

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 7, 2020

IN ATTENDANCE:
TOMMY DUNN, CHAIRMAN
GRACIE FLOYD
CRAIG WOOTEN
BRETT SANDERS
JIMMY DAVIS
M. CINDY WILSON

ALSO PRESENT:
RUSTY BURNS
LEON HARMON
LACEY CROEGAERT

1 TOMMY DUNN: At this time I'd like to
2 call the regular Anderson County Council meeting of
3 July 7th to order. I'd like to welcome each and every
4 one of you here tonight. Thank y'all for coming and
5 participating in your local county government.

6 I'm going to go over a few things. It might be
7 your first council meeting and just want to make sure
8 we all understand one another. Appreciate everybody
9 tonight practicing social distancing. Also, there's
10 two sign-ups. One at the first of the meeting is on
11 agenda items only. You have three minutes. At the
12 last of the council meeting you can talk on other items
13 that's not on the agenda. I hope we treat everybody
14 here with respect. And let's get along. We might not
15 always agree. At least we can show respect and
16 courtesy and get along and act like we're somebody.

17 At the last council meeting it was brought to my
18 attention after the meeting there was some remarks made
19 that was insensitive. If I had heard them, I would
20 have dealt with them then. But I'm going to say right
21 now that council will not tolerate that tonight.
22 You'll be asked to leave.

23 Also, this is a county council meeting. We're here
24 to do the people's business of Anderson County. It's
25 not a town hall meeting. So don't do cat calls and
26 hollering back. Please give your attention when people
27 are up there speaking and let them talk. When it's
28 your turn they'll show the same courtesy.

29 I hope we don't have no problems. We're going to
30 get the business done tonight in an orderly fashion.
31 And if not, you'll be dealt with.

32 Moving on, let the record show that Mr. Graham is
33 out of town and unable to be here tonight.

34 At this time I'm going to ask Councilman Craig
35 Wooten if he would lead us in the invocation and pledge
36 of allegiance. If we'll all rise, please.

37 **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY CRAIG WOOTEN**

38 TOMMY DUNN: Moving on now to item
39 number 3, approval of the minutes of the June 18th and
40 23rd meeting. We haven't received them yet so we can't
41 approve them until we get them.

42 Be skipping on, next on the agenda is citizens
43 comments. Again, if you signed up -- and there are
44 some public hearings some of y'all might be interested
45 to on this, be coming on down the line. But like I
46 said, the first time the attorney calls your name, it's
47 on agenda items only. State your name and district and
48 address the chair, please. Mr. Attorney.

49 LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, the first
50 speaker is Josh Smith.

1 JOSH SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Dunn. I
2 wanted to thank the Honorable Mr. Graham who's not here
3 tonight and our beautiful staff members that we had for
4 Brett Sanders for their part in the Second Amendment,
5 getting that together. This is the third and final
6 reading for that. And I'm looking forward to seeing
7 that passed, as well. It's a good step in the
8 direction of immediate stuff.

9 Second, small homes in the state.

10 Third, people worried about a statue. Hopefully we
11 can worry about a crime rate and drive-bys to solve the
12 problems now and then worry about that later. It's
13 been here a hundred years.

14 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. That's not
15 on the agenda. Move on. Next, please.

16 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Linda
17 Davis.

18 LINDA DAVIS: Good evening. I reside
19 at 54 William Walker Road, Anderson, South Carolina.
20 Been there almost thirty years. And I'm speaking in
21 reference to the rezoning for Centerville Road, 187,
22 Fants Grove Road and William Walker Road.

23 I'm asking that you hear we, the people. I heard
24 you state earlier, we, the people. We, the people, do
25 not want the rezoning. We're concerned about taxes
26 increase. We're concerned about the traffic and the
27 noise. And so we're asking that you all take into
28 consideration our concerns and that you will not
29 approve the rezoning.

30 We have elderly people that live on William Walker
31 Road. It's a minority community. It's peaceful and
32 it's quiet and we love it. And if you bring in the
33 businesses, the homes that are so closely together,
34 according to the plans, it's going to create a lot of
35 noise.

36 And so we're asking that you please take into
37 consideration we, the people, who are voters, who are
38 taxpayers, and who are citizens, and that you say no to
39 the rezoning. Thank you.

40 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Next.

41 LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, next
42 speaker is Irene Wheaton.

43 IRENE WHEATON: Hello. Good evening.

44 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma'am.

45 IRENE WHEATON: I wanted to come to say
46 the same exact thing. I live on William Walker Road,
47 as well, a neighbor. And my concerns is really
48 practically the same thing. Where we live at is all
49 seniors. We all been there twenty-five to thirty-five
50 or more years. And the same thing with traffic and us

1 being in that little development where we're at, it
2 seems like to me that it would be pushing all the
3 seniors out, you know, with us that's been living there
4 for all these many years to try to find another place,
5 really, to move to go.

6 And I made phone calls while I was outside. And
7 when I made the phone calls on the little development
8 that we do have with all the seniors, no one got
9 anything in the mail. Nobody got no kind of card.
10 They got nothing.

11 And I made some other phone calls on Burns Bridge
12 Road, which is combined right around the corner. I
13 made calls to them. They did not get anything in the
14 mail. So nobody really knew anything about the meeting
15 or anything. I didn't even come prepared because I
16 didn't find out till after 5:00 when somebody had
17 called to, you know, let me know.

18 And I just feel that that's unfair to us.

19 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.

20 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Anna
21 Haster.

22 ANNA FOSTER: It's Anna Foster. And I
23 also would like to speak in the public hearing if
24 possible.

25 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma'am.

26 ANNA FOSTER: Really, I just wanted to
27 request that y'all deny the rezoning of 187 because of
28 safety hazards, traffic issues. But I have a lot more
29 to say on that matter, but I guess I need to wait till
30 the public hearing.

31 TOMMY DUNN: You can do it then or
32 you can do it now. You've got three minutes.

33 ANNA FOSTER: Do it now? Okay.

34 TOMMY DUNN: I mean that's up to you.

35 ANNA FOSTER: I don't know if I can
36 squeeze it in.

37 TOMMY DUNN: Just wait till the
38 public hearing. That'll be fine. Okay?

39 ANNA FOSTER: I'm sorry.

40 TOMMY DUNN: No problem. Yes, ma'am.

41 Next.

42 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Randy
43 Jones.

44 RANDY JONES: My name is Randy Jones.
45 I'm from Cindy Wilson's district, District 7. I'm here
46 to represent the South Carolina Carry, as well as
47 Belton Gun Club, and to say that we appreciate all the
48 work that the county has done for the Second Amendment
49 Sanctuary Ordinance. And look forward to it passing
50 tonight. Appreciate your help.

1 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Harmon.
2 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is
3 Katherine Farrah.
4 TOMMY DUNN: I don't understand. I
5 checked this out today and we could hear fine. But
6 it's Katherine Farrah. Give me just one minutes; okay?
7 KATHERINE FARRAH: All right.
8 JIMMY DAVIS: And if you could get as
9 close -- there you go.
10 KATHERINE FARRAH: How's that?
11 JIMMY DAVIS: You're fine.
12 TOMMY DUNN: I'm sorry. Go ahead.
13 KATHERINE FARRAH: Thank you all for
14 hearing me tonight. My name is Katherine Farrah and
15 I'm here to speak about the rezoning on Highway 187 and
16 Fants Grove Road. I've lived there, about a mile and a
17 half from there, since 1996, and I love the peaceful
18 nature of the area and have had the opportunity to move
19 away a couple of times but chose to stay because of the
20 peaceful nature. And I hope that you all will hear us
21 when we say that we would like to keep the peaceful
22 nature. If you will please vote to keep the R-20 as it
23 is. Thank you very much.
24 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.
25 Next, Mr. Harmon.
26 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Grayson
27 Buckner.
28 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Buckner, do you want
29 to speak? You abstain, okay. Next.
30 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Chris
31 Heelwagen.
32 TOMMY DUNN: Okay.
33 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Jamie
34 McCutchen.
35 TOMMY DUNN: Okay.
36 LEON HARMON: Next speaker, Alex
37 Dmyterko.
38 TOMMY DUNN: You go right ahead. If
39 you'll just state your name and where you're from. And
40 I'm listening.
41 ALEX DYMTERKO: Alex Dymterko from
42 Greenville, South Carolina. I am the petitioner and
43 developer for the Welpine Road rezoning. We appreciate
44 the support in our first reading of the five nothing
45 vote. I'm here available to answer any questions
46 should any come up during the course of the evening.
47 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Harmon.
48 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is
49 Elizabeth Fant.
50 TOMMY DUNN: You ain't got to get

1 that close, Ms. Fant. I promise they can hear you.
2 They've got people back yonder. That's what that tape
3 is there for. You ain't got to get that close. Just
4 speak up. They'll hear you. I promise.

5 ELIZABETH FANT: Elizabeth Fant, District
6 3. I'm speaking on the Welpine development and also
7 the RV park.

8 Anderson is such a nice town and we have room to
9 spread out and not be on top of each other. Both of
10 these things I think are a hindrance to the well being
11 and the friendliness of a community. I don't want to
12 see us so stacked on top of each other. In the past
13 year we've had many, many developers wanting to put a
14 whole lot of houses on a small acreage of land. People
15 do not get along that way. So I want you to really
16 reconsider.

17 And I don't think the RV park, at all, is a good
18 idea.

19 TOMMY DUNN: Next, Mr. Harmon.
20 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is James
21 Allen.

22 JAMES ALLEN: Is this one on gun
23 control?

24 TOMMY DUNN: You can talk about
25 anything that's -- it's on the agenda so you can talk
26 about it. You've got three minutes and address the
27 chair, please. State your name and district, where
28 you're from.

29 JAMES ALLEN: James Allen from
30 Anderson, South Carolina. And this is standing up to
31 how I feel about gun control.

32 I had a lady call me the other night and told me to
33 come by her house first thing in the morning. She
34 rents from me. Her house is shot up. Bullets through
35 the windows to the back. Terrified. She said I was by
36 myself. I generally have my grandchildren here, but I
37 was by myself. Had no way of protecting myself. I
38 called the police department. They did come out. Took
39 a few minutes to get here, but said they did come out.
40 But they done drove by. They stopped in front of her
41 house and just starting shooting. No way to protect
42 herself. Like I said, the police did get there. But
43 they had broke her door down -- she said, if they come
44 back and break my door down, what do I do? I said,
45 ma'am, I don't know. I can't tell you what to do. But
46 get some way of protecting yourself. Something to
47 protect yourself. That's all I told her. Protect
48 yourself somehow another.

49 Our church, Evergreen Street, 1305, go by it.
50 You'll see our front door shot up. Our fellowship we

1 built, took us a long time to save the money. Bullet
2 holes through it. I've got a concealed weapon. I
3 don't tote it to protect myself as much as I do my
4 grandchildren and my children. Our church. We have
5 somebody at the front door, back door, bottom door
6 watching, along with cameras.

7 Y'all all know, everybody's heard about what goes
8 on at some churches. They walk in. This is not to
9 show out. I don't carry a gun to show out. I don't
10 want to do that. I'm not that type of person. I do it
11 for one reason from what my daddy taught me a long time
12 ago. You shoot a gun -- two times you shoot a gun.
13 One for food. The second is to protect your family
14 only. And that's the way I feel. And I hope they
15 never, ever consider about taking the only way that we
16 can protect ourselves. Especially people that's not in
17 the city. It may take the law a little bit longer to
18 get there. When we called that time, of course, it had
19 done happened. They had done shot the church and
20 pulled off before we found out about it.

21 A man was killed right across the street from the
22 church. And it's just an ongoing thing. I wish to
23 Lord God we didn't have to have them. I do. I wish
24 everybody was Christians and everybody got along and
25 loved one another. But until that happens, we need
26 some way of protecting our family.

27 **APPLAUSE**

28 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon.

29 LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, next

30 speaker is Rich Bennett.

31 TOMMY DUNN: Wait till the next time?

32 Okay. I got you. Next.

33 LEON HARMON: No one else is signed

34 up, Mr. Chairman.

35 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Harmon.

36 Moving on to item number 5(a), reading of -- third
37 reading of ordinances. First is 5(a), 2020-005, an
38 ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a
39 special source revenue credit agreement by and between
40 Anderson County, South Carolina and Tactical Medical
41 Solutions, LLC, with respect to special source revenue
42 credit to be applied against fee in lieu of tax
43 payments related to certain investments in the county.

44 Mr. Burriss Nelson, would you like to add anything
45 and sort of give a little bit for the people out here
46 that don't know what's going on?

47 BURRISS NELSON: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.
48 This is a company, Tactical Medical, that is expanding
49 their operation and they're going to manufacture -- the
50 reason it's called Robo -- they're going to manufacture

1 a medical robot that will be used in training nurses.
2 It will actually have a heartbeat, respiration, blood
3 pressure, all of those things. And they can imitate
4 wound repair, wound care. All kinds of things with
5 this. And it's a very expensive piece of equipment.

6 This company will be paying an average wage,
7 twenty-one new jobs, thirty-seven dollars and seventy-
8 three cents an hour. Annual payroll is 1.5 million
9 dollars. Property tax in the first year on the new
10 expansion will be about thirty-two thousand dollars a
11 year. And the community impact, first year, is 4.1
12 million dollars. And over a twenty-year period,
13 nineteen million dollars.

14 This comes to council as a recommendation from
15 staff and the advisory board. Thank you, sir.

16 CRAIG WOOTEN: Mr. Chairman.

17 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Wooten.

18 CRAIG WOOTEN: I abstained from this
19 vote, I think in second reading. It was a while back.
20 I worked for this company for seven years while I was
21 on council, so I thought it would be appropriate to
22 abstain.

23 TOMMY DUNN: Okay. We're going to
24 have a public hearing. You're welcome to sit in here
25 before we take the vote. Whatever you want to do.
26 Okay?

27 CRAIG WOOTEN: It don't matter.
28 Whatever is proper.

29 TOMMY DUNN: Either way will be fine.
30 Whatever you want to do.

31 At this time we're going to go into a public
32 hearing on this matter. Anyone wishing to speak to
33 this matter, please step forward, state your name and
34 district, address the chair, please. Anyone at all?

35 Seeing and hearing none, public hearing will be
36 closed. Let the record show Mr. Wooten has abstained
37 from voting. Do we have a motion to put this on the
38 floor?

39 BRETT SANDERS: So moved.

40 CINDY WILSON: So moved.

41 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Sanders;
42 second Ms. Wilson. Any discussion?

43 JIMMY DAVIS: Mr. Chair.

44 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Davis.

45 JIMMY DAVIS: I just want to take just
46 a quick few seconds to explain to the people out here,
47 your county is hard at work for you, and our Economic
48 Development Department is led by Mr. Burriss Nelson is
49 out there and we see great opportunities in businesses
50 and expanding in Anderson County. And this is a great

1 opportunity for us. Twenty-one new jobs with a high
2 rate of pay with health insurance. And a community
3 impact of 4.1 million dollars the first year.

4 So this is a great example of how hard Anderson
5 County Economic Development is working to better the
6 lives of the communities and the people of Anderson
7 County. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Davis.
9 Anyone else?

10 CINDY WILSON: May I?

11 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

12 CINDY WILSON: This is another one of
13 our local success stories. This is a young man who
14 came out of the military, having been a medic, and he
15 had to improvise on the battlefield to stop bleeding
16 and deal with horrific wounds. And he came up with a
17 lot of things that he was soon shipping to his former
18 comrades in the field. And he has made a living doing
19 it now that he's back stateside and brought a lot of
20 good jobs to the county. And it's so nice to have a
21 local person do well. Thank you.

22 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.
23 Anyone else? All in favor of the motion show of hands.
24 All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries
25 unanimously.

26 Ask Mr. Wooten if he would come back in and join
27 us.

28 BURRISS NELSON: Thank you for your
29 support, sir.

30 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Nelson.

31 Moving on now to item number 5(b), ordinance 2020-
32 008. Chairman Graham chairs this committee and is
33 unable to be here tonight. Business out of town. So
34 I've asked Councilman Sanders who is on that committee
35 if he'll introduce this.

36 BRETT SANDERS: Yes, sir. Thank you,
37 Mr. Chairman. I left my glasses in the car running in
38 from the rain. Let's see.

39 This is an ordinance to amend the code of
40 ordinances, Anderson County, South Carolina, by adding
41 Article X to Chapter 42 Titled Second Amendment
42 Protection.

43 And I would just like to thank the Sheriff's
44 Department for working on it, Mr. Harmon for allowing
45 us -- or sharing some of his expertise and advice with
46 us, the members of the committee. And I look forward
47 to working on anything that protects our constitutional
48 rights of our forefathers. I thank you, sir.

49 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Sanders.

50 At this time we'll be going into a public hearing.

1 Anyone wishing to speak on this matter, please step
2 forward, state your name and district and address the
3 chair, please. Anyone at all.

4 Ma'am, you ain't got to -- ma'am, I promise you,
5 you can sit back there and make yourself comfortable
6 and that mic will pick you up.

7 JUDITH POLSON: I have a soft voice.

8 TOMMY DUNN: Okay.

9 JUDITH POLSON: I'm Judith Polson. I'm
10 from District 1. As a matter of fact, I'm running for
11 the State Senate in District 3.

12 Now, guns are useful in a lot of ways, but we have
13 too many. We have -- they're the bane of the world.
14 They cause so much harm. They're too easy to get. Any
15 fool can get a gun. Any young person can get a gun.
16 And the last thing we should do is make this a place, a
17 safe haven, for guns.

18 Everyone knows someone who's been shot and killed
19 by a gun. Many kids get killed by guns that got in the
20 wrong hands. My cousin lost a toddler this way. She
21 has no grandchildren now. Guns can get picked up by
22 someone that is not supposed to have them. They're not
23 kept up right.

24 And you know that many of us also have family
25 members who are emotionally fragile. We shouldn't have
26 a gun in our house because of this. We need to have
27 guns -- less guns; not more. We don't need guns to be
28 so easy to acquire.

29 One of my students at Westside High School was in
30 the tenth grade and killed himself with a gun over a
31 girl.

32 What kind of community do we want? One that's full
33 of guns? That's not the way, people.

34 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? Anyone?
35 Come on up.

36 RAY BROCK: Mr. Dunn, council
37 members, I'm Ray Brock. I live in District 2. I would
38 like to personally thank y'all for your attention to
39 supporting and recognizing the Second Amendment rights
40 of all Americans as they were intended by our
41 forefathers and our founding fathers. And they saw a
42 need to recognize the safety and security of firearms.
43 Not just so they could hunt, but to protect their
44 rights. Because they had just came out of a revolution
45 and they fought that because one of the reason the
46 British wanted to confiscate their weaponry, their only
47 means to overthrow an oppressive government and to gain
48 their freedom. But we all know this. Or most of us
49 know this. But I just wanted to thank y'all. And I
50 appreciate it.

1 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else?
2 Yes, sir.

3 RUSSELL RAMSEY: Russell Ramsey of
4 District 1. Councilwoman Floyd asked many times when
5 we were discussing this Second Amendment Ordinance, she
6 didn't understand why we needed it.

