

**Regular Pickens County Council Meeting**

September 14, 2020

6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium of the County Administration Facility, with Chairman Roy Costner presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to members of council and local news media on September 9, 2020.

Council Members in Attendance:

- Roy Costner, Chairman
- Chris Bowers, Vice Chairman
- Wes Hendricks, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem
- Carl Hudson
- Trey Whitehurst
- Ensley Feemster

Staff in Attendance:

- Ken Roper, County Administrator
- Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council
- Les Hendricks, Contract Attorney

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Roy Costner called the meeting of September 9, 2020 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Carl Hudson led the Invocation, and Veteran Scott Patrick Rice led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council presented a Certificate in Honor to Veteran Scott Patrick Rice, thanking him for his service.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Chairman Roy Costner opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to call upon the citizens signed up to speak.

The Clerk advised there were no public forum speakers signed up to speak this evening.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

- August 10, 2020
- August 24, 2020                      Special-Called Meeting
- August 24, 2020                      Work Session
  
- Motion was made by Councilman Carl Hudson, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

**COVID-19 Response Briefing**

Mr. Roper updated Council on COVID-19 cases in Pickens County. Mr. Roper stated there are currently 388 active cases reported in Pickens County, within the last 14 days. He stated there have been thirty nine (39) deaths in Pickens County due to COVID-19. He advised a total of 2,617 confirmed cases of COVID-19 (and 5 probable) have been reported in Pickens County since March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Mr. Roper stated there

are 10,624 cases reported in SC, within the last 14 days. The total number of confirmed cases in SC is 129, 484, and the total of probable cases to 2,380, resulting in a combined cumulative total of 132,680. He stated this brings the number of confirmed deaths to 2,915 and probable deaths to 149.

Mr. Roper presented to Council a chart of COVID-19 cases and deaths, from March 19 – September 13. This chart showed the active cases in Pickens County, total cases in Pickens County, and deaths in Pickens County.

### **Pickens County Council 2020 Goals and Objectives**

Mr. Roper stated one of Council's Goals in 2020 was a plan for capital expenditures. He stated we are working on a capital improvement plan. He stated the Chairman has called a meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm where staff will present the capital improvement plan for approval.

### **Fire Discussion and Public Communication**

Mr. Roper stated at the previous Committee meeting, Council recommended moving forward with first reading in title only of the Fire Fee's ordinance. He stated first reading is scheduled to take place this evening. He stated Council has spoken clearly that they are not moving forward unless staff arranged sufficient information and public discussion to warrant such a change. He stated that Council would like our Fire Chiefs and staff involved on getting information out to people.

Mr. Roper stated the Emergency Services Advisory Board's next meeting in October will be to discuss the fire fee recommendations. He stated we will also have three public meetings at three fire stations, and the public will be able to ask the Fire Chiefs, Director, or Administrator any questions and give feedback. He stated we are finalizing an online survey, to get public input. He stated we will also have a written survey here in the Administration Building as well. Mr. Roper advised he will communicate with the newspaper and we will also use social media to inform the public. He stated Director Gibson has filmed an informational video to help the public understand what fire fees are. Mr. Roper stated we have a free room in the Administration Building, and "free" stands for "For Research, Education, and Enrichment." Mr. Roper stated we will be using this room to help educate the public and come to a place where they can see data. He stated Director Gibson will be keeping office hours in the free room to update the public on any fire fee information.

### **Department Revenue Update**

Mr. Roper presented Council with data on an revenue update for Mile Creek Park, Register of Deeds Department, and the Community Development Department.

### **Pickens County Airport**

Mr. Roper stated as of June 30, the final operating revenues for the Airport were \$553,780, the cost of goods sold was \$249,941 (majority fuel sold) and the net profit was \$303,839. He stated if you take out all the operating expenses (\$301,140), the airport had an operating income (before depreciation) is \$2,699. He stated the airport made money this past year and we are proud of that.

