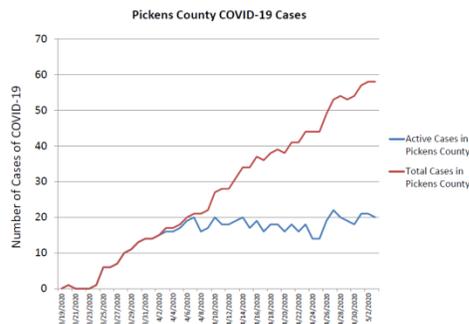
Mr. Roper stated the last number he has seen was \$1.5 million, but he believes that number is a weak or so old. He stated he will get this number to Chairman Costner.

Councilman Wes Hendricks thanked Mr. Roper for going to Laurel & Hardy Lake Road to see the damage and help the citizens impacted. He stated he visited a couple of weeks ago and it is devastating.

Councilman Carl Hudson stated he walked Laurel & Hardy Lake Road and saw where there was an incredible amount of work being done. He stated

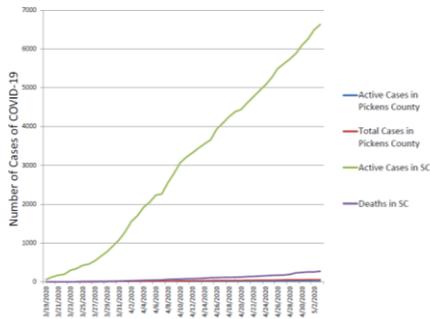
COVID-19 Response Briefing

Mr. Roper updated Council on COVID-19 cases in Pickens County. He presented the chart below, stating the red line is the information they are receiving from DHEC on the number of cases in Pickens County. He stated you can see there is a trend line up, but this is a cumulative list. He stated the more important line is the blue line, which is the number of active cases in Pickens County. He stated these are the cases that have been positive tested in the last fourteen days. Mr. Roper stated this chart, to him, is reassuring that we are not seeing positive cases at a rate that causes alarm for hospital capacity, etc.



Mr. Roper stated there are currently 21 cases reported in Pickens County, within the last 14 days. He stated there has been one (1) death in Pickens County due to COVID-19. He advised a total of 57 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Pickens County since March 20th, 2020. Mr. Roper stated that DHEC has projected 57 cases in Pickens County by May 5, 2020.

Mr. Roper also presented the chart below, stating this chart represents the active cases in Pickens County, total cases in Pickens County, active cases in SC and deaths in SC. He stated the active cases are cumulative, so the trend line is going up.



Kickstart Pickens County

Mr. Roper stated today is the first day where we have implemented Kickstart. He stated over the last week and a half, through cooperation between local and state authorities, we have tested 200 county employees under what we call the START component. Mr. Roper gave the following information in detail:

- Testing was April 27th – 29th, and May 4th
- 200 tests total have been administered
- Testing is voluntary for county employees
- Started with testing of first responders and detention officers only
- Expanded to county employees that come in contact with the public during their job duties
- Of the 200 tests, we have negative results for 173. The other 27 are still in the lab.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked at what point we will start retesting.

Mr. Roper stated that will be a good point, because what we are doing here is the test that tells you if you HAVE it, not HAD it. He stated what it tells the employees they do not have an active infection and it is a great sense of reassurance for them.

Mr. Roper went into detail on the Phases of Reopening via Kickstart Pickens County. He stated since today is the first day they started phase 1, they have made minimal changes in process, procedures and staffing. Departments begin bringing back employees back to work on site. Staff continuing to limit interactions between departments and other employees. Building will remain closed to the public, but we may begin to see some minimal foot traffic by appointment only.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he would like to have a discussion regarding opening Pickens County parks, and talk about Madden Bridge Park.

Mr. Roper stated that county staff is currently coordinating with the state agencies and local organizations to integrate the Governor’s accelerateSC program with our Kickstart Pickens County initiative.

Mr. Roper stated this is the end of his report and he will be glad to answer any questions Council may have.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked when Pickens County State of Emergency ended.

Mr. Roper stated it expires at midnight tonight, May 4, 2020.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked if Council needed to renew the State of Emergency.

Mr. Roper stated it is at Council's discretion; stating the things he has done in the Emergency declaration extends through the Kickstart program for a couple more weeks. He stated at the moment, he doesn't know if he will need to respond to an emergency situation unless there is an outbreak. He stated he will leave this to Council's discretion.

After more discussion, Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if Mr. Roper felt like the expiration of the Emergency Declaration will keep him from doing his job.