7 BRETT SANDERS: Could you step up just a
8 little bit. You keep turning your head. I can't hear
9 you, sir. I'm sorry.

10 RUSSELL RAMSEY: I'm sorry. Councilwoman
11 Floyd asked many times when we were discussing the
12 Second Amendment Ordinance that she didn't understand
13 why we needed it, because she had a gun, she had a
14 concealed weapons permit. You just heard why we need
15 it. The lady over here thinks we don't need it. I
16 don't care what she thinks. It's my right to own a gun
17 and protect my family. And I will continue to do that.
18 And I thank everyone on this council for allowing us to
19 do this. Thank you.

20 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else?

21 **APPLAUSE**

22 TOMMY DUNN: Calm it down, please.
23 Anyone else?

24 TONYA WINBUSH: My name is Tonya
25 Winbush. I'm in District 1. And I just want to speak
26 up for gun owners, gun rights, Second Amendment. Yes,
27 I'm a veteran also, combat veteran, fifteen years in
28 the Army. And I do own guns. I do have a concealed
29 weapons license. But the only issue that I have is the
30 -- the implication of being a sanctuary county may
31 mean. It may mean that people who don't want to abide
32 by the law can come here to actually do things that
33 they shouldn't do with guns. And so that being the
34 case, I didn't see anything in the ordinance that says
35 that people who actually are criminals who don't need
36 to have a gun should be able to hide from being
37 prosecuted because we're a sanctuary county.

38 Where are we going to stop people who are criminals
39 because they are -- and everybody knows, South Carolina
40 is number one, number two, for domestic violence. And
41 if you are able to beat someone to a pulp and you need
42 your weapon confiscated, you can't say, oh, well, I'll
43 go to Anderson County so I know that I don't have to
44 get my weapon confiscated.

45 It's not a full proof legislation. It's not full
46 proof law, but somehow, someday, we have got to be able
47 to make sure that we regulate gun ownership to the
48 point to where we're not trying to take people rights,
49 but we have to regulate because we have so much gun
50 violence, so much unnecessary killing, so much

1 unnecessary dying.

2 Yes, some people do have wrong intentions, and yes,
3 we do have a lot of criminals that own guns. But the
4 law abiding citizens that are -- have the right to have
5 their weapons -- we still have that right until you do
6 something wrong. If you're on the wrong side, if you
7 have committed a crime, then should you necessarily
8 have a right to bear arms. That's what's in question.
9 I know if I go and do something that I shouldn't do and
10 I break the law and I get my weapon confiscated, then
11 that's not on the law. That's on me and that's on my
12 behavior.

13 **APPLAUSE**

14 TOMMY DUNN: Hold it down,
15 please. Anyone else?

16 BRETT SANDERS: Very back, sir.

17 TOMMY DUNN: Step on up.

18 TERRY ALLEN: First of all I'm
19 going to say it's good to be here to hear all you
20 people and to listen to what people have to say.

21 But as far as the ---

22 TOMMY DUNN: If you would, sir,
23 just state your name for the record and where you're
24 from.

25 TERRY ALLEN: I'm Terry Allen.
26 I'm sixty-seven years old. I've been living in
27 Anderson County all my life. I was trained and brought
28 up how to use a gun. If a gun is laying somewhere
29 locked up or out, it doesn't hurt anyone until someone
30 picks it up. As long as that gun is laying there with
31 good intentions to protect a home. I was brought up to
32 protect a home. And until we in our minds decide we're
33 going to do bodily harm to someone and we take that
34 upon ourselves to go get that weapon, then it's our
35 blame. It's not the gun to blame.

36 And I do have a concealed permit. I do assist a
37 SLED agent with the CWP classes. And so we're taught
38 unless you're going to use that gun leave it where it's
39 at. And never put yourself in a position where you're
40 misusing, misrepresentation yourself. Because once you
41 get a bad sheet on using your gun unlawfully, that is
42 on your record forever. And it will be there
43 documented through the South Carolina Law Enforcement
44 Division, which I support all men and women in law. I
45 support our military. I support all our law
46 enforcement.

47 So I don't care to hear people say do away with our
48 law enforcement. I think we need to strengthen our law
49 enforcement. Go back to two per car like we used to
50 have because we're outnumbered. Our population has

1 grown. We're outnumbered.

2 So the only way we can protect our self is if it
3 takes a weapon to do that in your home, so be it.
4 We've got dogs that comes over to our house. Attacks
5 me all the time. I run in the house. And they tell me
6 I can't shoot the dog. But I mean a dog comes inside
7 of my home still trying to bite me and I still don't
8 have the right to shoot the dog.

9 But my goal is here, folks, unless we pick that gun
10 up, that gun cannot do anybody any harm. And the
11 parents should not say -- come on television and say my
12 three year old went to a drawer and picked up a gun and
13 he shot his self or shot one of them. Now, parents
14 ought to have enough gumption about them to keep their
15 weapons locked up. And we know where they're at if we
16 need them. But no child needs to be able to get a hold
17 a gun. And I thank you for that, sir.

18 TOMMY DUNN: Next. Anyone else?

19 **APPLAUSE**

20 TOMMY DUNN: Haven't you done
21 spoke, Mr. Jones? All right. You done spoke. Anyone
22 else? Come on up.

23 GRISHAM BUCKNER: My name is Grisham
24 Buckner. I'm in District 4. I have a friend that's
25 from Australia. And she gave me a little history
26 lesson. She's traveled all around like I have. And
27 she said in America we have one thing that no other
28 country has. Every country has a Constitution. We
29 have a Bill of Rights. You start pecking away at it,
30 where there's First Amendment, where there's guns,
31 where there's assembly, you start pecking at it
32 everybody -- you open up a hole and everything starts
33 to fall apart.

34 There's a lot of responsibility involved here. But
35 keep your hands off what should be left alone. If
36 people are too stupid and too irresponsible to maintain
37 their arms where a child can't get to them, then that's
38 -- those are the people who should be held responsible;
39 not the people in here on gun ordinance. Thank you.

40 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone
41 else? Anyone?

42 ELIZABETH FANT: Elizabeth Fant. It
43 is our right to own guns. And it is our responsibility
44 to own them in a responsible way to where things don't
45 happen.

46 But we have a problem. And that is that people who
47 break into pawn shops, homes, whatever, are often
48 looking for weapons. Somebody may break into your
49 house and get your handgun, your rifle, whatever. It's
50 not registered. We have no way of knowing who has it.

1 And these -- this is the element that causes us so much
2 trouble.

3 One of the last years when I was teaching, one of
4 my students who was fifteen years old was living with
5 his grandmother. And unbeknownst to her, he was
6 sneaking out at night to hang around with another group
7 of young'uns. Well, the child wasn't real -- I won't
8 say real bright, but didn't have anybody really to talk
9 to about things and so gang members on the other side
10 told him that if he didn't get a gun and shoot this
11 other gang member, that that gang member was going to
12 come over and shoot his sister. What did he do? He
13 did just what the gang members asked him to do and he
14 went and shot the person. And he's now still in jail.

15 You can't -- there's a element out here where we're
16 never going to be able to take up all the guns, even if
17 you wanted to. But when you take it away from the
18 responsible people, the ones who are protecting their
19 loved ones and their turf, that just leaves the guns in
20 the people's hands who shouldn't have them from the
21 get-go. And we can't have that. So I'm glad you're
22 doing the Second Amendment.

23 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Jones, I
24 apologize. You haven't spoke on this public hearing.
25 You're more than welcome to speak. You spoke the first
26 go-around. I apologize. You've got a right to speak
27 at the public hearing on this.

28 RANDY JONES: Thank you. My name
29 is Randy Jones from District 7.

30 Just wanted to just reiterate what was spoke
31 earlier about -- this is really about doing things that
32 are going to ensure that in Anderson County that we're
33 going to be protected for our Bill of Rights. Our
34 Constitution and Bill of Rights are important things.
35 There's never been a time like we're seeing just in the
36 last few weeks where we've seen places in this country
37 where that's not been honored and those rights have
38 been taken away from individuals. And we're seeing the
39 kind of disaster that's occurring in those locations.

40 So I appreciate Anderson County, our council, our
41 local Sheriff, for standing up and saying, we want to
42 do everything we can to make sure that that doesn't
43 happen in Anderson County.

44 So I appreciate the efforts and I just -- I hate
45 that there's not more people to understand that -- what
46 these Bill of Rights mean to us. They're not granted
47 by our government. These are things that are --
48 they're things that we have that we're protected
49 against our government. So everything that we can do
50 to protect that is going to be critically important. I

1 appreciate your support and hope it'll pass tonight.

2 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone
3 else?

4 DAKOTA MURRAY: My name is Dakota
5 Murray. I'm from Anderson. I'm really not here for
6 the gun rights today, but since it's been brought up, I
7 thought I'd go ahead and share my opinion.

8 We all talk about gun violence and I feel like that
9 creates a stereotype. Violence is violence whether
10 it's from a gun or a knife or somebody hit and run.
11 You take away a gun, if somebody wants to kill
12 somebody, of course, that's a horrible thing and if
13 anybody has had that happen to them whether it be
14 suicide or homicide, I'm extremely sorry. But taking
15 away the rights to firearms, you know, is completely
16 going against the Second Amendment. It isn't going to
17 solve anything because if somebody is that violent and
18 that vile, there's just going to find another way to do
19 it.

20 We always like to talk about how many lives were
21 taken by guns, but if you look at the CDC website,
22 between five hundred thousand and three million lives
23 are saved, and it's really hard to calculate just
24 because we don't know how many lives are actually saved
25 or how many people are deterred from violent forces
26 just from seeing somebody carrying a gun with a
27 concealed weapons permit.

28 So I just kind of want to get rid of the stereotype
29 of gun violence because we don't say knife violence; we
30 don't say hit and run violence. We just call it
31 violence. So it's kind of like an agenda to say gun
32 violence instead of just calling it what it is, which
33 is violence. So thank you.

34 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone
35 else? Public hearing will be closed. Do I have a
36 motion on the floor?

37 BRETT SANDERS: So moved.

38 CINDY WILSON: Second.

39 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Sanders;
40 second Ms. Wilson. Any discussion?

41 JIMMY DAVIS: Mr. Chair.

42 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Davis.

43 JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr.

44 Chair. I just want to say a few comments.

45 I am very proud of our county tonight. I'm very
46 thankful and proud of Chairman Ray Graham and
47 Councilman Brett Sanders for leading this committee.
48 There were several citizens that had input. Our county
49 attorney, Mr. Leon Harmon, made sure that things were
50 done right and in a legal way. And last, but not

1 least, I want to thank Sheriff Chad McBride who also
2 contributed to this ordinance that we're reading
3 tonight. And I'm very appreciate to the Sheriff for
4 being a part of that and having input on it.
5 I'm a proud supporter of the Second Amendment and
6 the protection of our rights. I'm a lifetime member of
7 Belton Gun Club. I'm a proud member of the NRA. And
8 I'm thankful that tonight we will see Anderson County
9 become a Second Amendment Sanctuary County.
10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr.
12 Davis. Anyone else?
13 I'd just like to say in closing I want to
14 reiterate, I want to thank the committee and the
15 council members, the Sheriff, our attorney. I want to
16 thank the citizens for -- that served on this committee
17 that got us where we're at today. I want to thank
18 y'all, the public for being here, and putting y'all's
19 input on both sides of the issue. That's what makes
20 good government.
21 All in favor of the vote ---
22 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.
23 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma'am.
24 GRACIE FLOYD: I would like to
25 make a comment.
26 TOMMY DUNN: Go ahead.
27 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I think
28 I've told y'all this before ---
29 TOMMY DUNN: Speak into the mic,
30 Mr. Floyd. We can't hear you.
31 GRACIE FLOYD: I think I've told
32 y'all this before, that I am a carrier. I am a -- I
33 have my whatever you call it thing that allows you to
34 carry a gun. I have one of those; okay. But I heard
35 it all from the back.
36 Now, I don't care -- I don't care what you say
37 about me, just like you don't care what I think, but I
38 will fight for the right for you to say it. And I will
39 do anything I can to make sure you have a chance to say
40 it. We don't have to agree. Thank you.
41 TOMMY DUNN: All in favor of the
42 vote show of hands. All opposed. Show the motion
43 carries with Mr. Davis, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Dunn, Mr.
44 Wooten and Ms. Wilson in favor and Ms. Floyd opposes.
45 Moving on.
46 **APPLAUSE**
47 TOMMY DUNN: Keep it down,
48 please.
49 Moving on to item number 5(c), 2020-009, an
50 ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of

1 certain agreements by and between Anderson County,
 2 South Carolina and Sargent Metal Fabricators,
 3 Incorporated and Bailtuck, LLC whereby under certain
 4 conditions, said companies will acquire, by
 5 construction and purchase, certain property in Anderson
 6 County and create certain jobs in Anderson County and
 7 will execute amendments to certain fee in lieu of tax
 8 agreements and special source revenue agreements and
 9 provide certain economic development inducements and
 10 enact certain further legislation for said companies,
 11 Project MIT involving an expected nine million five
 12 hundred thousand dollar investment and create an
 13 expected fifty jobs in the county. Mr. Nelson.

14 BURRISS NELSON: Mr. Chairman, thank
 15 you. MIT and Sargent Metal and Industrial Coaters,
 16 they're expanding fifty jobs and 9.5 million dollars in
 17 capital investment. Fifty jobs with an annual -- with
 18 an hourly salary of seventeen twenty-five, generating
 19 an annual payroll of 1.725 million dollars each year.
 20 MIT is currently -- is current with its capital
 21 investment and jobs creation from previous projects and
 22 is certainly up to date with its current property tax.
 23 And is bringing to us an opportunity for great jobs.

24 There was a press release that you should have in
 25 the back of your packet of your document from -- a
 26 press release from the governor's office on Tuesday --
 27 last Thursday, July 2nd.

28 But this project is presented to council for
 29 consideration and comes with a recommendation from
 30 staff and the Economic Development Advisory Board.

31 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr.
 32 Nelson. At this time we're going to go into a public
 33 hearing. Anyone wishing to speak on this matter,
 34 please step forward and state your name and district
 35 you live in and address the chair, please. Public
 36 hearing. Anyone at all. Seeing and hearing no one,
 37 the public hearing will be closed. Do we have a motion
 38 to move this forward?

39 JIMMY DAVIS: So moved.

40 CINDY WILSON: Second.

41 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Davis;

42 second Ms. Wilson. Now discussion.

43 CINDY WILSON: May I real quick?

44 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

45 CINDY WILSON: This is another
 46 home grown company that's been here for a long time and
 47 they've consistently added more and more employees and
 48 more and more manufacturing. We're very blessed to
 49 have home grown family-owned businesses because we all
 50 know that small businesses in this country generally

1 hire the most people collectively. So we're blessed to
2 have these companies in our county. Thank you.
3 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.
4 Ms. Floyd.
5 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Burriss -- Mr.
6 Burriss Nelson, at one time did we hear, or am I
7 mistaken, I'm asking a question because I don't know
8 now. Okay? But did we say at one time that they were
9 going to have more jobs than fifty?
10 BURRISS NELSON: Well, they have
11 currently over a hundred jobs that they're maintaining.
12 This is the second expansion. You know, we did an
13 expansion for them about four years ago. And they
14 continue to grow. This is an eighty thousand square
15 foot expansion of their current building and will add
16 an additional fifty jobs.
17 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. But at one
18 time did we hear that they were going to add more than
19 fifty jobs?
20 BURRISS NELSON: Not to my ---
21 GRACIE FLOYD: It has always been
22 fifty jobs?
23 BURRISS NELSON: Not to my
24 knowledge, on this project.
25 GRACIE FLOYD: Now what's not to
26 your knowledge. Have they always said fifty jobs?
27 That's what I'm asking.
28 BURRISS NELSON: Yes, ma'am.
29 GRACIE FLOYD: And how much money
30 are they getting out of this?
31 BURRISS NELSON: There's a SSRC
32 multi-county park agreement ---
33 GRACIE FLOYD: Uh-uh, no, no, no,
34 no. No, no, no, no, no, let's not do SSRC. Let's say
35 what SSRC is because a lot of people don't know, and I
36 don't know either.
37 BURRISS NELSON: Special Source
38 Revenue Credit.
39 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right.
40 Now, ---
41 BURRISS NELSON: And that special
42 source revenue credit allows them a discount of
43 property tax of sixty percent for the first five years.
44 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay, now, it says
45 the company's nine million five -- okay, 9.5 million
46 investment will increase -- will create fifty new jobs.
47 BURRISS NELSON: That's right.
48 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. So is this
49 money coming from the, from the federal government?
50 This money is coming from where?

1 BURRISS NELSON: Well, they have
2 cash of their own and will borrow money from various
3 lenders and banks.

4 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Is this part
5 of the opportunity zone money?

6 BURRISS NELSON: To my understanding
7 they did not apply for an opportunity zone grant or
8 application.

9 GRACIE FLOYD: Oh, good. So --
10 all right. Good. Thank you.

11 TOMMY DUNN: Any more
12 discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands.
13 Opposed like sign. Show the motion carries
14 unanimously.

15 Moving on to item number 5(d), 2020-011, an
16 ordinance declaring a moratorium for six months on the
17 issuance of approvals of development permits for
18 recreational vehicles, that's RV, parks and tiny home
19 subdivisions in Anderson County. Ms. Floyd.

20 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.

21 I know most of you have heard now about the RV
22 park. It's -- I don't even know how to get started.
23 I'm asking the council tonight to please pass a third
24 reading that we can have a moratorium on the park. The
25 moratorium will give us more time to figure out what
26 happened. What happened. This came up in November of
27 last year and they sent me nothing. They sent me a
28 sheet of paper with the moratorium on it, that they
29 were going to have them -- this thing coming up. And
30 it didn't say what district. It didn't say anything.
31 No district. Just an RV park is coming.

32 The second page had the agenda on it for that
33 meeting which was going to be held in November the
34 12th. It, too, didn't have anything on it about what
35 district it was. After that the third sheet had
36 November the 12th at the top. And on November the 12th
37 they had District 2 was going to be on it.

38 I had never been to a meeting for that because
39 nobody ever put anything in my district. And when they
40 finally did, it scared me to death. I didn't know what
41 they were talking about. But they put it on there
42 anyway.

43 Of course, I have complained about that. And the
44 Director of the department tells me, well, they've
45 changed it now or they're going to change it now.
46 They're going to start putting the date on there. But
47 other things happened that wasn't right. I only have
48 five minutes to tell you about it, and I can't do it in
49 five minutes. But I'm going to tell you one thing, it
50 wasn't right. And while I was waiting back there I

1 heard you talking about the Centerville -- any more
2 Centerville people in here? All of them gone; right?
3 But anyway, Centerville, you better watch out. You
4 better watch out. They've got four opportunity zones
5 they're calling them. It's not an opportunity for
6 you. It's an opportunity for them. They're going to
7 come over in this district and they're going to take
8 these people's community from them. They're going to
9 put up one hundred one day and ninety the next day.
10 But today they're putting up one hundred little tiny
11 houses on wheels. On wheels.

12 Do you want that in your backyard? They don't
13 either. They don't either. But they don't seem to
14 have a chance.

15 There's another way to do it. It's being done in
16 District 4. The people there are putting in a
17 subdivision. And before they came to Anderson they got
18 in touch with the county council person who worked with
19 them and talked with them. And then they had a meeting
20 with the people of that community. And the people had
21 a chance to express how they feel about this
22 subdivision coming in. Then they had another meeting
23 with this company.

24 But District 2, poor ole District 2 didn't get that
25 opportunity. What they did to us is say, wham, here it
26 is. You've going to have a RV park, a little tiny RV
27 park.