Mr. Roper stated he has spent time with the Finance Director and wanted to let Council know that we have delayed alliance share of capital purchases for the full first quarter of this fiscal year, and we have also delayed full implementation of the much needed cost of living. He stated it is his intention to activate these as much as he can (the salary increase and purchases we can make) starting in the second quarter, but he wanted to make sure there are not any major concerns with that.

Councilman Whitehurst stated most of the revenue will be coming in, in January and the early part of the year. He stated it is great to see Mile Creek Park doing well and the Airport. He stated the Airport used to

lose so much money each year. He stated he is cautious moving forward because the economy has been hit hard. Councilman Whitehurst stated he does not want to push this forward and put us in a bind.

Councilman Carl Hudson stated he believes we need to go ahead with the raise increase because we have a hard time keeping good employees and recruiting. He stated no matter what happens, we have to keep the people we have.

After much more discussion between Council & the Administrator, Mr. Roper stated the budget is balanced, and the budget provides for these items. He stated he understands we need to be cautious and he will bring back to Council the capital discussions in the coming months.

Mr. Roper asked Council to add to this evening's agenda two additional items for executive session:

- Economic Development, proposed contractual
- Project Jericho Update

Mr. Roper asked if there were any other questions from Council.

Vice Chairman Bowers asked where we stand on the Recycling Center Hours.

Mr. Roper stated we have very quietly, to make sure we were prepared, went back to the hours 7:30 a.m. – 7:20 p.m. Monday – Saturday as Council recommended.

### **COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**The Committee of the Whole met in the Main Conference Room, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, August 17, 2020. 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 Trey Whitehurst led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:**

Chairman Roy Costner stated the meeting will begin with *Log No. 154* – AN ORDINANCE NO. 586 TO AMEND THE ALLIANCE PICKENS ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF SMALL BUSINESS ON THE BOARD ACCORDING TO SECTION 30-35.

### **AN ORDINANCE NO. 586 TO AMEND THE ALLIANCE PICKENS ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF SMALL BUSINESS ON THE BOARD ACCORDING TO SECTION 30-35 – Log No. 154**

- Mr. Roper stated Council amended this Ordinance during second reading to say “allowing local representative of small business on the board.” Mr. Roper stated that Council has in front of them what the ordinance would actually look like. He stated he needs information from Council on how they would like to amend this ordinance. He stated under 30-35-A, you will see how the board is laid out now.
- Chairman Costner stated he thinks we are getting too far on defining what small business is.
- Vice Chairman Bowers stated we have an insurance agent on the board, which means small business.
- Mr. Roper stated that Mr. Farley mentioned the same thing that an insurance agent is on the board and that falls under small business.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated we appoint these board members and we can make that decision before appointing if it defines small business.
- Vice Chairman Bowers referred to the Ordinance in Section 3 in 30-35-A, quoting “Two Members representing Higher Education (ex-officio), which is the President of Clemson University (or appointee) and the President of Tri-County Technical College (or appointee).” Vice Chairman Bowers stated he was reading over this and we have other colleges in our county, such as Southern Wesleyan University, and we have the School District of Pickens County as well. He stated he is curious why these two colleges are the only colleges considered on these seats.
- Mr. Roper stated that predates him, in 2004. He stated he is unsure why it was set up this way.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated he likes the idea of having “a representative of higher education” and Council decides who fills these seats.
  - Councilman Whitehurst made a motion to change Section 3-A to read “a member representing from Higher Education”, as opposed to “President of Clemson University (or appointee). Motion was seconded by Chairman Roy Costner. Chairman Costner asked if there was any other discussion.