Mr. Roper stated he does not think so, or he would have brought it up earlier. He stated our state of emergency, under our ordinance, doesn't mean the harm has passed. He stated what it means is now we know what our response is going to look like. He stated Council has given him the flexibility he needs, and he feels we have made the adaptations we need. Mr. Roper stated if we need to do anything else, Council has put an ordinance in place that makes it pretty easy for Staff to call a state of emergency. He stated our intention is not to disqualify ourselves from any type of aid. Instead, this means under our ordinance, he feels we no longer need daily/hour by hour responsibility to meet this response.

Councilman Feemster asked how the Voters Registration and Elections Department is doing.

Mr. Roper stated they have continued with the two employees that he ordered under the Emergency Order. He stated the state authorities sent up some technical experts this past week and they met with the registration and elections people. He stated they have done a great job. He stated when they first moved into that office, on March 31st, the office was in an advanced state of neglect. Mr. Roper stated on the bottom floor of the administration building, the entire wall was lined with big recycling bins filled with elections supplies for each precinct. He stated one of the first things we did was get all of that out of the hallways. He stated Ralph Guarino could not rest, knowing the disorganization of that elections office. He stated they cleaned it all out and it is much better. He stated they anticipate no problems during the elections and the newly elected board will be meeting tomorrow.

COMMITTEE REPORT: None

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Roy Costner announced the following:

- There will be a Budget Work Session meeting on Monday, May 14, 2020 at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium of this facility, in lieu of the Committee of the Whole meeting. He asked Council to get any budget questions to staff as soon as possible.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he will not be in town on Monday, May 14th.
 - Chairman Costner stated the Clerk to Council will poll Council on available dates for the next budget work session.
- The next Council Meeting will be on Monday, June 1st, 2020 at 6:30 PM in this auditorium of this 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.

- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to adopt a Resolution recognizing May 4-8, 2020 as Teacher Appreciation Week during Pickens County, and to add it to the consent agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks. Chairman Costner asked if there was any discussion:
 - Councilman Wes Hendricks thanked Vice Chairman Bowers and went into discussion stating this is a great idea to honor our educators who help provide our workforce.
 - Vice Chairman Bowers stated he would like to encourage everyone to thank the teachers, support staff, etc. and he thanked the School District for all they are doing this week.
 - Seeing no other discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to add to this evening's agenda a discussion on Kickstart Pickens County regarding our parks. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Roy Costner opened the floor for new business.

Hearing no items for new business, Chairman Roy Costner closed the floor.

DISCUSSION ON KICKSTART PICKENS COUNTY REGARDING PICKENS COUNTY PARKS

(as added during Motion Period and New Business)

Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked Mr. Roper how many parks we have control over.

Mr. Roper stated it depends on what you count as a park. He stated we have Mile Creek Park, Cateechee Park, and Madden Bridge Park. He stated Ponderosa Park is a Town of Six Mile operated park but it belongs to Pickens County. He stated if you count the Dacusville Community Center that could be depending on how you define it, and the Dacusville Recreation.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated the Governor has opened up parks on the lake. He stated Madden Bridge has six parking spaces and one picnic table. He stated he feels we can keep social distancing here. Councilman Whitehurst stated people are getting frustrated, and he is getting phone calls. He stated he can see why we are not opening the playgrounds just yet, but he would like to see access to these parks to open and encourage citizens to use common sense.

Mr. Roper stated if he could offer to those areas where we can make the playgrounds and common areas where people associate accessible and keep the open areas open, we can readdress this.

Councilman Whitehurst stated he thinks we can give this an opportunity to take the lead of counties surrounding us and open our doors.

- Councilman Whitehurst made a motion to open our parks that Pickens County have control of, with the limitations of playgrounds, and to follow the states guidelines on reopening the playgrounds. Motion was seconded by Chairman Costner. Chairman Costner asked if there was any other discussion:
 - Vice Chairman stated the State is using staff, such as DNR officers, park rangers, etc. to enforce the social distancing in those state parks.

- Councilman Whitehurst asked if we could set a number of people who are allowed on Mile Creek Park's beach.
- Mr. Roper stated yes, we could.
- Councilman Wes Hendricks asked if it was a good idea to do this right now.
- Mr. Roper stated he does not recommend it, and he would like to wait until May 18th or June 1st, but ultimately it is up to Council to make that decision.
- After more discussion, Mr. Roper stated for clarity, he wanted to make sure the point of the motion was to make sure we had all the parking locations at parks, so people can use the nature areas.
- Seeing no other discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 580 TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE, AT THE TIME OF ITS INITIAL DEVELOPMENT, GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND TO INCLUDE CERTAIN PROPERTY NOW OR TO BE OWNED BY A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AT THIS TIME AS "PROJECT AZTEC" OR ITS ASSIGNEE, 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 ALLOCATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAX; AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Chairman Costner asked for a motion to constitute third reading of Ordinance No. 580.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 581 SETTING FORTH TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE LEASING OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 116B COMMONS WAY CENTRAL, SC TO CLEMSON PAW PARTNERS, A NOT FOR PROFIT AGENCY ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF SC AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Chairman Costner asked for a motion to constitute third reading of Ordinance No. 581.