28 One time it was one family; the next time we looked
29 around it was for two families. It's going to be on
30 wheels. The law says you can't put an RV on wheels
31 permanently. But what does that have to do with it?
32 I've been fighting for this now since February. They
33 called me about it -- they voted on it in February on
34 the first reading.

35 Now up here on county, before we can do things we
36 have to have three readings before it passes. But they
37 did it on the first reading and passed it.

38 Now we're facing an RV community park around people
39 who have almost paid for their homes and been there for
40 a long time and are in a system where they're getting
41 ready to retire if they haven't already retired. But
42 look what they're facing. And then they told us in ten
43 years they're going to sell the RV homes. Who they
44 going to sell it to? Who's going to want it? You
45 know.

46 Council members, I'm asking you, please pass the
47 third reading so that District 2 and its community
48 members and others will have an opportunity to fight
49 this thing. To work this thing. To get the truth
50 about these things.

1 Here we heard that they don't have any water.
2 They're not going to get water. Today I heard, oh,
3 yeah, we're going to get water. Nobody knows what to
4 think.

5 Now, it can happen to you. They have one coming up
6 on Belton Highway. They have one coming up on Whitner
7 Street. And they have one planned for Centerville.
8 But you know, I don't know. I'm just, I'm just a voice
9 crying in the night to tell you you've been gone away
10 too long. You are not coming to the meetings to hear
11 what they can do to you. You need to be aware.

12 Council members, I'm asking you to please vote with
13 me. Your homes, your situations, are secure. You
14 don't live in District 2. Some of you live in really
15 nice districts. But give others a chance to have the
16 opportunities that you have. Thank you.

17 TOMMY DUNN: That's time. We'll
18 be going into a public hearing on this issue. Anyone
19 wishing to speak to this matter, please step forward,
20 state your name and district and address the chair,
21 please. Anyone? Anyone at all?

22 MICHELLE BURTON: My name is Michelle
23 Burton and I saw you guys last time. And we're coming
24 again asking for a moratorium for us to be able to have
25 at least six months. I think everyone pretty much kind
26 of agreed that there's been some mishandling of this
27 situation. We could point fingers. However, there's
28 always fingers that's being pointed back at yourselves.
29 I mean, that's just common sense.

30 So what we are asking, though, is to please allow
31 us to have that six month moratorium to see if we have
32 a leg to stand on. Possibly -- we were told maybe
33 appeals. Then we were told maybe we don't have any
34 rights to appeals because this happened in November.
35 But we would appreciate some time so that we can see
36 where we can go forward. Thank you.

37 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone
38 else? Anyone else at all? Seeing and hearing none the
39 public hearing will be closed.

40 Ms. Floyd, did you put a motion on the floor?

41 GRACIE FLOYD: I move that county
42 council vote to put a -- on the third reading to put a
43 moratorium on the floor which would give us time to
44 work through this situation that we are in. And I ask
45 that you consider voting for it.

46 TOMMY DUNN: Do we have a
47 second? I second it. Open the floor up for
48 discussion. I'll start it off. I just want to make
49 ---

50 CINDY WILSON: May I, Mr.

1 Chairman?

2 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma'am.

3 CINDY WILSON: Our Planning and
4 Public Works Committee met recently and we've been
5 informed that we do have definitions of the tiny homes,
6 the RVs, the RVs on wheels, mobile homes, modular,
7 stick built. So we already have all of those
8 definitions in place in our Codes of Ordinances.

9 It appears that this particular project has already
10 been permitted. It's already in place. What we do
11 want to do going forward, because we've had a number of
12 projects coming through under either special exceptions
13 or in unzoned areas where there's a minimum of
14 notification required, we as a council are moving
15 forward on some measures to make sure from here on out
16 that neighboring properties are informed of proposals
17 and we get the notifications out.

18 Currently in zoned areas we send out postcards to
19 every landowner of record within two thousand feet.
20 And we have a specific process to go by where the
21 citizens who voted to impose zoning on themselves have
22 more opportunities to say or help form what goes in
23 beside them. That was the one advantage of zoning.

24 But with the special exceptions, we're concerned
25 about that being the same type of issue as what we're
26 dealing with in unzoned areas.

27 The good news is this county is doing such a good
28 job of encouraging business development and we have
29 such wonderful people here, the logistics, the
30 aesthetics, everything is perfect here. We're now
31 getting a rash of outside developers coming in. They
32 want to take advantage of and benefit from what our
33 county has done here.

34 So that is a brief explanation of how we got to
35 this point and where we're planning to go from here.
36 And we do enlist your help in this effort.

37 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms.

38 Wilson.

39 You know, I just want to -- I've said this I think
40 about -- I know two other meetings, maybe three. We
41 can pass this tonight, but it's not going to affect the
42 situation down on Highway 29. It's just not -- it
43 can't do it. Legally they can -- we ain't got a leg to
44 stand on. And so we have learned from this. They went
45 by the rules. They've done everything. This is not a
46 rezoning thing. It's apples and oranges compared to
47 what's going on in District 4 because it's two
48 different things.

49 We have learned from this so fortunately we can
50 change some things and Ms. Hunter is going to make some

1 recommendations to us, and like Ms. Wilson alluded to
2 about the public notice and public things.

3 We've been dealing with this or it's been coming
4 since like February. I announced at the last council
5 meeting anybody wants to call me I'll be glad to set up
6 meetings to see what we can do. The only course is in
7 the law, state law, is going across the street at --
8 not here, but at the new courthouse and file a suit
9 with a lawyer. We can't do it for you. We're not got
10 the thing. It's got to be the citizens doing it.
11 That's the remedy. That's what the law says. But we
12 can't. That's not going -- it's been since February
13 since this thing has been in the works and there should
14 have done been some meetings and some things. Like I
15 said we know what a definition of RV park is. We know
16 what the definition of tiny homes is. It's in our
17 ordinances and what we adopted in the National Codes of
18 Building.

19 I just want to get that out there. And I hate some
20 people have still got a false hope that we can stop
21 this. If I could stop it, vote to stop it, believe you
22 me, I would. Anyone else?

23 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair?

24 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.

25 GRACIE FLOYD: What we want is to
26 give us more time. Don't ever accept, folks, that you
27 can't do anything about it. Don't ever accept that.
28 There's always something that can be done about it.
29 You have to work. You have to dig. But if you can get
30 to the right person there's always something you can do
31 about it.

32 The only thing that you can't do nothing about is
33 what God controls. That's the only thing you can't do
34 anything about. But don't ever let nobody tell you
35 that there's nothing you can do about it because it's
36 defeating. It's to defeat your spirit. And if God be
37 for you, who can be against you?

38 **APPLAUSE**

39 GRACIE FLOYD: Now what we're
40 trying to do -- the only thing we're trying to do is to
41 make it fair. Our people in that community were not
42 told anything. Nobody told them they were going to
43 come and take their community from them as they did
44 this councilman over here. They came down and talked
45 to him before they went into his community, his
46 district, to talk to him. We didn't get that. They
47 said they put a sign up. Nobody saw a sign. Lady
48 shaking her head right there. Nobody saw a sign up.

49 The only thing we know is that I was sent some
50 papers about -- just like we do every month -- about a

1 meeting that's going to held. It didn't have District
2 2 on there anywhere. It could have been seven
3 districts and I can't afford to go to seven districts
4 and find out if this was mine. Somebody should have
5 called me first as they had been doing to others. But
6 I didn't get that. I didn't get that.

7 I love my district. I have the greatest people in
8 the world -- in Anderson County in District 2. They're
9 people that care about people. And I care about what's
10 happening to them. Would you want your mother to live
11 in the same house all those years and all of a sudden
12 somebody's going to put a tiny house behind her house?
13 Who's going to live there? We've heard all kind of
14 stories. And yes, I'm passionate about it because I
15 believe in it. And I will stand up for it and I will
16 work. I will work. Even when they slam the door in my
17 face, I'll work.

18 Now, they've made all kind of things about what
19 they're going to do now. Next time we'll do this and
20 next time we'll do that. What about this time? Get
21 the people out of there then so you can have the whole
22 place. Find houses for them. And you can have your
23 next time. But we're talking now. We're talking about
24 my eighty-two year old lady that lives down there now;
25 several of them. What are they going to do? It's
26 going to increase the crime rate. You're going to have
27 the police presence there more. People can't live like
28 that. You don't just go and just take people's
29 property. You don't do that without giving them a
30 word.

31 Now, if you're zoned, if you're zoned, it's
32 different. If you're zoned, they will write you a nice
33 little card and tell you that this is coming. They
34 will have all the people down there. But if you're
35 unzoned, you are discriminated on. What's the
36 difference between zoned and unzoned? Still people.
37 Still people.

38 And what I'm asking tonight is for the council to
39 please vote to give us six months. When these people
40 came down and they said the word lawsuit, oh, man. We
41 scrambled. Scared us. All you have to say is lawsuit
42 and it scares you.

43 Who told these people -- who gave these people
44 permission to go down there and do things? Who gave
45 these people permission to go and hire lawyers and
46 stuff? All of the -- the Planning Committee just
47 signed a paper that gave them permission. But they
48 came back the next month and they wanted a variance.
49 And some of these papers say no variance. But now they
50 need a variance. I don't think it's fair. I don't

1 think it's fair. And I don't think it's right.
2 TOMMY DUNN: We've got time on
3 this issue. All in favor of Ms. Floyd's motion?
4 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I was through
5 anyway.
6 TOMMY DUNN: Okay. All in favor
7 of Ms. Floyd's motion, show of hands. All opposed.
8 Show the motion is defeated with Mr. Sanders, Mr. Dunn,
9 Mr. Davis and Ms. Wilson opposed. Mr. Wooten and Ms.
10 Floyd in favor.
11 GRACIE FLOYD: It's what we
12 expected, but ---
13 TOMMY DUNN: We're move on to
14 number 6(a).
15 GRACIE FLOYD: Watch out for your
16 neighborhoods.
17 TOMMY DUNN: Ordinance second
18 reading, 2020-013, an ordinance to amend the zoning map
19 to rezone plus or minus nineteen plus or minus acres
20 from C-2 highway commercial to R-M multi-family
21 residential on Welpine Road.
22 Mr. Sanders, would you like to make any comments
23 before we go into public hearing.
24 BRETT SANDERS: Yes, sir, Mr.
25 Chairman. This is a project that Ms. Floyd was
26 referring to. It passed unanimously last time. The
27 developers did things the proper way. Prior to
28 spending money and drawings, they actually came before
29 me. I met with the developers. They met with the
30 community. I had some concerns and issues about
31 ingress and egress. They met with Holt Hopkins over
32 our Roads and Bridges; with Matt Hogan, as well.
33 This is the way a project should be done, and not
34 get caught up midstream later on after money has been
35 invested and spent.
36 I think it's a great addition for the area over in
37 Welpine. It's right there at the Cracker
38 Barrel/Outback area. They've also agreed to make the
39 Interstate Boulevard, which is one way in/one way out,
40 to actually offer another alternative.
41 And I would appreciate council's support on this
42 issue.
43 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr.
44 Sanders.
45 We'll be going into public hearing now. Anyone
46 wishing to speak to this matter, please step forward
47 and state your name and district and address the chair,
48 please. Anyone at all? Hearing and seeing none, the
49 public hearing will be closed. Do we have a motion to
50 put it on the floor?

1 BRETT SANDERS: So moved.
2 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Sanders.
3 Do we have a second?
4 JIMMY DAVIS: Second.
5 TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Davis.
6 Now discussion.
7 Ms. Hunter, do you have anything you want to add?
8 ALISIA HUNTER: No, sir.
9 TOMMY DUNN: Anything at all?
10 All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed
11 like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously with
12 council members here. Show Ms. Floyd has left. We've
13 got Mr. Davis, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Wooten and
14 Ms. Wilson in favor.
15 Moving on to item number 6(b), an ordinance to
16 amend the zoning map to rezone plus or minus 43.91
17 acres from R-20 single family residential to R-A that's
18 residential agricultural, located at 2705 Centerville
19 Road. District 5.
20 Ms. Hunter, do you have anything you want to add to
21 this before we go into public hearing?
22 ALISIA HUNTER: No, sir, unless you
23 have some further questions.
24 TOMMY DUNN: Okay. Thank you.
25 We'll go into public hearing on this matter. Anyone
26 wishing to step forward and speak to this matter,
27 please step forward and state your name and district
28 and address the chair, please. Anyone at all? Seeing
29 and hearing none, the public hearing will be closed.
30 Put this in the form of a motion to put on the floor.
31 Do we have a second?
32 JIMMY DAVIS: Second.
33 TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Davis.
34 Now any discussion? Seeing and hearing none, all in
35 favor of the emotion show of hands. All opposed like
36 sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.
37 Moving on to item number 6(c), 2020-017, an
38 ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a
39 fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Anderson
40 County, South Carolina and Project Westwind with
41 respect to certain economic development property in the
42 county, whereby such property will be subject to
43 certain payments in lieu of taxes, including the
44 provision of certain special source revenue credits.
45 Mr. Nelson.
46 BURRISS NELSON: Thank you, Mr.
47 Chairman, members of council. Westwind is a project we
48 have an independent citizen in the community who is
49 willing to spend 2.8 million dollars of his own money
50 to build a spec building out at the Airport Industrial

1 Park. We do not have any Class A industrial buildings.
2 This will be the only Class A industrial building that
3 we'll have available in the county to attract other
4 industries. Fifty-five thousand square feet. This
5 will give us an opportunity to bring jobs and an
6 opportunity to further develop the Anderson Airport
7 Industrial Park.

8 This project will pay -- the property last year
9 paid sixty dollars in property tax. The first year of
10 2021 or probably 2022, the project will pay about five
11 thousand in taxes. And over twenty years will pay over
12 four hundred thousand just as a shell building.
13 Obviously we hope, and so does the developer hope, that
14 that building will be filled with an industry full of
15 good high paying jobs.

16 But the important part of this is we're getting a
17 spec building for industrial recruitment and using
18 somebody else's money to do that. The county doesn't
19 have to spend a dime in the development of this
20 particular project other than the discounted property
21 tax.

22 This comes to council as a recommendation from
23 staff as well as from the Advisory Board. And we
24 appreciate your consideration. Thank you, sir.

25 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr.
26 Nelson. Do we have a motion to move this forward?

27 CINDY WILSON: So moved.

28 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson.
29 Do we have a second?

30 BRETT SANDERS: Second.

31 TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Sanders.

32 Now, any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the
33 motion show of hands. Show the motion carries
34 unanimously.

35 BURRISS NELSON: Mr. Chairman, ---

36 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, sir.

37 BURRISS NELSON: --- I'd like to
38 thank you and all the members of council for all your
39 continued support.

40 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you and your
41 staff for the great work you're doing for Anderson
42 County.

43 BURRISS NELSON: Thank you, sir.

44 TOMMY DUNN: We're going to move
45 on now to item number 7(a), this is an ordinance first
46 reading. This is 7(a), 2020-014, an ordinance to amend
47 the zoning map to rezone plus or minus 141.83 acres
48 from R-20 single family residential to PD planned
49 development located at Highway 187, Fants Grove Road,
50 Burns Bridge Road, and William Walker Road.

1 We'll be going into a public hearing in just a
2 second. But I'm going to ask Mr. Sanders if he's got
3 any comments before we go into public hearing?

4 BRETT SANDERS: Yes, sir. Thank
5 you, Mr. Chairman.

6 I want all the people from 187 area to know that I
7 am a part of your community. I live on LaFrance Road.
8 This development is a mile, mile and a half from where
9 I live. I pass it daily. I've had multiple calls,
10 multiple emails. I have spent weeks on this. I've
11 called Ms. Hunter multiple times, even after hours to
12 gather information and facts.

13 And there's two facts that I want to share with
14 everyone here tonight. Number one, I only have one way
15 or two ways to vote. That's either a yes or a no. I
16 want people to understand what the yes or no means.

17 No means it stays R-20 which the community voted on
18 in 2002 at Mount Taber for the zoning. What that means
19 is -- and correct me if I'm wrong, Ms. Hunter -- there
20 can be on that particular site with everything in
21 there, two hundred and forty homes or two hundred and
22 forty mobile homes can be put on that property with no
23 input from council or from you guys.

24 TOMMY DUNN: If I'm not mistaken
25 that would be double wides.

26 BRETT SANDERS: Double wides, and
27 they do have to be underpinned, thank God. But if we
28 vote yes, that means more than two hundred and forty
29 homes.

30 But I talked with our attorney, Mr. Harmon, today
31 and I would like to vote yes on first reading. It has
32 to have three readings in order to pass. I want to
33 vote yes on first reading with a caveat that the
34 developers or engineers and the community, citizens
35 from the community, get together and ask questions,
36 talk. I mean we don't know what we can get done over
37 there unless we ask.

38 Is Mr. McCutchen here? This gentleman right here,
39 I talked to him today. He is with Elliott, Davis. Is
40 that correct, sir?

41 TOMMY DUNN: Davis & Floyd.

42 BRETT SANDERS: Davis & Floyd.
43 He's the engineer on that project. I talked with him
44 today. They're willing to listen to the people, to
45 make concessions, to put berms up, extra shrubbery,
46 green space.

47 So the thing is, I can vote yes first reading.
48 Then it'll have to come back before us again after the
49 community group meets with Mr. McCutchen -- excuse me
50 if I pronounce that wrong -- to see if they can work

1 out something. Other than that there can be two
2 hundred and forty houses or trailers there with no
3 input from us.

4 I do know that I've had calls complaining about
5 there's not enough infrastructure, the roads. I live
6 there. I looked through the packet. I'm not sure --
7 I'm sure I can get everyone a copy of it. But the
8 South Carolina DOT, the engineer studies say yes, it
9 can handle it. The water, the sewer is already there.
10 I had calls today, I think, from Mr. Buckner. I think
11 he got up and spoke earlier. I don't know if he's
12 still here. Yes, there he is. The sewer is there.
13 What I would like to see is pass first reading. Let's
14 sit down with these people and try to come to some kind
15 of mutual agreement or some common ground to where we
16 actually have some input. The other side of that is if
17 it doesn't and it gets turned down, it goes back to two
18 hundred and forty houses or mobile homes. But maybe
19 Mr. McCutchen would actually remember our faces when we
20 sit down and talk with him and we could still have some
21 input.

22 I do know in order to go to PD they will -- turn
23 lanes will have to be put in there at their expense.
24 Possible red light. There's some other things in there
25 that's in the packet. But I would like for us to do
26 like I had to do. At first I was going on emotion and
27 not common sense and reality. But I would like for us
28 to put our emotions aside, sit down, try to work
29 something out. If not, we turn it down and it's over.
30 It goes back to two hundred and forty houses with no
31 input.

32 And I'm requesting that council go with me on first
33 reading. If it's not the community's agreement, it
34 will be voted and turned down the next two readings.
35 There has to be three readings, again.

36 But I don't know how anyone could not want to sit
37 down with someone that's getting ready to put a minimum
38 with no input two hundred and forty houses. This will
39 allow us and make them come to the table to where we
40 can have some input. I think it's the common sense way
41 to do it. And that's what I'm putting forth tonight.

42 And I appreciate everyone being here and I look
43 forward to hearing your comments.

44 TOMMY DUNN: We'll go into a
45 public hearing now on this project. Anyone wishing to
46 speak on this, please step forward and state your name,
47 your district and address the chair, please. Public
48 hearing.