- Councilman Wes Hendricks stated these two universities are state supported and might have something to do regarding why these two schools were in the original ordinance.
    - After some discussion, Chairman Costner stated we still need a motion to add a small business seat, if that is something Council would like to do.
    - Vice Chairman Bowers quoted section A of the ordinance, stating “The affairs of the alliance shall be managed by a 13-member board of directors, which shall be composed of seven members representing the public sector and six members representing the private sector. There shall also be two nonvoting ex-officio members representing higher education facilities.” He stated could we not add the School District of Pickens County as an ex-officio non-voting member.
    - Mr. Roper stated the language would be higher/secondary education.
    - Councilman Whitehurst stated he would like to leave the small business seat out and only change the two members representing higher education. He stated that way, we have some flexibility.
  - After more discussion, Councilman Whitehurst amended his motion to read “two members from the education community, as an ex-officio non-voting member).” Chairman Costner seconded the amended motion and the motion carried unanimously (6-0).
- **Log No. 154- Councilman Whitehurst made a motion for Section 30-35-3A to be two members from the education community (ex-officio and non-voting) and to move out of the Committee for third reading. Chairman Costner seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously (6-0).**

**PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 586 TO AMEND THE ALLIANCE PICKENS ORDINANCE SECTION 30-35 (a) TO BE INCLUSIVE OF A WIDER RANGE OF EX OFFICIO MEMBERS REPRESENTING EDUCATION.**

Chairman Costner opened the public hearing for comments regarding Ordinance 586.

Hearing none, Chairman Roy Costner declared the public hearing closed.

- Chairman Costner stated no second is required of this recommendation from the committee. He asked for all those in favor to please signify by raising your hands. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**DISCUSSION ON OLD JAIL – Log No. 142**

- Mr. Roper stated Reverend Moss will be updating Council on the progress he has made on his idea for the old stockade. He stated this topic, as well as many other things, got pushed to the side at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and this has been well on his heart. Mr. Roper presented Council with photos of the stockade, which included the outside views, inside the stockade, the bathrooms, the beds/lockers in the two dorms, the kitchen and the dining hall. He stated this is not what we would call a fancy building, but it is still being maintained. He stated he would like to know what Council’s vision is for this big facility.
- Reverend Moss and the two other board members with him thanked Council for allowing them to come speak. He stated Rev. Moss has given the vision he has, and he has worked extensively with those who have been a part of this facility. He stated the question is what we do to help or show that they are being rehabilitated. He stated we hope this can be a transformation facility to move from one type of facility to a change of heart is something that takes time. He stated they are willing to help in this effort and we both have successful ministries and we know the change of heart is the only way a person can live a productive life. He stated members of the community are here to help and assist in any way they can.
- Councilman Hudson asked Rev. Moss if this will only be for people who need help coming out of the detention center.
- Rev. Moss stated that is correct.
- Councilman Hudson asked if he was still involved with the Detention Center.
- Rev. Moss stated not at this point, since they moved into the new facilities. He stated they are sending Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and Christmas Cards.
- Councilman Hudson asked if this was mostly because of COVID-19.
- Rev. Moss stated he will let the Sheriff answer that.
- Councilman Hudson stated for this facility, you probably need to identify people coming through the detention center to have communication with people who do not have a place to go after jail time or a family to help them. He stated if they needed a place to go, this is where he is talking about this facility.
- Rev. Moss stated yes, it will be a six month program.
- Councilman Hendricks asked if Rev. Moss has written the curriculum yet.
- Rev. Moss stated they are working on it, but wanted to see where they stand with Council.
- Councilman Hendricks asked if there would be a plan to drug screen.
- Rev. Moss stated yes, absolutely.
- Chairman Costner stated he sees this as a huge opportunity. He stated he would love to see something like this happen. He asked if Rev. Moss was just looking to see how to move forward and see what type of funding can be offered.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated he believes we should do this partnership just like the partnership done with Clemson Paw Partners. He stated what we have done there, is give them a facility to lease and they are raising money to build the clinic. He stated we would require an accountability report to make sure they are on track financially and with their programs since it is county property. He asked Rev.