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

CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES

Mr. Roper went into discussion with Council on the consideration of potential economic development incentives. He stated last time they met, he went over these ideas with Council to engage Council's interest on what you thought was an appropriate economic development response. He stated some of these would require nothing on Council's part, such as the CARES Act Stimulus at the Airport. He stated others would require changes in the ordinance. Discussion included, but was not limited to the following:

1. Local Business Preferred Purchasing Policy

- Make adjustments to the County's procurement policy to prefer local businesses
- In the County's procurement policy, increase the 3% to 5% to increase the preference for supporting local businesses (Sec 2-268).
- Have local Chamber of Commerce reps serve as the Advisory Group, according to Sec 2-296.

- Chairman Costner made a motion to constitute first reading in title only to increase the procurement policy from 3% to 5%. Vice Chairman Chris Bowers seconded the motion. Chairman Costner asked if there was any discussion.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he believes in local businesses but it is taxpayer's dollars. He stated there are plenty of people who live in Pickens County, but their business might be outside of Pickens County and vice versa. He stated it is very important for this council to be tight with the taxpayer's dollars.
 - Councilman Hendricks stated locals are at a 3% advantage right now. He stated he believes the intent of what Mr. Roper is suggesting is to help our local people who have been harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he does not agree with the 3% as well, he was not here when the previous council made that decision. He stated it could harm a person in Pickens County if their business is not in the county.
 - Councilman Hudson stated he would like to see what the other surrounding counties do.
 - Seeing no other discussion, motion carried (5-1) with Councilman Whitehurst opposed.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to make a resolution to add local chamber of commerce representatives to serve as a local advisory group, according to Sec 2-296. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst. Chairman Costner asked if there was any discussion.
 - Councilman Hendricks asked which chambers of commerce would be represented in this.
 - Mr. Roper stated the proposal would be that it rotates annually.
 - Seeing no other discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

2. CARES Act Stimulus at Airport

- The CARES Act funding will eliminate the local (5%) match needed for the purchase of airport adjacent property, as well as the design/bid portion of the runway extension, all provided that we undertake those steps prior to the end of the Federal Fiscal Year (9/30).
- \$69,000 for upgrades at the Airport
- In the spirit of the CARES Act aviation directives, and in the light of the \$69,000 grant Pickens County Airport received in conjunction with, Pickens County recognizes the importance of the aviation businesses at our airport and the hardship they have been put under in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Tri-County Technical College Consortium Approach

- Tri County Tech has proposed viewing the economic results of COVID-19 on a "labor-shed" approach.
- What they would want to do is for 2 target groups, 1 being small businesses like machine shops and garage based existing business, offer training funded from CARES Act funding, and also partner them with SCORE volunteers.
- Look to referral agency like the United Way and Unemployment office to use the time they are receiving unemployment insurance to use CARES Act funding for retraining opportunities.
- Pickens County would cooperate with Oconee and Anderson as a consortium so as to qualify for economic incentives for a sufficient number of jobs where individual counties would not have qualified alone.
- Pickens County's commitment would be through Alliance Pickens providing the consortium with small businesses and coordinate with referring agencies.

4. Supporting and Promoting Pickens County Small Businesses

- Alliance Pickens Coordinate with Chambers of Commerce in Supporting and Promoting Small Businesses.
- Small Business Retention Grant:
 - Split funds between the four chambers
 - Create an application and allow businesses to apply directly to the Chambers – Chambers disburse the funds
 - It’s a grant, so no loan or repayment agreement, but documentation of expenses required
 - Eligible expenses: rent/mortgage, employee support, utilities, marketing
- Promote the Bailey Bill, which allows local governments to offer a property tax abatement to encourage the rehabilitation of historic properties, at the County level, note ordinance is already in place.
- Go live with the new tourism-specific social media channels to market the area and promote local businesses.

5. Road Improvement Incentive

- Currently the Road User Fee Ordinance has no requirement that we spend the money collected in the current year.
- Council could pass a resolution that the staff must expend 90% of the fund during the budget year.
- Forfeited Land Commission proceeds used for infrastructure and improvements in Opportunity Zones in Pickens County.
- Amount raided by FLC from land sales: 2016-2019 \$93,500.93
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to make a resolution to designate forfeited land commission from land sales to an economic development infrastructure fund for the county, used specifically for roads. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers. Seeing no other discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

6. Small Business Incentive Fund

- Create a revolving fund based on amount escheated to general fund from unclaimed overages.
- Amount escheated to General Fund from unclaimed overages could be distributed to Chamber of Commerce to fund grants for Small Businesses.