49 JAMIE MCCUTCHEN: My name is Jamie
50 McCutchen. I'm with Davis & Floyd Engineering out of

1 Greenville. I came up here first because I do want to
2 -- I know there's people here that have concerns.
3 Quite a few of those in the hearing earlier. And
4 unfortunately we haven't been able to get information
5 out to everyone just because of COVID and other issues,
6 so I kind of want to go through with council to show
7 you what we've already done and address a few key
8 issues.

9 So first of all, the infrastructure, we have had a
10 traffic study done. It's been approved by Anderson
11 County and DOT. It does require substantial turn lanes
12 and improvements which the developer has to do under
13 the PD. He doesn't have a choice. He has to have
14 those put in. And we talked to Anderson County and
15 they said before he finishes a hundred lots he's got to
16 have it done. So we're talking about a four hundred-
17 ish, four twenty development. But early on in the
18 project all those improvements have to be in place.

19 We have a new sewer line coming through that area.
20 I think it's about an eighteen million dollar
21 investment from what I understand. This project is
22 possible because of that. And in hindsight, you know,
23 R-20 was put in place before sewer was really there.
24 So it really wasn't practical to do smaller lots in
25 that case.

26 Touching on our plan, this was our original plan.
27 This had -- was a planned development. We met with
28 staff to come up with this plan. We had a community
29 meeting planned in March at Pendleton High School.
30 COVID hit right then and it had to be canceled. We
31 sent out two hundred and forty-four letters to all the
32 property owners in the area that was provided by the
33 county. We asked them to go to a website and sign up
34 to get information. We did our best to communicate
35 through the COVID pandemic, but obviously that made it
36 very difficult. We only had about thirty folks that
37 actually signed up and we were able to send information
38 to.

39 But with the input we did have our plan included
40 twenty acres of commercial along Highway 187. It
41 included single family residential on the backside of
42 that, a section of town homes in the middle and single
43 family on the other side of the road.

44 Now we also had a section here on the other side of
45 William Walker Road that was to be developed into
46 housing, as well.

47 At the public hearing we heard the comments. We
48 were able to finally get a lot of information from the
49 community. And so what we did is we went back and
50 said, okay, if it stayed R-20 -- I'm sorry, I don't

1 have this one in color so it may not show quite as well
2 -- what would happen. How could we do it if it was R-
3 20? Well, in order to get enough lots out there to
4 make it work, we had to use every bit of the property.
5 Our previous plan had buffers all the way around. We
6 were saving a lot of stuff in open space, a lot of
7 parks.

8 Under this plan we have a row of lots fronting on
9 William Walker Road. In our previous plan we didn't
10 have any lots on William Walker Road. They were all
11 backing up, but we had a connection except for this one
12 little area in here. Okay? We also had to use all of
13 this area back in the back by this stream. Under the
14 county requirements in order to get the number of lots
15 we have to use basically every square inch. And so it
16 goes all the way around, no buffers, nothing to really
17 protect the adjoining property owners because if you're
18 going to limit it to that, you've got to get as much
19 yield as you can.

20 We don't want to do that. To be honest, I don't
21 believe my client would actually do that. I believe
22 the current owner would probably either do it himself
23 or find someone else to do it.

24 So what we did do is last week, with Councilman
25 Sanders' help and the property owner's help, we met
26 with a small group of residents in the area. So there
27 was about five -- four families represented. Five
28 people there. And we went back to the drawing board
29 and we listened to them. We had a two-hour meeting.
30 And we said tell us your concerns. Tell us what all it
31 is that's really giving you heartburn.

32 Well, first off they said we don't want as much
33 commercial. We said okay. We're okay with that. We
34 took it down from twenty acres commercial to three and
35 a half acres commercial. The only commercial now is
36 right here on the corner of Fants Grove and Highway
37 187. So we took out sixteen and a half acres of
38 commercial development out of this plan.

39 We heard the citizens from William Walker that
40 there's elderly there, they've been there a long time.
41 They don't want to be disturbed. We took that property
42 out entirely. We're not going to touch that property.
43 It's not going to be included in the plan. There is no
44 access at all to William Walker Road. There is a
45 twenty foot buffer down William Walker. There's a
46 great row of trees down William Walker Road now. We're
47 maintaining those and leaving an extra room to plant
48 more wherever it's been and needs it. So the residents
49 on William Walker would only have the back of these
50 houses with a solid twenty foot natural buffer with the

1 large trees remaining in place.

2 We talked to the folks in the back along Fants
3 Grove. They had a lot of concern about the stream and
4 the natural area, natural habitat and just having the
5 houses against them. We've agreed not to go on the
6 other side of that stream. There's a -- sixteen acres
7 of a park to remain natural, undisturbed, including
8 that stream area on that side.

9 We heard from the folks on the other side that had
10 the stables. I believe it's the Parkers. They said
11 we're really concerned about residents coming over and
12 messing with our horses or being with our stables. We
13 said what would you like us to do? They said we'd like
14 a fence. In addition to the buffer we'd like a fence.
15 Okay. We've agreed to install a six foot fence around
16 their entire property line and extending in both
17 directions to minimize people being able to go and
18 interfere with them.

19 This plan has twenty percent, twenty percent of the
20 property as open space and buffers. Think about that a
21 second. Twenty percent that we're giving up, not
22 touching, not using to develop, just to protect the
23 community. We've also agreed along Highway 187 to put
24 in a fifty foot buffer. It's a landscape berm. When
25 you drive by there you won't see houses. The only area
26 that doesn't apply is in the limited commercial area.

27 So we've done that on both sides of 187, both side
28 of the project, fifty foot buffer, heavily landscaped
29 with a big landscape berm.

30 So, Mr. Chairman, members of council, I think these
31 are the key points. We're certainly willing to talk.
32 I'm not saying this is the final plan. We've talked to
33 staff. We've made sure and we've been to the Planning
34 Commission and they recommend denial, although we did
35 have staff recommendation for approval. We asked the
36 question, do we have an opportunity during this process
37 to make changes? They said yes you do. We're here
38 tonight, we're asking you to move us forward, allow us
39 to make some more changes, allow us time to meet with
40 the community.

41 And in the community meeting we did have -- and I
42 don't know if any of you were here tonight to speak
43 because I hate to speak for someone else -- but I
44 believe when I left there, their agreement -- or their
45 perception of the project was a plan like this with all
46 these buffers and all these protections and all these
47 requirements is better than what it could be. And
48 that's our goal. Yes, we're asking for a little higher
49 density. We need a few more units. Not everybody
50 wants to live on a half acre or an acre. You know,

1 we're meeting the demand that's out there. But in
2 order to do that we can give up some areas around the
3 outside and preserve it.

4 One other thing that the community brought up. And
5 to be honest, I hadn't thought about this, was we're
6 worried about student housing. We're worried that this
7 gets rented by students. It's not that far from
8 Clemson, especially on the town homes, might be very
9 attractive. My developer doesn't want that. There's
10 some fair housing rules. There's some legal issues we
11 have to work through. But he's committed to do what he
12 can under the law to prevent student housing from being
13 in this development.

14 I believe that's all the points. I sent you all
15 some information earlier today. You've all got my
16 contact information. If there's some way to do that.
17 I will say we've had a hard time reaching residents.
18 We weren't able to reach anyone on William Walker Road
19 for our meeting. I just didn't have that contact
20 information and wasn't able to get it to them. So and
21 I'm not sure if they could do a sign-up or give it to
22 staff. My company name is all over these plans. I
23 will return a phone call. I will return email. I'd
24 love to sit down and talk. But before we have our next
25 meeting, I commit to you to sit down and listen and
26 help them understand the advantages of a plan like this
27 versus what it could be.

28 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.

29 JAMIE MCCUTCHEN: Thank you very

30 much.

31 TOMMY DUNN: Next.

32 ANNA FOSTER: Hi. I'm Anna
33 Foster from District 4. I live on Tivoli Drive, which
34 is located directly across from the property that
35 extends onto Burns Bridge Road.

36 For many years there has been safety issues at the
37 Intersection of 187 and Wild Hog Road where Burns
38 Bridge Road is. There are accidents that have
39 happened. And there's been some serious accidents when
40 you try to pull out onto the road. There's actually a
41 lot not currently, but usually there's plenty of high
42 schoolers that drive on that road. And my main concern
43 is when you're putting all the turning lanes and three
44 lanes and making it all different like there's a whole
45 lot of high schoolers that do drive on that road. And
46 I think we should take that into consideration. I just
47 can't imagine what it would be like if the road becomes
48 even more busy.

49 Now also a thing to take into consideration is when
50 it floods there are two main issues with this area in

1 traveling to and from Wild Hog Road. The main issues
2 with flooding have to do with low-lying areas near this
3 property. My neighborhood is known for flooding and it
4 is directly across the road.

5 But the major concern would be travel. When going
6 to and from Wild Hog Road, there are two bridges that
7 sometimes hinder your travel during certain weather
8 conditions. These two bridges are located on Burns
9 Bridge Road and Centerville Road. When there is a lot
10 of rain Centerville Road bridge turns into a river
11 itself and is impassable. The bridge on Burns Bridge
12 Road is completely impassable when there is a tiny bit
13 of ice because it is in a shaded area.

14 My point is that by adding over four hundred
15 residential homes/commercial spaces, you will be adding
16 way more than four hundred additional commuters, which
17 creates many more safety issues involving traffic.

18 Our community does not want Wild Hog Road to become
19 a three-lane road with turning lanes and congestion.

20 I completely understand the concept of wanting to
21 see our county grow. But if a developer can create an
22 over-filled neighborhood, it will lead to a perilous
23 environment. There will be more crime, issues with
24 School District 4 being able to facilitate additional
25 children, traffic hazards and mainly an invasion of
26 privacy to current residents.

27 We love our community just the way that it is.
28 That is why we choose to call it home. Rezoning would
29 be a mistake because when all of us current landowners
30 bought our land we were under the impression that it
31 would remain a safe haven to retreat to. But now it is
32 being pushed to the brink by developers who are not
33 even from here and do not understand the significance
34 of the land to us.

35 For heaven sake, I must say I have a question for
36 the developer and for everyone in this room. Why on
37 earth would you dream of putting four hundred plus
38 residential homes, commercial spaces on a hundred and
39 forty-one acres of land in this particular location? I
40 mean the road is named Wild Hog for a reason. And I
41 bet the developer has no clue where the name came from.
42 But we all do. They used to transport hogs to Portman
43 Marina to be shipped off. There was a wreck and some
44 of them fell out of the truck. Until this day
45 everybody says those hogs are still running loose
46 somewhere in them woods.

47 This Cornerstone development is not the ideal
48 development for our area. But ultimately if they want
49 to develop, it will be done. But what I ask of you as
50 the council is to deny their rezoning request so that

1 at least it will limit their capacity of development.
2 Thank you for your time. And I greatly appreciate
3 everything that you all do.

4 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Next,
5 please.

6 MICHAEL WHITAKER: My name is Michael
7 Whitaker from Anderson, South Carolina. I'm actually
8 here to speak on behalf of something else, but I wasn't
9 even aware of this issue. I live off of 187 and
10 Centerville Road and I was not addressed in it. I was
11 never informed of anything. My home is a permanent
12 foundation. I urge you to give us some time to talk
13 about what's going on because that traffic -- the road
14 is not situated for two hundred and fifty homes.

15 I'd have to research it. Like I said, I definitely
16 want the community to hear more about this because I
17 have heard nothing about this. So that's what I've got
18 to say. Thank you.

19 TOMMY DUNN: Come on up.

20 BEN DOBSON: My name is Ben
21 Dobson, in Anderson County, District 4, Fants Grove
22 Road. I just would like to say -- express our concern
23 with the proposed rezoning of the property located at
24 Highway 187 and Fants Grove Road and the rezoning of
25 Highway 187 and Burns Bridge Road. My wife and I, with
26 our two daughters, live right down the road. My
27 biggest concern is the traffic increase. Traffic is
28 already bad enough with people coming off of 85 are
29 using Fants Grove Road as a cut-through road to Clemson
30 University.

31 We have only lived in this community for the last
32 year and a half and have already had to replace about
33 two hundred yards of fencing due to somebody driving
34 way too fast, losing control and driving through our
35 entrance gate and down the fence line at two thirty in
36 the morning. Thankfully our horses did not get hurt or
37 get out and get hit on the road. You can still see the
38 black marks on the pavement from him sliding around the
39 curve.

40 People also use this road as a racetrack to test
41 out how fast their sports cars and motorcycles can go.
42 There's also been several deaths in the Fants Grove
43 area and that's with less than ten residence houses
44 there now. The speeding is -- traffic down our road
45 makes me nervous having two kids playing around the
46 farm. I can't imagine having more traffic down our
47 road, bringing more speeders, being late for work or
48 hurrying home to their families, not thinking of the
49 houses and the kids they're passing from the
50 development of the roads rezoning application.

1 This is also worrying, considering there is a
2 proposed entrance to the development on our road. We
3 are also concerned with the development at 187 and
4 Burns Bridge Road for the same reasons; the traffic.
5 There are regular wrecks and accidents on 187 and the
6 road is already busy. It's plenty busy with the amount
7 of people who live and travel down 187 without the
8 addition of well over two hundred and fifty houses --
9 proposed houses and several businesses added to that.

10 As a local in this community I can say every
11 neighbor I talked to said the same thing. We do not
12 want more development in our area. We like the small
13 town feel. We like living there for that reason, for
14 the country setting. That is why me and my wife, we
15 moved to that area for that reason because we liked the
16 local setting. There wasn't, you know, a ton of
17 houses. It was more farmland, and that's why we bought
18 our farm. I thought this was a great area to raise my
19 kids in, and I hope y'all will consider the locals'
20 desires for our small community and reject the forward
21 movement of the rezoning application. Thank y'all.

22 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Next.

23 CONNIE PAUL: My name is Connie
24 Paul. I'm from the Anderson County area off the
25 Centerville Road area. I support the young man that
26 was just standing here and everybody that lives in that
27 area. But as being from the Centerville area, we'll
28 trade y'all for the RVs on wheels.

29 **APPLAUSE**

30 TOMMY DUNN: Next, please.

31 BRIAN CULBERTSON: Brian Culbertson,
32 District 4. I live on Paul Miller Road. We're about a
33 mile away from this development. I'm new to the area.
34 We've been here about a year. We searched for six
35 years to find an area to live around Lake Hartwell and
36 we chose this area mostly because of the people. And a
37 lot of these people have spoke tonight already and a
38 lot more probably will.

39 But the big problem that we're going to open up
40 here is not just this development. But as soon as you
41 allow this development how many other acre lots are
42 free to be sold off. And the same thing could repeat
43 itself.

44 My wife and I are from Columbus, Ohio. The reason
45 we came down here is because Anderson County reminds us
46 of Columbus, Ohio in the seventies. Columbus, Ohio
47 went through the same thing that you all are going
48 through right now. Business is beating your doors down
49 to be here because of the quality of life here. Don't
50 let it get ahead of you. If it will you'll end up like

1 Columbus. We're so happy to be down here now because
2 with COVID and the riots, we watched our families back
3 in Columbus get drug through this and we didn't suffer
4 from it. And we didn't suffer because Anderson is the
5 way it is. Make sure you pay attention to what happens
6 going into the future now.

7 One development isn't a big thing. The developer
8 is already willing to make sacrifices because this is a
9 great area. The problem is what happens when it's
10 fifteen developments on 187? And everybody knows
11 there's room to put in fifteen of these communities on
12 187. There's probably room to put twenty. Once you
13 allow one, how long is it going to be before there's
14 going to be fifteen? Thank you all.

15 TOMMY DUNN: Next, please.

16 CHRIS HEELWAGEN: Good evening. My
17 name is Chris Heelwagen. I live on Indian Trail about
18 a mile from the proposed rezoning on Highway 187, right
19 smack in the middle of it. I'm here to voice my
20 preference to keep the R-20 zoning similar to what
21 council has been hearing so far.

22 Several reasons. You know, first I chose to live
23 here for the rural nature of the area. Been here since
24 '94. I worked in Greenville. I had to drive an hour
25 and a half, two hours round trip each day for my job.
26 Why? To get away from the craziness in Greenville. I
27 don't want it. I didn't want it. If I wanted to live
28 in a high density area I could have easily lived up
29 that way. I could have picked locations off of Exit
30 27, 21, 19. I chose to live here for the rural quiet
31 nature of the area.

32 There's a couple of particulars that I'm not happy
33 with in the proposal. I really don't want to see homes
34 more dense than what R-20 currently allows. I would
35 take two hundred and thirty-five slab-type double wide
36 homes over four hundred and some homes in that same
37 area. And I absolutely don't want to see commercial
38 property put out into this highway. I'm real concerned
39 that if that happens it's just going to open the door
40 and Highway 187 is going to become the next Clemson
41 Boulevard.

42 The second point to the council, Brett Sanders,
43 sir, is that you? You and I had a very nice
44 conversation yesterday. I appreciate your time. And I
45 understand what you're trying to do to encourage
46 discussion on the topic. You know, while I'm still
47 against the proposals, I just want to make sure the
48 council, if in fact it's decided to pass it tonight, to
49 allow further discussions, let's make sure we're
50 looking at who's paying for the long term side effects

1 that these developments cost.

2 There was some touching on traffic. Okay. Wear
3 and tear on the roads, potholes, crime, schools filling
4 up. You know, there's probably going to need to be
5 school expansions. School buses. Who's going to pay
6 for that? These developers, they're good at what they
7 do. They get in and they get out of there quick and
8 get those homes sold. Three to five years later it's
9 the communities that are stuck having to deal with
10 them. And a lot of times it falls on the taxpayers
11 that didn't want it in the first place.

12 So please, make sure we're looking at all angles on
13 any proposals, if in fact it gets put through tonight.
14 Now, I've got to admit, personally I'm a little awkward
15 standing here. Rich Bennett I think owns the property.
16 Rich, you're here. Listen ---

17 TOMMY DUNN: Sir, you're to talk
18 to me.

19 CHRIS HEELWAGEN: I'm sorry. Rich
20 and I go back many years; okay? He and I have shared
21 many a favorite beverage together. He's invited me
22 into his home. Rich, I sincerely hope this works out
23 for you. I hope you make good money on this. I really
24 do. I'm just asking that it's done in the spirit of
25 the way the community is set up today.

26 And on my fourth point, let's talk about the
27 spirit. I know this came out in the Planning
28 Commission meeting that I attended. You know, if you
29 read the R-20 regulations in that first paragraph, it
30 clearly states that the districts are intended to
31 discourage any use which would be detrimental to the
32 quiet residential nature of the area.

33 Council, I'm asking you as our elected officials to
34 please, please preserve and protect the spirit of the
35 laws in the area and keep Wild Hog Road from becoming
36 the next Clemson Boulevard. Thank you for your time.

37 **APPLAUSE**

38 TOMMY DUNN: Next. Next.
39 Anyone else?

40 AUDREY BALDWIN: Good evening,
41 council members. My name is Audrey Baldwin. I live
42 off of Shadow Lane in District 4. Nice to meet you.
43 This is the first council meeting I've been to. Thank
44 you for your time tonight. I know you're working hard
45 to make Anderson County a great place to live and work.
46 I know that's very difficult. There's a lot of
47 opportunity in Anderson County; even more than there is
48 in Greenville County so I really think if we could plan
49 things intentionally that would be important. So I
50 have a few things that I would like to read to you.