Moss what they are looking for.

- Rev. Moss stated they are looking for the facility.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated we have already had this conversation, and he was very excited and supportive of this program. He stated these gentlemen are starting from the ground up and asked Mr. Roper how we can help Rev. Moss with what the structure needs to look like.
- Mr. Roper stated they understand the structure; the issue is for example, talking about human safety vs. an animal facility. He stated the comparison is right, but what we need to do here is have a Memorandum of Understanding. He stated the idea of a MOU is listing what we need to get done before we can lease. He stated we need a temporary working agreement to where they can meet the working requirements and then we can do a lease.
- Councilman Feemster stated he would like to see Rev. Moss present a plan to Mr. Roper and go from there.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated we need to give them what we need, as far as what we expect and we know that there are certain things that have to be expected. He stated in the Memorandum of Understanding, it should list out everything that they need to do before we consider. He stated there are certain guidelines and regulations that have to be followed.
- After more discussion, Mr. Roper recommended Council to direct staff to implement a Memorandum of Understanding that lays out the plan for how they would qualify to lease a County facility.
  - Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to implement a Memorandum of Understanding, laying out a plan on how Reverend Moss will implement the facility. Motion was seconded Councilman Whitehurst. Chairman Costner asked if there was any discussion.
    - Councilman Whitehurst asked if this was enough for Rev. Moss to move forward in his next steps of making this plan work.
    - Rev. Moss stated it is enough and they can move forward with what they need to get done.
    - Vice Chairman Bowers asked if we could get an update at the September 14<sup>th</sup> council meeting.
    - Mr. Roper stated yes.
    - Seeing no other discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

- ❖ **Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to implement a Memorandum of Understanding, laying out a plan on how Reverend Moss will implement the facility. Motion was seconded Councilman Whitehurst and carried unanimously (6-0).**

- **Log No. 142- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to implement a Memorandum of Understanding, laying out a plan on how Reverend Moss will implement the facility. Motion was seconded Councilman Whitehurst and carried unanimously (6-0).**

- Chairman Costner stated no second is required of this recommendation from the committee. He asked for all those in favor to please signify by raising your hands. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

#### **EMERGENCY SERVICES STRUCTURE – Log No. 151**

- Mr. Roper stated that Billy Gibson, Director of Emergency Services, is here this evening to answer any questions Council may have.
- Mr. Roper stated that Council has a handout at their seat of the fee structure for the fire districts, and only the fee districts. He stated this shows the fees in the different districts.
- Chairman Costner presented to Council his suggestions for the fire fee structure. He went into discussion on his suggestions from his handout.
- Mr. Gibson stated the system does need updating. He stated the graduated fee schedule that is being proposed just makes sense. He stated our commercial schedule is all over the place and he believes there is a merit to this and he would like to see Council move forward. He stated this will give us a more uniform structure.
- Councilman Hendricks asked if the commercial rate will interfere with FILOT's or any agreements with other businesses.
- Mr. Roper stated those fees are individually negotiated and he will have to look into those agreements.
- Councilman Hudson asked what would be Mr. Gibson's plan to get this information out to the public if we decided to do this.
- Council had limited discussion to:
  - Industrial Fee Structure
  - Educating the Community on this new structure
- Mr. Roper stated the next step would be First Reading In Title Only. Mr. Roper stated he has seen Mr. Gibson's proposal. He stated the hard part of this will be communicating the changes with the public to make sure they buy in on why we are doing these changes. He stated the actual implementation will be something the assessor's office will do.
- Vice Chairman Bowers stated this will be big communication and he sees more upset-ness. He asked how we are going to communicate with these businesses that will have a tremendous jump in fees.
- Councilman Hudson stated the people who are paying the bill need to understand and buy into this. He stated he has talked to people in his district.
- Chairman Costner stated he agrees. He stated he wants to go off of the square footage of the homes to create a more structured plan.
- Mr. Roper stated the legal requirements will be three readings and a public hearing.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated we want to communicate with the public and staff to make sure everyone is aware of this change. He stated Mr. Gibson will need to get with his Fire Chiefs to get the word out.