Year	Amount	Budget Year
2014	\$84,624.34	FY 2020
2013	\$72,201.84	FY 2019
2012	\$27,194.33	FY 2018
2011	\$53,490.80	FY 2017

- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to constitute first reading in title only to create a small business retention grant program. Chairman Costner seconded the motion. Seeing no other discussion, motion carried (4-2), with Councilman Whitehurst and Councilman Hudson opposed.

7. Workforce Development

- This could be in addition to Tri-County Technical College Consortium or a standalone program administered by Alliance Pickens / School District of Pickens County

- Funding to retrain those who lost jobs during COVID-19 to meet openings in area industries
- Job Retraining Funds for Small Businesses

8. Accelerate Schedule of Branding and Marketing Plan

- The current marketing study is paid for by 30% ATAX funding from the state.
- It is intended to promote tourism and drive visitors to stay in our hotels.
- We expect to have the Branding and marketing study back in June.
- Consider implementing the recommendations from the study (signage, advertisements, etc.) using money from the General Fund instead of waiting for additional ATAX funding.
- Go live with the new tourism-specific social media channels to market the area and promote local businesses.

UPDATE FROM HAGOOD MILL FOUNDATION

Councilman Wes Hendricks thanked Chairman Costner for allowing Hagood Mill Foundation to be on this evening's agenda. He stated he had a Zoom Conference Call meeting with Betty McDaniel, Robert Sams, Ralph Guarino, Ken Roper & Meagan Nations. He stated that Hagood Mill now has a new bookkeeper and he feels Council will be pleased with what they are going to present this evening. He thanked Mr. Robert Sams, and Ms. Betty McDaniel for being at the meeting this evening.

Mr. Robert Sams, Hagood Mill Foundation Board Chairman, presented Council with a Hagood Mill Foundation Balance Sheet for the period July 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020 and a Statement of Activities spreadsheet through July 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. Mr. Sams stated Pickens County owns the mill, and Hagood Mill Foundation leases it.

Chairman Costner stated he had a question on the Statement of Activities, under the temporarily restricted income. He asked if the Pavilion Development for \$50,000 was from Representative Davey Hiott.

Mr. Sams stated yes, Representative Davey Hiott and Senator Rice. He stated they could have got the bathrooms done from a residential contractor for \$50,000, but since they have to have a general contractor, the only bid they have been able to receive so far is \$90,000-\$100,000. He stated the same people who supplied Mile Creek Park have a portable bathroom for \$53,000 with setup. Mr. Sams stated they would like to go ahead and go through with this bathroom. He stated he believes Council has the drawings of the bathrooms.

Mr. Roper stated it is a cabin, just like our Mile Creek cabins, and it goes with the look at Hagood Mill. He stated this would be a bathroom.

After more discussion, Mr. Sams stated they would like Councils approval to get this bathroom.

Councilman Wes Hendricks asked Mr. Roper if County Staff could help with the grading on the land where the bathrooms will be.

Mr. Roper stated absolutely.

- Councilman Wes Hendricks made a motion for staff to make a resolution to approve the portable bathroom facility for Hagood Mill. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Costner asked if Council had any other questions regarding the Hagood Mill Foundations budget.

Councilman Wes Hendricks stated he would like for Council to consider extra money for Hagood Mill to help them out, because like Mr. Sams stated, they have missed out on three large events due to COVID-19. He stated he would like for Council and Staff to consider finding something extra for Hagood Mill to help them out.

Mr. Sams stated they applied for Payroll protection and received \$11,000 to help them out for the three events they missed out on. He stated at least we received this, which 75% of this money will be used for the salaries.

Councilman Whitehurst stated Hagood Mills "Sale of Merchandise" looks very good.

Council & Mr. Sams went into discussion that was limited to:

- Sale of Merchandise on Statement of Activities sheet
- Market at the Mill in Pickens
- Donations
- Security/Video Surveillance
- Hagood Mill brochures

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Discussion on potential citizen award – *Committee of the Whole*
2. CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-05 TO SUPPORT THE GOALS OF THE SAFE BOATING CAMPAIGN AND DECLARE MAY 16-22, 2020 AS NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK IN PICKENS COUNTY.
3. CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-06 TO DECLARE MAY 15, 2020 AS PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY IN PICKENS COUNTY.
4. CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-07 TO DECLARE THE WEEK OF MAY 17-23, 2020 AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK IN PICKENS COUNTY.
5. CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-08 TO DECLARE THE WEEK OF MAY 17-23, 2020 AS PUBLIC WORKS WEEK IN PICKENS COUNTY.
6. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2020-09 RECOGNIZING MAY 4-8, 2020 AS TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK IN PICKENS COUNTY (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*)
 - Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and carried unanimously (6-0).

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Carl Hudson, seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Roy Costner, Chairman of County Council