1 My husband and I both live and work in the upstate.
2 We very much would like to remain in Anderson County to
3 raise a family and enjoy the area we currently reside
4 in. As an employee at Clemson University, the
5 proximity and character of the area under rural zoning
6 regulations allows us to live in a highly desirable
7 area and with a more rural feel. There is no doubt
8 urban sprawl is happening across Anderson County and is
9 happening on 187. AnMed even owns property on 187.
10 I'm not sure if people are aware of that.

11 Residential development is not bad. However,
12 development that completely changes the character of an
13 area is. Respectfully, how does Anderson County intend
14 to promote the development of sustainable and resilient
15 communities if we do not enforce zoning and develop
16 additional parameters for responsible land use.

17 I realize most developers have spreadsheets that
18 calculate what is most profitable in regards to lot
19 size and home value. And I do appreciate you taking in
20 consideration of the community. Calculations like
21 these do not take into account what is needed or wanted
22 by citizens in the community.

23 Anderson County does not need to base decisions of
24 long term planning on spreadsheet calculations focused
25 on profit. Rezoning this property is about profit
26 only. And four hundred and thirty-five is the magic
27 number. We need to focus on the wants and needs of
28 citizens in this community.

29 I'm specifically concerned about a few things.
30 Quality of life for residents in densely rezoned areas.
31 Will communities have recreation areas, sidewalks large
32 enough for two people to pass on? Some of the
33 developments at the beginning of 187 by Southern Homes,
34 there are sidewalks but it's skimped. It's only on one
35 side of the community. It doesn't go through the whole
36 community.

37 Will there be roads wide enough for two cars to
38 pass on? Will the developments have an HOA to keep up
39 with community needs and aesthetics over time? A lot
40 of times these HOAs for some of these cheap
41 developments dissolve over time.

42 Will developers be held to the plans they
43 presented, respectfully? Evidence from developments on
44 Highway 187 by Southern Homes, one of the nation's
45 largest home builders, would lead us to believe that
46 these things are not important to developers nor the
47 county when it comes to quality of life.

48 How many acres and areas of Anderson County are we
49 going to allow irresponsible development to occur
50 before a master development plan is in place,

1 specifically one over a twenty-year term.

2 I'm also specifically concerned about quality of
3 residential structures and predatory home building.
4 This needs to undergo further exploration. For
5 example, in documents provided on the Southern Homes'
6 website, the developer of Wren Point, Cherry Hill,
7 Belvedere, Piper Glen, I know we've all seen it. And
8 this is also not taking into account in the traffic
9 studies. So that's something else we need to consider
10 when we're talking about approval for this development.

11 Their website states their homes come with a one
12 year limited warranty. A limited warranty. What does
13 that say about quality and intention of homes
14 introduced into this community? We need to work with
15 developers, which I appreciate Davis & Floyd being
16 here, to build sustainable communities that are not
17 just for profit. Cities like Raleigh, Charlotte,
18 Alpharetta can provide examples and frameworks for us
19 to do this in Anderson County.

20 Additional concerns I have, impact on Fants Grove
21 recreation area in close proximity to the property,
22 how will that be impacted? Additional traffic on
23 Highway 187? How will additional homes on Highway 187
24 impact the traffic flow, the load, wrecks. We have yet
25 to see how current developments will impact traffic in
26 this area.

27 I'm also concerned about degrading the character of
28 the area. What will this area be like in fifteen to
29 twenty years? Who will want to buy these homes? I
30 will say my husband and I personally lived in a
31 development that is like some of the developments that
32 are proposed. After fifteen or twenty years these
33 homes are not good. The electrical may go bad. And
34 they're built on a slab, so they just throw them in
35 there and throw them up.

36 Another concern that I have is lack of involvement
37 from citizens and representative groups in the long
38 term planning process for Anderson County. Clemson
39 University, as well as other institutes, maybe
40 churches, need to be involved in the development
41 process for this area. There's no doubt 187 is going
42 to be developed. But how we do it and the
43 intentionality that we do it with is really important.

44 And lastly, I am concerned about an increase in
45 taxes and I think that's probably to be expected in
46 this area as people continue to move here.

47 I have a great concern about the overall long term
48 development plan for Anderson County and if quality of
49 life and long term sustainable development is being
50 prioritized over profit. Predatory home building for

1 profit in the upstate has been detrimental. We're
2 seeing the impact of this in Greenville County which in
3 January 2020 approved a twenty-year long range
4 development plan to help combat the impact of allowing
5 developers to prioritize profit over quality of life
6 for citizens.

7 Anderson County, to my knowledge, and from looking
8 on searching the website has not approved a twenty-year
9 long range development plan since 2016. I submit to
10 you as a concerned citizen there needs to be more input
11 from the community about future residential development
12 in Anderson County. And input, two thousand feet is
13 not a lot. So it really needs to be the whole
14 community. We need to develop a comprehensive plan
15 developed similar to that of Greenville County.
16 Comprehensive research and involvement from various
17 community stakeholders and adjacent counties, such as
18 Pickens County, should be included. Input beyond these
19 planning meetings and council meetings should be
20 included in the process.

21 There are other communities who sit down at the
22 table and intentionally develop areas to be best for
23 the community and the needs of their county.

24 Predatory home building decreases the quality of
25 life for residents like myself and also discourages
26 healthy and sustained community development.

27 I would respectfully ask the council to deny the
28 rezoning request. However, after hearing the
29 statements, if it is yes, and it is going to be
30 developed no matter what, then I think it's worth
31 sitting down and discussing. However, if we're going
32 to have lots that are only ten thousand square feet and
33 that's all that's on the table, then I would say, say
34 no.

35 I would also respectfully request that we put a six
36 month moratorium on all future residential development
37 in Anderson County until a comprehensive plan similar
38 to that of Plan Greenville County Comprehensive Plan is
39 completed. This is something that was a two-year
40 process for Greenville. However, Anderson has so much
41 potential for growth, even more so than Greenville
42 County, that if we're not intentional about things,
43 we're going to look like other places around the
44 country that we might not want to look like.

45 So thank you, respectfully, for your time. I'm
46 willing to be involved in any process related to, you
47 know, speaking with developers or just being an
48 involved citizen. My husband and I want to stay in
49 Anderson County for the long term. So I hope you will
50 hear these requests. Thank you for your time in

1 listening to my comments.

2 TOMMY DUNN: Next.

3 DANA PARKER: I am Dana Parker,
4 Anderson District 4. I am opposed to the rezoning. I
5 feel as if high density housing is detrimental to our
6 community. It does not -- it's not cohesive to what we
7 already have in place.

8 When you drive down Wild Hog Road right now, you
9 don't see high density housing. That kind of
10 population added into what we already have, we can't --
11 our infrastructure won't support it. I'm an educator
12 in the school district and right now two hundred and
13 forty new families into our district would overflow our
14 school, in my opinion, of course.

15 But also I was part of the planning meeting with
16 the developers and one of our concerns was definitely
17 student housing. And they said legally they cannot
18 promise that those town homes will not be bought by
19 families and then rented out to college students, which
20 would make Fants Grove Road a highway straight to
21 Clemson. And it would just -- the traffic on that road
22 would be intense. Already it's high. And we use that
23 road because that's also where T. Ed Garrison has a
24 large equine facility and miles and miles of trails.
25 So that's -- there are trailers with horses and people
26 riding along those roads and walking along those roads.
27 I know the ROTC uses that land also for training
28 purposes and they have recruits out all over that land,
29 as well. And increasing the traffic on that road would
30 not be beneficial for our community.

31 Also, at the meeting we asked to follow the
32 topography of the land because that's beautiful land
33 where they want to developed. And it's also -- I
34 believe what we said was one of the highest points in
35 Anderson County. When you're sitting up there you can
36 see straight to the mountains. It's stunning. It's
37 absolutely gorgeous. And when a developer goes in a
38 lot of times they look at all of that and they just
39 flatten things out and put in as much as they can. And
40 that's something that wasn't really addressed in the
41 other thing and they were just -- it wasn't addressed.

42 But I think the biggest thing is that we really
43 don't want college students -- college dorm type
44 housing in those townhouses right there in our rural
45 community.

46 And so I oppose the restructuring -- rezoning. Two
47 hundred forty homes I would take over four hundred
48 homes. That's just too many new families. Thank you.

49 TOMMY DUNN: Next, please. Come
50 on up. This fellow back here -- okay. Come on.

1 LANE OWEN: Good afternoon,
2 council members. I appreciate your time. I live -- my
3 name is Lane Owens and I live in District 4 off of
4 Indian Trail that's about a mile from the development.

5 If anyone has seen Clemson Boulevard and seen I-85,
6 the traffic that comes from Atlanta going north goes
7 down 187. Four lane interstate, four lane highway,
8 funnel through a two lane road. So that's the current
9 standing. And let's not talk about game day, coming
10 and leaving. All the traffic going toward Atlanta goes
11 down 187. There's a Clemson RV park already up there
12 at Clemson Boulevard and 187. We've got -- council
13 members, you have a responsibility to manage the
14 development of Anderson County.

15 The county to our north has experienced explosive
16 growth. They haven't got a handle on their growth.
17 They're trying to. The city of Clemson is experiencing
18 explosive growth. Greenville County to the east is
19 growing toward Anderson. We're backed up against the
20 state line. We need a master plan. High density
21 housing is not a good place on 187 to do at the moment.
22 We need a master plan to develop the county and make it
23 the jewel that it's going to be, and that
24 responsibility falls on you.

25 And I will support you in any way that I can. And
26 I'm sure we will support you in any way that we can to
27 make a community development something that helps the
28 existing community, that works with the existing
29 community, to make the entire county a better place to
30 live. Thank you.

31 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Next.
32 GRAYSON BUCKNER: Grayson Buckner,
33 District 4.

34 I didn't do part of my homework to find out how
35 much was paid for this land that we're talking about
36 developing. I'm sure that this is all about money.
37 Somebody bought something and he's allowed to build two
38 and a half houses per acre and now he wants to put
39 fifty foot wide lots. You just saw a presentation of
40 the changes that he's tried to make to help get this
41 thing through, but all I saw back there was a blank
42 piece of paper. I don't know if anybody else could see
43 through.

44 If he can't get a way to get the people -- he wants
45 to talk to the people to find out -- make this thing
46 compatible, but right now the zoning that's there was
47 dictated and went through the process and it was
48 approved. And everybody that lives around there is
49 living with that zoning.

50 So basically the people that live there are the

1 ones that are going to have to enjoy or take this
2 change. So a fifty foot lot -- if somebody buys a lot
3 -- I don't know if you've noticed or if you've gone on
4 the area, on 187 where it hits 76 there's all kinds of
5 storage units going up. The reason you have storage
6 units is the houses aren't big enough for people to
7 store their junk. There's no basements. You can't do
8 much of anything on a lot that's fifty foot wide stuck
9 down in a corner.

10 There was a picture that showed that in order for
11 him to -- for this company to put this before you, you
12 had to put signs up. So there are some signs out on
13 187. But if you're going fifty-five miles an hour with
14 the traffic that's on there, you go by and it looks
15 like a realtor sign. You can't stop and read it
16 without getting run over. But like I said he filled
17 the squares to do what he had to do to make this
18 presentation.

19 Two weeks ago I was up in Walhalla and I needed to
20 go to a store by the post office. I went through
21 thirty-one traffic lights to get there. And now you're
22 going to take 187 and after we have the obligatory
23 crashes, then they're going to put up another light
24 because that's the only way that we can get people to
25 go from A to B. The more we get congested, the more
26 traffic lights and the further away you're pushing
27 people from where they were.

28 So if he wants to get together with the community I
29 think that rather than us doing it, it's his
30 responsibility to figure out how to get the message
31 out. Nobody in the neighborhood that I live in knew
32 what was going on because we're ignorant and so far to
33 get these messages that are trying to be pushed on us.
34 So you guys have got a real problem here. Good luck.
35 I'm glad I'm not sitting up there.

36 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else?
37 Anyone?

38 KATHERINE FARRAH: Hello council
39 members. My name is Katherine Farrah. I spoke
40 earlier. And I just wasn't aware of the choices that
41 Mr. Sanders brought forward at the beginning of this.
42 And so if the choice is just yes to give the developer
43 to change the zoning -- to rezone the map or to not, I
44 hope that you will choose to not.

45 Because if we say yes -- if you all choose to say
46 yes to the developer with the caveat of input, that's
47 what I'm concerned about. They can hear what you all
48 will say, but do they have to accept that. You know,
49 if you say yes and then say but, you know, that's what
50 I'm concerned about. Is saying yes to the developer

1 for those four hundred plus homes versus what is
2 available at this point which is about two hundred
3 homes, which is a lot. And I've lived here for a long
4 time, as I mentioned earlier, but I'm concerned about
5 the changing of the landscape.

6 So it's saying yes to the developer I'm concerned
7 about and then saying but now you need to listen to us.
8 That's what I'm concerned about.

9 And I'm also concerned about once the land is
10 rezoned there, then it seems like it would be easy to
11 rezone the rest of the farm land around on 187 for
12 commercial purposes and also this high density housing.

13 Thank you for listening. I know it's been a long
14 night and I'm sorry I, at the last minute, jumped up
15 when you thought it was all over.

16 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma'am.

17 KATHERINE FARRAH: So thank you.

18 TOMMY DUNN: Next.

19 SANDRA COFFMAN: Good evening,

20 Council. Thank you for hearing us out tonight. I
21 appreciate your time and effort. My name is Sandra
22 Coffman. I am the owner of Split Creek Farm located at
23 3806 Centerville Road. Our property and our farm
24 basically backed up to this development. There is some
25 standoff, so we do not share a property line as best I
26 know.

27 All of that being said, back in April I did
28 communicate with the developers after I had heard about
29 the plans coming out for a PD. I initiated contact
30 there, folks. We didn't receive a card. We're right
31 around the corner. Nor did the owner of the property,
32 the business, whatever. So I initiated contact at that
33 point with the pure idea of safety of my animals in
34 mind and what would happen if potentially four hundred
35 and thirty-five homes, all of those families, were
36 abutting to my farm, which has been in existence for
37 forty years.

38 I'm relatively new to the area. I'm very committed
39 to the agricultural aspect of this community, what
40 exists now, which is a declining thing as put in your
41 own comprehensive report, which someone had referenced
42 from 2016. It is a declining industry, which I really
43 am holding on to with my fingertips right now to keep
44 our foothold there.

45 When we talk about this particular community and
46 this particular location, I share all of the concerns
47 that have been brought forward; the traffic, the taxes,
48 the school problems, the need for public security, the
49 need for public spaces, all of those things. I am
50 completely on board with it.

1 My problem with a planned development is simply
2 this, and I'm going to read it from the context of the
3 website. And it says a planned development, encourage
4 innovative and creative design -- I'm all for that --
5 of mixed use developments to permit a greater amount of
6 flexibility to the developer by removing some of the
7 restrictions of conventional zoning.

8 That is the problem that is standing here before
9 you. Is that we are removing -- by making this a
10 planned development, we are losing the voice of all of
11 these people. Because all of that flexibility goes
12 over to the developer. Because all the conventional
13 zoning is out the window once we agree to that.

14 And I think that is really the crux of where we
15 are. I stood in front of you guys or in front in the
16 Planning Committee back in 2019 when this same
17 development came up, and it was being brought forward
18 as an R-A zoning. We stood up and we said no. Please
19 no. Do not do that. All we -- and it was withdrawn
20 and I do have the paperwork here where the committee
21 had said it was not compatible with the character of
22 the area. That was in 2019. It was not compatible
23 with the character of the area. Your committee heard
24 us a few weeks ago and their recommendation was, again,
25 it as not comparable with the surrounding areas. But
26 they added the use and value of the surrounding
27 properties and the compatibility with density levels as
28 the basis for denial.

29 When you look at the plan that sits before us, it
30 is not a R-A zoning. It is worse than that. It's far
31 worse than that. We stood up and we said, please don't
32 put homes on eight thousand square feet. This plan
33 that is before you tonight, regardless of what has been
34 said about a chance before, says in zone one they're
35 going to put three units per acre on six thousand
36 square foot lots. In zone two, three units per acre on
37 six thousand square foot lots. In zone three, eight
38 units per acre on six thousand square foot lots.
39 Commercial use. And then 4.5 units per acre on six
40 thousand square feet.

41 We've not moved ahead since it was withdrawn last
42 year. We've simply put a shiny wrapper on it and
43 called it a PD and put the same thing forward, even
44 worse now. We've in a worse predicament than we were
45 before. Listening to the developer say I'm going to go
46 out; I want to talk to the community; I want to hear.
47 It was April of this year and that communication was
48 initiated by me to the developer over concerns over my
49 animals. There was no outreach done. None, in a
50 year's time. What came forward was a plan. And we

1 were all -- thankfully somebody shared a website and I
2 was able to review it. So nothing has been done.

3 And since the last meeting the owner, developer,
4 I'm not even sure what his role is in this, has been
5 quite eager to speak to me. He has come to my farm
6 unannounced, uninvited. I've returned phone calls and
7 said please don't show up. I'm not interested in the
8 meeting. I responded to an email requesting a meeting,
9 saying I'm not interested in talking about what is
10 proposed. My concern remains the barrier and standoff
11 of my farm. But as an owner in that area, a minority
12 business owner in this community, I have very, very big
13 concerns about what's about to happen.

14 The thought and idea that there is only two hundred
15 and forty homes going to be put out there, which is
16 something that I read on Facebook that has been, you
17 know, touted, oh it's going to be two units per acre.
18 That's not true. That's not true. This proposal
19 before you calls for four hundred and thirty-five
20 residential lots. Not two hundred and forty. It calls
21 for homes being built on six thousand square feet. It
22 talks about a twelve hundred square foot home that is
23 two to three bedrooms. And it's like someone else had
24 said before, a one-year warranty. But I can't do lip
25 service. I do what's in writing.

26 And what's before this board right now is not the
27 solution. It is not amenable to the community. It
28 does not comport with what the surrounding community
29 has. And someone had said before, it's only a matter
30 of time before more creep in. Well, they were going to
31 flip the scale over, guys. Then it will be all cookie
32 cutter planned developments. We're talking about a
33 cookie cutter planned development right now, folks.
34 We're not talking about something that is innovative.
35 We're not talking about something that is progressive,
36 that serves to put Anderson County above the curve when
37 it comes to our creativity and our out-of-the-box
38 thinking. This is none of that. This is a cookie
39 cutter planned development scheme. There's no talk of
40 homeowner association, architectural review; none of
41 that stuff. It's a cookie cutter throw up some houses,
42 saturate the density. That's what this is.

43 For me, as a resident of Anderson County, I would
44 be proud -- in fact I would champion it to the top of
45 the world if this community would take this opportunity
46 to do something that comported more with the
47 surrounding area. This is a great opportunity for
48 someone to come in and say you know what, we need to
49 build a sustainable community. I'm not a tree hugger,
50 folks, and I'm not. I'm a goat farmer. Okay. That's

1 what I do. I love my animals; I love nature. I love
2 Anderson County because I can drive down the road and
3 see a field and I can see somebody cutting it. I love
4 the fact that I can source my hay locally versus having
5 it trucked in from Georgia, another state. And God
6 only knows at what expense. Okay? I like that I can
7 do those things. I like that those things exist here
8 and I have that opportunity. I do. But I'm not a tree
9 hugger.