- After much more discussion, Vice Chairman Bowers stated he would like to make a motion that we push this out of Committee for First Reading in Title only, then it be recommitted back to the Committee. Chairman Costner seconded the motion. Chairman Costner asked if there was any discussion. Seeing none, motion carried unanimously (6-0).
- **Log No. 151- Vice Chairman Bowers stated he would like to make a motion that we push this out of Committee for First Reading in Title only, then it be recommitted back to the Committee. Chairman Costner seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

**FIRST READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 590 AMENDING THE UNIFORM ORDINANCE FOR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS (AS PREVIOUSLY ENACTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 404, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 405 AND ORDINANCE NO. 571) TO CONSOLIDATE CERTAIN EXISTING FEE PAYOR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS THROUGH THE CREATION OF A NEW UNIFIED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.**

- Chairman Costner stated no second is required of this recommendation from the committee. He asked for all those in favor to please signify by raising your hands. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**COVID-19 UPDATE – Log No. 148**

- Chairman Costner stated he asked for this to be on the agenda for this evening’s meeting. He stated he recently received a phone call, from a gentleman who has COVID-19. His wife, his daughter, and his adopted son also all have COVID-19. He stated the gentleman and his family had been in quarantine for a few days and they have not gone anywhere. Chairman Costner stated the gentleman ended up getting pneumonia, and needed a nebulizer. He stated this man had COVID-19 and could not get a nebulizer anywhere but Publix, who did not have a drive-through pharmacy. He stated the man called Publix, asking if an employee could come outside to get his medical info/credit card to pay for the nebulizer so he would not have to come in the store. Chairman Costner stated they were not able to do that due to liability reasons, and the man’s wife, who wore a mask, ended up having to go inside Publix to pick up the nebulizer herself so they could start getting the treatment they needed. Chairman Costner stated Council has said a million times that we have money in the general fund that we are saving for a rainy day. He stated he believes we need to reinstate our “at risk task force” to where when families, or people, can call a number to where we can go pick up stuff for them if needed. He asked Mr. Roper how much it would cost to use existing personnel like the at risk task force.
- Mr. Roper stated what he is describing would not cost anything to stand up, but once usage becomes widespread, it will grow. He stated we have the connections with the community to do this.
- Chairman Costner stated he believes Pickens County is very prideful and humble and we care. He stated he would like to use the staff we have, and figure out a number we can set aside to help.
- Vice Chairman Bowers stated he understands the concern. He stated he has concerns about using our staff to do these things. He stated for example, if we use firemen to do this, we have to have firemen to respond to fire calls. He also stated this will put the employee at risk, being around a COVID-19 positive patient. He stated there is an argument about limiting what resources you use to make sure you are safe. Vice Chairman Bowers stated he agrees that Pickens County is a very prideful place but he personally makes a donation to United Way every month and he questions what resources United Way have for a problem like this. Vice Chairman Bowers also stated that Publix has a Pharmacy Delivery program. He stated the first step is can Pickens County be the hub, and when we identify that we cannot find a public sector/partner to help, we can look into it then.
- Chairman Costner stated his point is the government is here to serve the people. He stated he believes this is the best way we can serve the people of Pickens County by being a hub. He stated that he believes we should take money from the general fund, hire someone, give them an allowance to if they need help, etc.
- Councilman Feemster stated many churches have an emergency ministry section that will pay for different things for people.
- After more discussion, Vice Chairman Bowers stated if it truly came down to an emergency situation where staff had to have the money right that minute, there are two options. He stated the first option is to call a state of emergency, which allows Mr. Roper to do exactly what he needs, or we can call a special-called meeting to designate the money, because we will know what the money will be for.
- Councilman Whitehurst stated he hears the passion from Chairman Costner. He stated the best intentions in the world have unintended consequences. He stated we want to do well, but it is not our place to try and figure out stuff like this. He stated on our website, we list all the churches and places that will help to do stuff like this. He stated he believes it is not the government’s role to figure out things like this for people. He stated there are people better to handle situations like this rather than government.
- Chairman Costner stated what if we give staff direction to reinstate the task force if there is an emergency situation, and then I will call Council to have a special-called meeting.
- Councilman Whitehurst asked for more information on what Chairman Costner means when he says task force.
- Mr. Roper stated in the task force before, he had workers who we were going to be paying to stay home. For example, the Airport was closed and the Library was closed. He stated the custodial staff for these facilities would be sitting at home and we would be paying them anyways. He stated what he liked, was that he had that pool and Carlos would direct Ken on a situation where these people could help. He stated we do not have these workers now, so it would be different. Mr. Roper stated if we could not find help, he would have to stop someone from doing

their job to send them to do this task.

- Vice Chairman Bowers stated he feels the need for this task force was very much needed back in March/April, due to businesses being closed. He stated there are so many resources out there right now.
- After much more discussion, Chairman Costner stated he was hoping to find a way to help out citizens who need it, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Vice Chairman Bowers stated he feels that the United Way can do these services.
- Chairman Costner stated the next phone call he gets; he will send them to the United Way and tell them to dial 211.
- Seeing no other discussion, the Chairman moved forward to the next item on the agenda.

▪ **Log No. 148 – No Action Taken by the Committee.**

**SOLAR FARM ORDINANCES – Log No. 132**

- Mr. Roper stated we talked about Solar Farm Ordinances a little over a year ago. He stated that Council looked at Solar Farm Ordinances and came up with a proposed Ordinance of what a solar farm would look like in Pickens County. He stated Council talked about the height of the posts, the way the roads had to go to enter the solar farm, the setbacks around the solar farm, size and shapes of roads, and the bonding of decommission requirements. He stated Council passed first reading of the Solar Farm Ordinances for Project Pine and Project Plobano. He stated at the time, it was being driven by one particular group who wanted to do it. Mr. Roper explained the feedback he received from the proposed ordinance.
  - Councilman Whitehurst asked who came up with the proposed ordinance language.
  - Mr. Roper stated the Planning Commission did. He stated Chris Brink, Community Development Director, talked with other jurisdictions in South Carolina and one in Georgia. He stated the heights and distances were conversations that Council had in a Committee meeting.
  - Chairman Costner asked about the solar farm that you see off of Highway 123 in Liberty.
  - Mr. Roper stated Blue Ridge and the School District of Pickens County owns that solar farm.
  - After much more discussion regarding the proposed Ordinance of the Solar Farms, Vice Chairman Bowers made a motion to move out of committee for second reading, and recommit to the committee for further discussion. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster, and carried unanimously (6-0).
- **Log No. 132- Vice Chairman Bowers made a motion that Council push this out of Committee for First Reading in Title only, then it be recommitted back to the Committee. Councilman Ensley Feemster seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously (6-0).**
- Chairman Costner stated no second is required of this recommendation from the committee. He asked for all those in favor to please signify by raising your hands. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

Chairman Roy Costner announced the following:

- The Committee of the Whole meeting will meet on Monday, September 21, 2020 at 6:00 PM in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Facility.
- The next Council Meeting will be on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 6:30 PM in the Auditorium 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.

- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to add Economic Development Contractual Issue and Economic Development Project Jericho to Executive Session on this evening's agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Roy Costner opened the floor for new business.