10 But I do understand sustainability. I also
11 understand that the trend of the world now is about --
12 surely during this pandemic is about how can I survive
13 with my food sources cut? You know, we've seen this.
14 We are seeing it. We don't know how we're going to
15 come out of this. And to take away land and space
16 right now to put a bunch of houses in such a volatile
17 time for this country, for this world as a matter of
18 fact, is just outlandish to me. It truly is.

19 Let's look at something different. Deny this
20 proposal tonight. Stop it right here. Have the
21 developers and the landowner really put in the due
22 diligence to talk to the community. Present something
23 to us that talks about solar lighting; talks about
24 agricultural opportunities; talks about a Farmer's
25 Market, an open air environment; something that will
26 support programs in this community. The FFA, 4H, all
27 of those things. We don't even have those in this
28 community. Find a resource. And put this county on
29 the map for doing something that is forward thinking,
30 out of the box, contemporary, grass roots and in
31 compliance with what we are doing as a country.

32 **APPLAUSE**

33 TOMMY DUNN: Let's hold it down,
34 please. Let's wrap it up.

35 SANDRA COFFMAN: So I digress. My
36 point is I'm very passionate about this. I appreciate
37 your time. I appreciate your effort. I am open to
38 talking about this with the developer when I am not
39 farming my land from five o'clock in the morning until
40 ten o'clock at night. When I'm not doing that I'm
41 happy to talk or to have this group of people get
42 together and sit down. But I am not happy with the
43 proposal that sits before you tonight. I adamantly
44 oppose it. And I hope that you will stop it here and
45 we can come back in a year and talk about it again.

46 Thank you.

47 **APPLAUSE**

48 TOMMY DUNN: Next.

49 TRINA DAVIS: My name is Trina
50 Davis and I'm in District 4. And I think I texted with

1 you back and forth about the possibility of this
2 meeting -- this being heard in another meeting.

3 My question to you is if R-20 was good enough in
4 the past why are you willing to say yes and listen to
5 the developer instead of voting no and listening to the
6 people? We don't want the planned development. We
7 want our -- you keep -- you mentioned a couple of times
8 the two hundred and forty mobile homes. Kind of sounds
9 like you're against mobile home, and that's a little
10 bit prejudice and I have a problem with that. I
11 started out my life in a mobile home and a mobile home
12 is a fine place to live.

13 But when you're willing to listen to him over us
14 because of two hundred and forty -- the possibility of
15 mobile homes versus four hundred and thirty-five homes
16 and townhomes and all that, then there's a difference
17 in what you're willing to represent.

18 So you do have two choices; to listen to him or to
19 listen to us. Thank you.

20 **APPLAUSE**

21 TOMMY DUNN: Next. Next

22 RICHARD BENNETT: Richard Bennett. I
23 live at 307 Compass Point. I represent my son who owns
24 the property. I've lived in this community; my father
25 as well and my mother. I went to Pendleton High School
26 and my son is in District 4 now. I am the applicant.
27 This is our property, I guess you call it.

28 I have -- I did try to reach out, just to comment
29 on that, at eleven o'clock. I had a meeting per her
30 but didn't show up. But what I'm saying in general we
31 want to reach out to the community. I've tried to
32 reach out. I've been -- owned a lot of property. I've
33 developed a lot of property in this area pretty much my
34 whole life. I had staff recommendation at the start of
35 the thing. I join a plastic ejection molding plant on
36 one side, a commercial gas station across the street,
37 and I have some mobile homes on one side, high tension
38 power lines on the other. There's some complex things
39 going on here, more than just residential farms.
40 Mostly our zoning out here is R-20.

41 I think there's approximately a hundred and twenty
42 million dollar investment there. That's three hundred
43 thousand dollar average house cost, which is probably
44 higher than some of the surrounding area, which they're
45 not asking for any money. I know we gave money away
46 for different project. A hundred and twenty million
47 dollars with about a two hundred million dollar impact
48 for the sewer, which is ten percent I think sewer,
49 eighteen million dollars. They'll pay an impact fee of
50 about two million dollars just to join the sewer.

1 There should be property taxes of about a million and a
2 half to two million dollars a year off them houses.
3 And then a million of that -- at least a million which
4 is probably seventy percent and a half or so would go
5 straight to the school district. The two hundred and
6 forty houses would have no green space and then they
7 wouldn't allow us to have the restrictions, the roads,
8 the accesses, restriction buffers, amenities, club
9 house, things like that. That wouldn't probably go in
10 the neighborhood. We would just cut it a hundred
11 percent up. It is zoned R-20 now.

12 The reason why we're asking for it is the sewer. I
13 think the county has done a great job with economic
14 development. The reason all this has happened is
15 because of the job growth. That's driving the
16 residential housing. The residential housing will
17 support the businesses, restaurants, etcetera, of the
18 people moving here.

19 That is kind of how I see -- there's two hundred
20 thousand people in Anderson County. And I think that's
21 what's best for Anderson County. There's schools,
22 income. I heard about bridges, potholes, no turn
23 lanes. All this has to be by somebody. That's the
24 cost of growing. And I think we put sewer on 187 which
25 we spent eighteen million dollars to do. There's no
26 doubt anywhere in the United States where you sewer you
27 have growth behind it. It's pretty consistent.

28 Like I said, I'd like to meet with the people and
29 discussion like no access on William Walker Road. I
30 think that's an advantage to them. And some buffers
31 which do not have access. But I think we need that
32 time to discuss it. I'm asking for y'all vote to pass
33 it on first reading. I've been here before. I think
34 we could sit down with the community and come up with
35 something that's good for everybody. That's what I'd
36 ask for county council to do. Thank you.

37 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone
38 else? Anyone at all?

39 JOHN MCCANNON: Good evening. My
40 name is John McCannon. I'm a proud Clemson graduate
41 very recently. And I'm also a proud person to be
42 educating in Anderson County starting next fall.

43 With that in mind, thinking about education and the
44 issues that are presented here with this rezoning
45 ordinance, I felt the need to educate myself. So what
46 I did is I actually dove into the purpose and the means
47 and the intents behind the zoning of R-20. I looked
48 into it. I looked into -- on our county website, what
49 does it say this is used for? Why is it important?
50 And what I found is that R-20 is intended to protect

1 and maintain the quiet and peaceful character of a
2 community. And also to discourage anything to disrupt
3 that. I've gotten a lot of changes to grow and learn
4 and really love the community that's around this area
5 we're looking at rezoning today. When I look at the
6 community, when I look at the character that we see
7 here displayed tonight, it's pretty awesome.

8 And frankly I see the choice to rezone from R-20,
9 which as we've had pointed out will still provide homes
10 in that area, to this planned development, is going to
11 be an affront to the character of the community. And I
12 know we've said that tonight. And I don't have a whole
13 lot more to say. But I truly believe that in the
14 interest of the character and the purpose and the
15 intent of what we've already established here in
16 Anderson County about R-20 zoning, we should keep this
17 zoning the way it is and not rezone to planned
18 development.

19 Thank y'all for your time. It's good to talk
20 tonight.

21 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone
22 else?

23 **APPLAUSE**

24 TOMMY DUNN: Public hearing will
25 be closed. Be moving on. Do we have a motion to move
26 forward?

27 BRETT SANDERS: So moved.

28 TOMMY DUNN: What's your motion,
29 Mr. Sanders? What's your motion?

30 BRETT SANDERS: My motion is to
31 pass on first reading to allow the community to sit
32 down. Some of the issues that's come up and the people
33 have addresses is the same issues that we need to sit
34 down with the engineer with. I think it's the common
35 sense thing. I want -- I don't want to see two hundred
36 and forty houses with no buffers, nothing there. I'd
37 rather see the farmland there, to be honest with you.
38 But if I'm going to have an opportunity in my community
39 to speak with them or not do anything and have two
40 hundred and forty houses shoved down my throat, I want
41 the opportunity to sit down and talk with them eye to
42 eye. And that's what I'm putting forth.

43 TOMMY DUNN: Do we have a
44 second?

45 CINDY WILSON: Second.

46 TOMMY DUNN: Second Ms. Wilson.
47 Now discussion.

48 CINDY WILSON: May I?

49 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

50 CINDY WILSON: Having grown up on

1 the family working farm and continue trying to make the
2 place support itself, it breaks my heart to see family
3 farms and farmland around our county being busted up.
4 The more dense we pack people in, the less pleasant,
5 the less neighborly those communities become.

6 Now, while we have a zoning ordinance that pretty
7 much dictates what that place can be, I do want to
8 encourage everybody to participate in this process with
9 the developers and with Mr. Sanders. I'll be glad to
10 pitch in and help, too. We have, in the county,
11 brought in the eminent Mr. Randall Arendt who is a
12 conservation development design expert worldwide. I
13 think he might be of some help here.

14 I don't think anyone wants to see the usual of what
15 we've seen the last few years of low value, high cost
16 slab homes slapped together. I've seen a lot of those
17 in my own community and we have a similar situation in
18 my own district.

19 I would encourage that we take advantage of this
20 facility, the Civic Center, where we can manage
21 sanitation and safe distancing and be able to come
22 together to work some of these issues out.

23 I'll be glad to help, Mr. Sanders.

24 BRETT SANDERS: Thank you.

25 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.

26 BRETT SANDERS: Mr. Chairman, I
27 have one other thing.

28 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, sir.

29 BRETT SANDERS: Is there any way
30 that we can get a list at the white table to where in
31 the community can -- a pad where they can put their
32 name and phone number?

33 TOMMY DUNN: We'll get something
34 somewhere. We'll get Mr. Burns and Ms. Hunter to work
35 something out up here before we leave.

36 BRETT SANDERS: Okay. Thank you,
37 sir.

38 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else?

39 JIMMY DAVIS: Mr. Chair.

40 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Davis.

41 JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr.

42 Chair. Thank you all for coming out and speaking your
43 heart. I can tell you from representing a district
44 that has one precinct out of many that's zoned, the
45 rest of my district is unzoned, and that encompasses
46 Piedmont and Powdersville, a little place that used to
47 be a little dot on the map. Now there's thousands and
48 thousands and thousands of homes being built. And no
49 developer comes and asks for input. No developer comes
50 and asks for, hey, can we sit down with the people

1 living around and see what fits best?

2 And while we struggle with the high density housing
3 in District 6, I think you have an opportunity here to
4 sit down because at the end of the day a landowner has
5 a right to sell his property. That's a right. And I
6 think when you have an opportunity to sit down with a
7 developer and hear them out -- this thing has got three
8 readings it's got to go through. Unfortunately, in an
9 unzoned area like my district, we don't get the
10 opportunity. It goes before the Planning Commission
11 and that's it.

12 So take the opportunity. If it's still the same
13 then we have an opportunity to deny at the end. But
14 you have an opportunity right now to have input into
15 it. Later on you may not have that opportunity. So
16 I'm just saying I think Councilman Sanders is right.
17 We have an opportunity to sit down and hear what they
18 have to say. And there's still two more readings to
19 go. This is just the beginning of a long, long
20 process.

21 So I just want to make sure that you understand
22 this is a golden opportunity to sit down with an
23 engineer and developer to hear them out. Because some
24 places don't get that opportunity.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone
27 else? I just want to make a comment on a couple of
28 things.

29 Number one, I've talked to Mr. Sanders about this.
30 This is his district. Most of the time, more times
31 than not, I'm going to go to whoever's district it's in
32 because they represent the people. All Mr. Sanders,
33 he's not trying to -- favoritism to the developer, what
34 not. He wants to make sure all the citizens understand
35 the pros and cons. And if the citizens don't want it,
36 he ain't going to vote for it. We've talked about it.
37 And if it's turned down on second reading, it's done.
38 Don't get another thing. He's just trying to get you
39 to understand what you do have. Somebody spoke a while
40 ago about you've got nothing on a planned development.
41 On a planned development there is rules you have to go
42 by. It's in writing. It's recorded. And that's it.
43 Versus on this other thing it's two hundred and forty
44 houses and some traffic. Just to make sure everybody
45 understands what it is.

46 The other thing I want to make sure everybody -- we
47 have a master plan in the county. It was done in 2016
48 and it's tweaked and done up. And we'll be doing it
49 again. But regardless of what the master plan says or
50 not, state law, anybody has got a right to ask that

1 their property be -- or if they buy or stays in the
2 family -- to ask for it to be reclassification.
3 They've got that right. State law. Regardless.

4 You're not going to never get a thing -- you know
5 they can't do that, come back and do that. That's the
6 writing, that's part of it. And Anderson County is
7 zoned by voting precincts. And we're going to try to
8 do a little bit better job about notification. But you
9 know there's only so much we can do on notification.
10 There's sign up there. And somebody knowed something
11 and found out, because I got plenty of phone calls and
12 talked to people. I even had some phone calls -- the
13 phone number that was on the sign wouldn't nobody
14 answer it. And I called it myself twice to make sure
15 it was working.

16 But I know Mr. Sanders, my bottom line is, ain't
17 going to do nothing to the detriment of the community
18 and that the community don't want.

19 Call for the question. All in favor of Mr.
20 Sanders' motion, show of hands. All opposed like sign.
21 I didn't see, Ms. Wilson, make sure how did you vote?

22 CINDY WILSON: I voted to pass it
23 on first reading, giving it ample time to work this
24 through ---

25 TOMMY DUNN: It's unanimous.

26 CINDY WILSON: --- and then
27 reevaluate.

28 TOMMY DUNN: I just want to make
29 y'all understand, there will be -- Mr. Sanders will
30 head it up -- there will be -- we're in some trying
31 things now within this virus. There will be community
32 meetings. Someway or another to get it out, if we have
33 to break it up in things, in that district. Get the
34 word out. We're not going -- nothing is going to
35 happen, second reading or not, council is not meeting
36 no more in the month of July. So we've got time.
37 Nobody is trying to pull nothing over on nobody.
38 Promise you that. Have no secret meetings.

39 We're going to move on now. Mr. Burns, can you
40 come up with a way about signing up and getting people
41 ---

42 RUSTY BURNS: The sign-up sheet
43 is already on that white table and there's a pen there
44 for any member of the community who would like to sign
45 it.

46 TOMMY DUNN: Okay. Thank you.
47 Moving on now to next item, resolutions. We have
48 none.

49 Road acceptances into the county inventory. This
50 will be District 6, Hunters Crossing Subdivision, be

1 Tracker Court and Scout Court. Do we have a motion to
2 put this on the floor?

3 JIMMY DAVIS: Mr. Chair, I make a
4 motion that we accept Tracker Court and Scout Court and
5 Hunters Crossing Subdivision into the county inventory.

6 TOMMY DUNN: We have Mr. Davis
7 and a second by Mr. Sanders. Now discussion. Mr.
8 Burns, I'm assuming all this meets all our
9 qualifications and recommendations?

10 RUSTY BURNS: All of those meet
11 county standards, Mr. Dunn.

12 TOMMY DUNN: Any more
13 discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands.
14 All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries
15 unanimously.

16 We're going to move on now to item number 10,
17 report from the Public Safety Committee meeting held on
18 Thursday, July the 2nd. Mr. Graham is the chairman of
19 that committee. Again, he's out of town. Mr. Davis is
20 on that committee and will be handling his part.

21 Mr. Davis.

22 JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr.
23 Chair. We had a really good meeting on July 2nd for
24 the Public Safety Committee meeting. We approved the
25 previous three months meetings minutes.

26 Then we were discussing EMS actually putting county
27 employees in quick response vehicles, QRVs, that will
28 be manned by paramedics, not EMTs, but paramedics, and
29 this plan would be paid for by the respective services
30 that we contract with by the county. So in this
31 particular area we'll be working on a contract with
32 Priority and they will actually pay for the paramedics
33 in the QRVs, so there will be no cost to the county.
34 And what this will do is it will provide a higher level
35 of emergency response services to our citizens. And we
36 will actually have licensed and trained paramedics that
37 will be going to the sites to treat people and they can
38 make determinations and the best route. And this will
39 be an actual -- like I said before, it will be paid for
40 by the services in the areas that are being taken care
41 of. But the citizens will receive a higher level of
42 service. It's no cost to the county. And we have a
43 little bit greater control over what's going on in our
44 emergency services in our ambulatory services.

45 This will actually be -- even though it's being
46 paid for by the contracted services of the county, it
47 will actually help them out in the time that they're
48 seeing their call volume drastically drop.

49 So, Mr. Chair, if I may, I would like to make a
50 motion to approve the recommendation from Public Safety

1 Committee to utilize QRVs manned by paramedics subject
2 to a contract to be negotiated by the County
3 Administrator and the county attorney as discussed and
4 approved by the Public Safety Committee. Further, the
5 County Administrator is authorized to sign the
6 Agreement. And I make this in the form of a motion.

7 TOMMY DUNN: Coming from the
8 Public Safety Committee, it doesn't need a second. Now
9 discussion. Any discussion?

10 I want to thank -- I think this can be a great
11 thing for Anderson County, and I think it's good. And
12 appreciate the hard work that our EMS staff has put on
13 this, and the Public Safety Committee. So all in favor
14 of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign.
15 Show the motion carries unanimously.

16 JIMMY DAVIS: Later in the
17 meeting we went on and talked about some radio needs
18 that we deal with with our smaller municipalities
19 within Anderson County. More specifically, the town of
20 West Pelzer needed some radios to be in compliance and
21 to have the equipment they need to provide the service
22 for the constituents down there. We see this from time
23 to time. It's really, from what I could gather, no
24 cost to the county. But this has to be approved
25 through Public Safety and then on to council. So I
26 make a motion to provide, without cost, radio service
27 to all municipalities within Anderson County as they
28 see the need.

29 TOMMY DUNN: That coming from
30 the Public Safety Committee, Mr. ---

31 JIMMY DAVIS: Yes, sir.

32 TOMMY DUNN: Doesn't need a
33 second. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion
34 show of hands. All -- show the motion carries
35 unanimously. Anything else, Mr. Davis?

36 JIMMY DAVIS: No. Well, there's
37 just a quick note. We did discuss concerning radios
38 going forward in the future and we'll be getting more
39 information on how we need to grow our radio system and
40 any possible changes coming forward from that.

41 And that's all I have, Mr. Chair.

42 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.

43 At this time, indulge me, we're going to take a
44 quick five minute break. We're going to be back.
45 Listen to me. When we come back, I want everybody
46 about six foot apart. If you ain't married the
47 gentleman over there is going to separate you. This --
48 I'm serious, six foot apart. We'll be back in five
49 minutes.