## **SOLID WASTE UPDATE**

Director Mack Kelley, Director of Public Works, presented a presentation to Council. His presentation and discussion included, but was not limited to the following:

- Introductions of Department Heads to Animal Shelter, Engineering, Public Service Commission, Roads & Bridges, and Solid Waste
- Photos of Sludge Removal and Transfer Station floor repair
- Functions of Solid Waste
  - Collection
  - Transportation
  - Process (Sort/Recycle/Load)
  - Disposal (Transportation/Sale/Donate)
  - Compliance (Reporting, Closed Landfill Monitoring, Monitoring Income Solid Waste)
- Organizational Structure
- Transition Team
  - Operations – Jamie Reynolds (Roads & Bridges – Special Projects Manager)
  - Construction – Rodney Robinson (Engineering – Staff Engineer)
  - Personnel & Permitting – Clint Dickey (Public Service Commission – Director)
  - Organizing & Restructuring – Mack Kelley (Public Works Director)
    - Stated the team met with each staff member and conducted a SWOT analysis
    - Transition team members worked alongside staff within each function group
- Changes that have been implemented
  - Basic needs met (PPE, ice machine, drinking fountain repaired & AC duct fixed)
  - Safety issues (trailer brakes, trailer repairs, numerous truck and equipment needing repairs)
  - Communication (Memo's, face to face (with masks) meetings, training, intro to technology, introduced chain of command)
  - Regulatory Compliance
- Facilities and Operations
  - Recycling Facilities (8 Locations) Monday – Saturday: 7:30 AM – 7:20 PM
  - Landfills
    - Closed Central MSW
    - Closed Easley MSW
    - Soon to be closed Easley C&D
  - Solid Waste Operations Campus – Monday-Friday: 7:30 AM – 4:20 PM
- Master Plan of Solid Waste campus
- Charts of where MSW and C&D come from
- What happens at our recycling centers (based on pull container pulls)
- Data related to each recycling center
- What it costs us to transport collections from the recycling center (based on product)
- What it costs us to transport collections from the recycling center (based on location)
- Recycling market trends
- Recycling as a Commodity
- SWOT Analysis
- Benchmarking Questions for Neighboring Recycling Centers
- Current Situation Thoughts and Assessment (with very preliminary costs)

After more discussion from Mr. Kelley's presentation, Council discussion included the following but was not limited to:

- Emergency Funding recommendations
- Transfer station floor

- Only county accepting brown goods
- After much more discussion, Chairman Costner made a motion to add Solid Waste Update to the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously (6-0).

**REQUEST FROM ELECTIONS OFFICE**

Mr. Roper stated we have some equipment and information coming from the state, but they are asking us to pick up a maintenance responsibility in the future budget year. He stated he asked Mr. Travis Alexander, Director of Voters Registration, to demonstrate this to Council.

Mr. Alexander demonstrated to Council the current machinery for voting, and what the state wants to give the County. He stated the state is now using E-Poll (electronic poll) books for each county to qualify voters at the check-in table. The state wants to give the county equipment similar to how they gave the counties the voting machines this past year. He stated the state will bear the cost of equipment but the counties will bear the cost of the annual maintenance. The cost of the annual maintenance equipment will be deferred until July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Vice Chairman Chris Bowers asked the Administrator if we could bind the next Council in 2022, 2023, 2024, etc. to fund this money.

Mr. Roper stated he knew he could not, so this is why he told Travis Alexander to come present.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked what will be done with the equipment we have now.

Mr. Alexander stated that is property of the county.

After more discussion between Council and Mr. Alexander, Vice Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to support this \$14,000 year service contract, starting in budget year 2022, so Mr. Alexander can notify the state. Chairman Costner seconded the motion and carried unanimously (6-0).

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11 CERTIFYING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1859 DACUSVILLE HIGHWAY IN EASLEY AS A TEXTILE MILL SITE PURSUANT TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA TEXTILE COMMUNITIES REVITALIZATION ACT, TITLE 12, CHAPTER 65 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED.**

Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2020-11.

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

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION NO. 2020-12 PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 2020 AS VETERANS SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH AND SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 AS PREVENTS DAY.**

Chairman Roy Costner read Resolution No. 2020-12, stating:

WHEREAS suicide is a national public health challenge that causes immeasurable pain among individuals, families, and communities across the country; and

WHEREAS accounting for 47,173 deaths in 2017, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, with Veteran and Military suicides exceeding 6,000 each year from 2008-2017; and

WHEREAS Pickens County has had the highest suicide rate per 100,000 in the state of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS on March 5, 2019, the President signed Executive Order 13861 calling for the development of a comprehensive plan, the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide or PREVENTS (the "Roadmap") to empower

Veterans aid end suicide through coordinated suicide prevention efforts, prioritized research activities, and strengthened collaboration across the public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS for every individual who feels alone, ashamed, or believes that they would be a burden if their thoughts or feelings were shared, there are scores of others in every community who want to help but are not sure how; and

WHEREAS businesses in Pickens County are in the unique position to leverage the learnings from employees, including Veterans, to encourage a national discussion on mental health and wellbeing in the workplace and collaborate on meaningful solutions; and

WHEREAS the Department of Veterans Affairs has a Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families that brings together interagency teams to address Veteran suicide at the state level; and

WHEREAS the PREVENTS national public health campaign REACH seeks to increase awareness of mental health issues and suicide prevention to reduce suicide for all Americans; and

WHEREAS the Pickens County Veterans Affairs Office has shared that the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs has also partnered with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health and DAODAS for a PSA on Veteran suicide prevention with the campaign #HopeLivesinSC; and

WHEREAS Governor Henry McMaster proclaimed September 2020 as VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH and September 10, 2020, as PREVENTS DAY,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Pickens County Council does hereby proclaim September 2020 as VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH and September 10, 2020, as PREVENTS DAY and encourages all Pickens County citizens to work together to identify Veterans and other citizens in need of care, raise awareness of mental health, suicide prevention, lethal means safety, and support services available in their communities, and encourage all those in need to REACH to access help, hope, and community. The Council encourages the public in to call a Veteran to let him or her know there is HOPE. Help and information is also available 24 hours at 1-800-273-8255 or text "hope 4-S-C" to 741741.

Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2020-12.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL MILLAGE RATE TO MEET THE BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021.**

Chairman Costner opened the public hearing for comments regarding the Establishment of Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Hearing none, Chairman Roy Costner declared the public hearing closed.

Auditor Brent Suddeth presented the recommended FY 2021 mils for County Operation, Bonded Indebtedness, Capital, Library, Tri-County Tech, and Special Tax District for Sewer, Vineyards Fire District, Shady Grove Fire District, and Springs Fire District.

Chairman Costner asked for all those in favor of approving the Resolution for the Establishment of Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 to please signify by raising your hands. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 589 TO AMEND THE ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ORDINANCE FOR PICKENS COUNTY SO AS TO MAKE IT MORE UNIFORMLY APPLY TO ACCOMMODATIONS WITHIN THE COUNTY.**

Chairman Costner opened the public hearing for comments regarding Ordinance 589. Hearing none, Chairman Roy Costner declared the public hearing closed.

Chairman Costner asked if there was any discussion. Seeing none, Chairman Costner asked for a motion to constitute third reading of Ordinance No. 589.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Scenic Highway Overlay – *Committee of the Whole*
2. Solid Waste Update – *Committee of the Whole (as added during Motion Period and New Business)*
  - o Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and 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.

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

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

- Project Jericho (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*)
- Economic Development Contractual Issue (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*)

**ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:**

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

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

- Project Jericho (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*)- **No Action Taken.**
- Economic Development Contractual Issue (*as added during Motion Period and New Business*)- **Vice Chairman Bowers made a motion to support further due diligence for Project 3P Pecan. Motion was 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 Wes Hendricks, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and the motion carried (5-1), with Vice Chairman Chris Bowers opposed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

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Roy Costner, Chairman of County Council