50 **BREAK**

1 TOMMY DUNN: ... two thousand
2 dollars to the American Legion building in Iva. Put
3 that in the form of a motion.
4 BRETT SANDERS: Second.
5 TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Sanders.
6 Any discussion? All in favor of the motion show of
7 hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries
8 unanimously.
9 Moving on now Administrator's report.
10 RUSTY BURNS: Nothing at this
11 time, Mr. Chairman.
12 TOMMY DUNN: Moving on now to
13 item number 14, citizens comments. When Mr. Harmon
14 calls your name, you've got three minutes and address
15 the chair.
16 LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman,
17 before we start there are a few names on here that I
18 simply can't make out so I'll do the best I can with
19 them. I apologize in advance if I can't read your
20 name.
21 First speaker, Rossi Meadows.
22 ROSSI MEADOWS: Hello. I'm Rossi
23 Meadows. I'm from Taylors, South Carolina. I'm
24 speaking about the Confederate monument.
25 I'm a sixth generation South Carolinian. I'm one
26 of seventy million Americans that are descended from
27 these Confederate soldiers. I'm a retired public
28 school teacher and football coach and a voting citizen
29 and not a paid protestor.
30 I am honored to speak on behalf of the twenty-five
31 thousand South Carolinians that died during this war.
32 They were husbands, fathers, sons and brothers. Many
33 from the Anderson area who died. If the war was today,
34 with today's population number, it would equal 1.6
35 million deaths just of South Carolinians. This same
36 number of men returned home with missing arms and legs.
37 A lot of those guys lived until the 1930s. Those
38 wives, sisters, daughters, watched those men. They
39 were reminders of the humanity of how bad it was for
40 these guys for the rest of their lives.
41 After the war times were hard. It took sixteen
42 years for the ladies of Anderson to raise the money to
43 fund to build this monument that's out in front of the
44 courthouse. This war memorial was dedicated to honor
45 all sons that fought for the South. There were white,
46 black, Native Americans, Hispanics and Jewish. They
47 were in the army. They were sailors. And they were
48 marines.
49 Removing this war monument would be the same as
50 moving a tombstone off of a grave. It's just wrong.

1 Deuteronomy 19:14 says that thou shalt not remove thy
2 neighbor's landmarks. And Genesis 6:9 says judge men
3 by the standards of their time. There was only one
4 perfect man and he was Jesus.
5 History is history, warts and all. If we take down
6 Southern monuments, we must take down all U.S.
7 monuments. Let's use them all as teaching tools.
8 Heck, let's build some more. Only the Taliban destroys
9 sacred monuments and graves. Thank you for your
10 attention.
11 TOMMY DUNN: Next.
12 **APPLAUSE**
13 TOMMY DUNN: Next. Please hold
14 the applause down. This ain't a town hall meeting.
15 Mr. Harmon.
16 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is
17 Judith Polson.
18 JUDITH POLSON: Hello. The Civil
19 War memorials perpetuate racism. They glorify those
20 who fought to preserve slavery as an institution in our
21 country. I'm not proud of that. My relatives fought
22 in this war. But they were wrong. The cause was wrong
23 and the war was wrong. It was wrong to keep slaves.
24 And fighting to keep people enslaved is not something
25 we should be proud of. The Civil War was fought for
26 that very reason. The statue says they were right.
27 Well, they were not right. And at least take those
28 words off the statue. Because you can't take the words
29 off, they're written in stone. They're meant to be
30 passed on to generation and generation and so glorified
31 racism from generation to generation. We were right.
32 White is right. Well, it was wrong then and it's wrong
33 now. So take the statues down. That's what I say.
34 And I think that's the right answer for us.
35 **APPLAUSE**
36 TOMMY DUNN: Again. Mr. Harmon.
37 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is
38 Josh Smith.
39 TOMMY DUNN: Josh Smith.
40 MALE: He's gone.
41 TOMMY DUNN: Move on.
42 LEON HARMON: Michael Whitaker.
43 MICHAEL WHITAKER: Yes. My name is
44 Michael Whitaker. I live in Anderson, South Carolina.
45 My reason for keeping the monument where it is is
46 simple. Removing it will not fix any of the problems
47 currently plaguing Anderson County. In the past
48 several months countless monuments, cemeteries and
49 museums have been viciously attacked. Many of those
50 monuments that were destroyed had been placed in

1 cemeteries from their original locations. Our monument
2 could be no safer than where it is currently located.
3 It was placed in its current location as a remembrance
4 to those who did and did not survive that war. It is
5 also a testimony to a time of brave and noble men. I
6 had several Confederate ancestors that served in local
7 regiments. Those same men helped Anderson grow to what
8 it is now.

9 What we need to be addressing is the crime rate in
10 Anderson County. Not monuments. The crime rate right
11 now is at 44.9 percent versus the national average of
12 22.7 for a severe crime, which consists of a murder,
13 rape and so on. Then there's also the Anderson
14 property crime, which is 95.2. The national average is
15 only 35.4. That's based on the scale of one to a
16 hundred, a hundred being the worst. So in Anderson
17 County we have a serious crime issue that needs to be
18 addressed.

19 Explain to me how removing a monument that has been
20 in place over a hundred years will fix any of these
21 issues. Removing physical evidence of that time will
22 not fix current issues.

23 And to address the monument itself, it does not say
24 anything about slavery and it does not -- it says they
25 were right, it would prove that they were right. But
26 if you go to the front of the epithet, it actually --
27 it says they fought for their homes and their families.

28 Thank you for your time.

29 TOMMY DUNN: Next.

30 **APPLAUSE**

31 LEON HARMON: Next speaker Marcus
32 Griffis.

33 MARCUS GRIFFIS: My name is Marcus
34 Griffis. I'm from Fountain Inn.

35 To address the lady, the census of 1860 there were
36 five million four hundred and forty-seven thousand two
37 hundred and twenty white people in the eleven states
38 that seceded. Of them three hundred and sixteen
39 thousand six hundred and thirty-two were slave owners.
40 That's 5.81 percent. Let's call it six because that's
41 easy. What did the other ninety-four percent fight
42 for?

43 TOMMY DUNN: Address the chair,
44 please.

45 MARCUS GRIFFIS: Most people in this
46 state did not volunteer even when secession was passed.
47 Not even after Fort Sumter was fired on. Only when
48 Lincoln called for sixty thousand troops to line the
49 North and South Carolina border did they start signing
50 up to protect their homes and their property.

1 terrible countenance and broken hearts began the
2 sometimes difficult and arduous task of obtaining
3 proper burial for his friend and then bringing the
4 painful news home.

5 Only love can explain such a bond. Fear of the
6 mass cannot explain it. And our Northern friends
7 dismissed it as so many fairytales. These Northerners
8 missed a very important point. We are Southerners,
9 too. By 1861, we had worked with white settlers for
10 two centuries. South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee,
11 North Carolina was our home. The average black
12 Confederate understood his duty as God gave him the
13 might to perform it. He performed his duty without
14 expectation of reward or promise of freedom, but knew
15 that if he worked and struggled and fought hard for the
16 Confederate cause as a loyal subject, the white people
17 of the South would do right by him.

18 When Sherman marched to the sea, he destroyed black
19 homes as well as white. Stole foodstuffs that would
20 keep black children from starving, as well as white.
21 His soldiers raped and killed women, black women, and
22 forced loyal black men to volunteer for their army at
23 bayonet point or more common to act as laborers so that
24 white Yankees could sit on their backside.

25 Then came 1865, the complete collapse of the
26 Confederacy, so-called freedom for the slaves ---

27 LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.

28 H.K. EDGERTON: --- and the
29 beginning of a hundred and thirty-five years of
30 deferred promises to African Americans under the stars
31 and stripes. The white South was ready to do right by
32 their former slaves. They accepted the facts of
33 freedom and were prepared to make provisions for the
34 new free men within the limits of an impoverished and
35 devastated South.

36 But even though the Southern armies had
37 surrendered, the North had not finished their conquest.
38 They began a deliberate policy of poisoning the minds
39 of the former slaves against their former masters. The
40 bonds of love and affection were severely tried and in
41 many cases sundered. The North spread anarchy and
42 hatred through their secret black societies called the
43 Loyal League. By the misrule of the carpetbag
44 governments they spread corruption across the defeated
45 South. They continued their deliberate economic
46 boycott on the South until the mid Twentieth Century.

47 TOMMY DUNN: I'm sorry, sir.
48 That's time. I give you a few more seconds because you
49 dropped your pages. But that's good. Thank you.

50 **APPLAUSE**

1 H.K. EDGERTON: God bless you, sir,
2 and thank you very much.

3 TOMMY DUNN: Next, please.

4 LEON HARMON: Michael ...

5 TOMMY DUNN: Sorry. He can't
6 read. I don't know how he got through law school.
7 Michael Adams.

8 MICHAEL ADAMS, JR.: Yes, Michael Adams,
9 Jr., 2211 Hudson Road, Greer, South Carolina 29650.

10 I come here today to -- I stand in front of y'all
11 today to show support for the Anderson Confederate
12 Monument. This monument represents the Confederate
13 veterans who served across the Anderson area. These
14 men are veterans just like today's veterans who give
15 the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Some come
16 back; some don't make it back. If they do make it back
17 home, some wounded mentally or wounded on the outside.

18 Men of all backgrounds, race, received pensions
19 after the war. If they were dead their wives would
20 receive it.

21 When I hear about monuments being torn down and
22 being taken down, it breaks my heart because I
23 personally have family members on monuments, as well,
24 such as Camp Douglas in Chicago. My family had service
25 in second North Carolina Company K was captured in 1862
26 and some of my family members were killed in Chicago.
27 There's a moment there called Camp Douglas to represent
28 the Confederate veterans. The men are veterans and
29 shall not be forgotten. Thank you.

30 **APPLAUSE**

31 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Next.

32 LEON HARMON: Angela Winbush
33 Brown.

34 ANGELA WINBUSH: Thank you, Mr.
35 Councilman for letting me speak. Thank you all.

36 I've live in Anderson County my whole life and love
37 my country. I'm proud to be an American. And I know
38 that that statue stands for hate and it is like a black
39 cloud over Anderson County. So I am here to voice my
40 opinion. Let's do -- let's take the statue down as an
41 act of love for us here in Anderson County. Let's come
42 together. Look at us. We've never been in this place.
43 We all have on masks. God is trying to get our
44 attention. Let's let some light shine on us, y'all.
45 Take it down. Put it in a place where we can view it.
46 And replace it with an American flag. Thank you.

47 **APPLAUSE**

48 TOMMY DUNN: Next.

49 LEON HARMON: Next speaker Hunter
50 Meadows.

1 HUNTER MEADOWS: Hey, I'm Hunter.

2 Hey, people, ---

3 TOMMY DUNN: Address the chair,
4 please.

5 HUNTER MEADOWS: --- we're still
6 here. The decedents of Confederate veterans are still
7 here. There's millions of them scattered throughout
8 the world. Especially in the region of their genesis,
9 Dixie, the Southern part of the United States.

10 Jamestown, Virginia was founded many years before
11 Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts. The South is the oldest
12 established region of America as we know it. Our
13 heritage is of explorers, pioneers, pilgrims,
14 trailblazers, discoverers and farmers. And this early
15 concept of American identity was forged by Southerners.
16 George Washington was a Southerner. Thomas Jefferson
17 was a Southerner. Most of our founding fathers were
18 Southerners. Only after the defeat of the South in
19 1865 did our nation come under control of wealthy
20 Northeastern elites.

21 What we are witnessing today is the inevitable
22 fragmentation of what the Union forcefully amalgamated.
23 Many lives are propped up in an attempt to hold it all
24 together. One of them being that every Southerner
25 fought to keep slaves. Does anybody really believe my
26 poor ancestor was thinking about black people when he
27 marched into cannon fire? How ridiculous. My ancestor
28 marched into cannon fire because his homeland was
29 invaded by a renegade federal government. Because the
30 South lost the war, it cannot be responsible for the
31 condition of our nation today.

32 And for all these people claiming that these
33 memorials were put up to intimidate black people, you
34 are parroting unfounded false, fake lies.

35 Here's the truth. Years after the war when
36 reconstruction was over the South slowly started
37 recovering and Southern women began collecting pennies
38 to pay tribute to their men who never returned home
39 from war. These people never got to say goodbye to
40 their family. Never got to bury them. The fighting
41 age male population of the South was decimated. Small
42 towns were without men. And so women picked things up
43 and funded memorials so their family could be honored.
44 That's what these statues are. Memorials.

45 Do Southerners have a right to memorialize their
46 ancestors? Why not? The South is the only region of
47 the United States that understands defeat. Southerners
48 suffered the greatest loss of life and treasure
49 fighting for independence. Not even the American
50 Revolution was that bloody. The war crimes committed

1 against the South are numerous. Mass murder, rape,
2 arson and theft are just a few short terms to describe
3 what went on. Southerners did not ask for reparations
4 ---
5 LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.
6 HUNTER MEADOWS: --- nor did they
7 ask for an apology from the ---
8 TOMMY DUNN: Time. Next,
9 please.
10 HUNTER MEADOWS: This is my last
11 sentence.
12 TOMMY DUNN: No, that's it.
13 Time.
14 **APPLAUSE**
15 LEON HARMON: Next name I simply
16 cannot read. First name might be Ron. I'm not sure.
17 TOMMY DUNN: Is Ron here? Ron.
18 We'll get to it. Go on to next.
19 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is
20 Tonya Winbush.
21 TONYA WINBUSH: Hello. My name is
22 Tonya Winbush, District 1, Craig Wooten. I spoke with
23 John Wright, Jr. on Sunday, who will be taking your
24 place very soon, and he agreed with me that the
25 monument needs to be moved to a museum.
26 And the only thing that I'm asking you all is I
27 want the same courtesy that you all show to the Second
28 Amendment citizens who are supportive of the Second
29 Amendment. The law -- the redline laws are state laws.
30 Therefore those laws, they carry more weight and
31 authority. And the sanctuary people are saying, well,
32 we want to be safe from those laws in case they come to
33 the citizens of Anderson County.
34 At the same right, the Heritage Act says that it
35 takes authority from Anderson County when it comes to
36 moving a monument, a Civil Rights monument. And so in
37 that instance that's taken -- because the state has
38 taken that right, I want an ordinance similar to the
39 one, the resources and the gatherings, I want a
40 meeting, I want help from the county council just like
41 you all gave those citizens to the same equality and
42 unity with all citizens being equal, having the same
43 access when they have concerns, I want to have that
44 same discussion in reference to moving this monument to
45 a museum.
46 I don't want to argue history because everybody see
47 history through their own eyes. I can read a book that
48 can debate and give history very different from what
49 you just heard. I'm not here to debate that. All I
50 know is, slavery was in South Carolina. The KKK was in

1 South Carolina when I came back from the army to visit.
2 In '94 or '95, the KKK was having a rally downtown
3 Anderson around this monument. And if it didn't
4 represent the KKK and the Confederate statue didn't
5 represent the KKK, then why do they love it so much? I
6 don't care why. But there's a -- there is a distinct
7 connection and relation and because we know it causes
8 division, because we know that it is not a place of
9 love and unity, I don't care how many scriptures you
10 quote. We know what slavery was, what it did, and why
11 it was here. And it is still a part of our existence
12 today. You can still see the remnants of the division
13 and the segregation even in Anderson, South Carolina
14 when my mom as a little girl had to go to the black
15 water fountain or the white water fountain. Not my
16 grandmother, but my mother.

17 So there's time for a change. And we can come
18 together in unity and talk or the same way that the
19 citizens with the Second Amendment right propose when
20 they came up here and they threatened and they told
21 y'all, we're going to vote you out if you don't go with
22 the world on the right side of history with this
23 change, then I promise you, you won't be there very
24 long. That's all.

25 **APPLAUSE**

26	TOMMY DUNN:	Next.
27	LEON HARMON:	Next speaker is
28	Jamie Ashworth.	
29	TOMMY DUNN:	Jamie Ashworth.
30	Next.	
31	LEON HARMON:	Next speaker H.P.
32	Gravely.	
33	TOMMY DUNN:	H.T. Bradley.
34	Next.	
35	LEON HARMON:	Wayne Whitefield.
36	WAYNE WHITEFIELD:	My name is Wayne
37	Whitefield. I'm from Belton, South Carolina. It's	
38	good to be here tonight and thank you for allowing us	
39	to speak our mind.	

40 I'm really tired of the South being used as the
41 whipping post, our history being used as a whipping
42 post by the rest of the country when it comes to racial
43 issues. We see what's going on now in our country with
44 all these statues coming down all over the place.

45 I want to point out a couple of things here that I
46 think might be interesting. One fellow pointed out a
47 while ago that there were twenty-five thousand lives
48 lost by South Carolina. There's something I want you
49 to know. South Carolina has a distinction. That
50 distinction is that this state sacrificed more lives

1 per capita than any other state in the war, North or
2 South. Did you know that? One in fourteen South
3 Carolina males lost their life in that war. Sixty
4 thousand South Carolinians marched off to war. Only
5 twenty-five thousand came home.

6 There's a couple of public laws I'd like to quote
7 here that gives you some legal ground to stand on when
8 it comes to making some of these decisions. By an act
9 of Congress in 1957, U.S. Public Law 85-425 Section
10 410, approved May 23, 1958. This law made all
11 Confederate veterans equal to U.S. veterans and Union
12 veterans. There's another one. Also U.S. Public Law
13 810 approved by the Seventeenth Congress, February 27,
14 1929, the War Department was directed to erect
15 headstones and recognize Confederate grave sites as
16 U.S. War grave sites.

17 So when someone desecrates, destroys or removes a
18 monument which is a memorial he is removing a statue or
19 a memorial to a U.S. Veteran.

20 And that's all I've got to say.

21 **APPLAUSE**

22 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon, next.
23 LEON HARMON: Next speaker, Mary
24 Mills.

25 MARY MILLS: I'm Mary Mills and
26 I live in District 1. I was born in Anderson, as were
27 my parents. A couple of my grandparents were born in
28 Anderson County and lived here all their lives, and
29 also some of my great grandparents.

30 My great grandfather had a small farm on Belton
31 Highway a little bit down from Forest Lawn Cemetery on
32 the other side of the street and it was a small farm.
33 He had it just to support his family and make a living
34 and maybe there were a few other people that had some
35 food that came from that farm. He was a Confederate
36 soldier. And he did this to provide for his family.
37 I'm sure at the time he thought it was the right thing
38 to do. He was definitely not part of the decision for
39 South Carolina to secede from the Union, but
40 nevertheless this is where he found himself. And I'm
41 sure that he felt that his -- the economic system of
42 the South was threatened. And I'm sure this is what he
43 had in mind when he signed up to be a Confederate
44 soldier.

45 I don't see the statue as a symbol of hate. I see
46 it as a symbol of love like the love that my great
47 grandfather had for his family when he felt like it was
48 the only thing he could do was to try to preserve his
49 way of life here in the South.

50 So I'm in favor of keeping the statue the way it

1 is, a statue to commemorate the efforts of the
2 Confederate soldiers. Thank you.

3 **APPLAUSE**

4 TOMMY DUNN: Next.

5 LEON HARMON: William Brock.

6 RAY BROCK: Mr. Chairman,

7 council members. I'm Ray Brock. I'm from Ms. Wilson's
8 district. I've already spoken with you, Mr. Dunn,
9 concerning this, and I enjoyed the conversation.
10 Thanks for returning my phone call.

11 I would like to respectfully request that y'all
12 keep the statue where it is, as it is. Not for myself,
13 but for my ancestor Caleb M. Shaw, who was a private in
14 Company K of the First South Carolina. He went on and
15 enlisted in 1863. He was at Appomattox Courthouse with
16 General Lee when he surrendered. And he was pardoned.
17 Which means that in their terms, they had a term for it
18 called -- all the Southerners called it swallowing the
19 dog because they had to live with it and they had to
20 swallow the dog all through reconstruction. And they
21 had to swear allegiance. And it wasn't just a Union
22 officer that they had to do it to. Any Union soldier
23 that came along could make them swear allegiance and
24 swallow the dog repetitively. He was blessed to come
25 home.

26 The statue was erected to memorialize those who
27 didn't come home. Those who were buried in far away
28 battle fields in mass graves with no marker, with no
29 marker for their loved ones to go see. And I'm not
30 going to argue the right and wrong of slavery. I admit
31 it's wrong. It was wrong with the Muslims did it in
32 biblical times. I'm not going to argue the ins and
33 outs and rights and wrongs. It's history. That
34 memorial is no different, as you have already been told
35 and we've all been edified. The Confederate soldiers
36 were accepted as American soldiers. No more different
37 than those who went to Vietnam, those who went to World
38 War II, those who went to World War I.

39 Now, if we tear down the monument to our
40 Confederate dead, when is the day going to come when
41 somebody who has German ancestry, Japanese ancestry,
42 Korean ancestry, say that they are offended by a
43 memorial that memorializes the dead from our ranks that
44 died in a war on their soil? And that is where we're
45 going to. That's the slope that we're fixing to take.
46 And it won't just stop at this monument. About love,
47 that comes between each person.

48 LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.

49 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr.

50 Brock.

1 RAY BROCK: Thank you very
2 much. Thank you for your time.
3 **APPLAUSE**
4 TOMMY DUNN: Next.
5 LEON HARMON: Anthony Arnold.
6 TOMMY DUNN: Anthony Arnold.
7 Next.
8 LEON HARMON: Buddy Compton.
9 TOMMY DUNN: Buddy Compton.
10 Next.
11 LEON HARMON: Mary McAbee.
12 MARY MCABEE: Members of council,
13 my name is Mary McAbee. I am a resident of county
14 council District 4. And I'm here tonight to tell you a
15 story. It's a story of a young farmer who in the
16 spring of 1861 left his home, his wife, his four small
17 children, and his state to go to war. He did not own a
18 large plantation. He did not own a single slave. His
19 state and other states and a new alliance of states
20 were under attack. So this young farmer, Thomas Porter
21 Cooper of the old Quaker Church Community near Hickory
22 Tavern left South Carolina and marched to Virginia to
23 protect his home and his family. Cooper rose to the
24 rank of sergeant in Company C Third Battalion South
25 Carolina Infantry CSA. His unit saw action in and
26 around Richmond in 1861 and 1862. And in early
27 September of 1862 his unit was moved to the small
28 village of Sharpsburg, Maryland. There were several
29 skirmishes between Federal and Confederate troops
30 leading up to the Battle of Antietam on September the
31 17th in 1862.
32 Sergeant Cooper did not participate in that bloody
33 battle. He had been wounded and captured in one of the
34 earlier skirmishes. Held as a prisoner of war for
35 almost two months, he was sent back to Richmond after a
36 prisoner exchange. Still suffering from his wounds and
37 already sick with pneumonia, Thomas Cooper was sent to
38 one of the many Richmond hospitals. He died there
39 November 28th, 1862 and was buried somewhere.
40 His family was not with him when he died. His wife
41 could not comfort him. His children could not say
42 goodbye. There was no funeral. There was no ceremony.
43 There was no marker. It took months for the news of
44 his death to reach South Carolina. And so Thomas
45 Cooper, like John Brown, lies a moldering in his grave,
46 a grave unknown to his family to this very day.
47 How do I know this story? I know this story
48 because it is my personal story. Thomas Porter Cooper
49 was my great grandfather.
50 I tell this story to stress the reasons to preserve

1 and display our monuments. My great grandfather has no
2 marker, no memorial, other than the ones like the
3 Anderson County monument to the Confederate dead. It
4 is important to preserve and display these monuments as
5 monuments to the dead and to the past.

6 LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.
7 MARY MCABEE: Thank you.
8 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Next,
9 Mr. Harmon.

10 **APPLAUSE**

11 LEON HARMON: Robert McCurry.
12 ROBERT MCCURRY: Good evening,
13 gentlemen. My name is Robert McCurry. I'm sixty-three
14 years old. Lived here my whole life. I'm the second
15 great grandson of a Confederate soldier that fought in
16 several battles. He actually went into Gettysburg and
17 they won the first battle. And he was there when they
18 lost the second one.

19 When the First Brigade of the Southern Confederate
20 veterans and primarily sharpshooters camp, monuments is
21 currently protected by South Carolina Heritage Act,
22 which was passed in 2000. The Heritage Act calls for
23 two-thirds of vote in the South Carolina General
24 Assembly before any monument can be altered or removed.
25 The Heritage Act, all monuments, roads, buildings,
26 named for any historic figure or historic event, while
27 the county cannot act on this issue, it would be wise
28 to remember that calling for action on the Heritage Act
29 would bring all existing monuments, roads and buildings
30 into potential controversy.

31 In 2004 the moving of the Anderson County
32 Confederate Monument was brought forward and discussed
33 at all -- at that time the issue was resolved, the
34 monument remained and it's still in its original
35 location.

36 You ever heard of the term to the victor goes the
37 spoils? The victor was the Union, so they got to write
38 the history books. That's why we have confusion today
39 with history. That's why we have confusion today with
40 slavery. The war was not started over slavery.
41 Slavery came in to be an act of war to win the war.
42 Mr. Lincoln said himself that he brought in slavery
43 into the act to keep the foreign governments from
44 giving the South military weapons. This was later in
45 the war. The South was winning at the time.

46 Just keep in mind, history is not accurate as it's
47 taught in schools. And I'm sorry that the teacher left
48 that teaches the history because she's been teaching it
49 wrong the whole time.

50 This is Stewart Jones of the South Carolina House

1 rights. For those that are arguing history monuments
2 are the root of our problem, I urge them to realize
3 that individual responsibility is the capitalist of
4 freedom. At some point people must stop blaming others
5 and realize that they as an individual are responsible
6 for their own destiny. Tearing down and defacing these
7 monuments are pure Marxist. What we see as happening

8 ---

9 LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.
10 TOMMY DUNN: Sir, I appreciate
11 it, but it's time. Next.

12 **APPLAUSE**

13 LEON HARMON: Reverend C.W. or
14 G.W. Hicks.

15 TOMMY DUNN: C.W. Hicks.

16 C.W. HICKS: Good evening. And
17 it is getting to be evening. I'm Reverend C.W. Hicks.
18 I'm the pastor of Crossway Community Church in Sandy
19 Springs. Under the direction of Brother Sanders, I
20 enjoy a good district. But I've listened carefully to
21 many things that's been said and I respect each one of
22 those. But I take a different pathway.

23 I look at an old rugged cross that was established
24 for God's Son to come and look down the corridors of
25 time and see us enslaved in sin and He died on the
26 cross that we might be free. Free from that sin. You
27 can't erase the history of our sin. But we learn from
28 it. We can't erase the history of what's been done in
29 the past. And these monuments, they stand as a
30 reminder to encourage us to be thankful that we
31 survived and it's time for us to move on.

32 My suggestion, as our sister said take it down out
33 of love. I'm saying leave it there in love and let it
34 be and move forward to the blessings that God has for
35 us all. Thank you for listening.

36 **APPLAUSE**

37 TOMMY DUNN: Next, Mr. Harmon.

38 LEON HARMON: Connie Paul.

39 TOMMY DUNN: Connie Paul.

40 CONNIE PAUL: I'd just like to

41 say I'm in favor of taking the monument down because
42 the monument means one thing to me or to my race of
43 people than it means to others and their race of
44 people.

45 I have a definition here. A question is asked,
46 what did the Confederates believe in? The Confederate
47 States of America believed in several things that
48 differ from the views of the North. Much of the South
49 believed in the moral integrity of slavery. They
50 believed that American -- African Americans were

1 inferior to them. They were very protective of their
2 right to own slaves. I'm in favor of taking the
3 monument down because we do not need a reminder of the
4 bad or the history of the bad. I agree we need to move
5 forward, but we don't need a reminder of slavery.

6 **APPLAUSE**

7 TOMMY DUNN: Next, Mr. Harmon.
8 LEON HARMON: Carl Lund.
9 TOMMY DUNN: Who is that?
10 LEON HARMON: Carl Lund.
11 TOMMY DUNN: Carl Lund. Move

12 on.
13 LEON HARMON: M.M. Hullett.
14 TOMMY DUNN: What's that?
15 LEON HARMON: M.M. Hullett.
16 TOMMY DUNN: M.M. Hullett.

17 Next.
18 LEON HARMON: James Allen.
19 TOMMY DUNN: James Allen.
20 LEON HARMON: Terry Allen.

21 Elizabeth Fant.
22 ELIZABETH FANT: Elizabeth Fant,
23 District 3. So much has been said tonight, and I think
24 everybody in their own way has been right. I'm
25 sensitive to how people view what has happened, but I
26 am also in agreement that the statue is just that, it's
27 just to commemorate the deaths of those who died in the
28 Confederate struggle. The North -- it was a war of
29 Northern aggression. They wanted to stop the economics
30 of the South.

31 If you listened to Mark Levin last night, his
32 program really explained all about slavery, slavery all
33 over from Christian ages down through -- it's not just
34 in America. Slavery is wrong. But slavery can not
35 only be possession of somebody. Slavery can be slavery
36 to taxes. Every one of you in here in this room is a
37 slave. You don't own anything.

38 I would like to see us move forward with love for
39 each other, sensitivity, but we don't need to take any
40 statue down. We don't need to take the Confederate
41 statue down. We don't need to take Whitaker, who's
42 just a few feet down. We don't need to start changing
43 names of sports teams. We don't need to change Wade
44 Hampton High School. None of that. It's history.
45 It's history. Oh, well. Yes, oh, well. And once you
46 start doing that in one place and you destroy history
47 here and you destroy it there and you destroy it there,
48 you become a Communist Marxist nation where nobody then
49 knows what the history was. We need to know what our
50 history is and we need to learn from it and we need to

1 move forward and not be slaves to all of this garbage
2 that's being fed to us to make us hate each other.
3 That's all it is. And we don't hate each other. We
4 love each other. But we need to respect each other and
5 forget about all these things that are so -- they're
6 important maybe to you, one thing, but once you start
7 picking apart life, you've picked it apart down to
8 nothing but bones.

9 **APPLAUSE**

10 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon.
11 LEON HARMON: Next speaker, Brian
12 Malfris (phonics). Brandon Hawkins.
13 BRANDON HAWKINS: Brandon Hawkins.
14 First of all, I just want to thank you guys and
15 Administrator Burns and our attorney. I think this is
16 kind of a subjective issue. It's kind of a waste of
17 time because the state already has something in place
18 called the Heritage Act.
19 And I'll keep it short and sweet. Those who do not
20 remember the past are doomed to repeat it.

21 **APPLAUSE**

22 TOMMY DUNN: Next, Mr. Harmon.
23 LEON HARMON: Carl J. Kelly.
24 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Kelly. Mr.
25 Harmon.
26 LEON HARMON: That's all that are
27 signed up, Mr. Chairman.
28 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.
29 Moving on now further on the agenda ---
30 LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman. You
31 have one person back there.
32 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, sir. You
33 wasn't on the list. I'm sorry, you have to sign up
34 beforehand. Well, I'm sorry. That's just the way the
35 rules are. Been like that.
36 Moving on, remarks from council members. Ms.
37 Wilson.

38 CINDY WILSON: There we go.
39 Monuments mean different things to different people.
40 I'm for adding more monuments downtown. And I can
41 think of no better monument than to a person living
42 today who's done so much for this community. She's a
43 highly educated lady. She has been on Anderson City
44 Council I guess for thirty or forty years. She raised
45 up the Westside Center. She's done a lot in the
46 community there.

47 But I remember when the previous council and
48 administrator were so hateful and cruel to me in front
49 of my young daughter at a meeting, Dr. Bee Thompson and
50 her late husband invited me to come sit with them. So

1 she has touched my heart and she's touched a lot of
2 hearts in this community. I can think of no one better
3 to honor than Dr. Bee Thompson.

4 **APPLAUSE**

5 CINDY WILSON: The monument that's
6 there now, that represents folks who died. My
7 ancestors came down the Appalachian trail in the late
8 seventeen hundreds and settled here. They were
9 subsistence farmers. They didn't think well of
10 slavery. They slaved themselves. We have a diary in
11 the family that was from 1835 where the family almost
12 starved to death. It was what they called a famine.
13 It's a drought now.

14 My great great grandfather is buried at a little
15 church somewhere up in Richmond, Virginia. One of my
16 cousins found the grave. He went because of the
17 economic and other issues. Not slavery. There were
18 tariffs and embargos of the South, so that was what
19 most of the folks from the upstate fought over. His
20 young wife with three little children and one expected
21 made the arduous trip up to Virginia before the battle
22 of First Manassas to see her husband. I understand at
23 the time that was not -- that was frowned upon for
24 women to make trips unaccompanied.

25 But there is so much history. And as I mentioned
26 at our last meeting, if we try to erase history, how do
27 you know where you've been, so how do you know where
28 you're going? I think we need to honor all who have
29 sacrificed and meant a lot to this county. And I can
30 think of no better new monument to add than Dr. Bee
31 Thompson, and I'd be happy to work on that with anyone.
32 But we need to keep the monument that's there. Let's
33 add more monuments.

34 **APPLAUSE**

35 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Wooten.

36 CRAIG WOOTEN: In listening to
37 people tonight, I think the only thing that I regret
38 somebody said was a man said earlier I don't care what
39 a woman thinks. And I know he didn't agree with her
40 opinion, but I care what people think in my community.
41 And I care what things mean to them. And I'm not going
42 to tell somebody that they shouldn't be offended by
43 something nor should I tell somebody that they should
44 love something.

45 Everybody has their individual right to make up
46 their mind whether they like the monument or they
47 dislike the monument. They have their individual right
48 to make up their mind whether or not they want to
49 interpret the meaning of history in one way versus
50 another. Why one man from Texas went to the Civil War,

1 versus one man from Virginia can be totally different.
2 I mean I think nobody can argue the overarching concern
3 whether it be state's right or economics was a level of
4 slavery. And in an historical view, nobody agrees with
5 that.

6 But I guess where I'm coming from is people want to
7 make this a binary conversation. They want to say are
8 you for it up, are you for it down? Because we need to
9 draw a line so that we can disagree. Actually what I'm
10 more concerned about as I was listening to Fox radio on
11 the way over here, we have two aircraft carriers in the
12 South China Sea as our President is moving ships
13 because of Chinese aggression. In the next twenty
14 years China and India will almost quadruple their
15 population as we hardly grow. We've already seen the
16 textile plants that my grandparents worked in go
17 overseas. Now we're seeing technology go overseas.
18 Now we're seeing other countries, GDP rising as we are
19 suffering twenty-five trillion in debt. But yet we're
20 going to argue locally over who has the right to think
21 which way or what way about a statue or a previous war.
22 And that's not to diminish anybody's feelings here as
23 much as to say a time is coming where there's going to
24 be a rezoning. That doesn't go away. The powers in
25 other countries will assert themselves. And we're
26 going to be a group of people squabbling amongst each
27 other in the middle of an opioid crisis, in the middle
28 of a COVID crisis, in the middle of an educational
29 crisis. Last we were trying to figure out funding for
30 EMS so that if anybody in this room has a heart attack
31 that proper care comes. We'll be debating whether or
32 not we spent forty million dollars on a prison. I wish
33 we were debating on how to spend forty million dollars
34 on how to turn the square downtown into a place that
35 kids were playing constantly and not that people were
36 crossing to go to Court to see a Judge.

37 So as I would like to put it, there's nobody in
38 this room from our state delegation. Senator Cash
39 isn't here. Senator Mike Gambrell isn't here. Neither
40 is Representative Thayer, Bryant, Gagnon, West, Cox or
41 Hill. They're the ones who have the authority to take
42 this statue down. Nobody on this bench has the
43 authority to take the statue down. Now we can pass
44 resolutions. We can say things. We can send emails.
45 But nobody on this bench has the authority to take that
46 statue down. Only the guys in Columbia do.

47 Columbia has authority over Anderson. Washington,
48 D.C. has authority over Columbia. There's a parallel
49 drawn that we should move forward on this because of
50 the Second Amendment. I claim a different distinction

1 there.

2 The Second Amendment ordinance was to affirm a
3 federal guidance from our Bill of Rights and Second
4 Amendment to say that we affirm the Second Amendment.
5 What you're asking us to hear, that's coming down the
6 chain to us. The supremacy clause in the Constitution
7 says that the Federal government is over us. What
8 you're asking us here is to go up the chain and say,
9 hey, Columbia, we want to tell you how to do things
10 when you have Columbia representatives that live
11 amongst you. I wish they were here tonight. I wish
12 this many people would go to their delegation meeting.

13 We had a lady earlier tonight that said this
14 development is going to hurt our schools. Guess what?
15 We have representatives on the school board that we
16 elect. I didn't see any school board representatives
17 here wanting to talk about that development because
18 they want county council to deal with it. Just like
19 the state house guys want county council to deal with
20 it.

21 But you know what, they cut our funding to the
22 county but then they take powers to vote on things like
23 this up to the state. So I say send it to the state.
24 Tell them to do their job and make a decision on it.

25 But I'm not going to argue about statues and get
26 everybody worked up and mad at each other in our
27 community when we've got to figure out EMS, we've got
28 to figure out this jail, we've got to figure out
29 police, we've got to figure out how to pave the roads,
30 we've got to figure out whether or not people's
31 farmland is disturbed or not so they can have peaceful
32 existence when there's people who have already taken
33 that authority away from us.

34 So that's not to shrug my duty or to diminish
35 anybody on either side of this issue as much as I hope
36 one day that we can have a packed house to talk about
37 how to make this county a better place. That we can
38 make it safer for all people. That we can educate our
39 kids. And that we can live for the next forty years.
40 So I think that's where I've just got to leave it at.
41 I mean that would be like the people here tonight angry
42 about county zoning storming into the Pendleton Town
43 Council and telling the Pendleton Town Council to call
44 Anderson County and tell them to do something about
45 zoning. That wouldn't make much sense.

46 Take it to the State House. They passed the
47 Heritage Act. They're the ones that wanted to decide
48 on it. They need two-thirds or I think the Attorney
49 General said they only need fifty percent plus one.
50 That's where to take it to. And I'm just going to keep

1 on trying to make this place a better place and
2 hopefully that we can get to the real meat of the issue
3 because when it comes to the jail, when it comes to
4 EMS, when it comes police, that's going to affect
5 everybody in this room, black, white, Hispanic. It
6 doesn't matter. And that's what I got on county
7 council to do. And quite honestly, all races, all
8 backgrounds that fought in Vietnam, Gulf War, War on
9 Terror, Operation Enduring Freedom, Korea, Panama. I
10 mean there's a lot of people to remember. And I don't
11 want to -- I don't diminish anybody from the
12 Confederacy, but nobody from the Confederacy dying
13 trumps anybody dying in Vietnam. And nobody in Vietnam
14 dying trumps anybody dying in World War I. We've got
15 to remember all people that died for our freedoms
16 across the board.

17 And quite honestly, whether I'm forty years old or
18 a kid of any background or descent that's born here
19 tomorrow, at that instant he is as much American as I
20 am and he has every right to have his voice heard, see
21 history the way he wants to see it or not see it.

22 That's my take on it. And it's getting late.

23 **APPLAUSE**

24 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders.

25 BRETT SANDERS: That's hard to
26 follow, Craig. I just want to thank you for what you
27 said. Appreciate it.

28 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Davis.

29 JIMMY DAVIS: Nothing at this
30 time, sir.

31 TOMMY DUNN: The only thing I
32 want to say, it is getting late and I appreciate
33 everybody coming out. I do want to echo -- I'm not
34 going to say anything, I just want to echo what Mr.
35 Wooten said. Thank you.

36 Meeting adjourned.

37

38 **(MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:05 P.M.)**